

Hello February! It may be the shortest month of the year, but we've got lots of exciting news and upcoming plans.

First is an update on our Unit games and upcoming events. Since the status of face-to-face bridge continues to vary from month to month (got a crystal ball we can borrow?), we are looking forward to rescheduling the return to face-to-face Unit games as soon as it's safe to do so.

Also, the Board has decided to cancel the Spring Sectional scheduled for March 3-5 at Marina Village. Please keep informed on our Unit website, sandiegobridge.com. Our virtual Unit games on BBO are scheduled for the first and third Sundays of every month.

As you know, we have adjusted the stratifications of our limited games in an attempt to entice more of you to participate in our Sunday Unit games. We have been averaging ten tables in the 499er game and 20 tables in the Open game. Unfortunately, there haven't been enough takers for the 1499er game. Some of you diehards persist in trying to register for the game, but we continue to fail to meet the minimum table requirement for BBO.

Here's an incentive you won't be able to resist: we're offering a **\$3 entry fee to those 1499ers** who want to play in our San Diego Unit game starting this Sunday! It's an opportunity you can't refuse... Tell your friends and partners, and let's get a game going.

Board members Marjorie O'Malley and Jane Petering are in the process of uploading Maritha Pottenger's "Teaching Points" handouts to our website. Maritha announced her retirement from teaching and publishing, and our Unit is grateful for her contributions through the years, including teaching the lesson before every live Sunday Unit game, participating in our fundraising auctions, assisting with hospitality (especially her delicious homemade cookies), and now gifting our Unit with her handouts.

We are looking ahead to this year's annual *The Longest Day* fundraiser auction to benefit the Alzheimer's Association, where you can bid on top bridge players for a future online game of your choice. This year's auction is scheduled for June 18-19. Thanks to the efforts of Board member Sam Madison, world-renowned players **Zia Mahmood** and **Mark Itabashi** have agreed to participate in this year's auction, along with 15 other bridge professionals. This is the tenth year ACBL has partnered with the Alzheimer's Association for *The Longest Day* and has raised

millions for Alzheimer's research and care. So let's make 2022 another great year for *The Longest Day!*

Our Unit features three clubs hosting ACBL sanction games: San Diego Bridge Academy, San Diego Bridge Club, and Unit 539's own club. All three continue to feature virtual games on BBO. San Diego Academy is open for face-to-face bridge at its home in the Redwood Bridge Club. All players must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask to participate in any activities at our facility. Our complete schedule of games and classes can always be found at redwoodbridgeclub.org. We offer both non-sanctioned and ACBL sanctioned duplicate games. New bridge classes are starting all the time. If you would like to receive updates about the bridge activities at our facility, subscribe to our email list. If you need a partner or have any questions, feel free to contact David Walters at 619-298-5756.

The San Diego Bridge Club brought back face-to-face games in early October, which are now on pause until February 14. For additional information, please check their website at sandiegobridgeclub.com or call John Lagodimos at 619-847-3001.