



San Mateo Unit 498

March 2021

The Unitizer



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Message from the President... Bob Gleason

March 2021

Many of you have seen the recent communication from the ACBL concerning resumption of bridge in person. One of the important changes was to extend the ban on Sectional and Regional tournaments from the end of April to the end of July. I would like to explain how the ACBL's policy affects us. The Unit 498 Board of Directors voted to cancel the NLM Sectional we had planned for May 1-2, 2021 because of the COVID-19 situation a couple of weeks before the ACBL extended its ban, so the next NLM Sectional

on our calendar is now set for
October 2-3, 2021.

Our next open Sectional, to be held at **Cañada College**, is set for August 14-15, 2021, a couple of weeks after the current date for the ACBL ban to expire. We still intend to hold this Sectional if we can do so safely and legally, but it will be a few months before we know whether this is possible. The ACBL, local government, and Cañada College will be setting and changing policies that affect us, so we must wait and see. The note that the ACBL sent to all its members said that club games are not subject to the ban on tournaments and cited in-person club games that have already resumed in other parts of the country. This is in line with the ACBL's objective to regulate Districts and Units, but not interfere with owners' management of their clubs. (Presumably club owners who have resumed their games elsewhere have done so with consent of local authorities, rather than opened speakeasies for bridge players - a nod to the previous century's version of the roaring 20s.)

Many Unit 498 members play in the Santa Clara All Western Regional, which is usually a couple of weeks after our August Sectional. There is some ambiguity in the ACBL's memo concerning this. The ban through the end of July is explicit for both Sectionals and Regionals, but the memo suggests resuming Sectionals in August and Regionals in October. Planners of the Santa Clara Regional face some decisions regarding if and when to hold it. If you are interested in this tournament, your best source of information will be through District 21.

The ACBL's strategy of resuming in-person bridge with club games, followed by Sectionals, Regionals and Nationals in that order is probably motivated by uncertainty in how many bridge players will want to return to pre-Covid-19 bridge, and how quickly they might do so. Poorly attended large tournaments incur significant financial loss.

Our February unit-sponsored games consisted of 7(Open) and 9(499) tables. Congratulations to Pat and Jim Leary who took 1st place in the open game with a winning percentage of 70.7. Second place went to Kenneth Hui and Siuling Ku. In the 499er game, Carol Lashman and Eileen Digiorgio took 1st with 65.3%, and Kathryn Barnard and Kathy Lee were 2nd. Thanks to Raad Bunni for directing.

The February mentor-mentee game had 16 tables divided into two sections. Maureen Martin and Jeffrey Pugh were 1st in section #1 with 63.5%, and John Duggan and Charles Simmons took 2nd. Daniel Duffin and Pete Goldsmith won

the other section at 67.1%. In second place were Debra Martinez and Phil Kuhn. Thanks to Art Quey for directing.

Please join me in congratulating our unit members who moved up in rank during February. These include Sue Papillon (Life Master), Sharon Legallet (Silver Life Master), and Louise Frye (Ruby Life Master)

IN MEMORIAM



Albert Malouf
1923 - 2021

Past President, Teacher, Mentor
Bronze Life Master



Victor Sztainbaum

1923 - 2021

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