

Happy 2023!

Remember in last month's column when I promised more details about the Spring Sectional?

Your sectional wishes have come true! We are finalizing our plans for a San Diego Unit 539 Open Sectional on Friday, March 3, and Saturday, March 4. The location will be St. Gabriel's Church in Poway. Some of you will recognize the venue used by Unit 549 three years ago: a huge hall with ample parking; expect unbeatable San Diego Unit hospitality. For more details, see the ad on page xx.

Also, mark your calendars for a Special "*Welcome Back*" Unit game on February 5 to promote the return of face-to-face club play. It will be a big game with new faces, I/N guest speaker, pizza, door prizes, and only a \$5 card fee if you RSVP in advance. Check our [website](#) for more information.

In other good news, we started the new year by welcoming two new board members, Robin Rodger and Bridget Poizner. We appreciate their willingness to join our team and support bridge in San Diego.

Lastly, hopefully, one of your New Year Resolutions was to play more face-to-face club games and Unit games in 2023. **Our clubs need your support.** Online bridge games were a lifesaver at first; they provided a Plan B when the lockdown ended card club gatherings that brought friends together three or four times per week to snack on the usual comestibles and play contract bridge. Unfortunately, we could no longer play face-to-face bridge or go out afterward to review hand records; however, we could still play bridge on our computers. Club owners Dave Walters and John Lagodimos both personally called players to help them learn how to play bridge on BBO.

Unfortunately, when restrictions loosened and bridge clubs resumed in-person games a year ago, many players continued to play online. As a result, attendance has faltered for our club games with applicable COVID safety protocols in place. It would be a tremendous help to our clubs if we each committed to playing **one** more face-to-face game per week than we are currently playing. Additionally, to support the return of face-to-face club play, there is a reduction in the maximum VACB club online awards from 4.0 to 2.5. It is imperative that clubs continue to exist for the long-term success of bridge.

The Unit welcomes new members Helen Hillman, Jean Granquist, William Jones, Don Sevens, and Mikki Thomas. In addition, our Membership Chairperson, Bridget Poizner, will be in contact to offer a free play at any of our future Unit games.

We hope to see everyone at our January Unit games on January 15 and 29. May 2023 be a very good year for all of you.

Best wishes and good cards!

Club News:

[Redwood Bridge Club](#) in Balboa Park offers games Monday through Saturday. We have games for players of all levels, from newcomers to the most experienced. Check the website for upcoming classes, game descriptions, and daily results. Please direct any questions to our club manager David Walters at davwal@yahoo.com or (619) 298-5756.

[San Diego Bridge Club](#) offers sanctioned games at 10:30 a.m. every Tuesday and Friday at the Masonic Center at 3366 Adams Avenue. Call John Lagodimos at (619) 847-3001 for more information.