



May 2015

## Center for Bridge Education and Silicon Valley Youth Bridge News

### First Annual High School Championship

IT WAS EERILY QUIET AT THE BURLINGAME BRIDGE CLUB since there was a game in progress. Four teams of players representing four different schools



The winning Monta Vista High School Matadors

were competing to be named 2015's Bay Area High School Bridge Champions. Concentration showed on the faces of the players as each considered what bids to make and what cards to play. In the end the Monta Vista High School Matadors emerged victorious. The Matadors team were Dan Zhukov (captain), grade 11, Cameron Wheeler, grade 9, Sophie Lian, grade 9, and Aidan Gottlieb, grade 10. The runners up were the Paly High School Vikings, followed by Gunn High School and Galileo High School. Playing for Galileo were Marcus Hong, Steven Jiang, Daniel Han, and David Fang. Lowell High School was not able to field a team due to a conflict with their senior prom.

The competition was run in two parts. The first part was a round robin swiss teams. The two teams who ranked first and second in the swiss then played a head to head match to name the victor. At the end of the swiss, Vikings were slightly ahead of the Matadors and had a small carry-over going into the final. But the Matadors overcame that advantage in the head-to-head competition to take first.



Eric Lei decides what to bid

The Matadors are coached by Kevin Rosenberg and Cheryl Mandala.



Melinda Li concentrates on which card to play

For those who did not qualify for the team final, there was a pairs event. Two pairs from Galileo were very excited to win their first masterpoints. Marcus Hong played with Daniel Han and took home half a masterpoint. Steve Jiang and David Fang finished right behind them winning 0.23 mp. A freshman from Lowell, Melinda Li came for the pairs (Continued on page 2)

### President's Letter

OUR CBE PROGRAMS in the San Francisco schools continue to roll on. We currently have active teaching programs at Lowell HS, Galileo HS and the Chinese Immersion School. A couple of the Lowell students participated in the S.F. Unit Game in early April. We also see the CBE students from time to time at club games around the city. Of course some of our earlier CBE graduates have gone on to become Life Masters and beyond. We are so proud of all of them.



The first inter-city High School tournament was played recently. It was good to have some of our Lowell and Galileo kids compete against other high schoolers affiliated

with SiVY, Silicon Valley Youth Bridge. There's nothing like the thrill of competition to add some excitement to bridge play.

We periodically receive inquiries from bridge organizers in other cities and states. They want to know what we can tell them about setting up a teaching program in their schools. We gladly offer our expertise, letting them know what works well and what doesn't. Since CBE is now in its ninth year, we are seen as one of the successful youth teaching programs in the country and we are often turned to for advice.

As summer and vacation time approach, do look for opportunities to teach your younger family members how to play bridge. They are probably curious about the game that provides you so much pleasure. So pack a deck or two of cards in your travel bag. It's you who can pass on the joy of bridge to the next generation.

## High School Championship

(Continued from page 1)

event and played with Eric Lei from Galileo. Unfortunately, they finished out of the money.

The level of excitement was clear during the lunch break as young people from the various schools mingled and got to know each other.



Marcus Hong

The winners and runner-up in each event received trophies and gift cards as prizes.

This was the first High School Championship and it was the brainchild of Debbie Rosenberg, Silicon Valley Youth Bridge President. The plan is to have one each year. Let's hope that the success of this tournament will spur more High Schools to develop bridge clubs and to compete in the future.



Steven Jiang

## Multitasking Prevalent at Lowell Club

ITS 3:35 AND ROOM 233 at Lowell High School is abuzz with activity. Desks are pushed out of the way, card tables go up, chairs put in place, and bidding boxes opened. Nine eager players, mostly young women, are ready to learn about New Minor Forcing this Tuesday. As chocolate chip cookies are consumed, Marion Robertson gives a short lesson and tells the students that eight of the hands they will play today contain a new minor forcing situation. She cautions that they won't learn everything about NMF today but they will be able to use it and recognize it if opponents bid it.



Oliver Noss, Philana Ng (watching), and Melinda Li

After six years of teaching Lowell students how to play bridge, Jeff and Genie (known by her former students as "The Cupcake Lady") Reynolds decided to take a break, and Marion took over last Fall. In addition to sometimes seven or eight high schoolers with very busy schedules, this year classes often include three younger students, Kai Chiang and Pico Gilman from the Chinese American International School and Collin Ritchie

from St. Stephen's School.

Marion says it's amazing how Bridge Club President Lisa Liao can focus on a hand while at the same time assisting other students who drop by to ask her for help on their AP Calculus homework! And Senior Marisa Li (older sister of Melinda who played in the high school championship) is anxious to join Cal's bridge club in the Fall. Seniors Oliver Noss and Amelia Lee are able to chat about next year's college plans while making a very difficult slam!

When the Bell rings at 5 o'clock, there is no rush for the door. They finish the hand and sometimes even try to squeeze in another. No doubt, future bridge players in the making.

## Contact Information

Web Sites:

[Center4bridge.org](http://Center4bridge.org)  
[Siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org](http://Siliconvalleyyouthbridge.org)  
Center for Bridge Education  
274 Greenview Drive  
Daly City CA 94014

## Can You Help?

CBE NEEDS YOUR HELP. We need people to help with lots of things.

Could you take charge of putting together and running events for young people? Perhaps a quarterly pizza party?

How about helping with publicity? We would love to have someone who can contact the media to let them know what we are up to.

Perhaps you might like to assist with editing, writing,

or photography for our newsletter.

Are you good at fundraising? Again, we can use those skills.

We know many of you don't want to teach, but we are always on the lookout for teachers.

Finally, from time to time, we elect new board members. Would you like to be considered? If you can help with anything, let Lauren Friedman know at [center4bridge@pacbell.net](mailto:center4bridge@pacbell.net)