



DIAMOND IN THE RUFF

ACBL District 21 Newsletter

Vol 3, Number 2 June 2020

Leaves From the Executive Branch

By Ray Yuenger, President

Upcoming District Board meeting

As I write this column, we are a little less than a week away from our first virtual District 21 (“D21”) Board meeting, which would normally have occurred in real life on the Saturday morning of the Sacramento Regional. Like many of us, I hadn’t heard of Zoom and some other online meeting software before my local county health officer issued the first of a series of stay-home orders. So I’ve been familiarizing myself with the Zoom software in the hope that I can host the meeting with a minimal of technical difficulties.

There are 21 units in D21. For a long time the D21 Bylaws have provided that each unit can have two representatives at a Board meeting. You can do the math, when you add to that number the Board officers, President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, our Tournament Coordinator, members of the Executive Committee, and some appointees also in attendance. Upwards of 50 people would make a very

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New District 21 Grand Life Master

Bob Klein achieved the rank of Grand Life Master in May while playing online at BBO. With partner David Ruderman Bob won the IMP Pairs in the 1993 North American Championship games held in Washington, DC. It was an especially exciting win as Bob and David were local players and had many friends at the event cheering them on. He and David played Precision, his favorite system to this day.

Bob is a retired Financial Analyst now living in Santa Rosa, California, and has developed many friendships and partnerships on the west coast, as well as maintaining his many bridge relationships on the east coast.

All of his partners and friends coast to coast join in congratulating him on this prestigious and well-deserved accomplishment.



Upcoming Tournaments

Sectionals

~~Jun 13-14, 2020~~
~~San Francisco Sectional~~

~~Jun 27-28, 2020~~
~~East Bay Summer Sectional~~

~~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

Nov 7-8, 2020
Diablo Valley Fall Sectional
Dougherty Valley High School, San Ramon CA

Nov 21-22, 2020
East Bay 2-Day Fall Sectional
Oakland Masonic Center, Oakland CA

Regionals

Sep 1-7, 2020
All Western Championships Regional
Hyatt Regency, Santa Clara CA

Oct 5-11, 2020
Reno Regional
Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks NV

crowded video screen if you choose to display videos of everyone in attendance. So I've asked the units to select just one of their two representatives to represent the unit in the virtual meeting. Units are entitled to weighted votes based on their membership, and every unit would retain its full voting strength while having one representative.

According to the D21 Secretary, Sandi Davis, we'll have a quorum for next weekend's meeting. We will have to adapt some of our usual procedures in light of the extraordinary circumstances. Typically a Board meeting will begin by each attendee introducing himself or herself, including the purpose of attending. In a Zoom meeting, the attendee's names (at least screen names) will already be on display under their video image. I've asked participants to appear under their real names rather than nicknames. During Board meetings, some votes and straw polls are conducted by a show of hands. Zoom has a feature that allows meeting participants to raise a virtual hand that is displayed to the other participants. So some aspects of the meeting will be different due to technological limitations and enhancements.

My unit has already held two Board meetings on Zoom, so I know it's possible with a smaller group of a dozen people, though we've had people clicking on the wrong invitations or having their video presentation hiding them in the background. I'm eager to see how the District's first virtual meeting goes. I'll report on the meeting in next month's column.

I intend to use this column to share with D21 members what the D21 Board and its committees are accomplishing. While we are going forward with our meeting and will be considering making technical changes to the Bylaws that I discussed in my last column, there isn't a lot we can intelligently plan for in terms of the regionals that our District holds.

California along with other states is emerging from a locked-down status gradually with different areas opening up at different rates. But it seems to me that one of the last activities that will be allowed by health concerns is gathering groups of senior citizens for socializing while playing games in close proximity to each other and mutually handling the same equipment.

Most of us, I hope, are waiting for some medical breakthroughs before resuming one of our favorite pastimes face-to-face and meanwhile staying safe and finding some outlet in online bridge.

I know my last two columns have emphasized how virtual bridge clubs have emerged on Bridge Base Online so you can compete with your usual partners against your usual opponents. If your focus is more on the social aspects of bridge, BBO offers a number of opportunities. There is a "casual" branch of BBO where you and three friends can set up your own table and play against each other in either a "relaxed" or a "competitive" format. You can make your table invisible to others and have a room to yourselves.

From my last columns you may have feared I'm suffering from logorrhea, but I'm

aware of little new to report in this column at the District level. You will notice that Pam Hughes is not preparing a column this month reporting on our upcoming regionals, because D21 is on hold with a wait-and-see approach. I'll have more to report next month.

If you feel you are missing some content in this newsletter, I encourage you to read this [blog](#) by Jennifer Jones, in which she has written up interesting hands online and also some tips on how to review your hand history on BBO.

District 21 2020 GNTs

By Grant Vance, D21 GNT Coordinator

Congratulations to Amit Garg, Rajeev Jog, Wesley May, and Aaron Mayerson for winning the GNT Flight C Championship. Winning the Flight A Championship were Brian and Qiang Zhang, Serena Guo, and WanWan Ren. These two teams, along with the second place Flight C team of Kayden Ge, Charlie Chen, Olivia Schireson, and Andrew Chen, will represent District 21 at the National Finals in Providence, RI in the summer of 2021 (pandemic allowing).



These two Flights of the GNTs were played online, and with great success. Sportsmanship and honest competition ruled the day, as 13 teams duked it out in Flight C, and a record 20 teams in Flight A!

The ACBL deferred to the Districts the choice to send this year's winners to Providence, or have no reward for this year's winners, and begin the event anew in 2021. We elected to respect the achievements of our 2020 winners, and they will be eligible to compete in Providence.

If conditions return to normal, we will hold the 2021 GNTs in our District next year, but with an ultimate National competition undetermined by ACBL. D21 would like to suggest that the ACBL honor BOTH years of competition, and allow Districts to send their winners from both 2020 and 2021 to Providence. It would be a win/win/win for our District, the ACBL, and especially the players. If you support this idea, please let your ACBL representatives know that allowing all GNT winners for 2020 and 2021 who wish to play in Providence is the right decision. This will encourage more participation in these prestigious events, and not diminish the importance of our District's 2021 GNTs.

Charity Deadline

At the recent District 21 Board meeting, the Charity Chair revealed that so far this year no units had contacted him with their recommendations of charities to receive donations of up to \$6,000 (this year) from the District. The deadline for recommendations is the 4th of July, so there is still time for units to submit their recommendations to Jeff Hack at jnamyats@aol.com.

Andrew Chen Becomes Youngest Life Master

by Xin Ge

Congratulations to Andrew Chen, at 8 years and 3 days becoming ACBL's youngest life master! The previous record was held by Zach Garrison, who was 9 years, 2 months and 7 days. It is worth noting the requirement for life master used to be 300 points and changed to be 500 points for members who joined after 2010.

Andrew is from a bridge family. Both Andrew's parents, Steve and Sarah, are active bridge players in District 21. Andrew's older brother Charlie Chen, 10, also plays bridge and is part of USBF junior program. Andrew is part of the SiVY youth bridge program and enjoyed playing bridge with other kids in the youth program.

Andrew started to learn bridge about two years ago. His first real bridge game was October 2018, with Brian Zhang (9) in a Newcomer Pairs game at the local sectional. In 2019, Andrew played in Las Vegas and San Francisco Nationals and various local regionals and sectionals to rack up 215 points on his way to win the national Mini-Mckenney 0-5 race.

Having to attend school on the weekdays, Andrew was always short on black points. COVID and shelter in place changed that. With school shut down, he was able to play regularly in the Support Your Club games on BBO, which reward black points.

Early in May, Andrew played with Charlie Chen (10), Kayden Ge (11) and Olivia Schireson (14) in the online GNT Flight C. They were the runner up for District 21, losing by 1 imp in the final. Andrew earned 14 points for the event, meeting all the requirements for life master but silver points. He needed just over 8 silver points, but there weren't



any sectional events available. The last sectional event Andrew played was San Mateo Sectional in February, Andrew played 6 out of 7 rounds and his team placed 2nd in the Sunday open Swiss.

Andrew celebrated his 8 year birthday on the past Sunday, May 24th and welcomed the week of triple silver points. Heading into Wednesday's game, Andrew needed 0.12 silver points. Andrew and his partner Brandon Ge (13) scored 59.4%, and earned 1.8 silver points, making him the youngest life master in ACBL history.

Congratulations again on this amazing accomplishment! Seriously, I am not sure most of us could sit straight for 4 hours at 8 years old.

Editor's note: This article is reprinted from the BridgeWinners website with the author's permission.

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

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.

Schedule subject to change.

- Resort Tower Rooms and Meeting Spaces are Newly Renovated!
- Free shuttle to and from airport 5am - midnight
- Best Pool in Reno!
Long enough to swim laps, and multiple hot tubs. If you like water, bring your suit!
- Fully appointed fitness center
- Complimentary valet and self parking
- Victorian Square with dozens of restaurants and shops adjacent to hotel

Book bridge rate and Resort Fee is waived!

Non-Smokers should book the Resort Tower

- 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

1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, NV 89431

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)

Nancy Croom, Reno NV, 473
Paul Ehrlich, San Francisco CA, 506
Barry Engelstad, Orinda CA, 499
Kathleen McCloskey, Angels Camp CA, 510
Patricia Moesinger, Aptos CA, 550
Leslie Olesen, Folsom CA, 505
Mohan Ramana Rao, San Carlos CA, 498
Lata Shah, Los Altos Hills CA, 503
Nancy Steinbach, Palo Alto CA, 503
Matthew Wilkins, Clovis CA, 522
Lynne Williams, San Mateo CA, 498
Sevda Zorlu, Walnut Creek CA, 499

CLUB MASTERS (20 MASTERPOINTS)

David Berkeley, Atherton CA, 503
Judy Berkeley, Atherton CA, 503
Ying Chow, Los Altos CA, 503
Amy Christen, Portola Valley CA, 498
Lisa French, Windsor CA, 509
Lee Holm, San Leandro CA, 500
Xinpeng Huang, Foster City CA, 498
Karen Klimowski, Dulles VA, 550
Jay Nitschke, Berkeley CA, 497
Jean O'Donnell, Santa Rosa CA, 509
Jan Pfiffner, San Jose CA, 507

Roberta Polson, Clayton CA, 499
Luann Schwab, Palo Alto CA, 503
Harjit Sekhon, San Martin CA, 524
Yuri Yatskar, Monte Sereno CA, 503
Kristine Zavoli, Palo Alto CA, 503

SECTIONAL MASTERS (50 MASTERPOINTS)

Roger Barry, Carmel CA, 530
Hilary Charlton, Atherton CA, 503
Jonathan Krass, Menlo Park CA, 498
Ruth Long, San Jose CA, 507
Bari Mantel, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Paula Monroe, Stockton CA, 510
Kathy Nusser, Moraga CA, 499
Marcia Pade, Menlo Park CA, 503
Jean Polley, Santa Rosa CA, 509
Rita Sturgeon, Pacific Grove CA, 530

REGIONAL MASTERS (100 MASTERPOINTS)

Jonel Mueller, Fresno CA, 522
Steven Nelson, Watsonville CA, 550
Pat Ogle, Los Altos CA, 503
Kathy Ormseth, Saratoga CA, 507
Marie Parfitt Pattie, Moss Beach CA, 498
Lesley Waltner, Morgan Hill CA, 524

NABC MASTERS
(200 MASTERPOINTS)

Lynn Dondero, Sonoma CA, 512
John Stremel, San Jose CA, 507

ADVANCED
NABC MASTERS
(300 MASTERPOINTS)

Barbara Bottomley, Lafayette CA, 499
Rhian Davies, San Francisco CA, 506
Marina Seppius, Palo Alto CA, 503
Dmitri Stukalov, Palo Alto CA, 503
Pam Wilkes, Roseville CA, 505

LIFE MASTERS
(300/500 MASTERPOINTS)

Sam Earnhardt, Walnut Creek CA, 499
Susan Powell, Reno NV, 473
Karen Rocco, Petaluma CA, 512
Marilynn Schuyler, Oakley CA, 499
Jo Streich, San Francisco CA, 506

BRONZE
LIFE MASTERS
(500/750 MASTERPOINTS)

Chris Chen, San Francisco CA, 506
Bill Dougherty, Saratoga CA, 503
Laura Gherman, Pebble Beach CA, 530
Tina Heldman, Oakland CA, 502
Richard Herzog, Los Altos Hills CA, 503
David Maddox, Pebble Beach CA, 530
Kathryn Papermaster, Horseshoe Bay TX,
503
Susan Powell, Reno NV, 473
Karen Rocco, Petaluma CA, 512

SILVER
LIFE MASTER
(1000 MASTERPOINTS)

Paul Nagel, Sparks NV, 473

RUBY
LIFE MASTER
(1500 MASTERPOINTS)

Marc Rosaaen, Daly City CA, 506

**GOLD
LIFE MASTER
(2500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Sigmund Malek, Los Altos CA, 503

**DIAMOND
LIFE MASTER
(5000 MASTERPOINTS)**

Arti Bhargava, Mill Valley CA, 508

**SAPPHIRE
LIFE MASTER
(3500 MASTERPOINTS)**

David Wheeler, Palo Alto CA, 503

**EMERALD
LIFE MASTERS
(7500 MASTERPOINTS)**

Robert Garret, Gardnerville NV, 465
Bill Riester, San Jose CA, 507

**GRAND
LIFE MASTER**

Bob Klein, Santa Rosa CA, 509

HEART OF THE DISTRICT

CLICK ON THE LINK TO GO TO THAT PAGE

Area	Unit	Columnist
<u>Diablo Valley</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>Lisa Assoni</u>
<u>East Bay</u>	<u>502</u>	<u>Joye Sidoti</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>Reno</u>	<u>473</u>	<u>Jill Wallace</u>
<u>Sacramento</u>	<u>505</u>	<u>Chip Martel</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>

Diablo Valley

By Lisa Assoni/*The ShortCut Cook*

DICEY TIMES

I hope this note finds you all holding strong, and not weary. Who would have thought that we'd experience such tumultuous times? Well, we are, and I feel fortunate to be playing on-line bridge. It's truly a real lifeline for all of us. I admire your fortitude to continue to log on, play well, and keep on truckin'.

This article will include a recipe for making a short-cut cook treat, in minutes. Since I don't have personal data to report, I thought a quick and easy dessert would be a cheer-you-up recipe. I'm sure some people are getting take-out, having groceries delivered, shopping on line, and becoming bored as heck. Seriously, besides bridge, Zoom, and other resources through our computer, this seems to be the only way to navigate.

From cheers to tears, we must try and fight our fears. A familiar quote, "This too shall pass," stirs up the feeling it better be sooner than later. My granddaughter attends Chico State, and this upcoming semester all work must be done via computer. I'm uncertain about our students in Contra Costa.

The good news is that Unit 499 is really trying to keep up together. Have you recognized someone's login name? I have, and was very nervous about playing with some smart cookies that have mega master points. My partner, Dianne Lavin, and I review each hand to help develop a strong partnership. That's a must for winning. I



enjoy learning each time we play. It's very nice to have a nice partner. I hope you do too.

I want to end this article on a sweet note. From my Italian mother to you:

GREAT BALLS O'WHISKY

14oz. pkg. large vanilla wafers
2 tbs. cocoa power
3 tbs. corn syrup (prefer lite)
1½ cup pecans, chopped
½ cup whiskey
1 cup powdered sugar

In blender or food processor, add wafers and pecans. Chop finely. Mix in all other ingredients, except the sugar, and shape into cherry-sized balls. Roll in powdered sugar; makes about 30 yummy cookies, ready in less than 15 minutes. Store in airtight container in your refrigerator. Good cold.

Substitutions:

Rum instead of whisky, or use a favored coffee creamer for a nonalcoholic sweet treat. / *The ShortCut Cook*

East Bay

By Joye Sidoti (efsjbd_ba@hotmail.com)

If you were still planning to attend Oakland's June Sectional, I regretfully report, it has been canceled.

Marcia did a great job last month describing EBCBC games and BBO which I am not going to repeat. However there have been some updates.

If you weren't aware, EBCBC has fixed monthly expenses which are paid by our bridge fees. By playing in the Virtual Club games or Support Your Club games, you can support EBCBC.

Also, EBCBC is a nonprofit. If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, make checks payable to 'EBCBC' or 'East Bay Community Bridge Center' and send them to:

Tom Pajak, EBCBC Treasurer
2940 Joaquin Miller Road
Oakland, Ca. 94602-2658

All daytime EBCBC 299 games (Tues and Fri) now start at 11:30 AM; the Tuesday 299 evening game starts at 6:45 pm; all EBCBC open games (Sun thru Fri) now start at 11:45 AM. All games are \$8.00.

The Piedmont Bridge Club games (Mon and Thurs) start at 7:10 PM. These games are \$5.00.

Unlike a kind-hearted human director who allows you to play if you are late, the no-heart computer will cancel your entry if you and your partner are not on BBO at game time. It is recommended that you login to BBO 15 minutes before game time.

With all the games on BBO, it occurs to me that a dedicated bridge player might have the following routine: Wakeup, Shower, Breakfast, Bridge, Lunch, Bridge, Dinner, Bridge, Bedtime.

This can be compared with an email I received a while back from a non-bridge player that I think is still relevant:

My Self Isolation Diary:

Day 1 I can do this! Got enough food and wine to last a month.

Day 2 Opening my 8th bottle of wine. I fear wine supplies may not last.

Day 3 Strawberries have at least 210 seeds. Some have as many as 235. Who knew?

Day 4 8:00 pm. Changing from my daytime pajamas to my nighttime pajamas.

Day 5 Today I tried to make hand sanitizer. It turned out to be Jello Shots.

Day 6 I get to take the garbage out today. I'm so excited I can't decide what to wear.

Day 7 Laughing way too much at my own jokes.

Day 8 Went to a new restaurant today called The Kitchen. You have to gather all your own ingredients and then make what you decided you want. I have no clue how this place stays in business.

Day 9 I put a liquor bottle in every room. Tonight I'm getting all dressed up and going bar hopping.

Day 10 Struck up a conversation with a spider today. Seemed nice. Said he had just moved in and that he is a web designer.

Day 11 Isolation is hard. I swear my fridge said "What the hell do you want now?"

Day 12 I now understand why dogs get so excited about something moving outside, going for a walk or a car ride. I may have just barked at a squirrel.

Day 13 if you keep a drink in each hand, you can't touch your face. Just an observation.

Day 14 Watched the birds fight over a worm. Cardinals led Blue Jays 3 to 1.

Day 15 Anyone else feel like they've cooked dinner about 395 times this month?

Day 16 Spent the day making and distributing masks that last week we were told wouldn't work.

Day 17 Found an old hula hoop in the garage and guess what? It's a perfect fit!

Welcome to new Unit 502 members Susan Jaffe, Conna McCarthy, George Pugh, Asa Romberger, Nancy Rutledge, Irwin Krupnick and Margaret Tam.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancement: Rosemary Heil to Junior Master, and Barak Engel to Life Master and Bronze Life Master.

Stay healthy. Remember:

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Shelter in place.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Be socially distant.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Wear a face mask.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Did I forget anything? Oh yeah.

Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Larry Bowerman is writing the July column, so please contact him at (lmjtbow@pacbell.net) if you have anything to report.

Fresno

By Laura Da Costa

The Fresno Bridge Center remains closed for the whole month of May. We missed our Margaret "Maggie" Mahaffey Sectional. The sectional in honor of Maggie was intended to be a one-day sectional on a Tuesday for people who played in the under

750 afternoon game (formerly Maggie's but now owned by Kay Chrisman) as well as an under 300 game in the evening. We will most definitely honor Maggie again with a sectional in the future.

We also missed out on Peggy Ochs Memorial Game. I listed the people we have lost in the last year in last month's report. Unfortunately, I have one more name to add. We lost Lee McKoane at the end of April (our sympathies to Jim).

Along with those major games this year, we have also already cancelled our Anniversary lunch/game in April, and our Visalia neighbors cancelled the Visalia "Lorna Cheng" Memorial Sectional. We hope all is well with our Visalia friends.

June? We don't know yet. Typically, this is the month we would be honoring our graduates, especially those who became a Life Master in the past year. We have had exactly zero new Life Masters for the past year. We often have the California Capital Regional (Sacramento) as our tournament to provide that last moment Life Master before graduation, but that was cancelled this year.

Our other June event in the Annual Longest Day Bridge Marathon to support the Alzheimer's Association. No word yet if that will be on. If it is, it will most likely be on the actual Longest Day, Saturday, June 20. If we are back in business by then, we will post the schedule on the unit webpage and send out emails.

No 70% games to report, though maybe they are occurring online. However, I do have a new member to report. A big welcome to Unit 522 goes to Lucas Newman of Clovis.

Hope you are all healthy, playing online, and will be back playing in person with us soon.

Livermore Valley

By Rosemarie LaFrancesca

Our club owner Grant continues to have virtual games on BBO every Monday and Thursday; he has also added a Saturday game. 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. Paul Dubois has been having fun games on Sunday nights. He is our former club owner and now can enjoy us again via BBO from his home in San Diego. I am excited to return to LIVE play and find out what Dan will do with the winners of LBC points he has been awarding.

As we continue to shelter in place, let's not forget those who are suffering more than we are. I am grateful to have bridge to play and to be able to keep in contact with my bridge buddies. I am also grateful that I have a home to shelter in...(or in which to shelter). I am grateful to have enough food to eat and clean water to drink. I am grateful that I don't really need the stimulus check and can spend it on bridge or donate it to a worthy cause.

Enjoy your online games and stay safe!

Marin

By Gail Haar

Even in these difficult times our unit is growing. A big virtual welcome to Marlene Knox, Ann Marie Melanephy, Phyllis Slaber and Lisa Teel. We also have a number of members leveling up in rank – Barbara Johnson, Firooz Badr, Raymond Rosen & Kimberly Winterhalter (Junior Master); Debra Bellings-Kee, John Loftus & Alan Spiegelman (Club Master); Rita Schaulat (Life Master); and Judy Salgado (Ruby Life Master). Congratulations to you all.



With input from Board Members and a growing list of contributors, our Unit's BBO FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) file is expanding. Listed on our BBO Related page (start at marinbridge.org), it is an evolving reference resource, so check it out frequently (the Table of Contents is "live," so you can click directly to the topic you are interested in). If you have a question about something not covered there, email marinbridge.bbo@sonic.net with your ACBL #, your name, a complete description of the problem you are having (including how we might replicate the problem, if appropriate/possible).

COMING UP: Nothing is scheduled in our clubs, but on BBO we've got the Virtual Club Games shown below. (Additional games may be in the offing, so stay tuned)

- Saturdays: A Limited (99er), Stratified Pairs Game on BBO (look under Virtual Games for Terra Linda). Start time 10:45 AM, 15 boards, cost is BB\$5.

Monterey

By Mary Block

- Mondays: A Limited (2000), Stratified Pairs Game on BBO (look under Virtual Games for Terra Linda). Start time 11:40 AM, 18 boards, cost is BB\$6.

- Tuesdays: An Open, Stratified Pairs game on BBO (look under Virtual Games for Terra Linda). Start time 6:45 PM, 18 boards, cost is BB\$6.

- Wednesday: An Open, Stratified Pairs game on BBO (look under Virtual Games for Fuldek). Start time 11:40 AM, playing 18 boards for BB\$6.

- Thursdays: An Open, Stratified Pairs Game on BBO (look under Virtual Games for Terra Linda). Start time 11:40 AM, 18 boards, cost is BB\$6.

- Fridays: A Limited (750), Stratified Pairs game on BBO (look under Virtual Games for Fuldek). Start time 11:40 AM, playing 18 boards for BB\$6.

Remember, game times are shown, but you need to register for the game on BBO in advance and can do so 2 hours before game time. If you have questions, use the following contact information - “Terra Linda” – Monday, Tuesday (eve) & Thursday Games: Peggy Tatro at peggytatro@sonic.net or 415-299-7511; “Fuldek” – Wednesday & Friday Games: Henry Kingdon h_kingdon@yahoo.com or 415-572-9458.

And some Daffynitions to end with. “Splinter Bid” — the only known way to become declarer with a singleton trump in each hand. “Doubleton “— 4,000 pounds. “Key-Card Blackwood” — an ingenious convention that allows you to get to a grand slam off the ace of trumps.

And as Sergeant Phil Esterhaus said every week on Hill Street Blues; stay safe out there.

We are now entering our third month of lockdown with no idea when it will end, although each of us may have a different threshold for feeling safe. Normal bridge activities are still suspended until further notice.

As you are reading this, the election for the Board of Directors is taking place via e-mail and snail mail. The ACBL has provided units with guidelines as to procedures under the present circumstances and those procedures are being followed. Look for email from the unit. There will be voting by snail mail for those who do not do the Internet. But, you do, or you wouldn't be reading this. Tell a friend.

Despite all negative news, the unit has good news in terms of a number of new members being welcomed this month: Emme Adamski, Marianne Baldrice, Patricia Canada, Susan Creveling, Dixie Eisenhower, Nina Harrison, Ted Hill, Elizabeth Lindsey, and Pat Peabody.

We also acknowledge two rank advancements this month; Mark Klein is now a Junior Master and Judy Lesieutre has reached the exalted status of Gold Life Master.

Life is interesting, to say the least, despite our confinement. We are grateful to ACBL and Bridge Base Online for keeping our playing skills from atrophying. And we have new opportunities for making strategic decisions based on changing information. At what time should I order my Instacart delivery in order to receive my preferred artisan bread? Is that also the best time for

the mandarin oranges? And how does that time constraint work with my BBO playing schedule?

BBO virtual club games allow some income to be allocated to the unit, at the option of the club owner, and the SYC games allow for some income to flow back to the club owners, prorated based on the member's participation during the last year. There are games on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday mornings open to all, as well as Friday afternoon. And there is a 99'er game on Thursdays. Hetty Eddy is giving lessons, as well.

Learning to navigate the BBO website has been challenging, and learning to alert your own bids is also a new habit. I frequently have an urge to poke my partner, usually Kathy, but find that moving the cursor to her name doesn't work. Kathy reports that she is virtually able to curse and call her opponents weasels without the director being called; hard habits to break. I have found that it does no good whatsoever to shout at the robot: "What were you thinking?! Who splinters over a minor?!"

Here is hoping that everyone is staying safe and healthy and that we are face to face before too much longer.

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

Another month has gone by and we're not collecting any of those very valuable Master Points, but don't tell that to Lynn Dondero and Karen Rocco! They played in a Gold Rush game in an on-line regional and came in first place overall collecting 27 Gold points for their efforts! There were 384 tables in the game and Lynn and Karen finished the 7 hour marathon at 72% winning by a large margin. Karen became a Life Master with her effort and Lynn needs just a couple more points. Congratulations Lynn and Karen! We're all very happy and proud of you!



We lost another member of our club. Long time member Tom Haldi passed away this month and will be greatly missed. An excellent player and teacher, Tom's presence in the room was always known by his unique laugh. He's one of a lot of long time players in the unit who will be hard to replace. Thanks for a lot of good memories Tom! Today is the 20th of the month and the day I have to send this article in. Unit 512 played their first online game today set up and directed by George Gordon. We weren't able to play in the game so I don't know how it went, but the plan is to have a twice weekly game. Contact George (gjggolfer1@aol.com) or Sigrid Price (price.sigrid@gmail.com) if you want to enter the game.

Stay safe out there and hope to see all of you soon!

Palo Alto

By Judi Gentry

It's actually pretty amazing that, while our bridge center is devoid of people and any activity, our members are continually being offered safe ways to play bridge and get together. We are getting comfortable with playing bridge together on BBO Virtual Club Games. We see familiar names, "chat" briefly when we arrive at the table, and play bridge together while maintaining the needed distance. We are also contributing to the financial health of our club by playing in these PABC Virtual Games.

For many years, Unit 503 has offered a lecture series featuring instructors from our club and experts from around the country. This year's co-chairs, Ann Trueheart and Shankar Iyer, were not going to let something like a pandemic interfere with offering learning opportunities. So, on May 12 we had our first bridge lecture since the club was closed in March. Utilizing the Zoom meeting platform, Sarah Younquist offered a lecture on Managing Trump as Declarer to 78 bridge households (with well over 80 individuals.)

Members were invited to come early and visit with friends before the lecture started. The site was set up 30 minutes ahead of time. There was so much friendly chatter and enthusiastic greeting of friends we hadn't seen in over 2 months. It was a wonderful way to "be together." Sarah's presentation was terrific and comments about it were extremely positive. If you



missed it (or just want to review), all of the handouts and a video of Sarah's talk are on the club website (paloaltobridge.org).

Don't miss June 2, when Ron Karr will talk with us about Card Combinations. Ron says he has long been fascinated by games of probability. In addition to bridge, he was an avid Backgammon player, and made a living for a few years as a card counter in Blackjack before settling down to work for some software companies in Silicon Valley. Understanding probabilities, you can make better choices about how to play your cards.

Then, on June 16, Kevin Wilson will be speaking to us from Nashville. Kevin runs free (and very popular) classes on BBO under the name "grypho." Fitting Honors is a hand evaluation technique using honors in the hands instead of pure HCP. He has been a bridge professional and teacher for about 10 years after playing bridge for about 25 years. His web site is <https://www.kevinbwilson.com/>.

This may be a good time to remind you that the Peninsula Bridge Education Foundation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation to promote the mental, social and health benefits of learning and playing bridge. That means your donations are tax-deductible. More information is on the website.

And finally, check out the new unit Facebook group. Simply go to Facebook and type in Palo Alto Bridge. This is a private group, so you can't just read postings. You'll submit your name and the administrator will verify that you are a member or player in Unit 503.

Hope to see you all on June 2 and June 16 as well as any day we meet up at the virtual club. We are getting through this together.

Reno

By Jill Wallace, Unit 473 Board President

2020 started out with a bang in our bridge world! In early January 2020, we moved into our new bridge center, the Mathewson Bridge Center in Reno, NV. We were thrilled to be in a newly refinished and refurbished center that would hold up to 40 tables. Knowing in 2019 that we were going to be moving into a bigger building, we set about offering classes, coaching sessions and limited games to attract and support beginning and intermediate bridge players. This effort continued after moving into our new building with 40+ players participating in an intermediate class, 20+ new players participating in a beginning class, and a consistent 6 tables of beginners in the 49er games offered twice a week.

The celebration of our new center continued into February with a February 14 Grand Opening Celebration, attended by 300+ people and a well-attended February 15-16 Sectional Tournament. At this time COVID-19 was for the most part a virus happening on another continent. But as the days continued, we realized that this was a very serious virus and that it was headed our way. In early March, we discontinued games, classes, and coaching sessions at the MBC, expecting to be back within a few weeks.

It didn't take long for us to feel the loss of all the bridge activities that have been central to our lives. Four of the MBC bridge directors, Jill Wallace, Kats Cannell, Susan Powell, and Kathy Lane, began offering five to ten online coaching sessions a week on BBO, using BBO teaching tables and a call-in conference number. When BBO and ACBL offered our unit members the opportunity to play in daily Support Your Club games, many members started playing online, some for the first time. And, the best was yet to come. When our club was offered the opportunity to run virtual club games on BBO, Susan Powell took the bull by the horn and organized daily "club" games, teaching others of us how to direct on BBO.

We are now seeing the fruits of our efforts. Our coaching sessions, which have been going on since the week of March 23, are still well-attended and much appreciated by our newer players. It has been amazing to see their growth and improvement in play while attending these sessions. We still have many members playing in the Support Your Club games and MBC has already received a nice check for their participation. Our virtual club games, which began on April 11, are averaging 63 tables a week.

We are continually looking for more ways in which we can support our members in these very challenging times, but we are happy with the response and results we are seeing so far. Please email us at admin@renobridge.com if you have any questions about our activities.

We'd also like to give a "hats off" to Susan Powell, who earned her Life and Bronze Life Master title on May 3 in the Stay

and Play @ Home Tournament on BBO. We are proud of her for this accomplishment and for the many ways in which she supports our club and unit.

around 11 p.m. and settled in for what we hope is a long stay. The hotel is beautiful, located on the top of a hill overlooking the city and the ocean. Haven't had much chance to see the area so far.

Sacramento

Sunday, January 9

By Chip Martel

For the 50th anniversary Bermuda Bowl my team is Lew Stansby, Zia-Michael Rosenberg, Jeff Wolfson-Neil Silverman. There are 19 other teams competing, making it the largest, though perhaps not the strongest, Bermuda Bowl ever.

With the large entry, preparation has been a huge task. The WBF cards and supplemental sheets of the 60 pairs competing come to about 250 pages. Jan, Chip and Eric Kokish (who is the coach of the other U.S. team, Nickell) have spent hundreds of hours getting the cards, going over the systems and preparing defenses (our write-ups of the defenses run to about 100 pages).

Eric gave each member of his team a 450-page packet of system summaries and defenses, and wanted to include the 250 pages of convention cards as well, but we settled for giving our team only 150 pages of defenses and scouting reports. Jan has brought the system summaries with us and will be distributing system summaries with the defenses for each team the night before we play the team.

Yesterday we and the Stansbys flew to Chicago where we met up with Jeff (Wolfson) and flew to Bermuda on his jet (definitely the best way to travel). We arrived at the Southampton Princess hotel

We expected our first day, yesterday, to be a tough one. We started against USAI (Nick Nickell-Dick Freeman, Bob Hamman-Paul Soloway, Jeff Meckstroth-Eric Rodwell), with France next and finally Sweden, three of the top teams. We defeated USAI by 9 imps after a generally well played match. One deal I liked from this match was:

♠ 10 9 8 7 4
♥ A Q
♦ A J 8 6 5
♣ 2

♠ A 6 5
♥ 8 6 5 2
♦ K Q
♣ A 8 5

♠ K J 2
♥ 7
♦ 10 9 7 2
♣ Q 7 6 4 3

♠ Q 3
♥ K J 10 9 4 3
♦ 4
♣ K J 10 9

Meckstroth	Stansby	Rodwell	Martel
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	3♥*
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

*natural, invitational

Meckstroth led the ♦K and I won the ace and played a club to the jack (this is not clear, since if you put up the king and it wins, it's more useful, but I felt the ace

San Francisco

By Kimberly Fanady

was wrong). West now played a trump and I won, ruffed a diamond, ruffed a club and ruffed another diamond (setting up the ♦J). I now ran trumps and came down to the ♣K10 and ♠Q3. Rodwell had to hold the ♣Qx, so he had to discard a spade, and came down to the ♠KJ. When I exited with a spade they were winkled. They could win only two spade tricks and had to lead a club. (See “In Depth Box.”) At the other table Soloway played a club to the king at trick two, so had no chance.

♠ 10 9 8
♥ —
♦ J 8
♣ —

♠ A 6 5
♥ 8
♦ —
♣ A 8 5

♠ K J 2
♥ —
♦ —
♣ Q 7

♠ Q 3
♥ 9
♦ —
♣ K 10

In this ending, South played the ♥9, discarding a diamond. East threw the ♠2 and South played the ♠3, endplaying East.

The defense to this position is difficult. One idea is for East to discard the ♣7 and hold three spades. Now Martel can make the hand by cashing the ♣K. But if he plays East to have started with two spades and six clubs, the spade exit is the winning play. Baring the ♣Q would be an error, however, if West held either the ♠Q or the ♣10.

We end up losing to Nickell in the semifinals, then beat Norway to take the Bronze medal.

Whenever I sit down at my computer and log on to BBO, I think how lucky we are that our favorite game can be played online. Of course, we all miss our pastimes that are on hold for now. For me it’s pro sports such as baseball and tennis, concerts, ballet, museums, checking out hot new restaurants, going to Peet’s for a “time for a break from work” cup of coffee. But hurray, we still have bridge to keep our minds sharp and our hearts in touch with our friends. Log on and play on!



We are all looking forward to ACBL’s Silver Linings Week, May 25-31. All club games will award triple points, all of which are silver. I hope you got your share of the truckloads of silver points there for the winning, then check back next month to see your name in lights in this column! ACBL will be planning other special events in the near future, so keep an eye on its website and your e-mail.

Welcome as always to our new members Sue Collins and Charles Hinton; and transfer Caroline Kuntz (Houston). Everyone say an electronic hello to these newcomers when you see them online.

Congrats to our newly ranked: new Club Master Matt Therian; Regional Master Christian Goetze; Life and Bronze Life Master Amber Lin; Silver Life Master Mike Bozarth. Well played all!

Stay well, stay safe, hang in there, Unit 506ers. See you on BBO.

San Mateo

By Fran Gaura

As we open the month of June 2020, we are contemplating a month void of the traditions associated with this first month of summer – gala weddings and joyous graduations – both events marking a new beginning for the participants.

In this era of Corona-19, the traditional trappings of those events have been set aside in favor of creative, inventive ways to mark the occasions – drive-by weddings, Zoom facilitated graduations, socially distanced receptions, etc. But through it all, we are persevering!

For us, the Duplicate Bridge playing community, the alternative to the pleasure of seeing friends and foes over the tables at our duplicate clubs has been replaced with myriad forms of internet based games. Bridge Base Online (BBO) has become our respite from the “busy” tasks we’ve all pursued during this pandemic – cleaning out cupboards, trying new recipes, taking up that long forgotten piece of needlework, noodling our way through every available crossword and jig saw puzzle, figuring out how to trim our own hair, how to home-school our children and grand-children!

Having been a late arrival to the world of BBO, I can say it was a very pleasant experience and one I would highly recommend to those of you who haven’t yet tried it. Of course it certainly helped to have a Sherpa like Mark Sorenson along to provide guidance as I climbed the Everest of on-line play. My advice to anyone not yet on the climb is just DO IT!

Also traditionally in June each year our unit has participated in the ACBL sponsored charity event, “The Longest Day” benefitting the Alzheimer’s Association’s fight to find a cure for the scourge of that disease. In past years, charity games, raffles and auctions, developed with the energetic support of our unit’s volunteers, have resulted in significant donations to this cause. These options have been set aside temporarily as a result of the restrictions associated with the virus. Instead, games to support The Longest Day 2020 will be held on BBO. Go to https://www.acbl.org/clubs_page/special-events/the-longest-day/ for details. Let’s continue to support this worthy cause.

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.

A warm welcome to new Unit 498 members: Marsha Abbott, Arlene Balin, Connie Clark, Laura Dholakia, Isobel Fox, Becky Glikbarg, Oded Korczyn, Judy Macktinger, Gail Murayama, Kristine Parker, Janice Pieper, Lynn Pieron, Barbara Radmacher, Meaghan Schaefer, Paul Seipp, Phil Sewald, Alexis Steinhilber, Steven Steinhilber, Lucille Thurston, Patricia Turnquist, Tara Verner, Judy Waterman, and Margaret Wong.

And congratulations to players advancing over the past months: to Junior Master, Kathy Cardozo, William Pade; to Club Master, Sandra Fricke; to Sectional Master, Kaili Jiao; to NABC Master,

Katherine Kwong; to Advanced NABC Master, Susan Papiilon.

Stay safe and keep smiling (behind your mask, of course).

Santa Cruz

By Karen Schamberg

At this writing, we are still under a mandated closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the loss of direct social contact, there is a lot of bridge being played online. The Santa Cruz Bridge Club is a certified ACBL Virtual Club (vClub) on BBO which awards masterpoints. Please go to the Game Calendar link on our website, santacruzbridge.org, to find days and times.



Also on the homepage, there is a link to “Virtual Clubs on BBO” which will get you to a tutorial if you haven’t yet been able to take advantage of this way of playing. Most of the games are Open Games, plus, 749er and Mentor/Mentee games have been added to the schedule. If you want a Mentor, or are interested in being one, contact John Hullman.

In addition to the paid games above, Ken Gamble offers free vClub games at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday as well as 2:15 pm on Saturday and 4:00 pm on Friday and Sunday. Be sure you have previously sent Ken your BBO name. About 15-30 minutes prior to the game, go to BBO / competitive / free tournaments / pending. Search for “Santa Cruz” and

click on the game. Fill out the registration form and wait for game time. If you have any problems, contact Ken directly.

High scores in vClub games were earned by: Jill Davidson & Unknown, 75.5%; Patti Stone & Jim Craig, 74.67%; Ken Gamble & Bob Price, 74.85%; Kathy Beiers & Pam Benz, 73.81%; Joanne Wicker & Ken Gamble, 72.69%; and Rick Zinman & Josh Karter, 72.22%.

Nancy Wainer has been conducting free teaching tables on BBO for advanced beginners and low intermediate players Mondays and Fridays at 11 am as well as offering a Zoom lesson mid week on a bidding topic appropriate for the experience level of students from her defunct defense class. The hands at the teaching table have been created to reflect the lesson topic such as negative or takeout doubles. If you are interested in brush up sessions on negative doubles or other essential (but not complex) topics and you are not on Nancy’s contact list, please email to her for information about upcoming sessions - all free. NLMBRIDGE@yahoo.com.

On a sad note, last month we all lost a friend, Carol Maggipinto passed away at home with her beloved Mark and her family by her side. She had a fatal stroke while playing her favorite game. With her passing, stylish outfits, a wonderful laugh, warm greetings, a helpful attitude towards aspiring bridge players and many other endearing characteristics are gone from the SCBC. She was a fierce competitor at the table and worked at the game every moment she could; Carol, you will be missed.

Santa Rosa/Petaluma

By Cecelia Zachar

It's the new normal. Our bridge community is playing online instead of at the club. The BBO Virtual Club games at the Bridge Gallery are a success, 5 games a week now and 163 tables in the last 22 days. It's good to see the ACBL and BBO expanding Virtual Clubs, allowing players from the North Bay to play at each other's virtual clubs. It makes sense that someone from the Santa Rosa club can play in Sonoma and Marin.

My bridge world this month has been very limited, playing online with a few friends and a few robots. To get an idea of what others in the unit are doing, I called a friend from Petaluma today to find out what she's been doing. Unlike me, she's having a great time on BBO. What particularly impressed me are the lectures she attends on Zoom.

One of the Bridge Gallery teachers has continued teaching his students on BBO and Zoom instead of live at the club. He, who shall remain nameless, is doing this with no remuneration, keeping his and his students' spirits up. He was teaching a Two Over One class before Covid-19 and uses BBO to continue coaching the students from that class. BBO offers a teaching table with 4 seats, and my friend uses Zoom and the BBO teaching table to coach 3 to 8 Two Over One students at a time. When more than 4 students attend, students take turns on BBO, moving in and out of the game. The second class my friend was teaching before Covid-19 was titled Thinking Bridge. Now he uses Zoom

and Power Point to present lectures to 20 or 30 intermediate players at a time of the 70 or so students on his class's mailing list. The lectures taught to date are Plan of the Play, Support Doubles, New Minor Force, Reverse Drury and 4 Suit Transfers. He tries to present two topics each week, one a new topic and one a repeat. I'm so impressed by my friend's generosity. What a gift to our bridge community!

Since I wrote my last piece for this newsletter, we have had two 70+% Virtual Club games. Patricia and John Shribbs scored 70.58% on 4/23, and Lawson James and Henry Gaw won with 71.30% on May 7. In an open BBO game on May 14, Jackie Ortiz and Mark Hersko scored 70.8%, coming in first in a game of 370 tables.

At the end of April, the ACBL notified us that our newest Junior Master is Mikal Clark. During the month of May, Abbe Cohen has been raking in the masterpoints on BBO and has achieved the prestigious rank of Silver Life Master with more than 1000 masterpoints, 200 of which are silver, red, gold, or platinum.

Very rarely does a unit get to celebrate a member reaching Grand Life Master, the highest rank in the ACBL. This month we celebrate Bob Klein who has now earned over 10,000 masterpoints, the most recent of them on BBO, with at least 2,000 pigmented points, and a victory in the 1993 NABC IMP Pairs in Washington D.C. with partner David Ruderman. A few years later in the late 90s, Bob had another huge success on a D.C. team with David Ruderman and another pair. Playing in the Spingold, they beat the top rated team who had won the Vanderbilt Trophy earlier that

year: Richard Schwartz, Mark Lair, Steve Robinson, Peter Boyd, Paul Soloway, and Bobby Goldman. Bob's team progressed as far as the Round of 16 before losing a match. Bob was a financial analyst for the Federal Pension Protection Agency in D.C. After retiring in 2004, Bob moved to Rohnert Park and later to Santa Rosa in 2008. Fortunately for Bob, his old college friend, David Neuman, was living in San Francisco, and the two became frequent partners in Northern California competitions. Bob says that making Grand Life Master has been on his bucket list for a long time, and he is thrilled to have achieved it. He'd like to thank all his favorite partners from the North Bay: Erwin Linzner, Gary Robinson, Jennifer Jones, Evelyn Holtz, Sigrid Price, Nancy Gunn, Sara Rothmuller, Kate Hill, Abbe Cohen, Dave Pankratz, and Tony Jackson. Congratulations, Bob!

Keep well.

Silicon Valley

By Ray Yuenger

Some long-time readers may wonder if I'll ever run out of things to say. Well, our continued quarantine, now extending into two months of staying at home, is coming close to creating such extraordinary circumstances.



The Unit Board continues to hold monthly meetings, the last two months online on Zoom, ably hosted by our President Stu Goodgold. But there is little

the Board can plan for when there is great uncertainty about when medical experts will deem it safe to play face-to-face bridge again.

Our Unit's By-laws provide for an annual meeting of the unit membership at a time and place set by the Board. Traditionally, this meeting has been scheduled in July in conjunction with a member appreciation dinner and unit game.

While various California counties are adopting difference approaches to easing stay-at-home restrictions, gathering a hundred or so elderly bridge players for protracted socializing in close quarters for several hours in July is simply not on the Board's agenda.

If such a meeting is to be held this year, there is nothing that prohibits it being held much later in the year, for example in conjunction with our traditional holiday party in November when we all will have a better idea about the health risks posed by such an event.

The same caution applies to planning our next sectional, which traditionally would occur toward the end of October.

And without club-qualifying North American Pairs games, it is unlikely the unit will hold a unit-qualifying NAP event. Bridge is enjoyable, but the health of our players is a paramount consideration. So the Unit Board, like many of us, is adopting a cautious, wait-and-see approach.

It is that time of year when we solicit nominations for the Unit Board. The two-year terms for half of our dozen Board members are elapsing in July. On that list are Lynn Bartz, Judy Fisher, Stu

Goodgold, Doug Hong, Karen O'Connell, and Jack Verson. Each has agreed to run again and continue to serve. This is the time to nominate yourself or a friend by letting Stu, me, or another Board member know. If we have more candidates than open positions, we will have to conduct some form of election, but we won't need to figure out how to do unless we hear a nomination by June 26 at the latest.

These lockdown circumstances have disrupted my routine. I apologize that I omitted congratulations to our Unit's newest Masters in last month's column, so this month I'm going to double up and congratulate those who advanced in rank in the last two months: John Elliott, William Law, Andrew Morton, Archna Rathnakar, Carol Schmiedt, Liane D Yuen Young, Nick Zhu (Junior); Sandra Bonnett, Benjamin Darnell, Betsy Wagner (Club); Barbara Grams, Rakesh Gupta, Yannie Zhao (Sectional); Ashwini Datar, Shrikant Sathe (NABC); David Sisson (Bronze); Dan Turkus (Gold); Michael Fleisher (Diamond).

Meanwhile, we do have a virtual San Jose Bridge Club on Bridge Base Online, and it is offering at least two daily games, sometimes more. A recent update to our unit's membership database revealed that 231 members have BBO usernames.

You can find the game schedule and game results on sjbridge.org. If you miss bridge, but are uncomfortable with a competitive online environment, remember you can gather three other friends and set up your own table on BBO to play without charge and get familiar with the virtual

bridge world. There are links to educational videos on our website.

However you are passing the time, I hope and trust you are being patient, safe, and healthy.

Stockton

By Debbie DeZarn

Hi everyone. I talk or text with some of you frequently but really miss seeing all of you in person and going out for a drink or appetizer after a fun (or frustrating) game at the club. Online play still gives our minds a workout but playing East/West no longer provides that tiny bit of physical activity of moving after each 3 or 4 hands. So keep up your daily walks, bike rides, or even long distance running like Debbie Greenberg and Bill Mitchell, and tennis by Marion Goldberg.



I'm pleased to report at least one rank advancement: Paula Monroe has been playing regularly online and is now a Sectional Master!

The ACBL provided the opportunity for Virtual Club games on BBO to award Silver points during the last week of May. A recent article in the Bridge Bulletin said that ACBL hopes to offer more opportunities for earning Gold points in Club games as well. In May there was an online Regional. I heard Lorna Crooks and Bill Mitchell won some Gold and many others earned some Red points. Every little bit helps towards those next ranks

that require pigmented points. Check the ACBL.org website periodically to learn about these special games.

The Sacramento Bridge Club holds Virtual Club games each day and some each week are specifically for those with under 299, under 499, or under 749 points. The open games are still stratified into A, B, and C. Since the Oak Park and Stockton Bridge Club Managers decided not to offer Virtual Games “locally,” Sacramento will permit Guests from our unit to play in their games if you first register with them and say you are part of the Stockton Unit. The info is on their Website. Modesto Bridge Center also recently started holding Virtual games and they have a “guest” policy similar to Sacramento’s.

Treasurer Rose Knutson reported that the Stockton Club received \$1172.00 from the ACBL Support Your Club (SYC) black point games held daily on BBO for March and April. That will help significantly but still doesn’t cover even one month of

expenses for our club. Please continue to play in the SYC games. They are more expensive than some of the other online games but \$4 of the \$6 entry fee is returned to your local club eventually.

A little news from Club members.... Mary Westin and Mikki Kindleberger recruited their husbands to join ACBL so we can look forward to meeting them at a Tuesday or Thursday game one of these days. Mary spent much of her time sewing cloth face masks for medical personnel, including her physician son, and has offered to provide one to any club member who is still in need. Thank you Mary. Sharon McDougall from Rio Vista reports that she is feeling well, off chemo for now, and playing some online bridge with her buddy Lois Brusen. Joyce Cates is feeling great with improved platelet numbers and has everything she needs but really misses doing her own grocery shopping.

Please stay well and send me some news to share for next month’s issue!

**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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