



San Diego Unit #539
By Stuart Showalter

The New Normal?



Like it or not, these images reflect the new reality for bridge players: live events being cancelled, virtual play online, and even “BBO at a social distance” for some casual games.

But kudos to ACBL and our local clubs for quickly mobilizing to make Bridge Base Online available. These virtual games became quite popular very quickly, as shown by the turnout for Unit 539’s games every Sunday and those of Redwood/SDBA and San Diego Bridge Club, which have also been well attended.

Unit News

The unit’s games (Open and 999er) are held every Sunday afternoon, and the results appear on ACBL Live at <https://my.acbl.org/club-results/147744>. To receive notifications when your results are published, go to <http://www.bridgeresults.net/login.cgi> and register your email address.

We look forward to the day when we can play in person again, but in the meantime virtual games will continue to serve as a reasonable substitute. Be sure to check with the various clubs for any changes to their schedules. The contact points are:

- San Diego Unit 539: www.sandiegobridge.com
- Redwood Bridge Club: www.redwoodbridgeclub.org
- San Diego Bridge Academy: www.sandiegobridgeacademy.com
- San Diego Bridge Club: www.sandiegobridgeclub.com

Attendance at our virtual games set new records on Sunday, May 31. There were 28 tables in the Open game and a total of 25 tables in the two – count ‘em, *two* – 999er games (12:45 and 4:00 p.m.). The attendance in subsequent weeks has been similarly high, so it is obvious that bridge players appreciate the convenience of playing remotely.

The 18-board games run smoothly and last a mere two hours or so. Although you have to provide your own hospitality items and there’s no opportunity to socialize with the other players, BBO does provide a needed “fix” during these difficult times.

May saw seven members added to the unit roster and six members reach new achievement levels. The milestones were: Jeanette Bossi (Junior Master); James O’Grady and Hanne Schmidt (Club Master); and Philippe Gagne, Julie Halliday, and Marge Van Hemert (Silver Life Masters). Congratulations to all!

Long-time unit member Pat Chapman wrote in recently to say farewell. “Thanks to San Diego area players for welcoming me as a novice in 1981 and supporting me through the years. My bridge ability and spirit have benefited from countless kind opponents, patient bridge teachers, great partners, and great jokes. Many of my dearest friendships were begun at a bridge game. My husband and I have retired to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to be closer to family. I cherish the countless memories provided by YOU, my San Diego Bridge extended family!” Very nice, Pat. And we say best wishes to you both!

Our Final Issue

In the spirit of farewell: as you probably know, this is the last issue of the D22FORUM. A victim of the economic fallout from the corona virus pandemic, this venerable publication now goes the way of the STOP card. But the good news is that it will be replaced by a new publication for you in a more economical format. Look for *D22 Connection* and our new website beginning this month.

It has been my honor and pleasure to write these monthly articles for the past year and a half. I’ve met quite a few of you and learned a lot in the process. I’m eager to get back to a real bridge table in a real venue with people I can actually see and hear. But until then, I wish you “fair winds and following seas,” as we used to say in the Navy, and may all your finesses be successful (unless you’re my opponent). ■