



San Mateo Unit 498

April 2021

The Unitizer



2021 Board of Directors

Bob Gleason, President
Danna Sorenson, Vice President
Cathy Johnson, Secretary
Sue Papilion, Treasurer
Suzanne Vuko, Unit Game Coordinator
Barbara Lewis, Membership Chair
Pete Goldsmith, Mentor Game Coordinator
John Selin, Director
Janelle Van Rensselaer, Director

Message from the President... Bob Gleason

May 2021

Some of the questions I am asked most frequently concern our plans to resume playing bridge in person. We have not developed a plan yet because we are constrained by decisions that local governments and the ACBL must make, but we track their progress closely. The good news is that COVID vaccinations are now proceeding well enough that playing in person should be permitted after 6/15, with restrictions that have not yet been specified. We do not know, however, how many will return to playing in person or how quickly they will do so. This situation

depends on policies that the ACBL will adopt regarding on-line bridge after the COVID crisis.

Many ACBL members want to continue playing on BBO. Games are available at almost any time of the day, large games offer opportunities to win lots of masterpoints, and most table fees are about one half of what it used to cost to play in person. We expect that the ACBL will continue to sanction games on BBO after COVID but may restrict the number of the games or the geographic scope of the larger ones. Like Unit 498, the ACBL exists to serve all its members, whether they prefer to play on-line or in-person and is unlikely to dictate which is the preferred form of bridge.

The consequences of the COVID shutdown are not unique to Unit 498. It has been less troublesome to us than to others, such as Unit 503, which has an expensive long-term lease on a building to hold its games. We do have an additional complication regarding property, however. Unrelated to the shutdown, owners of the two buildings we previously used (Bayshore Bridge Center and Fattoria e Mare) decided to replace them with housing projects. Neither will be available to us to hold games in the future. During the weeks just before the shut-down started, club owners and board members investigated sites to hold games and settled on one potential location. It would not be prudent to sign a long-term contract to use this facility now, however. There is too much financial risk that we would not draw enough players due to competition with BBO games and lingering COVID concerns. Playing bridge in person will return, but not as fast as we would like. We will look for opportunities to start games on a smaller scale and learn from the experience of other units who are dealing with similar issues.

We held our monthly unit-sponsored game on April 17 with a total of 10 tables divided into open and 499er sections. Pat and Jim Leary took 1st place in the open game with 68.1%. Rosemarie Dean and Sandra Tilch finished 2nd with 52.8%. In the 499er game, Kathryn Barnard and Kathy Lee finished 1st among N-S players with 67.1%, and Gail Cameron and Carl Ebeling took the E-W title with 56.9%. Thanks to Raad Bunni for directing.

In the April mentor-mentee games, the top finishers in Section 1 were Maureen Martin and Jeff Pugh (66.1%), and Debra Martinez and Phil Kuhn (63.9%). In Section 2, Adrienne Leigh and Norma Bozzini won with an excellent 73.2% game, followed by Chelsea Verhasselt and Sherry Dogruyusever (59.3%). Participation in the two games totaled 13 tables. Thanks to Art Quey for

directing.

Unit 498 members advancing in rank during April included Carol Knowles (Silver Life Master), Janet Williams (Silver Life Master) and June White (Ruby Life Master). Congratulations to all!

Copyright © 2021 ACBL Unit 498, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

