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SF Sectional Coming Jan 27-28

Please join us for our next wonderful sectional tournament on January 28-29. The sectional will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral at 1111 Gough Street in San Francisco.

The Saturday schedule includes a two-session open pairs game, morning and afternoon single-session open pairs, and morning 499'er and 99'er games. On Sunday we will have a two-session bracketed Swiss and a one-session morning open pairs. On both days, the morning session starts at 10:15. The afternoon session on Saturday is 3:00 and on Sunday is TBA.

Good news about parking. There are no scheduled major events at the Cathedral during the sectional this year and we do not expect parking to be a problem.

We will have plenty of delicious snacks, coffee, and tea both days. We will not offer lunch but there is a Whole Foods, a Lemoncello and several restaurants near the Cathedral.

You can get in touch with Bob Schwab (schwab@umd.edu) if you have any questions.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP OUT DURING THE SECTIONAL – PLEASE LET BOB KNOW IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE.

You should get in touch with Gail Gabiati (gail@intrinsicdevices.com) if you need a partner.

Go to www.unit506.org/sectionals to find more information about the sectional. We hope to see all of you in January.

Play Live Bridge

Quicktricks Mondays at 6:45 pm

Sunset Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:00 pm

Holiday Party December 17

Please be sure to join us at our Annual Holiday Potluck Party on Sunday, December 17th for great food, wonderful fellowship, and enjoyable bridge.

The unit will provide turkey and ham, but we're asking you to provide something as well. We are looking for side dishes (mainly vegetable dishes) that you might like to bring. Here's your chance to try a recipe on your fellow bridge players before you try it on your family and friends. While you're at it, try out some of the wonderful dishes prepared by other bridge players. Who says bridge players can't cook?

In lieu of a lesson, there will be conviviality and good cheer, so take out your recipe book or stop by your favorite take-out spot and join us **Sunday** (note the day), December 17th, St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street (at Geary). The potluck will begin at 11:15 am with bridge beginning at noon.

The holiday party/pot luck is the most popular unit game every year. There will be a 499er game (subject to attendance) and an open game.

So come and have a great time.

Want to Be on the Unit Board?

The Unit 506 board members run the unit games and sectionals. They set policy for unit events. Board members get to vote for District 21 representatives on various committees. Want to help decide what happens in the unit? Interested in helping keep bridge vibrant in San Francisco? If so, send an email to sfunit506@gmail.com. If there are more people interested than seats, we'll have an election at the December unit game.

Sunset Club Starting 499er Game

The Sunset Bridge Club would love to start a 499er game if there is enough interest. To get started, we need only 3 tables to commit to the game. It would run concurrently with the Open Game at Sunset Bridge Club. The games start at Noon on Wednesday & Friday at the Masonic Lodge, 855 Brotherhood Way, San Francisco.

To kick this off, we'll hold a pro-am on January 10, 2024. If you're a 499er and would like to play with a more experienced player on Jan. 10, send a note to tjsbridge@gmail.com. Tom will pair you up with a "pro."

The Sunset game serves great refreshments including Andy's world-famous tuna salad. It's a relaxed game with many wonderful people who will be happy to answer your questions before or after the game, but you won't have to face these "pros" at the table (LOL).

There is plenty of parking at the Masonic Lodge. So if you're available on a Wednesday or Friday, drop an email to Tom Stillman, tjsbridge@gmail.com, and let him know. He will find you a partner if needed.



STAC's Coming to Clubs

Quicktricks, Sunset, and CABC will all participate in the Royal STAC running the week of December 4th. All points won in the Royal STAC will be 25% gold, 25% silver, 25% red, and 25% black. So, if you need some of those precious pigment-ed points, come out and show your skill. This is true in the limited games as well as the open ones. And all open games are stratified, so all you need to do is place in your strat. Come to the clubs, and get those points without having to travel to an NABC, regional, or sectional.

Since 1960, the Chinese American bridge club (CABC) has hosted weekly invitational games emphasizing mentorship and friendly competition. The CABC STAC game will be Monday Dec. 4 at 11:30. If you wish to play, find a member you know and ask to be invited as a guest.

The Quicktricks game will be that evening at 6:45. The Quicktricks game is the largest club game in San Francisco (and much of the Bay Area). It's a friendly group. They feature 0-10, 499er, and open games.

The Sunset Club will hold two STAC games, one on December 6 and the other December 8. Both games are at noon. There will be an open game and, if sufficient interest, a 499er game. The Sunset games are very friendly and relaxed.

Tis the Season

Quicktricks will hold it's annual Holiday Party on December 18. So after you fill up at the unit game on the 17th, don't eat anything else and come Monday and enjoy desserts, beverages, good bridge, and good cheer among friends at Quicktricks. As usual, Quicktricks will have a 499 pairs game, and a 0-10 pairs game. The open game on the 18th will be teams. Quicktricks will be closed December 25 and January 1, but open on Mondays throughout the new year (excluding holidays.)

The Sunset Club has a promotion throughout the remainder of the year. If you bring someone to a Friday game who has not played there in the past 3 months, you and that person will get to play free. So if you haven't played at Sunset recently, find a partner and claim that free play. If you have played there, find someone who hasn't and both of you play free. Such a deal! And this includes the Royal STAC.

The Sunset Club has Andy's world-famous tuna and other goodies at every game. You never know when a special dessert will show up as they have at two recent birthdays. Games are Wednesdays and Fridays at noon. The club will be closed from Christmas through New Years.

A Little Precaution by Robert Ng

Cover up the east-west hands in the diagram to the right. You arrive at 4♣ after a Texas transfer auction. Plan the play.

If trumps come in for no loser, there are always 10 sure tricks. So, before going about drawing trumps, take a moment to see if there is anything that can be done should you find that a trump loser is unavoidable. If declarer tries a ♣ finesse first, even if it loses to the Q, there will be an established ♣ winner to take care of either dummy's ♥ or ♦ loser. The problem, however, is that if the ♣ finesse fails, and a ♦ is returned, the defender with a winning trump may be able to ruff in before the ♦ loser can be discarded away on the winning ♣.

The better line after winning the ♥ A at trick 1 is to immediately lead a low ♣ to the A in hand. Next comes three rounds of trumps. If trumps break nicely, declarer can try the ♣ finesse for a possible overtrick. Even if the finesse loses, the established 4th ♣ winner will take care of the ♦ loser in dummy.

Should trumps spring a leak, declarer now leads the second ♣ from dummy to his K, and concedes a trick to the ♣ Q, setting up the ♣ 10. When the defense shifts to ♦, declarer wins the A, and pitches the losing ♦ away on the established ♣ 10, making a loser-on-loser play to hold his loss to a ♥, ♣ Q and ♠ J.

Note that if you have not taken the precaution to lead one round of ♣ to your Ace BEFORE starting trumps, you cannot overcome this particular distribution of the cards. When you try to recover from the 4-1 trump break by cashing the two top ♣ to try to set up your ♣ winner, E meanly ruffs your second top ♣. As the cards lie, E cannot gain by ruffing the second ♣ off the board, and you can then play ♣ K and another, setting up the 4th ♣ for the loser-on-loser play.

East Deals, NS vul

♠ KQ10654 ♥ A8 ♦ 82 ♣ J32	♠ 8 ♥ QJ109 ♦ K96 ♣ Q8764
♠ J972 ♥ K65 ♦ QJ1073 ♣ 5	♠ A3 ♥ 7432 ♦ A54 ♣ AK109

P 1N P 4♥ (spades)
 P 4♣ all pass
 Lead: Q♥