

San Mateo Unit 498**April 2020**

The Unitizer



Message from the President... Janelle Van Rensselaer

April 2020

As we shelter in place, I want to wish everyone well as we do our part in helping our families, friends, and neighbors ride through this virus. We will get through this together. Thankfully, we can still play bridge online and I have some updates on what is happening or not in Unit 498.

All of our Unit 498 games and sectionals are currently cancelled, and we will let you know when we are able to resume. In the last *Unitizer*, I neglected to congratulate our Leap Day unit game winners – Carol Knowles and Jan Grove with a 53.65% game and Debbie Carey and Kit Morse with a 64.81% in the 499er game!

Our Directors, Jenny Kuhn, Raad Bunni and Robert Ng have been trying to work with [BridgeBaseOnline](#) (BBO) Support to see if they can get their account privileges extended to include DIRECTOR. Due to the heavy shift to online playing, BBO has been scrambling to be able to handle the increase in users and this process takes some time.

In the meantime, Jenny is holding a Wednesday evening game on BBO and Raad is giving lessons on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 10:00 via Zoom. All will start holding games as soon as they can. Please contact Jenny - jkuhn@peninsuladbc.com , Raad - rbunni@comcast.net, or Robert -

bob5ng@yahoo.com if you would like to be included in their current/future events.

From Robert Ng –

In the meantime, ACBL and BBO have joined forces in creating something called YOUR CLUB daily games. There are currently three such games each day.

If you are new to BBO, and do not have an online access account, you can go to www.bridgebaseonline.com and create a new user access account for yourself. There is no charge for joining.

Once you have created a new account, you can set up to BUY some BBO \$ with your credit card. Having BBO \$ is like putting money onto your STARBUCKS charge card. Every time you go onto BBO, if a game or tournament you want to join costs money, the amount will be deducted from your preloaded charge account. There are, however, many games and tournaments that you can play on BBO for free. The games that award ACBL masterpoints always cost money, because, of course, ACBL is one of the largest non-profit US companies! They never give away any masterpoints for free!

ACBL and BBO have started SUPPORT YOUR CLUB (ACBLSYC) games that are being played daily at 7 am, 2 pm and 4:30 pm, PDT. Registration to enter the games starts two hours prior to game time. Each game will only allow a maximum currently of 600 entries. The format is Pairs, like we normally would be playing at our clubs.

If you are desperate for a game, and cannot find a partner, you can still sign up to play, partnering with one of the BBO robots for 25 additional cents. The robots play OK but they do play 2/1 and you have to get used to some of their bidding.

The SupportYourClub game is 6 rounds of 3 boards, about 21 minutes per round (so, it takes about 2 hours +). You do play mostly against other real people in ACBL land across the country. So, it is kind of like a big one session side game at a regional or sectional, except you cannot see their faces. It costs \$5 (BBO\$) entry to register. When you sign up, you can invite your partner of choice (You will need he/she to be online at the time so he/she can accept your invitation as soon as you issue it.) There is even an option for you to be really nice to your favorite partner and pay his/her entry fee of \$5 from your own BBO account!

\$1 of the \$5 goes to BBO. The remaining \$4 goes to ACBL. Based on the ACBL numbers appearing for your partnership (yes, when you set up the BBO account, you can tell BBO what your ACBL number is), they will determine where your partnership plays frequently and will forward most of the \$8 to that club.

There is also a SupportYourClub robot tournament with 18 boards that is available all day for \$6 (BBO \$) that will have the funds sent to the club owners where you play the most.

Hopefully, we will help our club owners with some financial relief while he/she has to shut their club down during this turbulent time. Hence, the name SupportYourClub games.

Again, I hope you are well and if I can help in any way, let me know.

IN MEMORIAM



Sal Ignoffo

December 31, 1916 - March 12, 2020

Members of Unit 498 are saddened at the loss of Sal Ignoffo, who was our oldest (103) and one of our most liked members.

Sal was born in San Jose and moved to San Francisco as a young boy, attended St. Ignatius High School, and graduated from U.C. Pharmacy College in 1936. He was a licensed Pharmacist from 1937 until 2015 and owned and operated Ace Drug/Pharmacy on Arguello Blvd and later Noriega St. in San Francisco for many years.

Until recently, Sal played bridge frequently at Bayshore. He was a Sapphire Life Master. He also loved to play golf throughout his life and had a single digit handicap.

For full SF Chronicle obituary, see:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sfgate/obituary.aspx?n=sal-ignoffo&pid=195694243>

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