

Center for Bridge Education



Teaching us to hold hands

July 2018

Center for Bridge Education News

Cardology Kids Meet Tournaments Head On

THERE ARE an increasing number of young people playing in the unit games and at the San Francisco Sectional. At the March, April, and May unit games, as many as six young people were playing in the 99er event. In May, one young pair won their strat. Reaction to having the kids playing has been generally positive. A couple of adult players wrote to the unit praising the comportment of the children who for the most part sat still, were quiet, and played for three and a half hours.

At the SF sectional, three youngsters played Saturday and eleven on Sunday.

The three that played Saturday, played both days. One pair finished third overall and second in their strat while another finished first in their strat and fourth overall. Not bad for a bunch of young players who just started playing Handz™ this year and graduated to bridge only recently.

The Cardology Kidz game starts the youngsters

playing Handz™ which emphasizes the play of the hand over bidding. Therefore, the kids learn to play the hand before learning the conventions of bidding. Naturally, they play the cards better than they bid.

Thus, the quality of the bidding was not always top notch (one young player passed his partner's opening bid with 16 HCP), but they are getting better every game.

Stephanie Rogers asked a second-grade girl if she thought Stephanie's first-grade grandson would enjoy

playing Handz™ and, without a moments hesitation, the second-grader very seriously replied, "Yes, he can handle it."

The reaction of the older players has been almost universally favorable. One director remarked, "It is so nice to see young people playing."

Handz™ and Cardology Kidz Excite Young Players

HANDZ™ HAS PROVED to be a great way to get young players to think about the full deal, not just the hands they can see. By looking at the fact sheets, they draw inferences about what



contract they want to be in and how to play the hand. This enables them to more quickly understand the language of bidding when they transition to bridge.

Examples of the thinking that Handz™ fosters can be found in listening to comments they make about a hand. "Look! Nobody at all has an 8-card suit. The high card points of the 2 sides are divided up 18 - 22, so pretty evenly. I guess we'll be playing in No Super-Suit." (No super-suit = No Trump.)

"This is going to be very interesting ...

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President's Letter by Jim Leuker



IT'S TIME FOR SUMMER vacation at CBE. This comes after a busy spring season where we had approximately 65 students learning bridge in our various programs. Now we've paused for the summer at our three San Francisco schools—Moscone, Sacred Heart and Chinese-American International (CAIS), as well as at our affiliate program at Peninsula Youth Bridge. We've made a few changes. At Sacred

Heart and CAIS, we've set third grade as the earliest point at which a student may join our bridge program. At CAIS, we have students participating from 3rd through 8th grades. We continue to use Handz as our introductory approach. The kids enjoy playing Handz a lot. We have

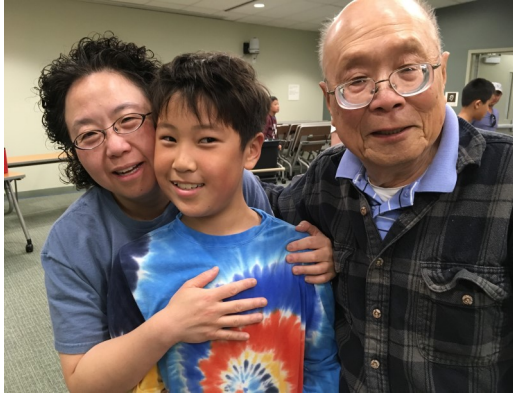
some parents take part, which is a big plus having a family participate in our program.

Not all of our activities take a break during the summer. We continue the very popular Cardology Kidz program each Saturday after the Cardology duplicate bridge game. We continue to attract six to eight tables of kids, plus a few parents. We've also been doing some online coaching for a few select students. We were asked to participate in a summer camp at CAIS, but couldn't quite get it together in time. We'll definitely take part in this next summer.

Other organizations contact us from time to time to ask for assistance in getting their bridge programs up and running. We had inquiries this spring from Reno Youth Bridge about obtaining a 501(c)3 non-profit (continued on page 2)

Three Generations Hooked on Handz™

WHILE CARDOLOGY Kidz and Handz™ are primarily to introduce young people to the game, sometimes a parent or grandparent finds a new passion. Justin brought his grandfather, CH, to Cardology Kidz so that he could learn to play Handz™ and play at home. He now plays 3-handed Handz™ at home with Justin and his mom, Melissa.



Melissa, Justin and CH

CH got hooked, so much so that Deborah Drysdale told him about Bridge Base Online(BBO). His wife wonders what has happened to her husband: he used to watch TV at

night, now he is playing bridge on BBO! Another bridge widow created.

CH has also started mentoring others at Cardology Kidz. Recently he translated into Mandarin the basic Handz lesson that was being taught to absolute beginners. A new youngster came with his dad for the first time. The dad was having trouble with some of the English, and CH began translating for him after they discovered that they both spoke Mandarin. They both grinned these absolutely-huge, heartwarming grins when they realized they

spoke the same language and that CH could help. An amazing example of how bridge is a universal language.

Seven going to YNABC

CBE IS SENDING seven young players to the YNABC in Atlanta. All seven play in the Cardology Kidz game on Saturdays and have played in either unit games, the Spring sectional, or both. This is the largest number of young CBE players that have ever attended a YNABC. The previous high was four. Actually, an eighth wanted to go, but could not find a partner.

The young players range in age from 7 to 14. The seven-year old, Chloe, is the youngest player we have ever sent to the YNABC, although Pico Gilman and Kai Chang were not much older when they went the first time. One of the seven will be playing with someone from Atlanta who he has not met in person.

Besides playing on Saturdays at Cardology Kidz, the young players are practicing on Bridge Base Online with coaches Richard Bellerose, William Zhu, and Deborah Drysdale.

Sending kids to the YNABC is CBE's biggest expense and we thank our donors for making this possible.

Handz™ & Cardology Kidz (continued from page 1)

Maybe I'll double them!"

"And maybe I'll redouble."

One of the teachers at Cardology Kidz commented, "I wish I had learned to play like this!"



As soon as the kids arrive at Cardology they sit down to play. No fooling around. At a recent game, one table only had three players. One of them immediately asked, "Who will be our fourth."

Questions abound. Some not so easily answered. "How many points do you need to bid one of a suit after your (RHO) opponent has opened?" BMR (Bridge Master Richard) patiently explained that the quality of the suit and distribution of the hand are more important than points.

The enthusiasm for the game is amazing. Next time you play at Cardology, stick

around for a while after the game and see for yourself an amazing new crop of players.

President's Letter (continued from page 1)

status, and from Aptos Middle School about starting up a program. Various parties have inquired about obtaining copies of Handz.

Our board member Deborah Drysdale is taking Handz on the road this summer. She is presenting Handz at the New Hampshire Arts Camp from July 9 to 13. We'll be eager to hear the results of this outreach.

You'll see our kids competing in local clubs and sectional tournaments. We're very proud of them whenever they're out and about. When they enjoy a good score and win some masterpoints, the celebration is something wonderful to see.

Again this summer we have sponsored seven of our students to help with their travel expenses to the Youth NABC (North American Bridge

Championships). We know they'll represent us proudly in Atlanta, win or lose. This is a great experience for our kids, competing with their peers from other places.

Can you believe that CBE is now in its eleventh year? We wouldn't still be thriving if it weren't for your help. Thank you to all of you who have become members. Your annual financial contributions allow us to keep our programs going. And big, bountiful thanks go to all the volunteers who teach Handz and bridge at our various schools and programs. You are the greatest! I also want to commend our seven members of our board of directors. You give so freely of your time and energy to keep our organization moving in the right direction. Thank you to all.

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