



DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 3, Number 1 May 2020

Columbus Board of Directors Meeting

By Jackie Zayac, District 21 National Director

I hope this finds you all safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic. Although the Columbus NABC was cancelled, the ACBL Board of Directors held an online board meeting on March 16–19, 2020.



The minutes from the Fall 2019 San Francisco meeting were approved. The vote was 23-1-1. I voted yes.

Claire Jones, the current ACBL Treasurer, was re-elected to a one-year term from May 1, 2020 – April 30, 2021.

A.J. Stephani was elected as the ACBL Representative to the NABF for the term ending December 31, 2021.

The following appointments were made during our online meeting:

- Neil Chambers, Mitch Dunitz and Eddie Wold were appointed to the Hall of Fame Committee for a three-year term through the end of the Spring March 2023 NABC.

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Leaves From the Executive Branch

By Ray Yuenger, President

Coming into May 2020, most of the readers and writers of this newsletter will have been subject to stay-at-home orders for six weeks due to the coronavirus pandemic. Let's see what there is to talk about during these unusual circumstances.



Tournament Cancellations and Club Closures

It won't be news by the time you read it here, but District 21 ("D21"), ably represented by our tournament manager, Pam Hughes, was able to negotiate the cancellation of the Sacramento Regional with the DoubleTree Hotel, scheduled to begin on May 25, without D21 incurring any liability for liquidated damages. Be aware that the cancellation of the tournament does not automatically cancel your room reservation, so make sure you contact the hotel to cancel your reservation using your reservation's confirmation number. This is one of my favorite regionals, so I'm disappointed not to be playing with friends

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Upcoming Tournaments Sectionals

~~May 1-3, 2020~~

~~Sacramento Unit 505 Spring Sectional~~

~~May 2-3, 2020~~

~~Burlingame NLM Sectional~~

~~May 4-10, 2020~~

~~Western Conference Spring Fling STaC~~

May 9-10, 2020

Grand National Teams Flight A District Final
Played on BridgeBase Online

May 9-10, 2020

Grand National Teams Flight C District Final
Played on BridgeBase Online

~~May 16-17, 2020~~

~~Monterey Lone Cypress Sectional~~

~~May 16-17, 2020~~

~~Palo Alto Bridge Club Sectional~~

May 19, 2020

Margaret Maggie Mahaffey Sectional
Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA

~~Jun 13-14, 2020~~

~~San Francisco Sectional~~

Jun 27-28, 2020

East Bay Summer Sectional
Oakland Masonic Center, Oakland CA

~~Jul 8-12, 2020~~

~~Palo Alto Bridge Club Super Sectional~~

Aug 8-9, 2020

Castro Valley Sectional
Transfiguration Catholic Church, Castro Valley CA

Aug 8-9, 2020

Fresno Non-Life Master Sectional
Fresno Bridge Center, Fresno CA

Aug 11-14, 2020

Reno August 2020 Sectional
Mathewson Bridge Center, Reno NV

Aug 15-16, 2020

San Mateo County Summer Sectional
Cañada College Grove, Redwood City CA

Aug 17-23, 2020

Western Conference Summer Fun STaC
Local clubs

Aug 22-23, 2020

Wine Valley Sectional
Vintage House Senior Center, Sonoma CA

Sep 11-13, 2020

Sacramento Unit 505 Fall Sectional
Orangevale Community Center, Orangevale CA

Sep 12-13, 2020

Unit 509 Santa Rosa/Petaluma Sectional
Odd Fellows Hall, Santa Rosa CA

Sep 17-20, 2020

2020 Unit 465 Sectional
Plaza Conference Center, Carson City NV

Sep 19-20, 2020

Palo Alto Bridge Club Sectional
Palo Alto Bridge Club, Mtn. View CA

Sep 25-27, 2020

Sacramento NLM Fall Sectional
Sacramento Bridge Center, Sacramento CA

Sep 26-27, 2020

Earthquake Sectional
Gilroy Senior Center, Gilroy CA

Oct 3-4, 2020

Burlingame NLM Sectional
Fattoria e Mare, Burlingame CA

Oct 23-25, 2020

Silicon Valley Unit #507 Fall Sectional
Adrian Wilcox High School, Santa Clara CA

Oct 31-Nov 1, 2020

Santa Cruz Surf's Up Sectional
Mid-County Senior Center, Capitola CA

Regionals

~~May 25-31, 2020~~

~~California Capital Regional~~

Sep 1-7, 2020

All Western Championships Regional

Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara CA

Oct 5-11, 2020

Reno Regional

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

- Jeff Goldsmith was appointed to the Competitions & Conventions Committee for a one-year term through the end of the Spring March 2021 NABC.

- Chris Compton and Sabine Auken were appointed to the Competitions & Conventions Committee for a three-year term through the end of the Spring March 2023 NABC.

- Cheri Bjerkan, Dennis Clerkin, John Fout, Bob Glasson and Kevin Wilson were appointed to the Ethical Oversight Committee for a three-year term through the end of the Spring March 2023 NABC.

- Lisa Berkowitz, Nagy Kamel and Tom Peters were appointed to the Disciplinary Committee for a three-year term through the end of the Spring March 2023 NABC. One vacant position will be filled by the Disciplinary Committee at a later date.

- Chris Compton, Adam Wildawsky and Ron Gerard were appointed to the Laws Commission for a five-year term through the end of the Spring March 2025 NABC.

The following motions were voted on during the online meeting:

Procedural Motion – Any motion concerning any issue that has been or will be affected by the coronavirus problem (it was not a pandemic yet!) will be automatically placed on the agenda without any need to be approved as a non-agenda item. The vote was 25-0. It is effective immediately.

0–2500 B/C Two-Day National Pairs Event – A two-day 0–2500 Pairs Event will

be added to the Spring NABC Schedule on the second Thursday/Friday of the NABC. The first two sessions will be a Qualifying and the second two sessions a Final. THIS IS MY MOTION! There are not any 0-2500 national events at the Spring NABC. This is the first one! I am moving forward with other motions to benefit the 94% of bridge players with fewer than 2,500 masterpoints. Please support this event at the 2022 Spring NABC in Reno! If you are traveling to the St. Louis NABC next spring, please play in this event there. We need participation to keep it alive! The vote was 25-0. It is effective January 1, 2021.

Allow Ethical Oversight Committee (EOC) Members to Discuss Cases with Other EOC Members – After public release of a decision on a case has been made, the EOC Members may discuss the case amongst themselves. The vote was 24-1. I voted yes. It is effective January 1, 2021.

Exclusion – Automatic Suspension imposed because of violation of Automatic Probation shall be consecutive to the imposition of the original discipline, except that any Probation must be served following all Suspensions. “Or exclusions” was removed. The vote was 24-1. I voted yes. It is effective immediately.

ACBL Not Law Enforcement – The CDR was amended as follows:

3. GROUNDS FOR DISCIPLINE, OTHER THAN ADMINISTRATIVE SUSPENSION, UNDER THIS CDR

3.1 Violation of Laws of Duplicate Bridge. The underlined language was added. The vote was 24-1. I voted yes. It is effective immediately.

CDR Attorney as Advocate – The CDR was amended to allow an attorney to represent the Charging Party and the Charged Party as an Advocate. The vote was 23-2. I voted no because I did not want change from the current practice of not allowing attorneys to be an Advocate.

Negotiated Resolution – The Charging Party and the Charged Party must present a negotiated resolution to (a) Appeals and Charges Committee if the Ethical Oversight Committee would have heard the Charges absent such Negotiated Resolution, or if the charge was a first degree ethical violation; (b) the Disciplinary Body which would have heard the Charges absent such Negotiated Resolution. The vote was 24-1.

Grounds for Discipline, other than Administrative Suspension, under this CDR

The CDR was amended to divide ethical violations into three categories. They are First Degree (the worst such as collusive cheating), Second Degree, and Third Degree violations. The jurisdiction of Disciplinary Bodies is also defined. The vote was 25-0.

Transfer of Members

Members in Mercer County have been transferred from D11 Unit 227 to D6 Unit 231 – The transfer was requested for the purpose of playing in a closer STaC game. The vote was 24-1. I voted yes. It was effective April 1, 2020.

Communication between Board of Governors and Membership

The ACBL Bylaws Article 9 Board of Governors, Section 9.2 was amended as follows:

Section 9.2.7 was moved to Section 9.2.8. The new duty of the Board of Governors in Section 9.2.7 is: To gather input from District members on issues and priorities facing the District and the ACBL, and report findings from Board of Governor’s meetings to District members. The vote was 23-1-1. I voted yes. It is effective immediately.

2020 Operating and Capital Budget

The Operating Budget was approved by a vote of 24-1. I voted yes. The Capital Budget was approved by a vote of 25-0.

Board Oversight Committee

The committee consists of the Chairman of the Board and the two most immediate past Board Presidents currently serving on the board. If the current board does not have the requisite members on the board, the board member(s) with the longest tenure will fill any vacancy. The vote was 24-1. I voted yes.

Awards for Round Robin Qualifying

This was the second reading for this motion.

When a Round Robin is played to qualify four teams to KO finals:

- 5-6 Teams pays 2 places (GOLD); 3rd receives 20% of 1st – 1/3 Gold and 2/3 Red; 4th receives 10% of 1st (RED)
- 7-8 Teams pays 3 places (GOLD); 4th receives 20% of 1st (RED)
- 9+ Teams pays 4 places (GOLD)

Also, a 4-team single bracket KO is allowed as a 2-session event. It will pay only 1st place at 50% of the award calculated by the KO formula with a bracket size adjustment factor of .520.

The vote was 23-1-1. I voted yes. It is effective immediately.

North American Pairs Conditions of Contest

The Conditions of Contest for the 2020-2021 NAP were adopted. The vote was 24-0-1. I voted yes. It becomes effective June 1, 2020.

Bylaw Change – Executive Director

Amend the Bylaws, Article V, ACBL Board of Directors, Section 5.1 Authority as follows:

5.1 Authority. Remove the reference to Chief Executive Officer and replace it with Executive Director. The vote was 0-24-1. I voted no and the motion was defeated. It will return with additional changes to Section 5.1.

Spring 2024 NABC Louisville, KY

The Spring 2024 NABC will be held at the Galt House Hotel, Louisville, KY on March 14–24, 2024. The vote was 24-1. I voted yes.

NAP/GNT 2020 Schedule

It was moved that the 2020 NAP Finals will be held at the Montreal Summer 2020 NABC. The 2020 GNT Finals will be held at the Tampa Fall 2020 NABC. The details of the Finals, including the scheduling of those events, will be established by management at a later date. The deadline for the completion of the District GNT Finals will be October 1, 2020. The vote was 24-1.

Approval of Non-Agenda Item

There were two changes that were made to the map of the districts that will share a Regional Director if the ACBL Board Reorganization is approved so the motion from San Francisco was resubmitted as a non-agenda item. The vote to accept the ACBL Reorganization non-agenda item was 23-2. I voted yes.

ACBL Board Reorganization

As I reported after the Fall San Francisco meeting, the reorganization plan calls for reducing the size of the Board from 25 District Directors to 13 Regional Directors beginning in the 2021 election cycle. District 21 will share a Regional Director with District 20 which includes northern California, Oregon, part of Washington, part of Idaho and Hawaii. The main reason I voted no last Fall is because I was not confident that enough work had been done to transfer committee work from the ACBL Board to others. Over the last four months, the Transitional Task Force has made progress toward moving committee

work to others in the organization. The motion needed a 2/3 majority to pass and it needs to pass at two separate meetings. The vote was 20-4-1. I voted yes and it passed. It will be on the agenda for a second vote at the Montreal Summer meeting.

The Board moved to defer voting on the remainder of the motions on the agenda until Summer 2020 in Montreal, QC. The Board also moved that any reconsideration item brought by the Board of Governors from the virtual meeting will be heard at the Montreal Summer 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors. Both actions were carried unanimously.

You are all aware that the Montreal NABC has been cancelled, but I want you to know that the ACBL Board of Directors has been holding online meetings every two weeks since March. In addition, we are planning an all-day meeting in late May. I hope to have answers on the plan for the 2020 NAP/GNT finals soon. ACBL staff is working really hard to provide more opportunities for you to play online and add special games to the mix. Every ACBL employee has had their pay reduced by 20%, but they are all working 110%.

I am sure you will all agree that the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way we all live on a daily basis. I would like to encourage you to play in a Virtual Club Game or a Support Your Club Game on BBO. A large portion of the money collected is returned to your local club(s). I hope you will all consider playing in the Online Regional being held April 30 – May 3 to support the ACBL. Your local bridge clubs and the ACBL need our financial support now. I am hopeful that together we can keep

bridge alive and well in North America into the next millennium!

Please stay healthy and be kind to everyone during this pandemic. These are uncharted waters for us all and I know that navigating through this can be very stressful. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at jackiezayac@gmail.com.

Yuenger

From Page 1

and socializing in Sacramento.

The ACBL had already cancelled the national tournament scheduled to begin on July 16 in Montréal, Québec. That cancellation was justified by a directive of the government of Québec requesting cancellation of any festivals and events through August 31 that would be unable to comply with social distancing requirements and other measures designed to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

Along with the cancellation of the summer NABC, the contemporaneous Youth NABC was cancelled. One consequence is that my Youth Grant committee won't be reviewing grant applications this year. It's a shame some young players may miss their last opportunity to play in a YNABC.

If you've ever come home sick from a bridge tournament, you already know they are a fertile breeding ground for disease transmission, with bridge players spending hours in close proximity and mutually handling decks of cards, bidding boxes, and scoring devices. This is also true on a lesser scale of bridge clubs, which have been forced to close as nonessential businesses. Many of us are wondering how long before

it will be safe to play face-to-face (“F2F”) bridge again. Clubs differ greatly in terms of how much rent they pay and the amounts of their cash reserves. But I worry that some clubs are beginning to feel a crushing financial weight as a consequence of this pandemic. It’s not much consolation to say you aren’t alone in your dilemma.

Online Bridge

In my last column I described the movement by the ACBL in partnership with Bridge Base Online (“BBO”) to recreate as virtual clubs the physical clubs across the country that have been forced to close. If you look online today, you’ll see a number of virtual clubs identified by their sanction numbers. These virtual clubs provide a place for club regulars to play against each other, with a large portion of their table fees going back to their club. This is one source of income for clubs unable to operate in a brick-and-mortar setting. I’ve been told some club owners are anxiously awaiting their share of the table fees being paid to BBO. What complicates some of the calculations is this: the ACBL has identified some players as belonging to certain clubs based on where they played in the last year. If those players participate in the nationwide Save Your Clubs games on BBO, the table fees are divided up and allocated to the player’s club. But if a player has split equal time between two physical clubs, that player’s fees will be divided between both clubs. So BBO and the ACBL have to perform a lot of calculations in order to divide up the table fees.

Clubs too small to create an online virtual club with a minimum table count of six can still participate in one of two ways. Sanction holders can agree to a peer pool, where each of two clubs shares its member lists and holds online games for everyone on the lists. The host of the particular game will get the table fees unless the peers make a different private arrangement. Another method is the master-servant plan, under which a servant club simply hands its member list over to a master club with the master club promising to hold games for the servant club. The table fees will all go to the master club unless there is a different private arrangement.

We’ll know more when BBO starts giving the virtual clubs their table fees, something that may be critical for those directing for their livelihood.

As I write this column, the ACBL and BBO have just announced a four-day online regional beginning on April 30, in which it will be possible to earn gold and red points. So it looks like not only clubs, but regional tournaments, may be moving online. The largest events are limited to 400 tables. You can see the schedule by clicking this [link](#).

Restructuring D21

This newsletter is distributed to over 6,700 members of D21, so it may be the most interaction between the District and its members. Someday I’d like to learn how many recipients read part of it. If members are asked what it is that districts do, probably most would say hold regionals.

And indeed D21 was scheduled to hold four this year, in Monterey, Sacramento, Santa Clara, and Sparks/Reno. I explained the fate of Sacramento above. It's a little early to start talking about the prospects of holding the All-Western Regional in Santa Clara, but you can ask yourself when you will feel safe playing F2F again.

Nevertheless, there is still plenty for the D21 Board of Directors and its committees to do to bring the District up to date. D21's Bylaws were last updated in 2009, and since then some changes in ACBL's Bylaws and regulations have made parts of D21's Bylaws obsolete. So the Bylaws committee is working on a set of technical amendments to propose to the full Board.

I assume these technical amendments won't require much discussion or debate, but I believe some more substantive amendments are also warranted. For example, I question why each unit has or needs two representatives to appear at Board meetings. With 21 units in the District, if they all appeared for meetings, we'd have 42 representatives in the room, not to mention the four elected Board officers, the District Director, and others.

It seems to me that each unit could be ably represented by one representative, with authorized substitutes designated by the unit if the representative is unable to attend. If nothing else, this would cut down on the refreshments consumed during the Board meetings. But more seriously, does anyone think a committee of 42 is going to be more productive or decisive than a committee of 21? We will attempt to hold an online meeting of the Board in lieu of

the one that would have been held during the Sacramento regional, but I'll ask each unit to designate just one representative to attend such an online Board meeting.

Another area for study by the Board is ensuring compliance with California's newly enacted AB5 legislation. It was designed to codify a 2019 California Supreme Court decision that distinguished the characteristics of employees from independent contractors. The Legislature described its intent as "to ensure workers who are currently exploited by being misclassified as independent contractors instead of recognized as employees have the basic rights and protections they deserve under the law, including a minimum wage, workers' compensation if they are injured on the job, unemployment insurance, paid sick leave, and paid family leave." We need to study the new legislation and make sure that D21 is in compliance with the law's requirements.

On another front, I'm still gathering information on how each department/committee in D21 conducts its business. I have the impression that some committees have been given at most a general mandate by the Board and have been required to improvise their own guidelines. I think how the District operates should be documented similar to how the ACBL has developed its own [Codification](#). (If you click on "Codification," you will be linked to the ACBL's online document, which currently runs 420 pages.) To that end, I have formed a Practices and Policies committee, including Stu Goodgold, Cornelia Gould, Sigrid Price, and Jacki Zayac, chaired by me.

The objectives are (1) identify the current practices of the various D21 departments, (2) determine if the practices are based on policies established by the District Board, (3) document the existing policies and establish written policies where there are none, and (4) publish the guidelines so any curious District member can look them up. Probably most members don't care much about how the District operates so long as they have regionals to attend, but the District shouldn't be a mystery. It can't hurt for members of the Board itself to be better informed about all its operations. This may be an ambitious project, but I'd at least to get it started while I'm President, even if it will take more than two years to finish.

Disciplinary chairs

I'm pleased to announce that I found not one—but two—fine candidates to replace me as Chair of the D21 Disciplinary Committee. The husband and wife team of Gene Simpson and Laura Kenney will be the co-chairs. I don't anticipate we'll have too many conduct questions while bridge players are all confined to quarters.

District 21 Regionals

By Pam Hughes, Regional Tournament Manager

Hello all! I hope this finds you with your health and sanity intact.



I am very sorry to inform you that we have had to cancel the California Capital Regional this year. The Sacramento DoubleTree was extremely fair and understanding, and once again I am grateful to the wonderful staff there. So many of you have sent emails lately and mentioned that this tournament is your favorite, or one of your favorites. It's clear that you love not only the event but also the hotel, and their actions have proved they love us too. Never fear, we are planning to return in 2021! Please remember to cancel your reservations, so you don't become a "no-show" and be liable for one night's fees.

I know it's very hard right now. We seem to have all reached a stage where the shelter at home orders have become tiresome, and we are eager to resume contact with our friends, families, and favorite past-times. Hang in there! I believe the experts when they say that our best course of action against this pandemic is to keep our distance from one another so we don't pass the hateful thing around.

It's still possible to play bridge, and keep your skills sharp. Although it's not as much fun, you can join the tens of thousands of us playing on BBO. You can even support your local clubs there, and they do need your support right now. It's not difficult to do, once you figure out a few easy steps. Just type BBO into the browser

on your computer and follow directions. If you can't work it out, call someone at your club and ask for their help. Or email me! I'll be happy to help.

Although it may take some time yet, we will be back playing bridge at the table before we know it. I'm hopeful it may be in time for the All Western Championships in Santa Clara, which are scheduled to begin on August 25.

So be sure to make those reservations with the Santa Clara Hyatt Regency. Their phone number is (408) 200-1234. There is also a booking link on our district website, www.d21acbl.com. It's also a good idea to make your bookings for the Reno/Sparks

Regional, which will be held this year October 5-11. The number for the Nugget Casino and Resort is (800) 648-1177.

And remember if you're feeling alone, that you are loved by your bridge community! Probably even the most cantankerous opponent you know is missing you.

The silver lining in all of this is that in our forced separation, we realize how much we really mean to each other. Our wonderful game of bridge is something we now value more than we ever have, not just for the sport and competition, but for the friends and social nature of it.

Please take care everyone! See ya soon.

District 21 2020 GNTs

By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator

Covid + GNTs = bridge Online. Flight A and Flight C had yet to be played when the pandemic struck and cancelled all face-to-face competition. Through great effort, Lynn Yokel, Don Freeland (our BBO specialist), and I constructed an online format for the Flight A competition.



Rounds #1 and #2 were played on schedule. The format was well received; we had a record 20 teams sign up for the Flight A this year! Players adjusted and took the new environment in stride. With no monitors, we relied on people's honesty to compete fairly and with integrity. The quarter finals and semifinals will be played on May 9 & 10.

Flight C will be held in a similar fashion on BBO, also May 9 & 10. The Captains can purchase their GNT Flight C entries on our D21 webpage, which links to Bridge Winners' website. There are currently 5 early registrants for the Flight C, and I expect many more by the registration deadline on May 1. Fortunately, players are now participating in many more BBO games, some for their local virtual clubs. We hope the Flight C players will be comfortable playing online by the time of the event.

The prize for these competitions is normally a stipend, and the honor of representing our District in the National Final. But with the cancellation of first Columbus, and now Montreal, a National Final for the 2020 GNT is in limbo. The ACBL currently plans to hold the finals in Tampa this fall. In the meantime, please compete in our premier District event, have fun, and stay healthy!

86th All Western Championships

September 1-7, 2020

at the HYATT REGENCY, 5101 Great America Parkway, Santa Clara, CA 95054

Tuesday, September 1

- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 1st of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
HOE DOWN GOLD PAIRS 200/400/750
KIT CARSON BRACKETED KOs
continues Wednesday 1 & 7
- 7pm Pony Express Side Pairs 2nd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Wednesday, September 2

- 9am Morning Side Pairs 1st of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **WEDNESDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 3rd of 6
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
GOLDEN SPIKE PAIRS 200/400/750
WYATT EARP BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Thursday 1 & 7
KIT CARSON KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Pony Express Side Pairs 4th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Thursday, September 3

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS** – 1st of 2
continues Friday at 9am
Morning Side Pairs 2nd of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
CHEROKEE GOLD PAIRS 200/400/750
- 1pm Pony Express Side Pairs 5th of 6
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**
SIERRA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Friday 1 & 7
WYATT EARP KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Pony Express Side Pairs 6th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Friday, September 4

- 9am **GOODWILL SWISS TEAMS**– round 2
Morning Side Pairs 3rd of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **FRIDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm Stagecoach Side Pairs 1st of 6
99er/299er Pairs
- 1 & 7 **STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS 0-5000/5000+**
STRATIFIED MID-FLIGHT PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000
SASPARILLA GOLD PAIRS 200/400/750
APACHE BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Saturday 1 & 7
SIERRA KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Stagecoach Side Pairs 2nd of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Saturday, September 5 0-5 mp's play free today!

- 9am **DOC HOLLIDAY SWISS TEAMS** 1st of 2
continues Sunday at 9am
Morning Side Pairs 4th of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
ANNIE OAKLEY GOLD RUSH PAIRS 200/400/750
- 1pm Stagecoach Side Pairs 3rd of 6
Wild West 99er Pairs
Branding Iron 299er Pairs
- 1 & 7 **ALL WESTERN OPEN PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**
2 qualifying sessions Saturday
2 final sessions Sunday
O.K. CORRAL BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Sunday at 1 & 7
APACHE KOs 3 & 4
- 7pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Stagecoach Side Pairs 4th of 6
Wild West 99er Pairs
Branding Iron 299er Pairs

Sunday, September 6

- 9am **DOC HOLLIDAY SWISS TEAMS**– round 2
Morning Side Pairs 5th of 5
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **SUNDAY DAYLIGHT PAIRS**
- 1pm **LAST CHANCE COMPACT KOs 1 & 2**
Stagecoach Side Pairs 5th of 6
99er/299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **ALL WESTERN OPEN PAIRS** - finals
O.K. CORRAL KOs 3 & 4
OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
WILD BILL GOLD RUSH PAIRS 200/400/750
- 7pm **LAST CHANCE COMPACT KOs 3 & 4**
Stratified Swiss Teams
Stagecoach Side Pairs 6th of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Monday, September 7

- ***EARLY START - All games at 10am*****
STRAT A/X/Y TEAMS 0-3000/3000-5000/5000+
0-2500 mp ROUND ROBIN TEAMS
- 10am •No individual player over 2500 mp
& •Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall
TBA places per bracket.
•Teams may not withdraw after one session.
- SENIOR SWISS TEAMS(60 years+)**
FAST STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
10am and TBA with a short break
299er Stratified Pairs 10am only

Events in **BOLD FACE** are two or more sessions and award **gold points**. Single session events award **red points**.

Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.

A 2500+ B 1000 – 2500 C 0 - 1000
Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.
Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

DISTRICT 21 ACBL PRESENTS

86th

ALL WESTERN



CHAMPIONSHIPS

September 1-7, 2020

Tournament Highlights

All Western Open Pairs Championship

Saturday and Sunday

- New Knockouts Daily
- Six Days of 0-750 Gold Pairs
- Mid flight Pairs Wed-Friday
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- Daylight Pairs
Wednesday - Sunday at 10 & 3
- Celebrity Speakers
6:15-6:45 Wednesday-Sunday

ENTRIES \$12

Unpaid ACBL members \$16

District 21 website is your first resource for our Regionals:

Make hotel reservations

Plan your tournament events

Gather general information/direction

www.d21acbl.com

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: jmom380@yahoo.com

Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.

Schedule subject to change.

HYATT REGENCY

5101 Great America Parkway

Santa Clara, CA 95054

Reserve EARLY for the

BRIDGE RATE

Mon-Wed \$214

Thurs-2nd Mon \$139

408-200-1234

800-233-1234

**LIMITED PARKING!
REMEMBER TO CARPOOL**

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

299er Pairs Daily at 9, 1 & 7

Bridge Concepts Lectures

with Scott Campbell

Wednesday thru Sunday at Noon

Saturday is I/N Appreciation Day!

Play one session for \$10, 2 for \$15, 3 for \$20

0-5MP's play free on Saturday

McKenzie Myers - Director in Charge ACBL Sanction R2009108

www.d21acbl.com 1/11/2020

DISTRICT 21: Upbeat Bridge....Low Key Atmosphere!

Like us on FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/d21acbl

Reno Regional October 5-11, 2020

at the Nugget Casino & Resort 800-648-1177

♦ ♦ ♦ All 7:30 games \$10 per session ♦ ♦ ♦

Monday, October 5

- 1pm Sparks Side Pairs 1 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 1 & 7 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
NUGGET GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
KIRKWOOD BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS
- 7pm Sparks Side Pairs 2 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs

Tuesday, October 6

- 10am Sparks Side Pairs 3 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
PROSPECTOR GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
NORTHSTAR BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Wednesday at 10 & 3
- 3pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Sparks Side Pairs 4 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 730pm **BONANZA GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750** 1 of 2
continues Wednesday at 7:30 pm
Evening Side Pairs 1 of 5
299er Stratified Pairs

Wednesday, October 7

- 10am Sparks Side Pairs 5 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
EUREKA! GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
LOVELOCK BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Thursday at 10 & 3
NORTHSTAR KOs 3 & 4
- 3pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Sparks Side Pairs 6 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 730pm **BONANZA GOLD PAIRS** 2 of 2
Evening Side Pairs 2 of 5
299er Stratified Pairs

Thursday, October 8 GOODWILL DAY

- 10am Sierra Side Pairs 1 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
LOVELOCK GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
ALPINE BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS
LOVELOCK BRACKETED KOs 3 & 4
- 3pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Sierra Side Pairs 2 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 730pm **HEAVENLY GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750** 1 of 2
continues Friday at 7:30 pm
Evening Side Pairs 3 of 5
299er Stratified Pairs

Friday, October 9

- 10am Sierra Side Pairs 3 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
BLACKJACK GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
PONDEROSA BRACKETED KOs 1 & 2
continues Saturday at 10 & 3
- 3pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Sierra Side Pairs 4 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 730pm **HEAVENLY GOLD PAIRS** 2 of 2
Evening Side Pairs 4 of 5
299er Stratified Pairs

Saturday, October 10

- 10am Sierra Side Pairs 5 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
Free Student Game 0-5 masterpoints
- 10 & 3 **OPEN PAIRS 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+**
PROSPECTOR GOLD PAIRS 0-200/400/750
TAHOE BRACKETED SWISS TEAMS
PONDEROSA BRACKETED KOs 3 & 4
- 3pm Stratified Swiss Teams
Sierra Side Pairs 6 of 6
299er Stratified Pairs
- 730pm Evening Side Pairs 5 of 5
299er Stratified Pairs

Sunday, October 11

- STRAT A/X TEAMS 0-3000/3000+**
0-2000 ROUND ROBIN TEAMS
- 10am ♦ No individual player over 2000 mp
& ♦ Typically brackets of eight, three gold overall
TBA places per bracket.
♦ Teams may not withdraw after one session.
- SENIOR SWISS TEAMS (60 years+)**
FAST STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
10am and TBA with a short break
299er Swiss Teams (10am and TBA with a short break)

Events in **BOLD FACE** are two or more sessions and award **gold points**. Single session events award **red points**.

Stratified Events Key Unless otherwise posted.

A 2000+ B 750 – 2000 C 0 - 750
Eligibility is based on masterpoint total of top player.
Stratification is determined by average of pair/team

KO Events with only one Bracket may be Handicapped

version 4 - March 24, 2020

Reno Regional

October 5-11, 2020

*** NEW EVENT TIMES - 10:00 & 3:00 ***

with extra events at 7:30

*** A Record Eight Gold Rush Pair Events ***

Come and strike it rich!

◆ Tournament Highlights ◆

- New Team Events Daily
- Eight Gold Rush Pair Events
- Three Stratified Side Game Series
- Side Games at every 10:00, 3:00 & 7:30 session

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

◆◆◆ \$10 entries - 21 & under \$5! ◆◆◆

299er Pairs Daily at 10, 3 & 7:30

**Bridge Concepts Lectures
with Scott Campbell**

Tuesday through Saturday at 9:00am

Free Student Game (0-5 MP's) Sat. 10:00

ENTRIES \$12

299 and all 7:30 games are \$10

Unpaid ACBL members \$16

Non-members will be required to become members by either purchasing an annual membership, or a \$7.99 special monthly membership.

For information contact:

Pam Hughes: email: jmom380@yahoo.com

Partnership: Rich Scoggins (775) 972-3962

District 21 website www.d21acbl.com

Please comply with D21's Pet Policy. See website for details.

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- Resort Tower Rooms and Meeting Spaces are Newly Renovated!
- Free shuttle to and from airport 5am - midnight
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Long enough to swim laps, and multiple hot tubs. If you like water, bring your suit!
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Book bridge rate and Resort Fee is waived!

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- Resort Tower (stay here if you want to avoid the casino smoke)

\$69+tax Sunday - Thursday

\$104+tax Friday & Saturday

- Casino Tower

\$59+tax Sunday - Thursday

\$94+tax Friday - Saturday

For Reservations:

800-648-1177

or book on our D21 website link

or www.nuggetcasinoresort.com

use Group Code: GACBL19

Nugget

CASINO RESORT

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Lynn Yokel, Director in Charge
ACBL Sanction R2010109

DISTRICT 21: Upbeat Bridge....Low Key Atmosphere!

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RANK ADVANCES

JUNIOR MASTERS (5 MASTERPOINTS)

Mark Bumgardner, San Lorenzo CA, 512
Kathy Cardozo, Woodside CA, 498
Mikal Clark, Willits CA, 509
Miller Geschke, Los Altos CA, 503
Barbara Hause, Alamo CA, 499
Rosemary Heil, Oakland CA, 502
Barbara Johnson, Novato CA, 508
Mark Klein, Salinas CA, 530
Jim Lee, Twain Harte CA, 529
Georgia Murach, Fresno CA, 522
Firooz Nikpour Badr, Corte Madera CA, 508
Linda Offerdahl, Incline Village NV, 465
Richard Offerdahl, Incline Village NV, 465
William Pade, Menlo Park CA, 498
Claudia Prather, Stockton CA, 510
Archana Rathnakar, Saratoga CA, 507
Raymond Rosen, Mill Valley CA, 508
Joan Schwartz, Danville CA, 499
Maureen Van Tuyl, San Jose CA, 524
Edward Winchester, Reno NV, 473
Kimberly Winterhalter, Tiburon CA, 508

CLUB MASTERS (20 MASTERPOINTS)

Debra Bellings-Kee, San Rafael CA, 508
Linda Childers, Sacramento CA, 505

Sandra Fricke, Half Moon Bay CA, 498
John Loftus, Larkspur CA, 508
Shirish Mulay, Roseville CA, 505
Wayne Nehrlich, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Alan Spiegelman, Mill Valley CA, 508
Matthew Therian, San Francisco CA, 506
Diane Walz, Reno NV, 473

SECTIONAL MASTERS (50 MASTERPOINTS)

Barbara Grams, Los Gatos CA, 507
Kaili Jiao, Foster City CA, 498
Glenys Kaye, Roseville CA, 505
Lorie Pelc, Los Altos CA, 503
Gary Sheerer, Los Altos CA, 503
Whit Whitman, Vacaville CA, 512
Eli Wismer, Los Altos Hills CA, 503

REGIONAL MASTERS (100 MASTERPOINTS)

Donna Derr, Orinda CA, 499
Christian Goetze, San Francisco CA, 506
Kathryn Miller, Fresno CA, 522
Sally Morton, Los Altos CA, 503
Ming Sheng, Los Altos CA, 503

NABC MASTERS (200 MASTERPOINTS)

Katherine Kwong, Foster City CA, 498
Alexandra Narasin, Atherton CA, 503
Ron Terry, San Jose CA, 503
Jackie Thomas, San Ramon CA, 499

ADVANCED NABC MASTER (300 MASTERPOINTS)

Susan Papilion, Foster City CA, 498

LIFE MASTERS (300/500 MASTERPOINTS)

Barak Engel, Oakland CA, 502
Amber Lin, San Francisco CA, 506
Rita Schaulat, Novato CA, 508

BRONZE LIFE MASTERS (500/750 MASTERPOINTS)

Kats Cannell, Reno NV, 473
Barak Engel, Oakland CA, 502
Amber Lin, San Francisco CA, 506
Mable Moffat, Sacramento CA, 505
Diane Strategos, Sacramento CA, 505

SILVER LIFE MASTERS (1000 MASTERPOINTS)

Mike Bozarth, San Francisco CA, 506
Judy Jessick, Fresno CA, 522
Marj Russell, Walnut Creek CA, 499
J Michael Slattery, Reno NV, 473

RUBY LIFE MASTERS (1500 MASTERPOINTS)

Beverly Meyer, Carson City NV, 465
Judy Salgado, Novato CA, 508

GOLD LIFE MASTER (2500 MASTERPOINTS)

Judy Lesieutre, Salinas, CA, 530

HEART OF THE DISTRICT

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Area	Unit	Columnist
<u>Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond</u>	<u>497</u>	<u>Mark Kornman</u>
<u>Diablo Valley</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>Lisa Assoni</u>
<u>East Bay</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>Marcia Wasserman</u>
<u>Fresno</u>	<u>522</u>	<u>Laura Da Costa</u>
<u>Livermore</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>Rosemarie LaFrancesca</u>
<u>Marin</u>	<u>508</u>	<u>Gail Haar</u>
<u>Monterey</u>	<u>530</u>	<u>Mary Block</u>
<u>Napa/Solano/Sonoma Valley</u>	<u>512</u>	<u>Tom Sheahan</u>
<u>Palo Alto</u>	<u>503</u>	<u>Judi Gentry</u>
<u>Sacramento</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>Miriam Steinberg</u>
<u>San Francisco</u>	<u>506</u>	<u>Kim Fanady</u>
<u>San Mateo</u>	<u>498</u>	<u>Fran Gaura</u>
<u>Santa Cruz</u>	<u>550</u>	<u>Karen Schamberg</u>
<u>Santa Rosa/Petaluma</u>	<u>509</u>	<u>Cecelia Zachar</u>
<u>Silicon Valley</u>	<u>507</u>	<u>Ray Yuenger</u>
<u>Stockton</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>Debbie DeZarn</u>

Berkeley/El Cerrito/Richmond

By The Beer Dude

As the lockdown continues onward indefinitely, I hope you've found ways to keep from going stir crazy. I run short errands 3-4 times/week; soon, I'm going to take a cruise around SF – I've not driven over there in over a year.

I'd like to get feedback from you on your BBO experiences – I'm still deciding whether to start one for EC Bridge Club. We don't need the \$\$, as we'll get rent credits for the sessions we've prepaid (roughly thru Sept). We'll donate some back to the EC Rec Dept for their youth programs.

No games to report on, just a few ins & outs: Hello to James Aquistapace, Grace DeLatour, & Adithya Paramas, plus reinstated Ercan Turken (how unfortunate that he returned just in time for limbo!). Farewell to Meg Gallaway (Monterey), plus Caroline & Don Kosovac to Marin. Elliot Zeller, our only "snowbird," is back to Anchorage for the spring & summer (maybe longer if this plague persists).

Now with 2 NABCs scrubbed (& who knows how many sectionals & regionals?), the ACBL is hurtin' big time \$\$-wise. Gonna be interesting to see the progression – hope they figure out a way to make it work. Also will be interesting to see the numbers (if they divulge them – as they should) on the BBO table count (ACBL takes \$1/table, same as for regular club games; BBO gets 20% of the gate; the clubs get the rest). Meanwhile – keep stayin' safe & as sane as you can!

Tweak beerman1949@gmail.com to brag/gripe/suggest; unit info & game

results available 24/7 @ www.berunit497.org.

Game results (no BridgePad matrix) also on ACBL Live for Clubs (click the link on ACBL website). When I'm in town, I post results when I get home from where I go afterward, sometimes very late at night. When I'm traveling, I post after I get them when I'm back at my lodging. There's no wi-fi @ our game site, so I/my relief directors can't post immediately after the game.

Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook

Dishing out more than we can chew!

Are you playing on line? Another challenge is facing us, but we bridge players are pretty resilient. We've been spoiled with our competitive face-to-face combat, but now we have this horrific virus that's keeping us apart. I know many of you have bridge as a lifeline to keeping your brains sharp and spirits high. We need people, so I pray that all will stay safe and healthy. This too shall pass.

It's refreshing to recall when at the tables, bids can fly out, leads out of turn, partner didn't understand your bid, and hands go up. The director comes to our aid, and makes their decision. We've all heard those words shouted out by our opponents. Some can really give a holler, and a big wave. Sometimes you don't even know why they called. When describing what occurred, the director tries to defuse the situation, and calmly asks what happened



and when. As you're all aware, you bid and begin the play of hand. I do miss it terribly.

BUT now, you're playing online and you call the director by pressing the blue icon with the three horizontal lines. Help is on the way!

Yes, there's a learning curve to playing online bridge. Well, I encourage you keep trying and discuss your strategy with your partner, prior to starting the game. We should all be considerate of others when playing on line, just as we are during typical club games.

Director can be called if opponents or your partner is not responding in a timely manner.

I miss the patter of big feet walking into our club. I miss the birdies flocking to the fountains, and the camaraderie that makes this game so special. I'd love to see and hear all of you.

I'm still cooking my A—off, and really enjoying my home-cooked meals, especially during difficult times. Healthy food choices are essential.

Ciao Bella, well wishes to all.

East Bay

By Marcia Wasserman

These are strange times and writing an article for Diamond in the Ruff feels a little weird. My first thought was that I would have nothing to say but turns out that is not the case. Before I get into the



bridge details, remember, we are not stuck at home, we are safe at home. And if like me, you are beginning to forget what day it is, here is a handy tool to assist you in determining the day. Until further notice the days of the week are now called Thisday, Thatday, Otherday, Someday, Yesterday, Today & Nextday!

With that out of the way, let's get into bridge information. Beginning on Thursday April 9, the East Bay Community Bridge Center began offering their regularly scheduled club games online through BBO (BridgeBase Online). Betty Kael sent out two emails (April 7 and 8) detailing how these on-line games would work. She kept the times the same as the club games to alleviate confusion, except for Wednesday's game which will move to noon. Initially, all games will be Open games and will be 18 boards/7 minutes per board (about 2 hours). By the week of April 13, she hopes to add limited 299er games running concurrently with the open games. These will be separate games with different hands, requiring a separate registration.

Games will be \$8/person/game. Although this is their regular fee, it is higher than most other online games. Of this \$8, 20% goes to BBO, and 25 cents goes to ACBL. This leaves \$5.75 for club use. Betty ran a quick analysis of her fixed costs and found that an average of 10 tables/day would just about cover all these expenses (with any monthly shortfall covered by monies from savings). As you can see, your support of these online games is vital to the survival of EBCBC.

To register:

1) Once logged on to BBO, select “Virtual Clubs”

2) Then select “ACBL Virtual Clubs”

3) There’s a search box at the top right. Type “EBCBC” in that box, and our game(s) will appear.

4) Select the game that you and partner want to register for (this shows up no earlier than two hours prior to game time). Remember, to register, you AND partner must each be logged onto BBO and have money in your BBO accounts.

5) Enter partner’s BBO screen name in the registration box. Partner will receive a confirmation request that they can click to complete the registration.

6) If there’s still a lot of time before the game starts, it’s OK to log out of BBO and come back a few minutes before game time. Your registration will still be intact.

Unlike the “Support Your Club” nationwide games, which filled almost instantly, these online games are limited to only those players who have played at the club in the past year. So, if you register in a timely fashion, you will not be excluded. However, you do run the risk of being excluded if you do not give yourself and your partner at AT LEAST 15 MINUTES before game time to fully complete the process.

Directors will not be posting results on the EBCBC website. However, the results from your current game and other recent games you have played on BBO can be found on the BBO site. From BBO’s home page, click on the “History” tab (far right),

then click on the game you wish to view; Voila! Everything you could ever want is there, including the ability to watch how the hand was originally played. You can even play the hand again to try to improve the result (NO, it doesn’t count, but it is a wonderful teaching tool).

No regular unit games are being scheduled as of this time. All Sunday games will be hosted by the EBCBC. I’m sure by the time this goes to press; there will be more information about the EBCBC games. Stay tuned.

In other news, we have one new member, Cynthia Karasik. Also, Dr. Leon Shore transferred into our unit. Welcome to both. Our new rank advancements are as follows: New Sectional Masters – Robert Cabrera and Madelaine Georgette; new Regional Master – Jerry Carroll; new Silver Life Masters – Carol Warren and Marcia Wasserman. Normally, I would say to congratulate them the next time you see them at the bridge center. Since that may be a while – you can wish them well when you “see” them online.

Joye Sidoti at efsjbd_ba@hotmail.com will be writing next month’s article. If you have anything you want to share or any achievements you wish to have mentioned, please email it to her.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

Hello Everyone. Wow, what a year 2020 has been; one to be remembered, but not fondly.

I hope all of you are well and keeping busy. I know we have some people playing Bridge Base Online (BBO). I am told that a few have even played games where they can donate part of their fee to the clubhouse (pair games 7 am, 2 pm, & 4:30 pm). That is great. Some others of us are busy with other tasks, for me, learning to teach an Online Psychology course (never even heard of Zoom before this year, now it is the norm multiple times a week).

With no games since March 14, this report is more about cancellations than what is coming up. But I will mention some things we hope to be doing in May and June (stay tuned to see if they occur or not).

First the activities that were cancelled in April and at least the first week of May. We cancelled and/or postponed the Anniversary party/game and our Poker night. Hopefully, these will be coming to you in summer or early fall.

What is scheduled for May includes the Peggy Ochs Memorial game. Usually the first Sunday in May, although we would need to push that to a later Sunday in the month given the first week cancellation of games in May. If we can have this game this month, we are scheduled to honor 8 members and former members who died since last May. A few of these members played recently, others not for many years. These 8 members are Bettie Bianchi, Paul Boyd, Tom Callahan, Ed Grootendorst, Virginia Johnson, Walt Kelso, Michael Newel, and Sharon Small; all, extremely nice individuals who have been sorely missed.

Also, Tuesday, May 19, we are scheduled to have a one-day sectional, the Margaret “Maggie” Mahaffey Sectional. This is another 0-750 mps sectional in the afternoon and an under 300 mps sectional in the evening. I know it is highly likely to be postponed, but I like to mention it just in case miracles happen.

In June (we can hope for June), we are scheduled to be doing the Longest Day Marathon (either Friday or Saturday, I think we are leaning towards Saturday) and our graduation party. Both are pretty late in June, so let’s cross our fingers.

Congratulations to Judy Jessick on reaching the rank of Silver Life Master (1000 mps)!

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

Our club owner Grant has been having virtual games on BBO every Monday and Thursday. It is great fun for only \$4. The night-time group continues to have games every other night of the week at 7 p.m.

A big shout out to Dan Bergmann for keeping everyone up to date on the night-time games. He has invented LBC points, so I’m looking forward to seeing exactly what that means when we return to face-to-face bridge.

Enjoy your online games and stay safe!

Marin

By Gail Haar

Our unit has some new members - Arlinda Attell, Jackie Gorton, Jane Groner, Susan Levinson, Firooz Nikpour Badr, Sam Pletcher, and Kim Stoddard. Welcome to our virtual community and we look forward to meeting you at the table in the future.



The Larry Cohen Seminar slated for June 5 is cancelled because it looks like we CA residents will probably be prevented from gathering at seminar levels for quite some time; in addition, just a reminder, all Marin bridge games are cancelled until further notice. Also postponed indefinitely is the annual Election and Awards party. All of the certificates and pins will be sent USPS and the winners virtually honored. STaC week (May 4-12) is cancelled and the summer NABC in Montreal is also cancelled.

On the bright side, Peggy Tatro has scheduled two weekly virtual club games on BBO, open to anyone who has played in Terra Linda in the last year. Mondays at 11:30 a.m. PDT there is a Limited (1500), Stratified Pairs Game (look under BBO Virtual Games for Terra Linda) and on Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. PDT an Open, Stratified Pairs Game (look under BBO Virtual Games for Terra Linda). Remember, you need to register for the game on BBO in advance and can do so 2 hours before game time. Helpful hints: game times on BBO are shown in EDT; the earlier you sign up the more likely you will grab one

of the limited seats; both you and your partner must be on-line and sign up at the same time; and you should plan to log into BBO at least 10 minutes before game time to assure you will get your reserved seat.

At the April Unit Board Zoom Meeting (full disclosure, your reporter is also the Board President) there was extensive discussion about how to adapt to our new virtual reality. Ideas flowed freely and the Board will be looking into many possibilities for games and mentoring on-line. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

No cute joke this month, especially about toilet paper. Just stay home, stay safe, stay healthy.

Monterey

By Mary Block

We have a few new members to report: Howard Fisher, Karol Matheson, and Patricia Simons. And we have a few rank advancements to report: Rosalind Fisher is now a Club Master, as is Mano Singham. Sara Myers is a Junior Master; Kathy Pfitzer finally made it to Regional Master. Jim Lauderdale is a Life Master now, and achieved Bronze status at the same time. Annette and Doug Halleen are Bronze Life Masters, and Jeanette Stern is also.

Not much news around the unit with the lockdown having been going on for about six or seven weeks. We hope that you are playing on line. Bridge Base Online has really come to our rescue with much more to offer than in the past. Virtual Club games enable us to play with our

partners of choice and know that we are contributing to the club games and to our unit at the same time. Susan Mazzei has done a wonderful job of organizing twice weekly (Wednesday/Saturday mornings) games that benefit the unit. She has sent out instructions a couple of times. If you still have questions, she is at samazzei@gmail.com. Betty Jackson is also offering access to her club game. Check with her at blj333@aol.com.

We all need to be looking on the positive side in these trying times. I am grateful for the fact that I stopped coloring my hair a year ago. Grateful for my Kindle and my many streaming video services. Grateful for Instacart. Most of all, grateful for my friends, even though I don't interact with them in person. Thank goodness we can check in with each other by phone, email, and text. Several of us have a text chain going which allows for convenient posting of worthwhile (and not so worthwhile) information, humor, venting, and ranting.

We don't know when, but the time will come when we are able to be together again to enjoy bridge. The circumstances will likely be different, but if we have learned nothing else from our current trials, we will be flexible. After all, that is part of being successful at bridge: learning to receive, process, and adapt to new information.

As a reminder, the Monterey Bridge Educational Foundation is a 501 c (3) tax-deductible organization which allows your much-appreciated donations to be tax deductions. Also, please consider us as a part of your estate planning. We were blessed to have such a wonderful location

for our bridge center for the past 18 or so years, but another one like that won't come along without our raising a substantial amount of money! Thank you in advance!

We are www.montereybridgeclub.com. The Bridge Center is 831-747-1650. I am maru0407@comcast.net. The Foundation is <http://montereybridgeeducation.org>.

Napa/Solano/Sonoma

By Tom Sheahan

It's anyone's guess as to when we'll all see each other at the bridge tables again. I'm hoping it'll be sooner than later, but I'm not optimistic about it. We really miss the game and miss all the players even more. The great thing about our unit is that a lot of us have become friends and are keeping in touch checking up on each other via phone or email. A lot of you are passing around joke emails keeping our spirits up. Some are taking their first venture onto BBO as the bridge withdrawal symptoms are getting to them. Everyone I've talked to is chomping at the bit to get the game going again.



We sadly learned of the passing of a couple of longtime players in our unit. Richard Levy left us early in April. I sent a notice out to a lot of players and the response was unanimous that he was a perfect gentleman and a delight to play with. What more can you say about someone? Pat Wells passed on a couple of weeks later. She and her husband Bill

hosted many bridge parties and teaching sessions and have contributed a lot to our unit. Our heart goes out to Bill after losing his soul mate of many, many years.

Give credit where credit is due. I wasn't able to announce the February or March winners in the club games due to extenuating circumstances so I'll catch up now. In Sonoma, in February, Tom Jacobson & Panette Talia won 2 games that ended in a tie, once with Red Falk & Bill Wells and again with Dan Harp & Rick Davis. Tom also won another game with Kate Hill. Sigrid Price & Sara Rothmueller combined for a very nice 71% game. Gerry Fox & Helen Wade, Theila Smith & Molly Johnston, and Renate Bialy & Jeanie Bang were also winners.

The Napa games were won by Theila Smith & Betsy Bolan, Bruce Irvine & Jeanie Bang, Larry Page & Joanne Wegsten, and Anita Pensler & Ed Sutcliffe. The unit games were won by Tom Jacobson & Panette Talia with a 70% game and Rick Davis & Joanne Wegsten.

We had two double winners in Rio Vista as Joyce Vass & Chandler Stauffer and John Krebs & Lois Brusen each won two contests.

In the 499er game, there was a tie between Carol Werner & Shirley Le Sueur and Donna Sjolund & Karen Albertson. Havard & Susan Staggs, Allison Ash & Bob Bruce, and Steve & Brenda Perry were your other winners.

The March games came to an abrupt halt on the 11th of the month as the games were wisely cancelled after that date. In Sonoma, it was Dan Harp & Joanne Wegsten with a 71% game. Delores Headley & John Heiser

and Swan Day & Jack Beeler also won and Renate Bialy & Randy Hoyle have the distinction of winning the last game played in our unit before the shutdown.

The one Napa game was won by Lynn Dondero & Carol Fraser and the lone unit game went to Rick Davis & Dawne Dickenson. Joyce Vass & Chandler Stauffer and Sue Vogtlin & Bob Lohse were winners in Rio Vista.

There was a tie in the 499er game between Karen Albertson & Donna Sjolund and Carole Kupsoff & Nora Marshall. Prentiss Wilson & Lee Daley won the other game.

Congratulations to Sigrid Price who garnered her 7000th point and to Sue Vogtlin who earned her 1500th point to become a Ruby Life Master.

Wear your mask, keep your distance, and stay safe!

Palo Alto

By Judi Gentry

The Palo Alto Bridge Club is alive and well, although morphed into quite a different being. On March 5, the Board of Directors and club owners announced that all activity at the center would be cancelled until further notice. That decision is still in force.



The doors were closed, but not the club. Our club owners made the bold decision to continue running our regular schedule of games, but to do it online.

They are using the Bridge Base Online (BBO) platform. However, our games are run as private games for club members only. All directors are overseeing their regular games. That required working with BBO, ACBL and The Common Game to set the logistics in place. As a player, I appreciate playing against people I know, with familiar directors and a manageable number of tables. We also have the same limited sections that were played at the club. Getting used to the technology can be challenging, but once over that hurdle it can be fun.

I was wondering how the experience was for the directors. So, I interviewed John Schwartz, who directs the Monday game and, with Will Watson, the Thursday game (each with an open and a 749er section). I learned so much of interest to share. He said that, as with a club game, the hardest, busiest part of running a game is the 10 or so minutes before the game begins. Sometimes, partners aren't on line. Sometimes for one reason or another, a pair can't get on. (That happened to me this morning. I needed more BBO\$. My advice: always allow a little extra time for the unexpected.) Sometimes there are an odd number of pairs, which in the club would call for a sit out. On-line though, the director can look at the "sub list" (people willing to join a game if needed) and –with limited information – find players from the US that match the level of the game. (For now, the games do not use robots.) Some features of BBO help the game run smoothly (and others not.) 1) Round time change is automatic (but might need score adjustments if a board isn't completed); 2)

The director can "see" what is happening at every table and intervene when needed; 3) Many situations requiring a director can't happen (no bid out of turn, lead out of turn or revoke is possible in the system.) John said he loves that it still feels like "our club." People are playing online who he hasn't seen in a long time. He said it's like planning a dinner party. You send out invitations to all your friends and are warmed by how many show up! And the numbers are growing. More and more members are venturing into the on-line world.

Sadly, there are casualties of this club closure as well. The two-day series of lectures by Larry Cohen, scheduled for June 6 and 7 has been cancelled, as well as the Firecracker Sectional. Many of us were looking forward to these events. Sacrifices for the health of all. Stay well, Judi.

Sacramento

By Miriam Steinberg

Our lives as well as our bridge game have been turned upside down since March. Because of "shelter-in-place," we have had to resort to different ways to get our bridge fix that we would have satiated at the club or at tournaments--we also have to fill up that time.

I initially had great plans to be productive and re-organize my house, but after cleaning out my underwear drawers and armoire, I decided to have fun and relax instead, filling up my time with working



out for 90 minutes a day, reading, watching TV (which I normally rarely do), watching old musicals, *I Love Lucy* re-runs, reaching out to old friends including my high school boyfriend, baking cookies, making nine varieties of soup, losing at Monopoly with my seven-year-old grandson on Zoom, and of course, as most of those I interviewed are doing, playing bridge (with my regular partners) on BBO! I decided to reach out to local bridge players and see how they were faring.

Unit 505 President Jim Coke was one of the busiest people I interviewed. He takes his job seriously to ensure the future of bridge in our community. (The first thing he accomplished was communicating to our unit's members about possible exposure to the coronavirus). The most important undertaking has been strategies for saving our clubs and he has been investigating negotiating legal strategies for rent abatement, etc. He has been a cheerleader for Bridge Base Online ACBL Support Your Club (SYC) games because \$4 of each entry goes back to the player's club. In addition, he gave the "green light" to Teri Smoot to develop the games, which was fairly complicated, for our local clubs on BBO (most of the entry fee goes back to the club as well). In his spare time, he is busy trying to "keep out the nasty invasive species of weeds" on his large country property and of course, playing on BBO.

Albert Chow has been re-charging after not having two consecutive weeks off in over 14 years! He's listening to a lot of music and reading and also going to the club 2-3 times a week to tend to business. He also provided some background help for setting up club games on BBO, although

Teri Smoot, Ted Muller and Dave Vidaver have put in the lion's share of doing the legwork. Albert just played his first game on BBO with Ted Muller and plans on "re-patterning" his brain for virtual bridge!

In spite of going "shelter-in-place crazy," Andy Burgdorf occupies her time with the news, visiting the dog park, socializing on Facebook, watching TV, shopping online, cooking with her new Instant Pot, and fermenting vegetables in her new fermenting pot. She and husband, Bob, satisfy their yearning for bridge by doing bridge hands from the Bee and Bobby Wolfe, Aces on Bridge. She also plans to play on BBO.

Dave Vidaver is working five hours a day, going for 6-8 mile walks each day along the river in his neighborhood, cooking, binge -watching "the odd thing online," watching and playing bridge online as well as directing. (He talked about needing a Valium at the first game!).

"I have become a gamist" stated Myrna Rudman. "I play spider solitaire, real mahjong and bridge online. I have turned into a human slug!"

Katherine Ewing is teaching bridge to beginners at Heritage Vineyard, her gated community. They play on BBO 1-2 hours twice a week and discuss bidding and play during each hand. She also started a time-consuming new craft project and cross stitching. Having not been the head chef until after her dear husband, Scott, passed away, she is practicing her cooking skills, weeding the yard and catching up on movies on Xfinity.

Marie Leonardini is binge-watching MSNBC 5 hours a day and doing jigsaw puzzles.

Susan Haynie started a quilt and cleaned out the garage.

Roz Flynn has been playing a lot with the dog, re-learning German and playing at ACBL club games on BBO.

Dana Dougherty has also been playing on BBO, enjoying her backyard and spring cleaning.

Barbara Somervill has been finishing up a work project and struggling with a 1000-piece all-shades-of-brown puzzle on her mahogany dining room table, which adds to the challenge. She's also having lengthy conversations via Zoom and Facebook, crocheting a shawl, cooking gourmet dinners, successfully made delicious NY Jewish rye bread, doing online crossword puzzles, helping people navigate BBO and playing on BBO.

Barbara Wheeler just made her first yeast rolls in 20 years (partner Clark Muldavin was previously inspired to make his rolls with Bisquick!). In her spare time, she is compiling a list of everyone's name and user name from BBO because she likes to know whom she is playing against. She is currently up to 133 names and adding more each day.

John Jefferson and Joanne Merry lead the fullest of days and, obviously, are not getting bored at all! They read, walk, prepare elaborate dinners with fresh veggies from their two gardens and "watch too many old English police procedurals and old movies." They also have an extensive DVD collection, a Max TV subscription, Netflix, Amazon Prime, Acorn, Hulu, etc. as well as VHS tapes of old baseball, basketball and football games of his favorite teams. They also take

amusing coronavirus precautions; Joanne was a researcher in infectious diseases before becoming a lawyer! Bridge-wise, John is re-reading his old issues of Bridge World which date back to 1970 and pesters Joanne with problems from national and world championship matches. They also play challenge the champs every day and try to get on BBO around three times a week.

Marilyn Poindexter summed up my feelings about the coronavirus situation. "I miss all of you very much and love to think of the day we are all safely back in our wonderful bridge center!" Hang in there, everyone!

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

It's a brave new world: Unit 506 has gone virtual. Every San Francisco club (except two invitation only clubs) has replaced its regular game with an online game at



the same day and time. Check out the unit website at www.unit506.org for a complete list of games, times, and table fees. We even got one game back, since Cardology was able to revive its defunct Wednesday evening game. Lots of bridge to be played here in Unit 506 on Bridge Base Online. Come play local with all your friends!

San Franciscans have also strongly backed their clubs by playing in the ACBL's Support Your Club games, which are held three times a day on BBO. When you play in a Support Your Club game, a

share of your table fees goes to the clubs where you played in person, pro-rated by your attendance. Those fees will keep the clubs solvent for when we can return to the tables for real. Thanks for pitching in.

One super fun thing about virtual bridge: sometimes a famous player pops up on your screen! I drew Jeff and Sally Meckstroth in a 12-board speedball game (they trashed us), Joe Grue and Gillian Minter in a Support Your Club game (they trashed us too), and Ron Smith in a couple of local club games (I always look at a problem hand and think WWRSD?). And I didn't even have to pay NABC+ level table fees to play against the very best and get yet another dose of bridge humility.

Kudos to this month's ladder climbers: new Junior Masters Nancy Field, Druhin Goel, Sarah Malarkey; Club Masters Sarah Eidelhoch, Helga Justman, Judy Seropan, Lee Sherwood, Kristine Therian; and Sectional Master Tom Pelliccioni. Well played all!

Welcome to new members Guy Campisano, Lisa Franzia, Karen Gruneisen, Shazia Makhdumi, and Bruce Stuart. All of these new members come from QuickTricks' Easybridge! class, which is unfortunately on hiatus in compliance with the San Francisco shelter in place order. We hope all of you are able to keep learning bridge online for now. Welcome also to transfers Gloria Donatto (Baton Rouge), James Irwin (BER), Victoria Irwin (BER), and Elaine Light (Diablo Valley). We look forward to meeting you virtually on BBO.

Finally, we sadly say goodbye to three Unit 506ers: Herb Wiltsek, Carolyn Fink, and Peter Kuehl, all of whom passed away

in the last few months (none related to CV as far as I know). Our condolences go to their families and friends.

Stay healthy, well, safe, and sane, Unit 506ers. Until we can see each other at the tables again, sign up for BBO and keep clicking!

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to mandate our sheltering-in-place and restricts public gatherings, the bridge community has actively sought ways to accommodate dedicated bridge players' desires to play our favorite game.

Working within these confines, our Unit 498 directors, as well as directors throughout the country, have successfully paired their efforts with ACBL's Bridge Base On-Line (BBO) and the on-line video and teleconferencing provider, Zoom, to meet these requests.

Director Raad Bunni is offering one hour classes on Tuesday and Friday weekly on Zoom at 10:00 AM. These classes continue his San Mateo Bridge Center (SMBC) lessons formerly offered at Fattoria e Mare. See details at www.sanmateobridgecenter.com.

Director Jennifer Kuhn advises that Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club (PDBC) offers Easybridge! classes for experienced Easybridge! players with fewer than 20 masterpoints online Wednesday and Thursday mornings starting at 9 am. To make your Easybridge! reservation, please go to <https://peninsuladbc.com/>

reservations.

In addition to classes, our directors have formed an Alliance to offer on-line games on BBO. The SMBC/PDBC game schedule is: Tuesdays 1:15pm (Director: Raad); Wednesday 12:45pm (Director: Jennifer); Wednesday 6:40pm (Director: Jennifer); Thursdays 12:40pm (Director: Jennifer); Fridays 1:15pm (Director: Raad).

For more information on online games, please visit <https://peninsuladbc.com/pdbc-online> or contact Jennifer Kuhn at jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com, or Raad's San Mateo Bridge Center at www.sanmateobridgecenter.com/play-online if you have any questions.

Bayshore Bridge Club owner Patti Frederick is offering a BBO game at 1:00 PM on Thursdays under the direction of Gabi Bowling. For details on this game and to sign up in advance (required), please contact Gabi at gabibowling@gmail.com or 650-619-0555 for entry to the game.

This is a difficult time for all of us and for Unit 498 the added uncertainty of finding a new playing location has clouded our view of the future. Fattoria e Mare, our home base for unit games, as well as for club games directed by Jennifer and Raad, has closed and will fall under the developer's wrecking ball within the next little while. Playing at this location, we have seen growth in participation and an "at-home" feeling that struck positive chords with our players. We will miss the great buffets provided by chef Pablo Estrada and the always helpful, positive support lent by Michael Tornatore and their team.

Our plans for a future playing location on the peninsula are under way and details will be forthcoming as soon as they are finalized with signatures! We will keep you informed as the ink dries!

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Randall Baum, Brynn Brady, Evalola Fritz, Ann Girard, Carol Gonela, Annika Porteus, Ajay Shah, Lucia Steinhilber, Zoe Calomiris, and Ruthellen Schulman. And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Cree Edwards, Andrew Ehrich, Dolores Kessler, Helen Kishi, Debra Martinez, Deborah Penrose, Carol Perusse, Eric Faust, Jeff Finer, Susan Heidenreich, Diana Mann, and Umesh Padval; to Club Master, Lisa Bruml, Nancy Hoeck, Susanne Lauridsen; to Regional Master, William Glatt, Mike Halliday, Kenneth, Hui; to NABC Master William Chung; to Ruby Life Master, Jennifer Kuhn and Daniel Sonner.

Our condolences to the family and friends of dear players who passed away recently: David Duncan, Sal Ignoffo and Martha Melton. We will miss their presence at our games, but their memories are always with us.

This is a period of rapid change with virtual games and lessons being offered on-line and revisions to schedules popping up often so be sure to frequently check the Unit 498 website, www.unit498.com to get all the up to date info.

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

Coping with the Covid-19 outbreak isn't any fun, but thanks to our Ken duo (Ken Gamble and Ken Llacera), we have opportunities to play virtual bridge on BBO (vClub) and earn masterpoints while helping the unit pay for continuing expenses every day of the week with our friends from the Santa Cruz Bridge Center. Check the Game Calendar on the SCBC website for the complete vClub schedule.



After the center was closed, Ken Gamble moved quickly to get the online games operating. He ran free games online almost immediately and continues to host these games through BBO.

Ken Llacera has given us what is probably the most up-to-date website, in terms of results and future games on BBO in our district, maybe in the Western Conference... oh heck; I'm just going to speculate that we have the most current website in this regard throughout all of ACBL-land. You can even get BBO names of your favorite partners via the Member Look-Up facility.

Kudos and virtual hugs to both these members, their hard work, devotion and expertise are appreciated by all of us.

At this writing, we have Open Pairs games at 1:15PM on Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The Tuesday afternoon Open Pairs game, hosted by Jonni, is at 12:15PM. The Saturday game is 10AM, as it was when the SCBC

was open.

Thank you also to Jonni Faircrest, who has added 499er games to the daily lineup on Mondays and Thursdays at 7PM. And now there is a Mentor-Mentee game at 7PM on Wednesdays. Mentees may not have more than 500 MPs. However, pairs whose average is under 750 may also play.

Hopefully there will be some online bridge classes soon. Check the SCBC website at www.santacruzbridge.org for class info and don't forget to look in on our FaceBook page periodically.

Congratulations also to our newest Club Masters: Renee Flint and Richard Pearce.

Reporting game results is new territory for me, so if I've made an error, please understand and let me know. High scores in vClub games were earned by Jonni Faircrest & Joanne Wicker, 72.22%; and Sal Turano & Jonni Faircrest, 71.6%. Seems to be a pattern here.

I usually close each column with a reminder that the SCBC is a fragrance-free venue. But you won't be hearing that from me until this threat is over and we can once again meet in person to play the game we all love.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

What a month! It's like we're living in a science fiction story. You drive to San Francisco at rush hour, and there's no traffic. Some of your favorite restaurants have closed signs, and others have waiters bringing meals in paper bags to the front

door for pickup. Your friends are playing bridge in pajamas with robots. Well, if you know to what I am alluding, then you probably have played on Bridge Base Online yourself. It takes a little getting used to.

Bridge Base Online, or BBO, has provided a very valuable commodity for our community. It's given us a place to play bridge anytime we want with our favorite friend or with a player from Denmark or even with robots if we aren't feeling particularly social.

BBO has actually offered us much more than bridge games. The BBO SYC, Support Your Club, games are helping your bridge club to pay its rent during this difficult time so that the club will be there when we get the all clear to play there again. Better yet, the new ACBL Virtual Club games are both supporting our clubs financially and giving players a chance to congregate with their friends at virtual bridge tables, sharing news and pleasantries with people we care about.

The Bridge Gallery in Santa Rosa was one of the first clubs to participate in the ACBL Virtual Club series. Kathy Venton, with the help of Tony Jackson and Lynn Blumenthal, worked with the ACBL and BBO to set up our games. We now have 4 stratified games, all at 11:45 a.m.: Monday, Open; Tuesday, 499er; Thursday, less than 2000; and Saturdays, less than 2000. Additional games will follow. You must have played at the Bridge Gallery in the past 365 days to join the game. You can get more information from Kathy Venton at bridgegalleryca@gmail.com.

Our first Virtual Club game was April 9. We had 41 tables that week and 44 tables the next. Games with 70+% were: Howard Balfour and Lilyan Frank, 70.51% on 4/11; and Joni Conner and Tony Jackson, 73.04% on 4/16.

Our players have also had some great SYC games on BBO. David Pankratz and Kathy Venton scored 70.54% on 3/24 for 3rd overall. Crispin Barrere and Lynn Blumenthal scored 71.61% in a 300 table game on 4/3. Bob Klein and Sara Rothmuller scored 70.02% and 1st overall on 4/12.

The ACBL has notified us that the following players attained a new rank in March. Our newest Club Master is Michele Stephens; Regional Master, Kim Fusch; Silver Life Master, Eleanor Wales; and Diamond Life Master, Kate Hill. Congratulations, all!

Keep well.

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

As I write this column, it has been a little over four weeks since the first of the California county health orders that bridge players and others stay at home if not engaged in essential activities and that non-essential businesses like the San Jose Bridge Center close. The original order has since been extended another month, so far, and the California Governor also issued his own stay-home order of indefinite duration. Around the same time, the President of the



United States declared California a major disaster area as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

As a consequence, many of us, when not engaged in essential activities, have been adapting. We have been coping with our new circumscribed environments and cultivating perhaps dormant cooking skills. If we want to keep up with our favorite pastime, many of us have been learning to do it online. As I mentioned in last month's column, Bridge Base Online ("BBO") and the ACBL have joined together in an effort to recreate in virtual clubs the bridge clubs that have been forced to close across the country. These virtual clubs offer the opportunity to compete for black masterpoints mainly against your usual opponents from your local club, while two-thirds of your table fees flow back to your local closed club, which otherwise has been unable to collect table fees.

In another recent innovation which hasn't been publicized yet, the ACBL has, at least temporarily, increased the masterpoints available for online virtual club games. For example, the most you could win in a regular five-table club game used to be half a masterpoint. If you look up a Monday evening's results on BBO, the winners of the five-table game each earned their .5. However, if you look up the results of the same game on ACBL Live for Clubs, you'll see the winners actually earned .75 of a masterpoint. I don't know the new formula yet, but there's currently some black gold in them online hills. I can't tell you if this also applies to the other Save Your Club games, because the

formula change hasn't been publicized as of this writing. Maybe it will be before you read this.

The club owners are awaiting their first disbursement from BBO for the club's share of the table fees from online players. Some complex calculations are involved, because the ACBL isn't just tracking who plays in the virtual San Jose Bridge Center. The SJBC will also collect a share of the table fees paid by SJBC players who play in nationwide Save Your Club games.

If you've played online, you've noticed some significant format differences. The SJBC virtual club table fees are \$6 for 18 boards instead of \$12 for 24-27 boards. The events are shorter by an hour, with games being two instead of three hours. They seem to require a different kind of concentration, at least if you don't feel at home in the online environment, which requires self-alerting and explaining your bids. Games unfold in a barometer format, and the only movement recognized by BBO is a Mitchell movement, so in small games you may have to play some opponents more than once.

I'm told the environment is equally strange for online directors. Director calls are not audible, so the director has to constantly monitor the game for pop-up calls. Whatever table "chat" has preceded the director call isn't visible to the director. And the time clock marches on inexorably, although directors can add time to final rounds.

We have updated the sjbridge.org website so that the game schedule link lists the games available online in the virtual

SJBC club, pretty much twice a day at 11:40 a.m. and 7:10 p.m., with some extra free games as well. The website also provides a link to the BBO results, which will show who played, but will not reflect the actual MP awards, as I explained above. The BBO results have replaced the traditional results calendar, so if you want to look up how you did at the club sometime last year, that information isn't readily available. If you are interested, I can show you where to find it.

If you haven't been part of the computer industry, it's possible that you've been participating in some online meetings for the first time since the quarantine began. The Unit Board's April meeting was held on Zoom. While the Board typically holds its meeting open to the public, the only members of the public who have attended have been players who show up early for the Tuesday evening game. For Internet security reasons, if you want to virtually attend a Board meeting, you should get in touch with our President, Stu Goodgold, who can provide you with a secure link to the meeting.

Last week the club owners and the Board, each partners in the San Jose Bridge Club, had back-to-back online meetings to discuss the future of the San Jose Bridge Center. We all now recognize that the enjoyable activity of sitting around a card table sharing scoring devices and handling the same boards has become risky, because it provides a fertile ground for asymptomatic carriers to transmit the coronavirus to a high-risk group of older people. Under these prevailing circumstances, the San

Jose Bridge Center will not be offering games at the brick-and-mortar club, but it is offering a full schedule of online games as listed on sjbridge.org. The Bridge Center owners fully intend to reopen, possibly in a new location, when this crisis has passed and it is safe to return to live bridge. When this time arrives, players will be notified via the website and email and this column. Until then, enjoy online bridge and stay safe.

Stockton

By Debbie DeZarn

Not a lot has changed at the Stockton unit since the last newsletter. Both Oak Park and the Stockton Bridge Club remain closed indefinitely. Luckily, the alternative Support Your Club games on BridgeBase.com (BBO) have become a viable alternative. There are more than 20 club members who play frequently and some daily. For a while it was difficult to get into some of the popular games but as more options became available, most pairs who wanted to play could register easily. The cost did increase to \$6 but much of that will be returned to the club at a later date. The income from these games will help meet the monthly holding expenses so our club will still be there for us when the time to reopen safely finally comes.

By the way, there is also a Support Your Club game that is for individuals. Not timed, and no partner needed. BBO



also has fun individual and pair games that award unpigmented masterpoints. So if you have already met your black point requirement, those colorless points can still count towards your next rank.

There are a couple of rank advancements to announce as they may have been missed before: Bronis De Supinski of Tracy reached Junior Master and Lorraine Munoz of Manteca is Club Master. I hope to see you in the future at a Stockton game for 99ers or Non Life Masters if not an open game.

District 21 announced that the STaC games scheduled for May would be cancelled so there are no opportunities to earn silver points at club games until August. It seems that in the bridge world it is mostly doom and gloom. But as I've walked around my neighborhood during some beautiful Spring weather it is amazing how much color has

appeared in people's yards. So many of you enjoy gardening and finally have time to add more flowering plants to the landscape. There is beauty all around us but I do miss the chance to see the quilts that were planned to be hanging at the club during these spring months. Maryanne Sievers created the "Mamas and their Babies" animal print that was hanging when the club closed and we'd also displayed a winter scene by Joyce Cates. April 1 was to be a SF Giants theme quilt by Ann Nutting. Maybe we will get a chance during the next World Series.

I will close with the sad news of the deaths of Margie Erardi in February and Vicky Dockery in March. Both had been ill from non-virus related causes. Vicky was a regular at the "Prayer Meetings" after the weekday games and played in other social groups besides the Stockton Club and Oak Park.

**Have great news to share from
your unit? Contact *Diamond in
the Ruff* Editor Rich Luttrell at
luttrellr@sbcglobal.net and tell
him all about it!**

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