

**President's Report**

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Contact Sigrid: d21sigrid@gmail.com**Thank God We Were Not Vulnerable!**

If you attended the Sparks Regional you may have heard me relate this story. I was so amused I am restating it and I just hope you find it as charming as I did. At a recent club game our opponent went down 5 in a 1HX'd contract. As the score was announced, "1 heart doubled, down 5, that's minus 1100," smiling sheepishly, he said, "Thank God we were not vulnerable!"

Learning how to react to the inevitable negative scores that we reap, either by our own doing or by the opponents' skill, is worth the effort. I know I won't be happy with my next -1100 (and I guarantee there is one in the future for me) but I can hope that my friend's voice will whisper, "Thank God We Were Not Vulnerable" in my brain, and I can react with the grace he exhibited. I know I will be able to smile and go on to the next hand and shrug off the result and start the next board with a decent attitude. Maybe I won't carry the bad karma forward.

Santa Clara attendance came in at about 48% of the tournament held there in 2019. We suffered the usual complaints about temperatures in the grand ballroom (It's too hot! It's so cold! Do something!) but aside from that, the players seemed to enjoy the games and the hotel staff were great. They were readily available and accommodating and seemed so happy to have us back. We suffered a major loss because so few rooms were booked, but at least some of you did as I asked and booked at least one night to help offset the damages. I am very grateful to those of you who did so.

The Sparks/Reno Regional had 44.5% of 2019 attendance, but those who did come to play seemed to have a good time. We will not hold the Sparks/ Reno Regional in 2023. The District 20 Seaside Tournament for October 2023 was in jeopardy and they asked us if we could push the Sparks tournament back a week. Unfortunately, the Nugget couldn't do that, but assured us that if we want to come back in 2024 they would be glad to see us. We hadn't signed a contract for 2023 so the decision to take a year off and help District 20 was an easy one. Also, we are hoping that by 2024 more players will be interested in attending a regional in Sparks.

Apparently everyone is looking forward to our 2023 Monterey Regional as I see room reservations are filling rapidly. I write this with a great sigh of relief after the issue we had last January of major cancellations that thrust us into the red zone. Remember that our excellent room rates are only available before December 12th, which seems like a long way off, but the reality is I get a lot of requests for help reserving a room after the cutoff dates. And remember, we are assigned a limited number of rooms, so it is best to book early. Please click [HERE](#) to make your reservation online. If you need help, and I know some of you do, don't hesitate to call me, that's what I am here for.

Many of you are unaware of the importance of booking rooms at the tournament host hotels. The District's guarantee that a certain amount of rooms will be booked is critical to our having free playing space in the hotel. When we fall short in reservations, the District has serious attrition fees to pay. Please consider this when deciding where to stay when you plan to attend a D21 tournament. Whether we will be able to continue tournaments at hotel sites is largely up to you.

It seems nearly all of us qualified for the NAP finals. This year will be a little different and we hope everyone enjoys the changes. If you are a Flight A player (or wish to play "up") the final qualifier will be played live on Saturday and Sunday, January 7th/8th in Monterey. The Flight B (0-2500 masterpoints) and Flight C (0-500 masterpoints non-LM) will be held on BBO on January 14th (Flight B) and the 15th (Flight C) and preregistration is a week in advance. Susan Mazzei will have more details in her article, so please read it carefully.



D I A M O N D I N T H E R U F F

So now we have NABCs on the horizon. The Horn Lake folks like us to refer to them as NABCs but for me it will always be *nationals*. We're hoping that those of you who attend will be willing to write a short summary of your experiences there including fun hands, interesting people, victories and disasters. Please consider submitting your favorite anecdote to our editor, Melanie Haddad (district21acblcommunications@gmail.com), for publication in the next Diamond in the Ruff.

Please review Cornelia Gould's information about STaC games in December, and remember, these are face-to-face games only.

Sending happy holiday wishes to everyone, and the hope that Halloween is a spooky and safe event for our children and grandchildren. My best to you all. I can be reached at d21sigrid@gmail.com or 707-486-1517.

Attributed to an unknown source: We had a partnership misunderstanding: My partner assumed I knew what I was doing!