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**San Mateo Unit 498**

**October 2021**

## **The Unitizer**

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### **Message from the President... Bob Gleason**

**October 2021**

Unit 498 has 550 members, 65% of whom have fewer than 100 master points. Many players in this category have fine games, but work and other commitments prevent them from playing as much bridge as they would like. Others are learning the game. We recognize these players at our sectional tournaments with competition for the Art Weinstein trophy, limited to those with fewer than 100 points, and the only event we host in which the winners' names are etched onto the base of the cup. If you have fewer than 100 points, please remember that you

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are part of the majority, and are welcome to play in club games.

If work prevents you from playing during the day, the Wednesday evening game hosted by the Peninsula Duplicate Bridge Club is available. If you are learning the game, the PDBC and San Mateo Bridge Center offer lessons and host several weekly games attended by players of similar ability to yours. To get details of schedules, follow the links to the clubs on our unit web site.

Given this mix of our members, it is no surprise that our monthly mentor-mentee game is popular. Because mentees can watch their mentor's declarer play and can review bidding and play after the game on BBO, we will keep this game on-line for at least the next few months. The number of tables we can host is limited only by the number of mentors who volunteer, so if you are an experienced player who would like to help someone develop a better game, we would like to hear from you.

I apologize to those of you who had planned to play in the unit North American Pairs qualifier that we canceled with so little notice. This year the ACBL gave districts the option to cancel unit NAP qualifiers, and our governing district (District 21) exercised this option one week before our game was scheduled. Like ourselves, District 21 is trying to manage the re-start of live bridge amid the unpredictable peaks and valleys of the COVID situation.

The good news is that if you qualified at the club level, you could compete in the district NAP game. It will be held on-line at a schedule to be published. If you are not sure whether you are qualified, you can access a list of qualified players via links on either the District 21 or ACBL web sites. The lists also provide you names of potential partners if you need one; you can play with anyone else in District 21 who is qualified for your flight. Some nearby units may elect to hold "non-qualifier" games instead of the NAP qualifiers they had scheduled. The ACBL provided this option allowing enhanced master points, so if you are looking to pick up some red or gold points you might want to look into this.

Our September mentor-mentee game comprised a total of 10 tables. Section 1 winners were Jeanne Urich and Kal Aziz (64.5%), followed by Jeffrey Schubiner and Jennifer Stern (63.0%). Carl Ebeling and Debra Martinez (64.0%) won in Section 2. Second place in this section was a photo-finish. James Van Ness and Nancy Hoeck (57.7%) were the runners up in the B stratum, while Carmen Keenan and Hamid Motamed (57.22%) edged out

Maryann Hinden and Nancy Rutledge (57.18%) in the C stratum.  
Congratulations to all, and thanks to Art Quey for directing.

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