



THE DISTRICT 20 TRUMPET

www.ACBLD20.org



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Bridge Across the District

Fall 2020

Pandemic keeps ACBL board busy

Club policy modified; reorganization passes

I can assure you that your national board has been busy. While we have not met in person, I continue to be impressed with my fellow board members and ACBL management.

When the virtual clubs began, the idea was for the local clubs to have an opportunity to make money since

many clubs have overhead expenses such as rent and insurance.

It was also important that clubs be able to charge appropriately. A New York City club has significantly higher rent than Eugene, and so the guest

policy was created that in order to play in a virtual club you had to have played in that club within the last year. An allowance was made for 5% to be from elsewhere.

It turns out that some want to play with a longtime friend or relative, so we voted to increase the guest policy to 15%. I would like feedback from our members on whether we need to increase or decrease this amount.

About \$800,000 was raised by clubs for The Longest Day, including \$24,000 in District 20 (see page 6).

The board has finalized the reorganization plan with Districts 20 and 21 being combined. District 20 will continue to operate as District 20, but only one person will represent both districts on the national board. This will save the organization about \$150,000 per year. With this change the board has been looking at tasks that should just be managed by paid staff at the ACBL. This will not be fully implemented for three years. I supported the plan.

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Laurie Rowe
D20 District Director

Extended online GNT is a hit



Amy Casanova, Paul Wrigley, Rick Prouser and Ray Robert won the Open Flight GNT.

The summer-long round robin team event that took the place of the District 20 Grand National teams proved to be popular, drawing significant participation in all four flights and winning praise from many competitors.

Teams competed in a round-robin phase from late June through early August. The top four teams in each flight advanced to a knockout.

The extended format provided a regular activity during a time when many were lacking the ordinary stimulation of life as we used to know it.

For more on the event, see page 3.



An unfamiliar sight to most ACBL members: a room full of mostly people of color playing bridge. The American Bridge Association is home to most of the Black bridge-playing population in the U.S.

The other bridge world

ABA provides community for mostly Black members

By Chip Dombrowski and Jen Smith
The Trumpet

It's been a while since any of us were in a room full of bridge players, so let's try this as a thought experiment. Recall a time when you were at a bridge event of any level in the ACBL — club, sectional, regional, national. Look around the room. How many people of color are there?

You can count them on one hand, right? Bridge is segregated and has been since the game was invented in 1925. The his-

toric divide persists 53 years after the ACBL banned racial discrimination. While the ACBL does not keep data on members' race, observational estimates suggest that less than 0.5% of its 160,000 members are Black.

The ACBL isn't the only bridge organization in the United States. Let's learn more about the American Bridge Association, which serves primarily African American players.

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District looks at when regionals should return

How far into 2021 before bridge is safe?

We on your district board miss you. We've especially missed seeing you at regionals.

Bridge playing is social — seeing friends from all around the country, talking, sharing stories, laughing and commiserating. Face-to-face is the best by far, but now we're in different

time. BBO isn't F2F, but it is much better than being without. In my case, for the first 10 weeks of the pandemic I was dealing with an ancient computer that wouldn't support BBO.

It is extremely sad that so many people — players and others — have lost their lives or become very ill. With good leadership, we could have been back to the tables sooner.

Your board has been working hard on tournaments, personnel recruitment, reaching out to players and sharing lessons learned with other districts.

Special thanks go to GNT/NAP coordinator **Hal Montgomery** and D20 secretary **Rich Carle** for a very good job in developing and coordinating a D20-only GNT series. Although the winners (see story, page 3) aren't eligible for next year's nationals, everyone deserves applause.

Special accomplishments

Congratulations to **Connie Marfell** who was second in the world (!) in the World Bridge Federation's spring online women's tournament. Connie

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Mastering the etiquette of online bridge

By Amy Casanova
The Trumpet

There are a lot of new rules these days, everywhere you go. My going places is limited to the bank, grocery store and pet store mostly, but even at those places there are many signs to read detailing where I am supposed to stand or how I am supposed to enter an aisle, and

whether I should even be there in the first place.

In the beginning, when I inadvertently broke a rule and was corrected, I felt kind of angry, like how could I follow or not follow a rule I wasn't aware of? I wasn't being a jerk *on purpose*.

What kind of rules? Once I didn't step back behind a taped line at the bank, but the teller was behind plexiglass so I

thought that was sufficient. Another time I left my shopping cart a foot away in an empty Trader Joe's aisle and a store worker told me I was to stay with my cart at all times.

I have to remind myself about the rules frequently when playing on BBO. There are many that people new to BBO might

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Amid unhappy times, play online and reach out to someone

Playing bridge has always been something of a respite from the world for me. It's a way to escape for a few hours and just play a game.

At times I can remember feeling almost physically relieved walking through the door of the club, my spirits lifting. It's not quite the same opening my laptop and logging in to BBO, but there is still some excitement and anticipation — I get to play bridge! I get to chat with friends.

I usually try to keep things light and bridge-related here at The Trumpet, but the outside world has most definitely come crashing in and there is just no denying it anymore. We are sad, we are struggling, and we have lost so much, including the thing that keeps us together. The change is scary. We don't know what our bridge world will look like in the future. Uncertainty is unsettling. There is a helpless feeling.

And yet, there are still so many ways to help, in your loungewear from your couch or home office or dining room table. The seemingly small act of playing in an ACBL virtual club or Support Your Club game is

doing just that — supporting your clubs. Even the online regionals, which get a bad rap as “cash grabs” for the league, help to support the organization that supports the clubs. I don't know about you, but I am sure spending a lot less money on not only table fees but travel, lodging and meals for every game I play at home. It's not such a bad deal and I am thankful that so many rallied and worked hard to get us playing together again.

This involvement also shines a light on a somewhat curious question that has been debated quite a bit in my time at the various unit and district board meetings I have attended: technology and how best to employ it. There is little doubt now that we all know how to use the internet and maybe our phones, too. Yes, there are frustrations and technical difficulties to be sure, but it's a process.

I have played in a few games that used live video in conjunction with the game. You may have read about both the Mercercresc game in the Seattle area and **Zack Woodbury's** game in Portland. Both use Zoom breakout rooms so that the four

players at a table have thumbnail video feeds of each other. I find this to be very fun and kind of wish that the virtual clubs could do the same. Not everyone chooses to have their camera on and it kind of defeats the purpose of self-alerting (everyone can see or hear if you are typing an alert out) but if everyone got on board, I suppose you wouldn't need to self-alert, you could go back to alerting your partner's bids. Both of those games are social games not affiliated with the ACBL and award no masterpoints.

The other time I used video technology with BBO was in the ACBL Premier KO. My team made it only to the second round, but the rules were you had to have a camera going with what was essentially your “screenmate,” one opponent from the other pair, and you could monitor one another and explain your agreements. I thought that worked out pretty well. My only issue with both platforms was that if there were technology problems, trying to play and sort them out simultaneously was difficult.

The district board will be meeting virtually soon after this issue is published. One question that was decided for us was whether to cancel the Oregon Trail Regional. The ACBL has canceled sanctions

for all tournaments through February 2021. For D20 that is a calendar year with no regionals. With the reorganization of districts, who knows how that will impact our schedule and sites in the future.

There is a little bit of good financial news for the district. The GNT event that was running all summer was very successful and generated income.

Our finance committee is now without **Roger Thomas**, who volunteered many hours and whose thoughtful advice helped us to maintain solid footing throughout these changing times. Good luck in your next endeavor, Roger.

Finally, in this issue you will read about three extraordinary women. They all loved the game and were loved by many. As we approach the dark days of fall and winter, let's reach out to one another.

Drop a note or call someone you haven't seen for a while. Host a virtual cocktail party. Compliment an opponent's bid or play on BBO. Use the chat line for the last few minutes before the new round starts. Stay safe, be well. I really can't wait to see everyone again.

Amy Casanova can be reached at trumpeteditor@gmail.com.



Amy Casanova
Managing Editor

A journey almost into the ABA

I learned to play bridge in Coos County, Ore., where the population was 92% white. It wasn't surprising that I never saw any black people at the bridge club because I rarely saw any elsewhere in the area. They were 0.4% of the local population.

After a few years, I started traveling around the the state for tournaments, it was the same. Again, maybe not that surprising for Oregon (85% white), but after a few more years it seemed strange: I had never seen a Black person playing bridge. I wondered if there were any. I hadn't heard of the ABA.

It wasn't until the 2014 Summer NABC in Las Vegas, nearly eight years after my first bridge lesson, that I finally encountered an African American bridge player. And then in 2015, a local one when I met Sam Jones at the Oregon Trail Regional.

I shared this background with Eunice Patton when I was talking to her for our story on the ABA, and then she told me her story: How she was the only Black player at the club in Champaign, Ill., for 20 years before she went to her first ABA tournament. I was surprised to hear her say, “I had the same experience as you!”

Five years ago I moved to Memphis, a city that is 63% Black (including the suburbs, the metropolitan area is about 50/50). But the bridge clubs here don't look much different from those in Oregon. I have come across a few more people of color playing bridge here, for sure, but not many more. Maybe six or seven all together.

The one I see most often is Linda Dunn, the ACBL's in-house counsel and one of my regular partners. Pre-pandemic, we had been playing on Saturdays about once a month when I wasn't too busy with the Trumpet. When bridge moved online, she asked me about having a regular game. We settled on Saturday evenings and found that the game that best fit our schedule was the ABA game at 7 p.m. At \$2, it's a nice choice for budget too.

For a few months I was playing in a casual foursome with another regular part-

ner, Tony Greene, on Tuesday evenings, but after we got tired of that, we started looking for a game at the same time. There are no virtual clubs based in Memphis, but the largest club in the area pools with one in New Orleans. We tried to play there for a few weeks, but found that the Tuesday evening game was frequently canceled due to too few players. Even with all of New Orleans, all of Memphis and a couple other clubs they pool with, they have a hard time fielding three tables in the evening. So we gave up on that and moved to the ABA game, where there are always 40+ tables.

So now I've been playing twice a week in ABA games for a few months. When you play online in a game that doesn't use a video chat platform, you can't see your opponents and they can't see you. Although I've undoubtedly encountered many more African Americans in these games, I can't say that I've seen any more than before.

Every time I register for one of these games, I get a notice that they don't have an ABA player number on file for me. A couple of times directors have messaged me to ask if I have one. A couple months ago, it occurred to me I should join. I'm playing in their games regularly, so why not support the organization?

I went to their website, ababridge.org, and looked for a way to join. There was a page suspiciously labeled “join-test” (which has since been taken down) where I filled out a form that went nowhere. A couple weeks later, I mentioned to Linda that I was interested in joining and she said she would contact someone who could help me. A couple weeks after that, I mentioned to Eunice that I was interested in joining and she said she would get me an application.

Two months in, I still haven't found anyone in the organization willing to take my money. It's a lot different from the ACBL for sure. The ABA doesn't have a staff that handles these things. It relies on clubs to process memberships, and when the clubs are shut down, there doesn't seem to be

another route. When you consider that the organization as a whole has fewer members than the smallest ACBL district, it's easier to understand why the infrastructure isn't there.

I was hoping by the time we published I'd be able to say an ABA member, but I'm not.

I haven't done especially well in the ABA's online games, but did win one in July. Here's a hand from that game.

Dlr: South	♠K 9 8 6 4		
Vul: E-W	♥8 5 4		
	♦K 2		
	♣A 10 2		
	♠A J 7 3	♠Q 10 5	
	♥J	♥A Q 9 7 3 2	
	♦9 7 6 4 3	♦Q 8	
	♣7 6 4	♣9 5	
	♠2		
	♥K 10 6		
	♦A J 10 5		
	♣K Q J 8 3		
West	North	East	Chip
Pass	1♠	2♥	1♣
Pass	Dbl	All Pass	Pass

The field played this in 3NT from my side, making five on a heart lead. The auction usually started the same, but almost everybody bid with my hand at their second turn, either 2NT or the other minor (some opened 1♦). I was alert to the vulnerability and hoped to score a big penalty on defense. I passed 2♥ and hoped my partner could find a double. He did.

We took two clubs, two diamonds, a spade, a spade ruff and my natural trump trick for down two and a top board.

It's mostly a coincidence that my involvement with this majority-Black organization happened at the same time that racial justice issues have once again come to the forefront of our nation's politics. The ABA recently added a pair of games to support the cause of racial justice. These take place at 11:30 a.m. Pacific time Saturday and Sunday.

Chip Dombrowski can be reached at chip.dombrowski@acbl.org.



Chip Dombrowski
Editor at Large

Deaths

Diane Cullen — 87, of Beaverton OR died Aug. 9, 2020.

Marc Franklin — 88, of Portland OR died July 5, 2020.

Bob Freeman — 94, of Eugene OR died July 1, 2020.

Mary Hovda — 81, of Sandy OR died Aug. 24, 2020.

Cristal Nell — 42, of Seattle WA died July 24, 2020.

Rosella Wilde — 84, of Klamath Falls OR died May 6, 2020.



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New Life Masters: Please send a photo for publication by email.



The Trumpet on Facebook
www.facebook.com/d20trumpet

NAP AND GNT

District 20 holds a summer-long bridge party in online GNT

By Hal Montgomery

D20 North American Events Coordinator

We played 173 separate matches with a total of 3248 boards in our online GNT on BBO. We had 46 teams representing all parts of the district. We had many players who had never played online before but decided to try out BBO.

When we started in late June, we were the only regionally sanctioned team event in the country. Except for the online national KO, we were the largest sanctioned team event this summer.

We didn't get permission to contest our GNT online without monitors until mid-June. We decided to charge about one-third of what the ACBL was charging for games. We promised every team that signed up at least six matches. We held our breath hoping that we would get enough entries.

Rich Carle and I bounced ideas off the North American Events Committee, making it up on the fly. How should we run a flight with five or six teams? What about seven or nine? We settled on a flexible round robin format.

With a flight of fewer than 10 teams, we would play a complete round robin and qualify the top four teams for KO matches: semifinals, consolation and finals. With more teams, we would break the flights into two brackets for round-robin play and qualify the top two teams from each bracket for the KO.

The entries started to come in, slowly at first and then they picked up. We ended up with nine teams in the open and 12 teams in each of flights A, B and C. One of the teams dropped out and was replaced, giving us a total of 46 teams that played.

There were some hiccups at the beginning. BBO has a secret policy of not allowing newish players to start team matches. People would get the lineups wrong and start out playing themselves. Sometimes we played the wrong number of boards, or allowed kibitzing, or barometer scoring. Rich and I had to set up several matches for others.

There were fewer problems with convention cards this time around. Our players are more experienced and I think BBO had improved its program. However, convention cards and self-alerting are still different online and caused some ruffled feathers. We created a big library of helpful topics and posted it on our website. We kept adding to it as problems were exposed. Problems got fixed and players were flexible. It will be easier every cycle going forward.

Players had so much fun playing that we ran some additional continuation matches in flights A, B and C for the teams that



Championship winners: Amy Casanova captain Paul Wrigley, Rick Prouser, Ray Robert



Flight A winners: Dave Green, Ed Lee, Mark Smith, captain Don Tofte



Flight B winners: Kevin Marnell, Tim Rilling, Don Herring, captain Greg Fowler



Flight C winners: captain Deanne Takasumi, Bonnie Scheeland, Ginger McCarthy, Sheryl Williams

hadn't made the playoffs. Eighteen teams out of 24 non-finalists played in an additional round robin with only match awards at stake. We played IMP matches all summer long.

We put on this bridge extravaganza to give players a place to play IMP bridge. It was particularly pleasing to me when teams entered multiple flights. **Kristin Steinmetz** along with **Paul Walker** and **Fran** and **Mark Jansa** entered both C and

B. They made the playoffs in C, finishing fourth. They kept playing after the round robin in B by entering the continuation matches, where they won the most victory points of any of the six B teams.

Amy Casanova and **Paul Wrigley** playing with **Ray Robert** and **Rick Prouser** entered both A and the open. They didn't do so well in A but smashed their way into the open finals and won. Playing with **Jamie Sparks** and **Leslie Kelinson**, **Robert**

D20 GNT winners

Championship

- 1 **Paul Wrigley**, Troutdale OR; **Amy Casanova** – **Rick Prouser** – **Ray Robert**, Portland OR
- 2 **Chris Gibson**, Tigard OR; **Chris Wiegand**, Portland OR; **Mark Bennett**, Honolulu HI; **Everett Fukushima**, Aiea HI

Flight A

- 1 **Don Tofte**, Portland OR; **Mark Smith**, Milwaukie OR; **Dave Green**, Sherwood OR; **Ed Lee**, Portland OR
- 2 **Don Lowry**, Wilsonville OR; **Bob Johnson**, Beaverton OR; **Flo Savage** – **Irene Pickett**, Portland OR

Flight B

- 1 **Greg Fowler**, Beaverton OR; **Don Herring**, Lake Oswego OR; **Tim Rilling**, Vancouver WA; **Kevin Marnell**, Portland OR
- 2 **Rick Prouser** – **Ray Robert** – **Jamie Sparks** – **Leslie Kelinson**, Portland OR

Flight C

- 1 **Deanne Takasumi**, Tigard OR; **Bonnie Scheeland** – **Ginger McCarthy** – **Sheryl Williams**, Portland OR
- 2 **Cary Wirth**, Nevada City CA; **Kurt Browning**, Grass Valley CA; **Jeff Heyser** – **Deanna Heyser**, Penn Valley CA

and **Prouser** also made the finals in flight B, finishing second. Rick and Ray won more points than anybody else — 74.98.

Other players entering multiple flights were **Deanne Takasumi** who won Flight C and competed in B, **Dileep Bal** and **John Cissel** in B and A, **Leslie Kelinson** and **Paul Penland** in B and the open, and **Craig Jones** in A and the open. These players and teams are an example to all of us. We don't have to stay in our safe point-range events if we don't want to. We can try our luck against more credentialed players and teams. We can win against anybody.

Another pleasing aspect of this summer's bridge party was that players who hadn't played and areas that hadn't been represented in our online GNT in prior years participated. **Dileep Bal** told me it was the first time that players from Kauai had played. **Eileen Boal** was the first player from the Albany-Corvallis area for some time. **Everett Fukushima** reminded us all that he is one of our top players as he has been for more than 40 years.

We had three teams from the Ashland area, three teams from Boise, and three teams from Hawaii. We had two teams with players from Eugene. We had teams from all corners of the district.

The league has announced it is making our format available for all districts to use in the 2021 GNT. We will be starting our planning soon.

Perhaps we could get to 60 teams, with players from areas unrepresented recently. We need your best ideas about how to make our contest better. Please send them to me. We need some more help to improve our customer service. With ideas and help from new participants we can make our party even better.

Hal Montgomery can be reached at dewitt@imaginata.com.

In Memoriam

Diane Cullen

Aug. 20, 1932 – Aug. 9, 2020

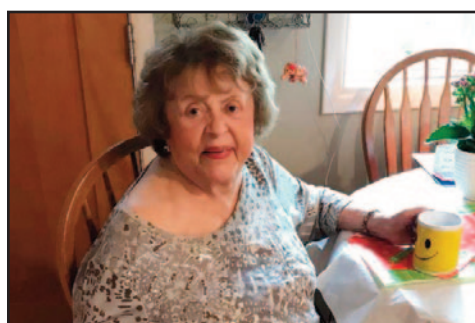
By Jim Wheeler

The Trumpet

D20 lost one of its icons Aug. 9, just a few weeks shy of her 88th birthday.

Diane Cullen passed away peacefully at her home, surrounded by her two daughters and her beloved dogs. An Emerald Life Master, she will be remembered as a mentor to many players and a willingness to help out at any event at the Ace of Clubs, her home base.

Before retiring, Diane was the executive administrator to the CEO of U.S. Bank in Portland. When the CEO was tapped to become the head of Visa International in San Francisco, he offered Diane "a fortune" to go with him. She turned him



Diane Cullen

down because she wouldn't leave her family, Portland and her bridge family.

For many years Diane held several offices and chaired the auction for the American Business Women's Association. As part of that effort, she helped many young people obtain college scholarships, raising \$1 million for scholarships.

Diane chaired the 1986 Spring NABC

held in Portland.

On a personal note, I shared a home in Gearhart with her, **Flo Savage**, **Laverne Kittilson** and **Dwayne Brackhahn** for every Seaside sectional and regional tournament for about the last 15 years.

Comments from some of Diane's many friends:

"She had the biggest heart of anyone I ever knew. Her laugh was distinctive and contagious." – **Staci Christian**, owner, *Ace of Clubs*

"She was extremely loyal and committed to her friends. She could get really angry with you, but it never lasted long before she was telling you she loved you." – **Flo Savage**

"She filled the lives of people around her with her energy. She was a happy warrior with a sharp tongue." – **Hal Montgomery**

"I will miss her so much." – **Tuba Unlu**

"When I moved to Portland, I knew no one. My first day at the Ace, 10 years ago, Diane welcomed me, made sure I came to the ice cream social after the game, and brought me into the Ace family right away." – **Ellie Hood**

"Diane was our party girl. She loved life and enjoyed every minute of it. During the last few years, I did get to partner with Diane, never forgetting who was in control. Her favorite words to me were 'and where did that bid come from, young lady' and I am older than she. We will sorely miss you, Diane. You left a void in our lives." – **Marie Pinch**

"Diane was always fun to play with. She had an infectious laugh and outsized personality. She was the queen of the penalty double. Her presence at the clubs and elsewhere will be greatly missed. We are all saddened by her loss." – **Jerry Wershba**

In Memoriam

Mary Hovda

Oct. 30, 1938 – Aug. 24, 2020

Mary Hovda, a longtime director at the Eastside Bridge Club and later Portland Bridge club, died Aug. 29. Several players shared tributes to her.

By Dave Brower

Mary Hovda was a pillar of the Portland bridge community for many years and her Thursday game was long one of the best games in town.

She was gruff and loved calling people names. The more she liked you, the more often she called you an a**hole. It was when she started calling you honey or darling that you had to be careful because you were in her bad books.

She was so loved by the community that when she retired from actively directing her game, we had 34 tables come out on a Thursday for her party.

Her voice could be heard booming throughout the room wherever she was playing. She was a lady who knew her mind and wasn't afraid to speak it. For good or for ill you knew where you stood with her.

She loved to laugh and her laugh was infectious. I couldn't help but laugh along with her whenever she got going.

When she was directing a game, you knew who was in charge and as a player that made me feel secure. In my early days as a player in the Portland area, I very much enjoyed her partnership with **Bill Kotts**. The two of them were strong competitors and played the game to enjoy themselves (and to win!). Whenever I came to their table, I knew that I would have both good bridge and a good time.

It was a great honor having Mary Hovda



Mary Hovda

be a part of the Portland Bridge Club. I know how much she cared about the club, the players and the game. Getting to be a part of her multi-decade commitment to supporting the game and having her watch as the club flourished in recent years was a treat, and getting her nod of approval for how things were running made me proud.

In this time of quarantine, I miss many of my friends and my bridge family. I know that she passed away peacefully and when I spoke to her, she made sure that I knew that she was ready to go. I miss her.

By Ouida McCullough with Paul O'Brien

Paul and I owned the Portland Bridge Club for seven years and worked very closely with Mary during that time. There was never a cross word.

She ran her Thursday game, played in many of the other games and was available to direct any of our games on a

minute's notice.

Advice flowed freely, even if we did not ask, and it was good advice. When we took a vacation, she always had our back.

We spoke to her by phone a few days before she went to bridge heaven. As usual, her spirits were high. The bridge world has lost one of its most valued and loved players.

By Leslie Kelinson

Although Mary was a fixture at the local club she did travel to tournaments, even when health issues started to limit her mobility.

Several years ago, Mary and I went up to Bellingham to spend the week with Paul and Ouida. We thought we were really clever (and economical), so we took the BOLT Bus.

Well, it was so awful. The seats were designed for infants. By the time we arrived at our destination, I was permanently cemented into the fetal position from being in such a tiny space.

On the other hand, little Mary was comfortable as a clam. She had more than enough room. I almost could not uncoil my body to get off the bus. It was so miserable. Needless to say, we came home on Amtrak.

By Jean Johansson

My favorite Mary story is about one of our tournament stays.

We were staying in a motel with a kitchenette at Seaside. Bedtime came and Mary said, "Oh dear! That bed's too high!" So, we looked around. Couldn't use a chair; they were all on wheels. Couldn't use a suitcase; we'd each taken small overnight soft side bags.

Then it came to me. The kitchenette

was bound to have a large pot stored away somewhere. Sure enough, we found a big spaghetti pot. We turned it into a stepping stool. Mary held on to me and got into bed.

Next thing I knew Mary was getting out of her bed. I said, "Mary, what are you doing?" And she said, "Well, I have to see if I can do this by myself in case I have to get up in the middle of the night." And, indeed, she could. Problem solved.

Such a heart of gold. I miss her.

By Amy Casanova

For me, there is no history of bridge without Mary Hovda.

When my dad and I started playing at what was then the Eastside Bridge Club, she was there doing her thing. She had a remarkable ease with all of the players. She made you feel welcome and cared about and she meant it.

She was encouraging and never condescending. As a player with a tremendous amount of skill, she did not give advice without being asked first. What restraint.

When I knew I was approaching Mary's table, it was with dread mixed with joy. I knew I was going to get clobbered but have so much fun in the process. I can't tell you how many times she "got" me and, and, with a twinkle in her eye, let me know she loved me and that was how I would get better.

When I did start to improve, she shared something I'll never forget: her good friend and partner Peggy Johnson had told her, "She will be a player one day."

I carry those words, and when I feel down about my game, they keep me going. Thank you, Mary, for listening and being supportive, but also willing to put everyone in their place when needed.

*Fall
into
Bridge*

OCTOBER 15-18

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acbl.org/virtual

Cristal Nell

July 7, 1978 – July 24, 2020

By Meg Craig

Ever since my friend Cristal Nell passed away in late July, the tributes have poured in.

She was an Ivy League grad, an NABC champion, and a stunningly beautiful young woman. It's easy to praise her. She had so many great qualities and accomplishments. In my decade-long friendship with Cristal, her heart made the greatest impression on me. She was one of the kindest people I've ever known.

When I was going through difficult times in my life and took a step back from bridge, Cristal was the first to reach out and invite me back to the table. She could have her pick of partners, and would be a favorite to win most events she entered, but she always made it a point to offer a game to new players, to friends and to people who needed a friend.

When my mind was everywhere but the card table, and we fumbled our way to a barely-average result, Cristal never once showed frustration. She talked to me about everything, we laughed at nonsense, and at the end, she thanked me for accepting her invitation, and said, genuinely, "It was great to play with you today."

The only times I ever saw Cristal get upset at the bridge table were when an opponent was unkind to a partner. Whereas, most of us sit quietly and uncomfortably while an angry player berates a partner for a mistake, Cristal always stood up for the abused player. "Hey! It's not OK to talk to your partner like that." She would then turn to the other opponent with a reassuring "you're doing fine."

It was important to Cristal that others enjoyed the game we'd all come to play. She greeted everyone she played against, and if she didn't know them, she tried to get to know them. If they were new to the game, she gave them her number and offered a game. She was always kind.

Cristal was the first friend of mine to normalize saying, "I love you," platonically. She cared



Cristal Nell

2017 Rockwell Mixed Pairs winner

deeply for her friends and we always knew that because her heart was so open. She loved deeply – her friends, bridge, Roger Federer, her partner Brad – but more than anything, she loved her children. Cristal was a devoted mother who had nothing but praise for her son and daughter. She raised them to be kind like she was.

Shortly after we'd all gotten together in Portland, I received a card in the mail from her kids. On the card was a seahorse – she knew I loved them – and inside was a drawing and a thank you note for playing with them. It was a deeply thoughtful gesture. Cristal was very proud of her kids' strong minds, but developing their kind hearts was just as important to her.

It's difficult to accept that I will never sit across the bridge table from my friend again, but we can all keep her spirit alive by choosing kindness and empathy instead of anger and frustration at the card tables, and also in life. I love you, Cristal.



THE IN! CROWD

For Intermediate/Newcomer Players

Helpful opponents and auctions that were fun

Sherry Squirrel is dancing and so happy to be playing online. It is the only bridge game in town. She can dance and play bridge at the same time. Harry Belafonte, Caro Emerald and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy are happy music.

She does her happy dance whenever she remembers to self-alert her bids. She turned on the option to confirm bids and cards, so she has to work to misbid, but still misclicked on the wrong card when she meant to trump a loser and didn't. (And she was doubled: guess one can still be nervous online when doubled.)

Sherry still gets unhappy when she gets kicked offline. One time she dithered about whether to open 1♣ or 1♦ with A-x-x in both suits. She bid 1♦ and then got

kicked off, so she frantically tried and tried to get on, only to find out that she was playing 1♦ in her 3-2 fit and her partner had six clubs to the king but not enough to bid and no four-card major. They also had a 4-3 heart fit, but those broke 4-2 and the opponents ruffed a heart.

It is always painful to play in your 3-2 fit. Especially vulnerable, and especially

when you got kicked off a couple of times before you start playing the hand and the director is at the table when you get back.

What is your plan when you pick up this hand? How often does partner hold hearts and clubs when you hold the pointy suits?

Dir: East ♠K 9 3
 Vul: E/W ♥A 5 3
 ♦10 4 2
 ♣Q 10 6 5

♠— ♠A Q 8 5 4
 ♥J 10 9 7 4 2 ♥6
 ♦A 7 3 ♦K Q J 9 6 5
 ♣K 9 7 4 ♣J

♠J 10 7 6 2
 ♥K Q 8
 ♦8
 ♣A 8 3 2

	Franny	North	Sherry	South
			1♦	1♠
Dbl	2♠	Dbl	Pass	
3♥	3♠	Dbl	Pass	
Pass	Rdbl	All Pass		

Sherry is highly excitable, opens 1♦ and plans to rebid spades twice to show her hand pattern. But then the foregoing auction comes back to her before she gets a second bid in.

Even though I expected my partner to be void and the king on my left, it sounds like the misfit I was concerned about.

We got a lovely plus 1600.

No one vulnerable, I pick up a weak but shapely hand:

♠J 10 4 3 ♥10 7 6 5 4 3 ♦J 6 ♣3

My partner, Franny Fox, opens 1♥ and I am planning on bidding 4♥ as a weak freak support for the Fox. But my RHO bids 2♠, so I change my mind (I thought she might be short in spades) and splinter, bidding 4♣, pass on my left, partner bids 4♦ (she is interested in more than game). I put her into 4♥ and East bids 4♠, 5♥ by the Fox. Seems likely partner is void in spades. It goes around to East who bids 5♠. I hope we can get a couple of diamonds and one spade so I double and lead the ♦J. I am surprised to see ♠AKQ in the dummy.

♠A K Q ♥A 9 ♦8 ♣K J 9 8 6 4 2

Gosh they found their 5-3 fit. East missed a lovely opportunity to double my clubs. Maybe he was drooling and thinking I would play clubs.

While I am sitting there in shock at the trump, my partner overtakes my ♦J and shifts to the ♥K and Rosey Rabbit runs her top three spades after pitching a diamond on the ♥A. I trump her second club and lead the diamond to partner so we take three diamonds and a spade for a plus 300. We cannot make 4♥, let alone 5♥. And they can make 6♣, but after the weak jump, they are never going to find the lovely club fit.

Owl's Advice

Plan your rebid when you open your hand.

The auction frequently changes your hand evaluation; where the points are is as important as how many you hold.

Listen to the auction and figure out if your hand is going up or down with the auction.

Frequently animals bid on shape and not HCP. That is why the rule of 20 is so important on opening, especially not vulnerable.

If you are going to overcall with J-10-x-x-x, you had better have a pretty good hand outside of your suit. And if you make a weak jump overcall, partner is going to assume that you have a six-card suit, and that A-K-Q is a fine support and not unreasonable to assume that you might hold the jack.

So much of playing bridge is that you are trying to figure out what your partner holds and understanding how they bid. And then the opponents online can be so much more helpful than at the club. One time those opponents were so helpful that I wanted to adopt them. I even got to play against Dear Billy and his client.

D20 I/N Coordinator Margi Redden can be reached at d20incoord@yahoo.com.

DISTRICT 20 RANK CHANGES

JUNIOR MASTERS

Niki Aberle, Portland OR
 Kerry Ach, Kailua HI
 Brian Anderson, Springfield OR
 Glenda Anderson, Springfield OR
 Cristin Babcock, Creswell OR
 Summer Barham, Ashland OR
 Robin Berman, McKinleyville CA
 Jan Burnham, Chico CA
 Christine Donchin, Ashland OR
 William Dreyer, Redding CA
 James Elliott, Portland OR
 Ann Endicott, Honolulu HI
 Judy Grodahl, Portland OR
 Mary Ann Gum, Medford OR
 Brad Hammill, Trinidad CA
 Flora Henningsen, Medford OR
 Judith Hoevet, Jacksonville OR
 Michael Holman, Vancouver WA
 Sue Isaak, Jacksonville OR
 Jasper Katz, Ashland OR
 Layne Keeler, Trinidad CA
 Dave Knoyle, Longview WA
 Jeanne Krier, Albany OR
 Blythe Lasley, Ashland OR
 Janet Lide, Vancouver WA
 Randy Miltier, Ashland OR
 Eric Poland, Kailua HI
 Barbara Pope, Eugene OR
 Bob Russell, Portland OR
 Charlie Seagraves, Grants Pass OR
 David Soderquist, Redmond OR
 Wendi Wolfard, Lincoln City OR

CLUB MASTERS

Roy Abramowitz, Portland OR
 Dean Alterman, Lake Oswego OR
 David Beaudoin, Ashland OR
 Bill Blatt, Kailua Kona HI
 Pam Briggs, Portland OR
 Meda Brown, Honolulu HI
 Robert Cassell, Honolulu HI
 Carolyn Chapman, New Meadows ID
 Michelene Cloney, Ashland OR
 Keith Crudgington, Eugene OR
 Robert Derbyshire, Keaau HI
 Janet Dowty, Portland OR
 Kathy Esposito-Mason, Kailua HI
 Gary Fuller, Kailua HI
 Lorna Glubb, Corvallis OR
 Douglas Goelz, Long Beach WA
 Kay Hallmark, Portland OR
 Charles Jenney, Portland OR
 Jasper Katz, Ashland OR
 Michael Kerner, Portland OR
 Mary Kessler, Lake Oswego OR

SECTIONAL MASTERS

Candy Baungard, Bend OR
 Cheryl Blatt, Kailua Kona HI
 Helena Cence, Honolulu HI
 Donald Claeys, Kamuela HI
 Cheryl Cullen, Ashland OR
 Judy Dauble, Lake Oswego OR
 Thomas Davis, Nevada City CA
 Robert Demaster, McMinnville OR
 Allison Drew, McMinnville OR
 Chris Dunfield, Corvallis OR
 Sandra Emmons, Newberg OR
 Gay Gale, Honolulu HI
 Mary Gilbert, Beaverton OR
 Terry Green, Eugene OR
 Denise Gudger, Eugene OR
 Valerie Hanseth, Bend OR

New Life Masters

Congratulations!



Chris Aaberg
Lake Oswego OR



Brenda Biermann
Roseburg OR



Mark Hickman
Bend OR



Claudia Maddalena
Honolulu HI



Beverly Walker
Vancouver WA



James Weider
Portland OR

Lenelle Kwong, Honolulu HI
 Mark Lance, Chico CA
 William Lide, Vancouver WA
 Janet Lide, Vancouver WA
 Dana Luedtke, Portland OR
 Joseph Macturk, Eureka CA
 John McCole, Eugene OR
 Stacey Melnick, Portland OR
 John Nies, Portland OR
 Mary Nies, Portland OR
 Russell Oberther, Kaneohe HI
 Gus Pappelis, Sherwood OR
 Lynn Poole, Bend OR
 Andrzej Proskurowski, Eugene OR
 Carole Robinson, Milwaukie OR
 Judie Rubert, Neskowin OR
 Marylyn Russell, Portland OR
 Helen Slaughter, Honolulu HI
 Kazumi Westacott, Beaverton OR
 Leigh Zerboni, Truckee CA

REGIONAL MASTERS

Ali Amory, Eugene OR
 Marilyn Brown, Boise ID
 Perry Brown, Boise ID
 Richard Brown, Portland OR
 Alexander Davie, Medford OR
 Christine Ellis, Portland OR
 Alice Kaye Guyer, Boise ID
 Gary Haynie, Kailua HI
 Krista Kabacy, Vancouver WA
 Gretchen King, Ashland OR
 Harley King, Ashland OR
 Diane Knudsen, Portland OR
 David Larsen, Honolulu HI
 Chuck Lunson, Aiea HI
 Kay Mattison, Eugene OR
 Victor Meyers, Kailua HI
 Marie Muller, Longview WA
 Ali Nice, Eugene OR
 Martin Nice, Eugene OR

Michelle Nordyke, Honolulu HI
 Care Parker, Portland OR
 Rebecca Pelissero, Kula HI
 Stephen Prokop, Brookings OR
 Helen Pyne, Bend OR
 Shirley Sakoda-Long, Hilo HI
 Karen Schoessow, Medford OR
 Hedy Schoonover, Ashland OR
 Thomas Shaffer, Beaverton OR
 Pamela Torres, Wahiawa HI
 Elliot Wahba, Portland OR
 Jane Waldron, Volcano HI
 Stephen Wanderer, Kelso WA

NABC MASTERS

Edward Celnicker, Milwaukie OR
 Susan Frieder, Wailuku HI
 Carol Holman, Portland OR
 Patricia Jacob, Wilsonville OR
 Allen Jones, Kula HI
 Yoonji Kim, Honolulu HI
 Paula Koeller, Portland OR
 Frederick Lam, Kamuela HI
 Linda McCalla, Kalaheo HI
 Richard Rountree, Lake Oswego OR
 John Seibert, Portland OR
 William Stevenson, Honolulu HI
 Candace Taylor, Honolulu HI
 Randy Wentross, Kailua HI
 Cornelia Wonham, Eugene OR

ADVANCED NABC MASTERS

Beverly Fraser, Boise ID
 Leon Joseph Grafe, Kihei HI

BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

G. Sherley Blodgett, Lahaina HI
 Jan Hart, Redmond OR

Janet Landesberg, Vancouver WA
 Wendy Mednick, Portland OR
 Joan Peres, Portland OR
 Donald Pitt, Salem OR
 Daniel Rogers, Albany OR
 James Weider, Portland OR
 Sandra Wilson, Beaverton OR

SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Barbara Ball, Portland OR
 M.A. Beutick-Warren, Lahaina HI
 Patricia Douglas, Bend OR
 Ira Grifel, Lake Oswego OR
 Louise Johns, Portland OR
 JoAnn Marks, Portland OR
 Judith Mason, Honolulu HI
 Dorothy Mayes, McMinnville OR
 Mark McKechnie, Medford OR
 R. Peel, Milwaukie OR
 Sandy Syrett, Corvallis OR
 Steve Tubbs, Vancouver WA
 Gail Yap, Honolulu HI

RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Peter Galbraith, Blakely Island WA
 Catherine Hess, Kaneohe HI
 Anne Niethammer, Honolulu HI
 Carole Schmitz, Eugene OR
 Jeff Taggart, Caldwell ID
 Dorothy Tokerud, Bend OR

GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Mark Smith, Milwaukie OR

SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTERS

Brian Breckenridge, Tigard OR
 Jeff Jacob, Vancouver WA
 Dean Jenkins, Kailua Kona HI

Rowe

The Longest Day

Eyer

Guest membership

District 20 raises \$24,000

Two positions open

Continued from Page 1

Another change is we are initiating a new guest membership policy. A person may become a guest member for free if they have never been a member of the ACBL before.

This will be a short-term membership, up to 120 days, and allow someone to see the Bulletin online and accrue up to 20 masterpoints which will post when they become paid members.

I was unsure about this policy change, but after listening to a number of people's arguments in favor of it, decided it was a great idea. It allows someone a chance to learn more about the organization and get a chance to earn some masterpoints before joining. There are a great number of folks playing on BBO who are not ACBL members and live in North America.

There was an extremely thoughtful and interesting presentation about masterpoint modification at tournaments based on strength of field. It's another idea I disliked at first but now find intriguing.

I hope to return to face-to-face bridge. When the next NABC occurs, any flighted national event or senior national event will be on a 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. schedule. This was a request from hosting districts. Most districts struggle to find volunteers for the 1 and 7 p.m. schedule.

Concerns regarding online cheating have been raised. Your play is being watched as you play on BBO. If you are playing with someone with whom you reside, please play in separate rooms.

I would like to give a shoutout to **Hal Montgomery**. I was not in favor of our summer GNT, but did decide to play in the event and really had a fun time.

District director Laurie Rowe can be reached at district20director@acbl.org.

District 20 clubs and units raised about \$24,000 for the Alzheimer's Association in events for The Longest Day in June. Thirteen clubs and units participated, helping the ACBL raise more than \$828,000.

It was a strange year for the event. The lack of in-person gatherings at bridge clubs made it hard to hold the kinds of fundraisers clubs typically do: silent auctions, raffles, dinners, etc. There were no wall posters indicating who donated what. In this environment, overall fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association was down about 60%, and the ACBL outperformed the charity's other partners even though raising 37% less than last year.

District 20's fundraising stayed about the same, down only 4%. While only 10 teams out of about 300 in the ACBL raised more than last year, three of them were in District 20.

Unit 461 in Grass Valley, Calif., led the district with \$5736, a 61% increase.

"Although we're small in members, we've run four bridge games for The Longest Day each year for seven years running," **Jamie Newman** said.

"Although we couldn't run traditional



Jeff and Deanna Heyser and Jim Hook stand in the heat collecting donations for Unit 461's The Longest Day team in June.

Top 10 fundraisers in D20

Unit 461 Grass Valley CA	\$5736
Boise Unit 394	\$4469
Ace of Clubs, Lake Oswego OR	\$3360
Vancouver (WA) Bridge Club	\$3333
Portland Bridge Club	\$2374
Cascade DBC, Bend OR	\$1333
Virtual club sanction fees	\$1292
Mid-Valley Online Bridge, Corvallis OR	\$860
Longview (WA) Bridge Club	\$794
Honolulu Unit 470	\$720

fundraisers this year, **Bev Britton** came up with the idea to hold a drive-by donation event. It was such a hot day – in the high 90s – but **Deanna Heyser** and her crew manned two donation sites, raising over \$3000 for Alzheimer's research," Newman said.

It was the first time since 2016 that the district's top team wasn't Boise Unit 394. Boise was second with \$4469.

The Ace of Clubs was up 20% to \$3360. Owner **Staci Christian** did fundraising on Facebook, drawing support from her personal friends outside the bridge community in addition to the club's regular contributors.

Unit 452's Vancouver Bridge Club also saw an increase of 18% to \$3333. The club was aided by a corporate sponsor, When the Shoe Fits shoe stores, which gave \$1000. The club also raised \$442 from a jewelry auction in February, before things shut down.

All virtual clubs holding games June 20–21 were automatic participants insofar as sanction fees from those games were contributed by the ACBL. Games in D20 accounted for \$1292 of the ACBL's contribution. BBO also donated its share.

Continued from Page 1

won the event three years ago and came within a trick of repeating this year. She finished 0.12 points behind Marjorie Michelin.



Connie Marfell

Other district players have also done well:

Louis Beauchet won a BBO tournament; **Rick Prouser** was a winner in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin's "It's Your Call" section.

Most of all, thanks to all the junior and intermediate players whose large, continued presence at the local virtual clubs is keeping them going. To paraphrase songwriter Pete Seeger, "Where have all the A players gone?" I do see some playing, but there should be more.

Thanks to all the district and unit board members for going above and beyond. And thanks always to **Marie Ashton** for being our district's go-to person on many fronts.

OTR 2021 in question

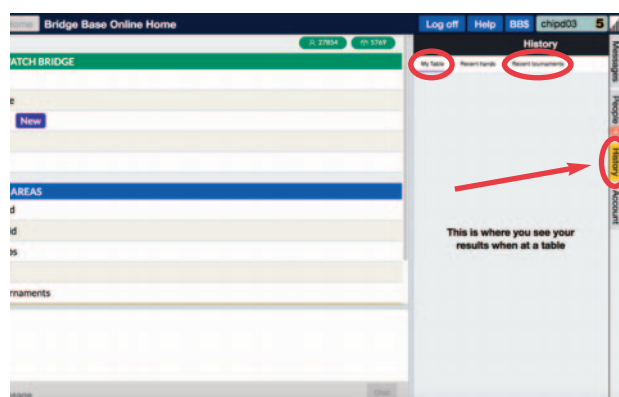
The board will be meeting (virtually) to determine, among other items, if next year's Oregon Trail Regional can be safely held. It is scheduled for Feb. 15–21. We are grateful for the work Trumpet editor **Amy Casanova** as OTR tournament manager is doing. My personal feeling is that the U.S. will have a proven, effective vaccine by early January. Whether people will take it and be willing to gather is difficult to forecast.

The board is recruiting for the positions of tournament site manager and education liaison. If interested, please consider applying.

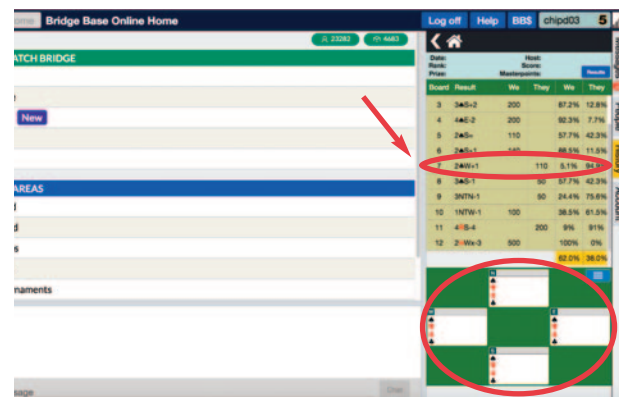
Please email me at leela.tardis@gmail.com or your area representatives with any concerns or news.

District president Mike Eyer can be reached at leela.tardis@gmail.com.

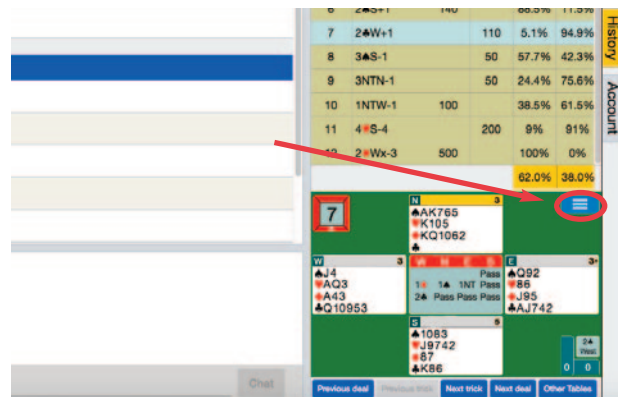
Navigating BBO – reporting a deal



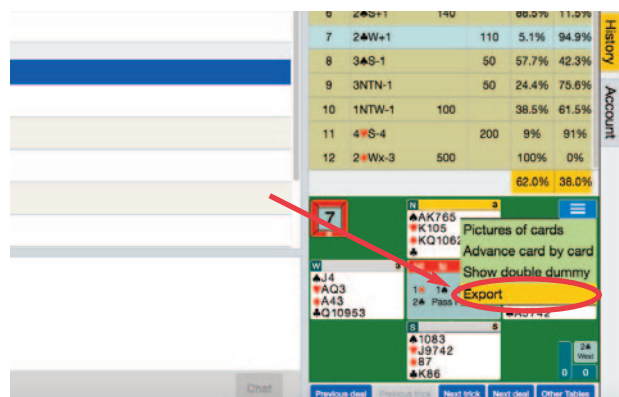
1 During or after a game, you can find your played deals in the History tab. If it's during the game, go to My Table. If it's later, go to Recent tournaments and find the appropriate game.



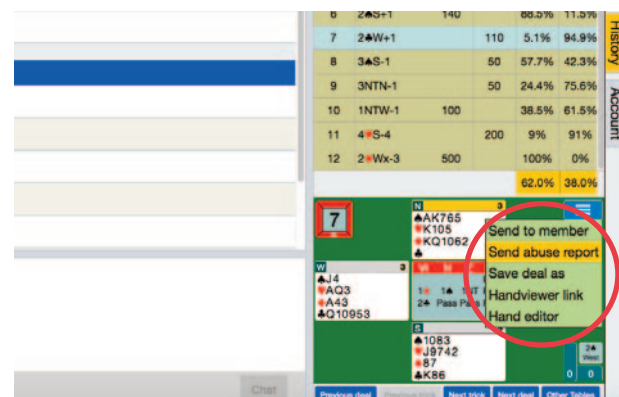
2 Once you are in the results of either the current game or the past game you are looking for, select the board you want by clicking on that line. The deal will appear in the bottom of the right panel.



3 Focusing on the bottom right corner of the screen, click the triple bar in this area to access the menu.



4 From this menu, select Export. That will bring up another menu of export options.



5 To flag the deal for BBO to review, click Send abuse report and enter your comments. To file a player memo, click Handviewer link. Copy and paste this link into the form at acbl.org/bbomemo.



6 If you want to call the director during the game, click the triple bar in the main section of the screen. From the menu that appears, select Call Director.

ABA: Small, close-knit organization brings a social emphasis to bridge events

Continued from Page 1

The ABA was founded in 1932, five years before the ACBL, which formed through the merger of two previously existing organizations. As bridge popularized and became organized in the late 1920s, the ACBL's predecessors excluded African Americans from their tournaments. At least five southern states banned interracial cardplay.

It was at a tennis tournament in Hampton, Va., that a group of 20 Black people who played both tennis and bridge founded their own bridge organization. The ABA began hosting annual national tournaments in 1934.

When the ACBL began in 1937, it maintained the racist policies of its predecessors. Integration progressed unevenly in different parts of the country in the 1940s and '50s, and local attitudes toward it varied. In 1952 the ACBL formalized a policy of letting local units decide who could be a member — allowing African Americans to join in places where they were welcome while at the same time allowing many units to continue excluding them.

Following the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, the NABCs were opened to all players. Finally, in 1967 the ACBL banned discrimination on the basis of race, color or creed.

By that time, though, the two organizations had developed infrastructure over their 35-year history of separation that would continue propelling them along separate paths. Players remained loyal to their local club and the organization to which the club belonged. Little has changed.

There are, however, several players who are members of both organizations. In Portland, these include Sam Jones, Clarina Boston, Ancer Haggerty and Brenda Polk, the vice president of the ABA's Northwest Section (Oregon and Washington).

Eunice Patton of Bloomington, Ill., is the ABA's ACBL liaison, chairing a committee that facilitates relations and promotes activities between the two organizations. Unlike most ABA members, Patton began her bridge career in the ACBL.

She had played a similar, simpler game called bid whist with her friends in Michigan before relocating to work at State Farm's headquarters in 1988. There she



Eunice Patton is the ABA/ACBL liaison, fostering cooperation between the two organizations.

met a friend who introduced her to bridge, bringing her to the ACBL club in Champaign, where Georgia Heth (now ACBL president) became her mentor.

Patton joined the ACBL in 1995 as the only African American member of the Champaign club, and she hasn't seen another one there since.

"I fell in love with the game of bridge in the ACBL, where I was welcomed and mentored," Patton says. "I was aware another bridge organization existed but I knew very little about it."

Patton retired in 2012, and it wasn't until 2015 that she and Heth attended an ABA tournament for the first time.

"I joined immediately after my first session. Quite frankly, it's been one of my best decisions in retirement."

G.S. Jade Barrett is a bridge professional who was a longtime Portland resident before moving to South Dakota in 2007. He joined the ABA in 1988, three years after joining ACBL, and he held Patton's position of ABA/ACBL liaison in the mid-'90s. He was the second player to achieve the rank of Diamond Life Master in both organizations, and has since become a Platinum Life Master with more than 30,000 masterpoints in the ACBL. Though he hasn't won an NABC title, he has won several national titles in the ABA.

Both Patton and Barrett compared and contrasted the two organizations.

"The culture is really, really different," Patton says. "In the ACBL, you have access to world-class players and professionals. I



Bridge professional Jade Barrett served as ABA/ACBL liaison in the mid-'90s when he lived in Portland.

loved the new player room and educational materials as I was learning the game. The seminars were open and informative, and it was exciting when a top player actually played at your table. The ACBL is educational and competitive with numerous ways to increase your knowledge."

Resources Patton says contributed to her development as a player include the Bridge Bulletin; ACBL tournament directors, whom she describes as knowledgeable, professional and organized; and bridge cruises with Mike Lawrence, Larry Cohen and Robert Todd.

In the ABA, the focus is social. "When I attend tournaments in the ABA, it's like a homecoming celebration," Patton says. "The tournaments tend to be more relaxed and less structured. The mood is often festive away from the bridge table."

She appreciates that care is taken to keep the ABA national tournaments affordable and fun. There are banquets with live entertainment and dancing. Players are encouraged to dress for the theme of the day. On Sundays, a dress-up day for many, there is a memorial service for players who have died, followed by the mixed pairs.

"In the ABA I feel like part of a family and have developed special relationships that I treasure," Patton says. "Because we share many of the same experiences and backgrounds, I feel at home and comfortable."

Barrett joined the ABA at the invitation of a partner when he lived in Boston. He developed partnerships with many of the top players in the ABA, including Larry

Berkeley, Ken Cox, Leonard Jefferson, Clarice Reid and Harold Bickham, winning national titles with some of them. As someone who competes at the highest levels in both organizations, he too sees the main difference as social.

"While the level of play at the highest levels of the ABA is certainly exceptional, there is a special social level that is distinctly our own, and what is sadly lacking in the ACBL world," Barrett says.

"The ACBL has its own social joys, but because of its vast size and existence of many professional clubs and players, it is also very different. The ACBL is a bigger business with an enormous membership that by its size alone creates an environment far less personal than the ABA in a broader sense. The ABA events feel far more like a family reunion while maintaining a high level of competitiveness."

The personal touch is missing from ACBL tournaments, Patton says.

"You still have it locally to a degree, but at the regional and national level, it feels like a business for profit only."

It's a lot easier to maintain that personal feel in an organization the ABA's size, with fewer than 2500 members. Even if all of them joined the ACBL tomorrow, they would still be less than 2% of the membership.

But they're not rushing to join. Patton cites four reasons that segregation persists in bridge:

◆ **Inertia.** "I don't believe there's enough incentive to have the two organizations come together."

◆ **Masterpoints.** Each organization has its own system, and they've never come up with a formula for evaluating each other's points.

◆ **Racism.** "As an African American, I feel that racial tension still exists, and unfortunately many of the players in the ABA remember being excluded from the ACBL as recently as the mid-'60s."

◆ **Loyalty.** "For many of us, we have loyalties to the bridge organization that we are familiar with."

Players who do cross over with dual memberships appreciate maintaining a foot in each world.

Barrett finds inspiration in the ABA's history. "My discussions with Leonard, Larry and Ken, as well as Marshall Hanson, taught me a lot about the society of bridge that has created the world of the game that I both live in and make a living in," he says. "Those lessons have never left me, and have played a huge part in my development as a player, trainer and coach."

Patton appreciates the structure the ACBL provided when she was learning the game as well as the community she has found in the ABA.

"It was an adjustment for me, but over time I have come to appreciate the differences and I look forward to playing in both worlds."



ABA players are seen playing at the Northwest Section's 2016 spring tournament in Seattle.

Etiquette: What to do when playing online bridge to avoid causing consternation

Continued from Page 1

not know. Of course, there are jerks, too, but that is a different article.

We have written extensively about the self-alerting process and procedures and will probably continue to do so. If you don't feel clear about the subject you might consider calling a director and going over it.

I have several pet peeves on BBO and I am happy to tell you all about a few in no particular order.

◆ **Player profiles.** We are practically anonymous on BBO and I think that's great if you're playing in random games. However, I feel that any ACBL sanctioned game should require players' first and last names and their ACBL ranking.

◆ **Convention cards.** Sometimes you're thrown in with a partner you've never played with before and there is no time to

fill out a card. But if you have the foresight to make a game date in advance, you have a few minutes to fill in the basics of a convention card. If you don't, please see the next peeve.

◆ **Chatting.** Pay attention to your private chat and the table chat. Your opponent(s) might be asking you a question and if you don't answer in a timely manner you might run out of time on the board or round, not to mention the fact that everyone is wondering what the heck is going on. If you chat something to the table, make sure that it is authorized information for your partner.

◆ **Self-alerting.** Explain your bids succinctly and without extra color. You have a limited amount of characters, like a tweet. You might be cutting off important information. Abbreviations are useful, perhaps there should be a helpful document of universally approved codes (hcp, cd, std,

udca, M for major, m for minor). For example, playing Precision, if I open 2♣ I might not have room to type "11-15 high card points either 6 clubs or 5 clubs and a 4-card major." But I can write "11-15 hcp 6C or 5C/4M."

◆ **Explain your agreement,** not what you are looking at. And don't assume your opponent knows a convention. Don't type "Drury." Say what your agreement is: your point range and whether or not you promise three- or four-card support (as per your agreement, not what you are looking at).

◆ **Let people know where you are.** If you need to step away while you're dummy or between rounds a "BRB" (be right back) in the chat line can save everyone seemingly endless minutes of frustration if a new board or round starts while you're getting a snack.

◆ **Rejecting a claim.** I totally understand that it can take a minute to figure out a

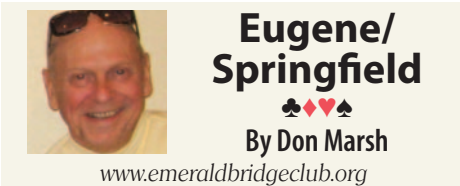
claim, especially if declarer is claiming fewer tricks and doesn't explain it well. I think BBO could do a better job on the programming of this feature. Sometimes a claim isn't all of the rest of the tricks, so pay attention to what the claim actually is — read it.

We can't know what live bridge will look like once there is a vaccine. There are too many unknowns. One can only assume that this experience might change the way we do things in the future.

My least favorite phrase since March has been "the new normal," but just think about all of the new rules we could expect when we get back to F2F.

Can you imagine a bridge tournament right now? There are likely to be lots of procedures implemented to keep us safe, not to mention the tournament and facility staff who might be risking their lives so that we can play a game. We must be amenable to learning how to adapt.

AROUND THE UNITS



Eugene/ Springfield



By Don Marsh

www.emeraldbridgeclub.org

As world adapts, look for positives

"When you have hell to pay, put the truth on layaway." — John Prine

Wouldn't we all like to do that right now? We are probably all guilty of taking for granted simple pleasures like playing at the club, going to the movies, having dinners out, taking those planned vacations, getting together with our grandkids or our friends, attending games. Oh, for just feeling normal again.

There was the time before covid-19 and there is now. Rail as we might against living in the here and now, living in the here and now is our only option. It is a bit of a bad trump split but folding up the hand is not a viable option. And remember, everyone else holding these same cards got the same exact bad trump split.

For now, we do have our virtual club to keep us connected in some way and to provide an alternative for our addiction to what we know is the greatest game going. Because of the income from virtual games, EBC has had to call on the reserve fund that was created by the unit only for one month's worth of expenses. Clearly the virtual club is here to stay no matter what happens down the road. We are scheduling virtual games now with that in mind. It seems like the blend might be day games at the club and night games online.

It is total speculation as to when the club reopens. And how many folks will come back if and when EBC does reopen? As of this writing, covid-19 cases are on the rise in Oregon.

For some of us, the good news is that our gardens have never looked better. And Sherri and I have been bingeing on series that people were talking about years ago. There is some silver lining in being behind the times.

Big game: Ginny Stark and Carole Schmitz scored a 77%.

Gwen Beaty has a new hip. It has gone well and no doubt this means more world travel for Bill and Gwen as soon as that is permitted. The last bit of medical news is that of our esteemed director, **Kim Larson:** He had heart surgery and is doing very well. In fact, one of the nurses in the OR was a friend of Kim's and reported back to him, "You are the healthiest patient we have ever seen in here." Not a surprise. We even saw Kim making an appearance in the virtual game.

Lastly we want to acknowledge the passing of **Bob Freeman.** Bob, along with his wife **Vi,** played duplicate in our area for many years. Along with **Jim** and **Eleanor Rice,** they built and ran the Finesse Bridge Center during the 1970s. This was a wonderful facility and was located on Country Club Road.

After the couple sold the facility, Bob and Vi moved their games to the basement of the Eugene Hotel and then to the old Elks Lodge on Centennial Blvd.

When we first opened EBC, we held a special game honoring Bob for all the contributions he had made to bridge over the years. At that time, he was presented with a card giving him lifetime free play at EBC. We would not have the bridge community we have today without the efforts of Bob and Vi Freeman.



Bob Freeman

Club pools with small clubs from other states

One innovation dovetailing with the rise of virtual clubs online is the pooling of small bridge clubs, a move actively pursued by Unit 484 clubs.

Today, players from Oregon, Arizona, California, New Mexico and elsewhere are playing with Unit 484 members in virtual club games Monday through Saturday.

Why pool?

"There are many small bridge clubs that are unable or unwilling to have a virtual presence," said club owner **Bob Fox.** "Their members have no virtual club games of their own and would be blocked out unless they could join a pool."

Fox says these players shouldn't be cast aside. "Players from other clubs are like traveling guests who frequently pass through town and stop by to play at our bridge clubs. We've always welcomed them with open arms," he said.

Unit 484's position is that pooling can help ACBL survive the cash flow crunch due to lack of fees from club games. Excluding players from clubs that are unable to run virtual club games online not only would hurt those clubs but also ACBL — and, in the long run, all bridge players.

And there is the "stale" factor. The only thing that makes players more stale than always playing against the same players is not playing at all.

"Playing against new people gives players a broadened experience, and playing against better players helps us sharpen and improve our games," Fox said.

Some players in the unit jumped to virtual clubs easily. Others lagged behind, some unfamiliar with online play or uncertain about how to register and pay for games. Directors and volunteers began reaching out to those who hadn't joined online play, offering assistance and encouragement. In the process, games have grown to as many as 14 or more tables.



Jackson County



By Jim Flint

bridgewebs.com/unit484medford

Those who haven't been contacted and who are interested in learning more about online play are invited to talk with club owners, directors, or unit board members, all whose contact information is posted on the unit's website.

Center closed, another secured

When face-to-face bridge became impossible during the pandemic, club owners were faced with a dilemma: what to do about real life club venues.

Some found ways to hold on to venues so that when in-person games resume, players can go back to their old haunts.

Unit 484's Southern Oregon clubs held on to the Dan Voorhies Bridge Center in Phoenix for a few months, with financial support from members. The lease of the Pacific Plaza storefront was not up until late fall. Finally, however, because of uncertainty when live play could resume, arrangements were made by lessees **Mark** and **Leah McKechnie** with Pacific Plaza owners and the neighboring Garrison's Furniture to take over the remainder of the lease. Garrison's planned to incorporate the bridge space into its operation.

The McKechnies, also club owners, along with fellow club owner Bob Fox and several unit members helped pack up and move bridge materials and equipment to a storage facility in late June.

Meanwhile, Mark McKechnie began negotiations with the owner of a building directly across Highway 99 for unfinished space that can be used as a new bridge center. McKechnie, an architect, will oversee the build-out to make sure it will ac-

commodate future needs of the clubs.

McKechnie plans to begin the approximately two-month build-out process in a time frame that will allow him not to take occupancy too far in advance of a possible reopening of live bridge.

"At present, ACBL has given recommendations for protocols on safely reopening," said **Gee Gee Walker,** Unit 484 board president. "But they are making no recommendations regarding when clubs should open, leaving that to local guidelines and owners' discretions."

The unit is cautiously hopeful that by the beginning of 2021 the clubs may be able to reopen. In any case, the final decision will rest with club owners and will depend on when they believe they can offer a safe place to play.

Early in the pandemic, the unit board launched a funding campaign among members to help the building lessees and club owners with their expenses. More than \$10,000 was raised by July 1.

Funds were used to help pay rent, internet fees, insurance, and other ongoing expenses. In the end, even the building owner and Garrison's Furniture split the rent with the McKechnies for a short period.

After the center closed, the fund's balance of \$5,358 was deposited in a separate unit account, along with any new donations, to be used for storage rental, insurance, and other costs to support bridge until the transition back to live bridge.

Really big game

The result posted by **Jerry Kenefick** and **Mark Matson** in a July 4 virtual club game was so good it was worth setting off some fireworks. Kenefick, a retired CPA in Ashland, and Matson, a former area resident who moved to Palm Springs last year, scored a whopping 81.5% in the four-table game. "Out of the 18 boards, we had 10 that were 100%," Kenefick said.

Bend clubs adapt well to online environment

As all of us have been challenged with staying safe during this pandemic, we are proud of all our members who have begun playing this amazing game online with BBO. I'd like to especially congratulate all our directors who have helped their players transition to digital play. You are amazing.

The Gentle Bridge Club plays Fridays at 12:45. Our emphasis is on the gentle. So our club is especially well-suited for players who may not feel entirely comfortable with online bridge.

We have just recently decided to go digital on BBO and love being able to include



Bend/ Redmond



By Candy Baungard

www.bendbridge.org

our snowbird players who may be stuck in Arizona for the summer. Congratulations to **Joyce Pickersgill** and **Ken Hadlock** with a 72.5% game on June 26 and **Ray Teller** and **Lisa Holloway** with a 72.5% game on July 10.

The Central Oregon Hub Bridge Club plays every Thursday at 12:15. We usually

have about eight tables. We have managed to speed up the pace of play to where we can set the clock for six minutes per with only a few boards running out of time.

The feedback has been positive. People seem to be enjoying the games. It is an open game, so there are some of the unit's best players among its regulars, but lower ranking players haven't felt intimidated.

Overall, the club has been doing well during the lockdown. I look forward to the day when we can play in person at the Redmond Senior Center, but for now we at least have something fun to fill some of our afternoons.

Klamath Falls mourns Rosella Wilde

As you read the fall online version of the Trumpet, I wish to commend managing editor **Amy Casanova** and her associates for the outstanding job they did with the summer online version. A very impressive performance. Well done!

We lost one of our beloved members in May of this year. **Rosella Wilde,** a Silver Life Master, lost her battle with cancer. She and her husband Wayne moved to Klamath Falls in 1987 from Elko, Nev., where they had resided for 20 years. Rosella was one of the most pleasant people you could ever be around and will be missed by all who knew her.



Rosella Wilde



Klamath Falls



By Bobby Thompson

www.unit482.com

When District 20 was still a member of the Western Conference and our articles were published in the Forum, I wrote a column that came out at the end of 2006 that I just saw on my computer and it seems appropriate to include a portion here:

R and R is always thought of as rest and relaxation unless you are playing December Sunday games in K. Falls because you know it means Ruthie (O'Connor) and Rosella (Wilde). They won both the unit game and the Christmas game, the second win with a nice 71.42%.

Laila Griffith and **Reid Sherwin** are two of our members who are playing online and enjoying the games very much. Plus, they have won more points than anyone from our unit since March 12. Maybe by sometime next year we can be back at the club.

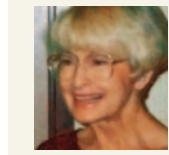
Approximately eight months ago covid-19 hit us hard and shut down duplicate bridge, possibly changing the game forever. Everything came to a standstill around the globe.

Many countries are working on finding a vaccine. In July at the University of Oxford, one candidate appears to be safe and induces immune response. However, coronavirus cases continued to rise, and by the July 22, the worldwide death toll was over 606,000. Please wear face-covering masks when you're out and about, and use hand sanitizer or soap and water. Stay safe.

UNITS

A trap pass that didn't work – or did it?

Play of the Hand



Redding



By Joan Sullens

www.bridgescore.com/redding

How we spent our summer staycation

Many of our players have started using BBO. We have one virtual club game going, organized by unit director **Ted Marconi**. Along with the Chico Club, it is doing quite well. Ted would like to be playing, but as director, can't.

Don Jacobs has been hospital-bound (not the virus). **Nikki Blum** arranged a virtual bridge game with Don and his partner, **Kelly Gutierrez**, one afternoon. Several of our players rotated in as opponents. It was a welcome surprise for Don. Many thanks to Nikki for setting it up. Hoping the next game with Don will be with him at home.

What are our members doing in place of or in addition to online bridge? Here are some of their covid comments:

Jeff Speer: "Finally trimmed my toenails!"

Marilyn Avey: "BBO saved my sanity."

Joe Galen: "Two hydroxides and a cup of bleach, I'm ready to go!"

Susan Haas: "Finally unpacking after four years in my new home."

Pat Ashton: "Getting good at 1000-piece puzzles!"

Gerry Wolfe: "Finally got the garage and closets cleaned."

Leeanna and Larry McGowan: "Practicing and playing online."

Cheryl Bell: "Having fun with Photoshop."

Margaret and Dave Bechard: "Redoing landscaping burned in the Carr Fire."

Cindy Huntington: "Just being lazy. Find I'm good at it!"

Michael Hollins: "Scanning old pictures and playing lots of video games."

Bob Wierman: "Monitoring wildlife traffic around my home with wireless cameras."

Joanne Weilbrenner: "Watching my hair grow long!"

Gene Biek: "Biking and wine making."

Jim Norton: "Lots of fishing."

We're all looking forward to face-to-face bridge, the sooner, the better. In the meantime, this limerick by Gene Biek is timely and true:

*We distance and mask,
a disagreeable task,
but admire us — no virus,
what more could we ask?*

By Chip Dombrowski

The Trumpet

Compare this to the hand I wrote about on page 2. Once again I bravely passed an overall by the opponents, this time with five of their trumps, in hopes of hearing my partner double.

My alternative is to bid 2NT, hoping partner can raise. But if we can make 3NT, then we're probably setting them, and at this vulnerability, if they go down more than one doubled, it will be worth more than our game.

I would always reopen with a double, but my partner this time did not. I don't think they were sitting there anyway, with South's distributional hand. If South doesn't bid 2♣ immediately, then surely North will bid 1♠ once I pass the double for penalty, and that will prompt South to bid 2♣.

But here we are defending 1♥ not doubled, which is not going to score nearly as well as our potential game. What should I lead?

I chose a diamond. It was immediately clear that fared poorly when declarer cashed the ♦A K and ruffed a diamond with dummy's lone trump. She then played a spade from dummy and ruffed my partner's ace.

The unexpected spade void and the diamond ruff have taken away three of our potential defensive tricks, so things are definitely not going well.

Declarer next cashed the ♣A and got out with a club to my ♣Q. I didn't want to give declarer any spades, so I led a trump.

Partner won the ace and gave me a club ruff. I continued another trump and was shocked to see partner win the ♥Q. What a garbage suit South overcalled! Partner

Dir: North ♠QJ 10 9 8 7 2
Vul: N/S ♥10
♦3 2
♠10 9 6

♠K 6 4 ♠A 5 3
♥K 8 6 4 3 ♥A Q
♦J 8 6 ♦Q 10 7 5 4
♣K Q ♣7 5 3

♠—
♥J 9 7 5 2
♦A K 9
♣A J 8 4 2

Chip	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♥
Pass	Pass	Pass?	

returned a diamond, declarer ruffed with the ♥9, and I declined to overruff. I can count that I now have more trumps than declarer, so I know I have some tricks coming. But I still don't want to be end-played into giving a spade to dummy, so this is the time to get rid of my low spade.

Declarer continued with a club. I ruffed, pulled her last trump and cashed my ♠K for the last trick. That was down one.

Down one not doubled scored better than I expected – 62% – but top was 3NT making. Only four tables got there, two going down and two making.

If I'm in 3NT, I'll need to set up the diamonds. When South gets in with the first diamond, she can lead a low club. Now when she gets in with the second diamond, if she guesses to cash the ♣A, the suit is running for down two.

Most tables played in some number of spades, and a few in clubs. Either black suit is better for them than hearts, so just leaving them in their worst suit turned out to be good enough.

Dir: South ♠J 10 8
Vul: E/W ♥Q
Lead: ♠3 ♦Q 8 5
♣A 9 8 5 4 2

♠A Q 7 5 4 ♠K
♥J 8 7 ♥A K 10 9 2
♦10 7 3 ♦A 4 2
♣K J ♣Q 10 7 6

♠9 8 3 2
♥6 5 4 3
♦K J 9 6
♣3

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♥	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass

On defense, patience can pay off well

In this online game, my partner's play was an example of patience and smarts.

Bob Scott and I played this hand in an ACBL-sanctioned game on Bridge Base Online and found ourselves defending against 4♥.

I led the ♠3 – king, ace, 6. Bob led back a small diamond taken by East with the ace. I admit I was frustrated that partner didn't return a club for me to ruff. But it was online, so he couldn't hear me cuss.

East cashed the ♠K, intending to sluff his two diamond losers on dummy's top two spades. But, instead of drawing any trumps first, he decided to go dummy by leading to the ♣J, planning to sluff diamond losers immediately, then try a heart finesse through North. Oops. I ruffed the club and imagined East with a very red face.

I cashed the ♦K and led another diamond to partner's queen, setting the contract a trick for a top board.

See how brilliant Bob was? He figured that if I got my club ruff, all we'd get would be the ♣A and a ruff, because he knew dummy's spades

might allow declarer to sluff any diamond losers he had. And with the singleton ♥Q, he knew trumps were not going to be a problem for declarer.

So, after taking the ♠A, he smoothly led a diamond, hoping we could develop a trick or two in that suit, and hoping declarer would get sloppy. Declarer did not let him down.

Declarer should have taken a note from my lead of a small club. It implies an honor. But when partner takes the club ace, declarer knows I have no honor. Thus, it is likely a singleton.

Declarer can afford to lose three tricks and still make the hand. If he draws a couple trumps and they split 3-2 (the queen not falling), he can overtake his ♠K with dummy's ace, sluff a diamond on the ♠Q, and concede a heart and a diamond, making the contract.

If he lays down the trump ace to follow the safe line of play, the queen drops, and now he can draw trumps and unblock the spades before going to dummy with the ♣J to sluff his diamond losers, making six.

The pair was so rattled by the careless play, they muffed the defense on the next hand, awarding us another good board.

Two lessons: 1) Don't get sloppy. 2) If you screw up, put it behind you and move on.

Reach Jim Flint at pubathome@yahoo.com.

Salem joins world online

Summertime in a covid-19 world finds bridge in Unit 490 to be pretty quiet. So, around 20 players from Salem Bridge Club and another 10 from Oak Valley in McMinnville have decided to give online bridge a go.

Both clubs in the unit have joined the conglomerate that is the Mid-Valley Online Bridge Club on Bridge Base Online.

The online club is coordinated by **Den-nis Harms** with nearly a dozen clubs in the mid-valley and the coast coming together for games during the week. More information can be found at mvoibc.org.

It looks like it will be a long time before face-to-face bridge returns to the Salem area, so swing by the virtual club to see some familiar names and scratch your



Salem
♠♥♦♣
By Kevin Kacmarynski
www.salembridgeclub.org

bridge itch. Most of the proceeds from these games go to our local clubs, making them a good option for a game that will support the clubs in our unit.

Even in a world without local face-to-face bridge, a handful of members have still advanced to their next rank. Congratulations to new Sectional Masters Robert Demaster and Allison Drew, Bronze Life Master Don Pitt, and Silver Life Master Nancy Wetherson.



Jim Flint
Play of the Hand

Giving credit where it is due: Thanks ACBL

No doubt about it. I was late to the party.

When **Sherri Morgan** and I closed the doors of the Emerald Bridge Club in early March, we actually welcomed the break. A little time away from the club did not feel like a bad thing.

Of course, there were still the rent and other fixed costs to be covered. (Side note here. EBC's landlord, Steven Yett, deserves acknowledgment. Steven slashed our rent by over a \$1000.)

As is always the case with our bridge community, folks were immediately willing to help. The unit established a special fund and almost overnight well over \$8000 was collected. Surely this would be enough to tide us all over until we are able to reopen. When virtual clubs first appeared, I was still enjoying the break and expressed no desire to participate in this effort put forth by ACBL and Bridge Base to help

local clubs with their ongoing fixed costs.

We all now know the idea of a quick turnaround was very, very much wishful thinking.

Thanks to **David Brower** and others, Sherri and I belatedly arrived at the party. What a party it has turned out to be.

Historically, I have been a harsh critic of some of the management decisions made at the highest levels of ACBL. Well, it is time to give credit where credit is due.

Virtual clubs have saved EBC. Given the duration of this pandemic, it would not have been long before the accumulated funds would have been exhausted. However, thanks to virtual clubs, we now have a source of income that allows us to cover our ongoing fixed costs in addition to catching up on some past expenses.

I mentioned to **McKenzie Myers** that the virtual games have saved bridge in Eu-



Don Marsh
Trumpet Contributor

Don Marsh is a club owner in District 20.



Chris's Corner

ACBL tournament director Chris Wiegand answers your questions on rulings.

How we adjust

What a strange new world we are living in! We are quite fortunate that the infrastructure was in place to make a very fast transition from brick-and-mortar to virtual clubs. Was that transition perfect? No, but it is viable and a reasonable stopgap for the many clubs that would be suffering without a revenue stream in the interim.

I was fortunate that due to my experience and position with the ACBL, I was one of the first to be brought into the virtual club onboarding and therefore able to help our local clubs get involved very early. I have seen quite a lot of transition in that time and I am eagerly awaiting the completed checkmarks to be made near more of the items on our wish lists. While we are waiting for improvements to be made to the software, there are things that players can do to help us all adjust to this virtual club world.

1. **Time:** Many clubs have that player (you know the one), who breezes in at one minute past game time every day. Then they have to set their things down, grab a cup of coffee, and settle in to play. That is inconsiderate to the director, the partner and the first-round opponents at the brick-and-mortar club, but at least the other tables can play on. In the virtual club, being late actually holds up the entire event, so it affects every player at every table. So please, register well in advance. Then be at your computer, logged on and ready to go, with a minimum of five minutes before game time.

2. **Education:** Take it upon yourself to learn more about BBO and how it works. Do you know how to read the chat and to chat privately to your opponents? Do you know how to explain bids? Do you know how to create and load a convention card? There is a plethora of resources out there to help you. Take it upon yourself to learn outside of the hours of the club game. The director, who may or may not be tech savvy or familiar with your device, has minimal time to help with the basics of the software during a club game. Set aside time to learn and then pass on your tips to friends.

3. **Patience:** Not everyone's BBO experience is the same because, unfortunately, BBO can look and feel different dependent upon many factors — device used, software used, internet connection available, etc. If you ask a question and do not get a response, don't assume the opponents are ignoring you purposefully. Rather, perhaps they are not fast typists or missed your question. Patiently try again, perhaps through a different mechanism if one is available. That is, if you clicked on a bid to ask for an explanation, try to send a private chat message instead. If the clock is ticking and you must proceed, send a message to the director asking for assistance. Sending the director a note before you have seen subsequent bids or cards has more weight than a statement made with 52-card hindsight.

4. **Patience again:** Yes, more patience because we need quite a bit. When BBO is having issues, it can be affecting the director's computer too. Or you cannot see the fact that the director is dealing with four different issues at four different tables. Most of us are trying our hardest to deliver the best results we can, given the limitations of the system. If your experience can be improved, please mention it, but be prepared to accept results with all the patience and grace you can muster.

Ruling questions for Chris? Email chris.wiegand@acbl.org.



TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

ACBL-WIDE ONLINE EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2020	21 – 27	Upgraded club championships	Virtual clubs
OCTOBER 2020	15 – 18	Fall Into Bridge	Online regional
	26 – Nov. 1	Club Appreciation Week	Virtual clubs
NOVEMBER 2020	21 – 23	NABC Robot Individual	Online NABC
	23 – 29	Upgraded club championships	Virtual clubs
	30 – Dec. 6	NAOBC Premier KO	Online NABC
DECEMBER 2020	18 – 21	Winter Wonderland	Online regional

DISTRICT 20 REGIONALS & SECTIONALS

JANUARY 2021	9 – 10	Vancouver Winter I/N Sectional	CANCELED	Vancouver Bridge Club, Vancouver WA
	Jan. 25 – 31	HAWAII REGIONAL	CANCELED	Prince Waikiki, Honolulu HI
FEBRUARY 2021	Feb. 15 – 21	OREGON TRAIL REGIONAL	CANCELED	Vancouver Wash. Hilton, Vancouver WA
MARCH 2021	5 – 7	Heart of the Valley Sectional		Benton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis OR
	5 – 7	Honolulu Sectional		Ala Wai Clubhouse, Honolulu HI
	19 – 21	Chico Almond Blossom Sectional		TBA, Chico CA
	TBA	Rogue Valley Spring Sectional		Dan Voorhies Bridge Center, Phoenix OR
APRIL 2021	9 – 11	Redding Spring Sectional		Win-River Resort & Casino, Redding CA
	10 – 11	Vancouver Spring Sectional		Washington School for the Deaf, Vancouver WA
	TBA	Ontario Sectional		TBA, Ontario OR
	30 – May 2	Seaside Sectional		Seaside Convention Center, Seaside OR
April 30–May 2		Golden Clam I/N Regional		Seaside Convention Center, Seaside OR
MAY 2021	TBA	GNT Championship & Flight B		Online at various locations
	TBA	GNT Flights A & C		Online at various locations
	14 – 16	Honolulu Sectional		Ala Wai Clubhouse, Honolulu HI
May 24–30		ORE. HIGH DESERT REGIONAL		Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend OR
JUNE 2021	TBA	Eugene Sectional		Northwest Christian College, Eugene OR

TOURNAMENTS IN NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 19: www.d19.org	Feb. 12–14	Bellingham Sectional WA	CANCELED
	March 26–28	Seattle Sectional, Everett WA	
	April 12–18	Victoria Regional BC	
	TBA	Penticton Regional BC	
	June 22–27	Anchorage Regional AK	
DISTRICT 21: www.d21acbl.com	Jan. 4–10	Monterey Regional CA	CANCELED
	Jan. 30–31	Livermore Sectional CA	CANCELED
	Feb. 12–15	Fresno Sectional CA	CANCELED
	March 6–7	Santa Rosa Sectional CA	
	April 30 – May 2	Sacramento Sectional, Orangevale CA	
	May 31 – June 6	Sacramento Regional CA	
DISTRICT 18: www.wasumi.org	Jan. 14–17	Missoula Sectional MT	CANCELED
	Jan. 15–17	Salt Lake City Sectional UT	CANCELED
	March 26–28	Salt Lake City Sectional UT	
	April 5–11	Lethbridge Regional AB	
	May 10–16	Saskatoon Regional SK	
DISTRICT 17: www.d17acbl.org	Jan. 18–24	Albuquerque Regional NM	CANCELED
	March 1–7	Tucson Regional AZ	
	May 25–31	Denver Regional CO	
DISTRICT 22: acbldistrict22.com/d22	Feb. 1–7	Costa Mesa Regional CA	CANCELED
	April 5–11	San Diego Regional CA	

NORTH AMERICAN BRIDGE CHAMPIONSHIPS

March 11–21	Spring 2021	Renaissance Grand, St. Louis MO
July 15–25	Summer 2021	Convention Center, Providence RI
Nov. 25 – Dec. 5	Fall 2021	JW Marriott, Austin TX
March 10–20	Spring 2022	Silver Legacy/Circus Circus, Reno NV

NEW ACBL MEMBERS

Bruce Anderson, Eugene OR	Lisa Hall, Portland OR	Ann Marie Mehlum, Florence OR	Peter Osborne, Portland OR
Edie Anderson, Eugene OR	Gail Handelman, Portland OR	Franklin Miller, Corvallis OR	Michael Peterson, Bend OR
Patrick Bailey, Klamath Falls OR	Susan Hekimoglu, Florence OR	Therese Miller, Corvallis OR	Nancy Schwartz, Portland OR
Eileen Bullinger, Camas WA	Cliff Krawez, Brookings OR	Souzie Monshi, Lake Oswego OR	Bob Sharp, Wilsonville OR
Karen Copsey, Mount Shasta CA	Peggy Lance, Beaverton OR	Jean Nels, Mount Shasta CA	Kay Sharp, Wilsonville OR
Karen Drebes, Portland OR	Roger Lewis, Tigard OR	Beth Neumeyer, Mount Shasta CA	Craig Sommers, Portland OR
Clinton Evans, Honolulu HI			Bob Speaker, Corvallis OR
Roberta Foxley, Portland OR			Susan Sprow, Portland OR
William Greenebaum, Portland OR			Corinne Wisniewski, Portland OR

Welcome!