



San Mateo Unit 498

February 2021

The Unitizer



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Message from the President... Bob Gleason

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Thanks to all who continue to support the clubs in our unit by playing in their on-line games. If you would like to play but haven't because you need a partner or would like some help getting started with BBO, please send a note to a club manager, or any member of the board of directors, and we will be glad to help. We look forward to resuming games in person this year when we are convinced that we can do so safely, and restrictions imposed by local governments and the ACBL have been lifted. The latest news from the ACBL is that the

suspension of sectional and regional tournaments will continue at least through the end of April.

There is, however, some good news for those who would like to play in the North American Pairs competition. There will be a NAP event in 2021. Initial club-level qualification will be on-line, as will later rounds if necessary. Another important bit of news from the ACBL concerns changes to alert procedures that became effective at the beginning of 2021. A summary of the changes appeared in the January Bridge Bulletin, and you can find the official document that covers them under "Helpful Documents" on the ACBL web site.

We celebrated the end of 2020 and the beginning of 2021 with a game on New Year's Eve, timed to hold a Zoom party afterward that would include watching the ball drop in Times Square. Jennifer and Phil Kuhn cemented their 63.9% victory in the open game by being the only pair to find the grand slam on hand 18, a perfect finish to an imperfect year, executed of course against yours truly. Doug Slayton and Stu Shipley took first place honors in the 499 game at 65.2%.

Winners in the open section of our unit-sponsored game in January were Sue Papilion and Stu Shipley, with a score of 64.6%. In the 499 game, Rula and Ford Tamer finished first among N-S pairs, and Melanie Mauldin and Maureen Marten took first in the E-W section. Look for the invite to our next unit-sponsored game on Saturday, 2/27.

Our first mentor-mentee game of 2021 was on January 28. It was also the first to be run under changes developed by Sue Papilion and Pete Goldsmith. and attracted several new players. We had a total of 17 tables in two sections. Mohan Ramana Rao and Fred Chasalow were the top E-W finishers in section 1 at 63.1%. N-S players topped out in a 3-way tie for first at 56%, shared by Mary Smith - Norma Bozzini, Carl Eberling - Carol Shaff, and Andrew Ehrich - Bob Farkas. The pairs of Hamid Motamed - Sue Papilion (N-S 63.0%) and Judy Duncan - Virginia Zapitz (E-W 60.2%) were the winners in section 2. Our next mentor-mentee game will be held on Thursday, 2/25 at 6:30 pm.

Congratulations to all the winners in these games, and many thanks to Art Quey and Raad Bunni for directing.

Please join me in congratulating our unit members who moved up in rank

during January. These include Bill Ihrle (Bronze Life Master), Robert Crosby (Silver Life Master), and Mary Bates (Ruby Life Master).

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