



San Mateo Unit 498

July 2021

The Unitizer



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Message from the President... Bob Gleason

July 2021

Club-level qualifying for the North American Pairs (NAP) competition is under way and will continue through August on BBO. Subsequent rounds of qualification at the unit and district levels and the NAP finals will be played in person. For Unit 498, we plan to schedule a qualifier sometime between September 1 and November 7. The details of this event will depend on first getting live club games established at the Villa in San Mateo, which is on track for early August. District 21 NAP qualification will be at the Monterey regional in January.

Our survey on playing bridge in person drew 117 responses. This represents a good section of frequent bridge players in our unit; 47% played once or twice per week, and 32% played at least 3 times per week before the shut-down. 90% are retired and playing on BBO now. Without restrictions such as face masks, 57% will return to in-person bridge, and an additional 37% may do so. With restrictions, the corresponding numbers are 52% and 32%. Large sectional and regional tournaments are a little less popular, with 44% saying yes and 37% maybe. BBO bridge will remain popular after in-person bridge resumes. 54% said they will play in both forms, and 32% maybe. This is consistent with views of bridge players outside our unit. The ACBL wants to continue bridge both on-line and in-person and is even considering hybrid forms that would allow some to participate remotely with others in person. Another finding from the survey is that morning or afternoon games got equal preference of 74%, but only 15% preferred to play in the evening.

Our Longest Day campaign has raised approximately \$14,000 for the Alzheimer's Foundation. Click **HERE** to make a donation. The team is accepting donations through the end of July. Thanks to all of you who donated, Janelle and her team who organized the event, and the players who offered their time to play with donors in sanctioned events and on teaching tables.

We held two monthly unit-sponsored games in June, coordinated with the Longest Day campaign. The open game on June 19 ended in a tie for first place for the pairs of Edward Zuckerberg - Fred Chasalow and Art Quey - yours truly with 61.8%, followed closely by Alfred Lee - Sherman Gao at 60.4%. In the 499er, Barbara Lewis - Marilynne Bachli finished first among N-S players with 67.1%, and Kai Eckert - Becca Simmons took E-W honors with 64.6%. The following day, Arline and Jim Van Ness won the open game with 60.2%, followed by a two-way tie for Lawrence Kolton - Edwin Mah and Helene Ettelson - Mie Thiemmedh at 53.8%. The string of ties continued in the 499er, with Sheila Felker - Virginia Zapitz and Eric Duff - Linda Turner sharing first with 55.6%. and second going to Barbara Lewis - Marilynne Bachli at 52.8%. Thanks to Raad Bunni who directed on Saturday and Art Quey on Sunday.

The June mentor-mentee games drew a total of 12 tables. The top finishers in Section 1 were Cynthia Werner - Kal Aziz (58.3%), followed by Cynthia Wener - Robert Ng (56.9%). In Section 2, Rita Gupta - Pete Goldsmith (57.9%) were first among NS players, and Anna Brown - Arline Van Ness (61.6%) won playing EW. Thanks to Art Quey for directing.

Congratulations to unit members who have achieved higher ACBL ranks in June, including Eleanor Battaglia (Silver Life Master) and Virginia Wailes (Ruby Life Master).

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