



March 2014

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

### Success in Atlanta

WILLIAM ZHU AND EDMUND WU did it. With teammates Jimmy Wang (Captain) and Erli Zhou, they won the right to represent the USA at the 15th World Youth Team Championships in Istanbul, Turkey, in August 2014.



William and Edmund Study

The competition began on Bridge Base Online (BBO) in October. The Wang team finished second in the BBO play

earning them the right to go to Atlanta to compete with three other teams.

Atlanta began with coaching from various experts including SiVY's Debbie Rosenberg. In the competition to be USA1, Wang lost to Kaplan 97-74. A hand that swung Wang's way is reproduced below

Both tables started the auction 1C by East (Edmund), 1S overcall (Zach Brescoll), and 2D by west (William). At this point, the auction took a turn with East's next bid. Marius

Agica with East's hand bid 3C, eliciting a 3D response from Owen Lien, and they played there making 3. Edmund took a different view and bid a non forcing 2NT with his spade stoppers despite the singleton diamond. With his beautiful 7 card diamond suit and side entry of the heart ace, William immediately raised to 3NT on his 10 count.

Brescoll led the Ace of spades, followed by the King of spades. In desperation, he switched to a heart. Edmund won it in his hand and played a diamond, discovering the favorable diamond position. He paused for a few seconds, then said "I can claim". 3NT making 5 for an 8 imp

swing.

At this point, the Wang team was in the lead. Two boards later, Edmund and William missed a very thin slam that was bid and made at the other table. They never caught up.

Debbie Rosenberg reported, "William and Edmund impressed both the other mentors and me in Atlanta tremendously with their interest in learning. They were present for every optional learning opportunity, and were usually the last to leave if there were any experts left to discuss bridge with. They brought questions of their own, answered those asked, and general-

ly participated in every activity and discussion. They were also clearly well-liked by the other juniors."

William and Edmund are now being coached by Bart Bramley. The team is being coached by Debbie Rosenberg and Fred Gitelman. We wish them a great deal of success in Istanbul.

Open Room Board 30		N Kaplan		West North East South	
Kaplan: 58 IMPs Wang: 55 IMPs		♠ 7 ♥ J10754 ♦ 865 ♣ KJ94		2♦ Pass 1♠ 1♠ 3NT Pass 2NT Pass	
W Zhu		E Wu			
♠ 98 ♥ A82 ♦ AQ109743 ♣ 3		♠ QJ65 ♥ K6 ♦ 2 ♣ AQ8765			
Closed Room: 3♦ W = +110		S Brescoll		3NT East NS 0 EW D	
		♠ AK10432 ♥ Q93 ♦ KJ ♣ 102			

### President's Letter

I AM PRIVILEGED to take over the president's chair of CBE as we enter our 8th year. I have been on the board since the inception of CBE and have previously served as the secretary.

CBE is in good shape, continuing our mission of bringing bridge to kids in cisco schools. This year we are continuing our teaching programs at two high schools, and one elementary school, and one Chinese school. We currently have about 35 students receiving instruction.



We are very proud as we see our kids getting out of their schools and playing bridge in their communities. At the recent San Francisco sectional, you may have seen a couple of our youngest players, Pico Gilman

and Kai Chang, competing in the limited events. Many players commented on their excellent comportment at the table.

Others of our graduates are regularly seen competing at local clubs and tournaments. We are especially proud of Edmund Wu and William Zhu, graduates of our programs, who recently earned the chance to represent the U.S. in the World Junior Championships to be held in Istanbul, Turkey in August. We wish them great luck. We are so thrilled to see them competing on the world stage.

We are in discussion to start a program at CEC School, a bilingual immersion school for recent immigrants to the U.S. We hope to have a bilingual teacher—Mandarin and English—to present this program.

We welcome new member Marion Robertson to our CBE board of directors. Marion has been a bridge administrator and volunteer in more capacities than

#### Inside this issue:

- BRIDGE IS A FAMILY AFFAIR 2
- SiVY AT BOYS AND GIRLS 2
- CBE ELECTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS AND OFFICERS 2

#### Contact Information

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 Visit our web sites for credit card donations

# Center for Bridge Education & Silicon Valley Youth Bridge News

## President's Letter (cont.)

anyone can keep track of. We are very pleased to have her participation in our organization. We know she will help make our organization stronger.

Thank you to those of you who remembered CBE with a tax-deductible gift at year-end. Your generosity enables us to keep our school programs going.

## CBE Board Election

AT ITS JANUARY meeting the board reluctantly accepted Jen Fong's resignation as president and thanked her for her service. Jen has served as CBE president for 5 years and has contributed greatly to the organization. Jen has two young children and works full time for the school district. She will remain on the board.

Jim Leuker has replaced Jen as president. Jim has been the CBE secretary since its inception in 2007. Jim is well known in local bridge circles as one of the area's premier teachers. He was the chair of the San Francisco Fall 2012 NABC and is active on the District 21 board.

CBE elected Marion Robertson to the Board. Marion is a former District 21 president, serves as our district representative to the Western Conference, and is on the ACBL Board of Governors. She has been active on the NABC planning committees. She will take on the secretarial responsibilities.

**Are you a member? If not, now is a good time to join. Or if your membership has expired, please help us by renewing.**

## Bridge Is A Family Affair

DUPLICATE BRIDGE is one of the few competitive activities in which people of all ages can participate as equals. SiVY Bridge President Debbie Rosenberg knows this firsthand as she has had the pleasure of watching her son Kevin rise through the ranks of Junior Bridge. To provide this same opportunity for other parents and grandparents, Silicon Valley Youth Bridge and Club Director Will Watson have held two games to offer younger players an opportunity to get to know each other while sharing an evening with their family member.



Bo and Brent (12) Xiao play Bill and Bolton (17) Bailey

At the first ever parent/child duplicate in June 2013, 8 tables competed. For finishing second in Flight B at the January 2014 game, Bo Xiao earned

the last fraction of a masterpoint he needed to become a Life Master. He was excited to be playing with his son Brent when he achieved that goal.

The 10 tables at the January event also celebrated the achievements of Isha Thapa and Kevin Rosenberg, young locals who recently qualified to represent the United States in World Junior Team events this summer in Istanbul. Proud father, Mukund Thapa, says about his partnership with daughter Isha, "being able to spend so much time with my teenage daughter is beyond

what words can describe. I believe this would be true for most fathers, mothers, grandfathers, or grandmothers." Ken Tsunoda, a newcomer to duplicate bridge, reported that his son KC's first words as they left the game were, "Can we do that again?"

## SiVY Bridge at Boys & Girls Clubs

LESS THAN A YEAR AGO SiVY Bridge was started by Debbie Rosenberg to inspire the next generation of Youth Bridge players. Based on successful programs in other parts of the country, Debbie originally envisioned after school lessons and clubs at local elementary and middle schools. As the fledgling group was looking for pilot schools, a different opportunity was presented—the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Jose/Silicon Valley.

Lynn Shannon is a local player who has been involved in SiVY from the beginning. Having much experience at B&G clubs, Lynn believed they would be a great fit for the SiVY program. After some effort, Lynn was able to get agreement for SiVY to provide our program at 3 B&G clubs in Menlo Park and San Jose.



Two Boys Celebrate Success

The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Silicon Valley is to provide access to innovative programs, inspiring leaders and an enlightened perspective on life. The population that is served tends to be at-risk youth, many of whom come from households where English is a second language. This was not the student population many of the SiVY teachers believed

would be likely candidates for bridge lessons. However after several months of our program at these clubs, our volunteer teachers universally consider it a success.

Kathie Shaw, teacher at Belle Haven B&G club in Menlo Park, has this to say about her experience, "the best part of teaching bridge at the Belle Haven Boys & Girls Club is getting to know the group of boys I'm working with and seeing their progress in learning a game which was totally foreign to them in early September. The biggest benefit for me is watching the progress from week to week and the increased interest in the game itself as we progress. I'm really enjoying seeing "the light go on" when they make a mistake and we talk about why the contract was set when it could have been made. That "OH" moment!"

At B&G's clubs it's common for inter-club competitions to be held. In November, SiVY hosted such an event, giving the players a hint of what competitive play is like. Two San Jose Boys and Girls Clubs (Gardner and Levin) and Los Gatos' RJ Fisher Middle School squared off, enjoying a six table tournament, snacks, pizza, and prizes.

The players were boys and girls ranging in age from 8 to 13 years old. Some have parents or grandparents who play bridge. Others didn't have a clue about the game until they started their classes. Take for example Jerrick Baltazar, age 13, and Anthony Hoang, age 12, from Levin. Neither of them knew anyone who played Bridge, but they love it now. Anthony said he likes winning - and also the secret code of bidding. Jerrick simply says "It's fun!"