



UNIT 550 MENTOR PROGRAM FOR 2012



Last year Unit 550 established a Mentor Program that ran from mid May, 2011 to mid September. Approximately 35 experienced players participated as mentors to an equal number of mentees. Because of continuing enthusiasm for the program, the Unit is pleased to announce that a similar program will be offered in 2012, beginning in late February or early March. Dick Wasserstrom will again serve as the coordinator. Below are the details.

1. **Who can be a mentee?** Any player who has less than 299 points qualifies. You do not have to be a member of the unit.
2. **What is my commitment as a mentee?** It is expected that you and your mentor will spend at least a few minutes after each game or between games discussing selected issues that arose during play, or other topics of mutual interest.
3. **Who can be a mentor?** Any player who is a life master, or who was a mentor in 2011, or, who in the judgment of the coordinator, would be a suitable mentor.
4. **What is my commitment as a mentor?** You are expected to play 1-2 times a month for four months with your mentee and to spend at least a few minutes after each game or between games discussing selected issues that arose during play, or other topics of mutual interest.
5. **How will mentors and mentees be paired up?** The aims of the program are both to permit less experienced players to improve their bridge skills and to enhance their opportunities to play with additional partners. As a result, the coordinator will assign mentors and mentees in order to facilitate those two objectives.
6. **What if the personalities of the mentors and mentees conflict?** It is understood that reasonable people acting in good faith cannot always work well together. Playing one game is all that is required before either the mentor or mentee may request a change from the coordinator, but it is recommended that the mentor and mentee play two games before a change is requested. The coordinator will, as much as possible, keep confidential any feedback provided by either party.
7. **What games can mentor-mentee pairs play in?** In addition to any open level games, several club owners will have a monthly NLM (Non Life Master) game at which mentors will be allowed to play with their mentees. These will be listed in the calendar on the Santa Cruz Bridge Center website.

8. **How and when can I sign up?** By putting your name on the signup sheets for mentees and mentors that are posted at the Santa Cruz Bridge Center or by contacting Dick Wasserstrom (email: wasser@ucsc.edu; phone: 426-6434.) Interested persons should sign up by February 10, so that the program can begin no later than March 1. Shortly after the end of the sign up period, Dick will notify you of the name of the person with whom you have been paired up.