



THE DISTRICT 20 TRUMPET

www.ACBLD20.org



Vol. 16, No. 4

Bridge Across the District

Winter 2020-21

ACBL alters logo, alert procedures

Board waits to decide on resuming live bridge

As I write this, there is lots happening in the bridge world and lots yet to come. I finished our Tampa board meeting before Thanksgiving.

The ACBL has been investigating rebranding for a number of years. As a part of this, pre-pandemic, there was work done which paid for a new logo. The board accepted this new logo and it will be incorporated gradually beginning in January to reduce expenses of a major change.



Laurie Rowe
D20 District Director

An updated alert procedure chart was also ratified. I know, just when you think you know what to alert, things change.

This was discussed and hopefully we won't see a new update again soon.

One of the changes is when announcing transfer you will just announce the suit. For instance, INT, pass, 2♥, and partner will say "spades" instead of "transfer." Online, you make your own alerts, but in the new way. Another change will be not alerting support doubles. These changes are effective Jan. 1, 2021.

NAPs will happen this spring, online or in person. No decision has been made about when face-to-face tournaments will resume. The Spring NABC in St. Louis is still on the schedule, but plans are tentative.

There is much concern about cheating online. The good news is that cheating is much easier to catch online and the number of investigations is large. A shoutout to D20's

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Alameda fire destroys homes

Three players lose everything; club building gone too

By **Chip Dombrowski**
The Trumpet

Firefighters in Oregon and California were stretched thin battling dozens of other blazes when the Alameda fire started Sept. 8 in Southern Oregon. Winds over 50 mph carried it through the cities of Talent and Phoenix, destroying nearly 3000 structures and killing at least three people.

At least three bridge players were among those who lost their homes in the fire. The area's bridge community was also hit by

the loss of the building where their club was located, though it was vacant.

Dorothy Vogel of Talent didn't believe it when her granddaughter Seton, perusing her phone, told her they needed to leave. She didn't believe the fire was coming, but Seton insisted. To humor her, Vogel packed important papers with some clothes. She stopped to call a neighbor and overheard someone at the neighbor's door. "You're going to have leave right now," he ordered.

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Roads were crowded and smoke towered over the area as residents evacuated Phoenix and Talent.



Irva Neyhart, Heather Breckenridge, Brian Breckenridge and Dave Brower at the wedding in August.

Four bridge players and a wedding

Portland couple turns to exes to serve as their witnesses

By **Jen Smith**
The Trumpet

It's not every day that you marry a bridge partner and have both of your exes (also your bridge partners) as witnesses to the big day. But that's what happened this

summer in Portland when Heather Dolan married Brian Breckenridge. We can't make this stuff up, so we had to get the juicy details. Read on to see how these love stories unfold.

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Clubs try to lure absent players online

By **Amy Casanova**
The Trumpet

By now, over eight months into the shutdown caused by a global pandemic, we have either adjusted to life on BBO or we haven't. In some areas not as many flight A and B players are showing up online.

Kathy Holahan, a Ruby Life Master who formerly played in about three club games per week, summed up her feelings: "It just doesn't appeal to me to play online. I enjoy the social interactions of the

club. Hopefully we'll all get back to the clubs in the future."

In the Portland area, the numbers seem to suggest the transition has been easier for newer players. The games which are limited to those with less than say, 1000 masterpoints, are flourishing, while open games can struggle to get enough tables, especially if they are concurrent with a limited game. It's difficult to get an accurate comparison because there are more limited games on the schedule now, but it's safe to say that the two main clubs in

Portland have seen open game attendance decrease by about 50%, and limited games increase by the same margin.

There are exceptions. The Longview, Wash., open game directed by Rich Carle on Tuesday and Thursday evenings is averaging 10 tables, and combined with the concurrent 299er it's averaging 15 tables. One year ago, the average was 5.5 tables. Perhaps the \$3 price tag has something to do with it.

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Bend regional plans proceed tentatively

District sees tiny profit

If you're playing on BBO, and I hope you are at least occasionally, please take a moment and click on the director's handle: VACBxxxxx. Thank them for the untold hours they have put in to allow us to continue with the game we love.

In the Portland area, applause goes to **Dave Brower**, **Heather Breckenridge**, **Rich Carle**, **Staci Christian**, **Hal Montgomery** and special kudos to **Chris Wiegand** for being the directors' director.



Mike Eyer
D20 President

Your district board held a Zoom meeting in October.

Thank you for those who participated. **Merle Stetser** from Hawaii deserves

special plaudits for being up before 6 a.m. for the meeting. Board officers, district director **Laurie Rowe**, business manager **Marie Ashton**, local and national tournament managers and directors, Trumpet editor and assistant ACBL Bulletin editor **Amy Casanova**, secretary **Rich Carle** and others took part in a productive session.

Hal and Rich reported on the success of the online GNTs and their plans for the 2021 edition. Matches will start this month, so get your teams together. Largely thanks to unexpected monies from the GNTs, the district actually had a small net income for the first eight months of the year. The efforts of everyone pulling together is greatly appreciated.

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Inside More on district finances Page 3

From pastry chef side gig to full-time editor

I took a trip back in time to help me remember how I got here.

I used to produce the Unit 487 newsletter, OBTY (Our Bridge to You.) In October of 2007, I gave it up after I had my son, Noah. I was busy being a mom and didn't have time to play much bridge, but I was approached by the then-new owners of the Eastside Bridge Club, **Paul O'Brien** and **Ouida McCullough**, to help with baking the desserts they served at the games. They also asked if I was interested in becoming a director. I guess I said yes. I became a director in March of 2008.

The cake-baking was a great side gig for me. Noah made being a mom easy. He could sleep for hours in his car-seat cradle. I'd drive to Paul and Ouida's house with Noah falling asleep on the way, and then I'd bake four desserts. Ouida had two ovens, so I'd make the two easiest ones first, pop them in the oven, prep the other two, bake those, clean up, and go.

When I started directing, I would bring Noah to the club with me while I got everything ready. Just before game time, my dad would pick Noah up so I could focus on directing. It seemed like the players enjoyed the occasional glimpse of a cute baby and watching him grow. It kept me connected to bridge and I thank Paul and Ouida for that.

In March of 2013, **Molly Harris**, who at

that time was district president, asked me if I was interested in being the unit reporter for the Trumpet. That is how I got to know Chip.

When Chip moved to Horn Lake for a new job at the Bridge Bulletin in 2015, he suggested I apply for the position of managing editor of the Trumpet. I wasn't sure I was qualified for the job, and probably would not have considered it, but Chip seemed to have faith in me and I knew he would still be involved and show me the ropes.



Amy Casanova
Managing Editor

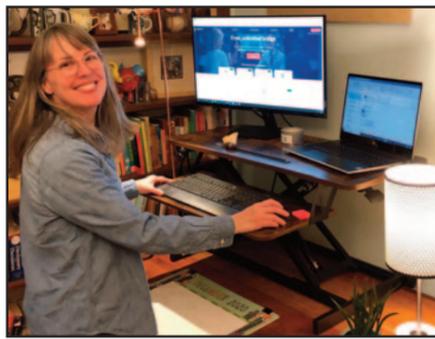
This October, I started working at the Bridge Bulletin, too, but I get to stay here in Portland. Even back then, I remember saying to Chip, "Why do you need to move to Horn Lake to do that?"

It turns out he probably didn't, though at the time they said he did.

I am calling this new endeavor my personal bright spot of 2020. Sometimes, opportunities present themselves but we aren't ready, for whatever reason. I feel so fortunate that not only did this come my way, but that I was in a place where I could accept it.

So here we are, on our computers. A lot. My eyes are tired. My neck seems to have a permanent crick in it. I invested in a desk that can convert to standing, but I still seem to sit all of the time.

A bright spot for everyone is that there is a ton of great resources on the internet



The new desk setup

for bridge players, and now we are online and getting more comfortable navigating and clicking around. I must confess, sometimes I look but I don't always read what I'm seeing, like the messages box on BBO. There is a lot of information out there!

The ACBL's website features Bridge-Feed, a blog with articles and links to podcasts like the one John McAllister records, with interesting interviews with top players. And there's always Bridge Winners, where you can get sucked into the vortex of comments until your head spins.

I hope that when the next issue of The Trumpet comes out, we are well on our way to recovering from this experience. Just hold on a little longer so that we might all see each other again. In the meantime, enjoy the opportunities that come our way.

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

One more step in the grand plan is achieved

For me it started in seventh grade. I created a satirical newspaper about the popular girls in my class. It didn't have deadlines, and I don't think the number of issues ever reached double digits, but the Kristi Chronicle was a surprisingly well-received foundation for my career path.

It led me to the best journalism school in the country. By the time I learned bridge, I'd been writing, designing and editing daily newspapers for years.

In 2012 I was asked by the president of the Central Coast unit, **Charlie Bird**, to be the unit reporter for The Trumpet. After writing two unit reports, I applied to be editor.

Three years later, when my current job opened, there was no one else in the world who was as well qualified for it. Everyone who had the combination of bridge and journalism skills was either already working for the Bridge Bulletin or retired.

The portion of the bridge-playing population below retirement age is small to start with, so adding any special skill to the mix is apt to make the Venn diagram shrink rapidly. I was a unicorn.

From the day I started, Sue Munday was talking about retiring. I realized that was going to be a problem, because she was a unicorn too. Where would we find another one? Rather than waiting and hoping for one to show up, I realized I needed to start a unicorn farm.

Amy didn't have much writing experience, but she was right on age and bridge knowledge. I had sold the idea of her as Trumpet managing editor to the district board, so was it really that much of a stretch to think she could be joining me at the Bridge Bulletin in a few years?

It was all part of my master plan. I can't divulge too many of the details, but rest assured it ends in world domination.

It's going well. Amy is growing into the job even faster than I expected. Getting her involved in all this might turn out to be one of my best contributions to the bridge world.

Someday we'll be in the same position - needing to find another editor - and that's one reason why I feel it's important to stay involved with The Trumpet and maintain its quality. Because as we've seen, The Trumpet is an absolute pipeline to the ACBL. If you're looking for a career in bridge organization, this is the place to start.

Membership attained

Update since last time: My ABA membership card arrived in late November. I'm still playing in the two ABA games a week, but I've added two more. I'm playing with

Amy in the Portland Bridge Club game on Friday nights, and **Zack Woodbury's** club has resurfaced on RealBridge on Sunday nights.

RealBridge is a nice platform. It has integrated video, which is much easier than the hassle of Zoom breakout rooms and trying to get everyone in the right video chat. When the movement takes you to your table, it brings your video with you, as it does for all four players.

I'm enjoying both of these games. I still think bridge with video is the way to go if you have to play online, but even though the PBC game doesn't have it, I enjoy seeing familiar players at the table and connecting with them in the chat.

There have also been some fun boards. Look for an article about some of them on Facebook.

Whose hand is it?

Here's another one:

♠A K Q J ♥K Q 10 8 4 3 ♦10 7 3 ♣—

I decide this is good enough to reverse, but it's not my turn. I'm in second seat, opponents vulnerable. Before I get a



chance to open 1♥, RHO opens 2♣ in front of me! I was not expecting that. There's no alert, but I have to wonder if this is a *real* 2♣ bid, so I ask, and it is. I bid 2♥ and that passes around to opener, who bids 3NT.

Clearly he has long clubs. That and the ♥A may be enough to make it, and presumably a 2♣ bidder will have more than that, even if his spade stopper is a bit suspect. But my void could be a problem for him. The clubs might not be running if partner has jack-fourth and there's no dummy entry to finesse.

If I lead the ♥K and anything other than declarer immediately running nine tricks happens, I'm going to get in with a spade and have five cashing tricks. So I double. And indeed something else does happen: Declarer runs 10 tricks, making four.

Declarer's hand:

♠10 ♥A ♦A 9 8 ♣A K Q J 10 5 3 2

I could have held it to three by cashing the spades, but it would be better to bid 4♥, which is down one. But opener still has a 5♣ bid available, and that makes. The best we will be able to do is 5♥ down two. Does the 2♣ opener even have enough to double it? They can see two tricks and can probably guess none of the clubs are cashing.

There are two weak hands at the table and it all comes down to which of them has better diamonds. But my partner's king is caught between ♦Q J 6 5 and ♦A 9 8, and we don't have a trick in that suit.

It's not usually right to bid to the five level when your opponent opens 2♣, so although 5♥ doubled down two was the par result, nobody got there.

Everyone gets a stationary

As all this time at home wears on, I realize this is the longest I've gone without traveling anywhere for a while. I don't really miss it, except for the writing material. Hard to miss a flight or lose your luggage or get stranded somewhere when you don't schedule any trips.

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

Deaths

Joann Berry - 75, of Kalama WA died in February 2020.

Roz Black - 73, of Bend OR died May 25, 2020.

Gary Bowers - 91, of Vancouver WA died June 11, 2020.

Duke Cockfield - 88, of Bend OR died Sept. 22, 2020.

Libby Glenn - 93, of Eugene OR died Sept. 27, 2020.

Don Jacobs - 73, of Redding CA died Oct. 2, 2020.

Al Jensen - 87, of Redding CA died Oct. 2, 2020.

Bill Moon - 97, of Redding CA died Aug. 4, 2020.

Frank Nemeth - 72, of Portland OR died Sept. 25, 2020.

Carl Pollock Jr. - 88, of Portland OR died July 19, 2020.

Elton Richardson - 92, of Camas WA died June 22, 2020.

Elanore Rubenstein - 107, of Portland OR died Nov. 8, 2020.

Carol Sandberg - 92, of Redding CA died Aug. 11, 2020.

Bill Street - 86, of Redding CA died Oct. 7, 2020.

Dolores Turner - 85, of Vancouver WA died Aug. 22, 2020.

Lucille Muns Tyner - 90, of Redding CA died April 1, 2020.

Barbara Utz - 86, of Vancouver WA died Nov. 19, 2020.

Allyn Washington - 89, of Gearhart OR died July 13, 2020.

Judith Wilson - 84, of Vancouver WA died May 29, 2020.

Kathleen Wilt - 71, of Eugene OR died Nov. 2, 2020.

Death notices are usually submitted by unit reporters. Since the club shutdown began, unit reports have been optional. This policy resulted in a lot of deaths not being reported earlier this year. We're catching up with this long list.



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Deadlines: The deadline for the Spring 2021 issue is Jan. 15 for free sectional ads and advance articles. The deadline for unit reports is Monday, Jan. 25. The deadline for front-page articles is Feb. 1. Please send to managing editor Amy Casanova. Email trumpeteditor@gmail.com; phone 503-753-9395.

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



The Trumpet on Facebook
www.facebook.com/d20trumpet

NAP AND GNT

GNT 2021 starts in December

Early start will allow more time to complete matches

Grand National Teams are starting again. The District 20 board has authorized the start of the 2020-21 GNT finals in December.

Our team event was so successful last summer that the ACBL has authorized all districts to contest their GNT in the same way if they choose. In each of four flights, we will be playing round robin matches to qualify for a KO stage. This time we are expanding the number of teams that are eligible to qualify for the finals. In flights with 13 or more teams, we will be qualifying eight teams to the KO stage.

In our events the captains schedule their matches. However, this time we have more time in which to get the matches played. Depending on the size of the field, we might have up to four and a half months to complete our

round robins. This should reduce the pressure on teams to play on any particular day and make it more enjoyable for us all.



Hal Montgomery
NA Events Coordinator

Most of the teams had fun. Things were a bit hectic at the start but players got used to setting up their own matches and reporting their scores.

We developed a library of procedures on how to fill out convention cards and set up matches. We will publish all of these on the D20 website so players will know what is expected from the start.

We hope to have help. If you would be willing to help other players get started, please let me know. One of the jobs is to keep records of match results.

We encourage players to sign up for as many flights as they are eligible for. There have often been teams playing in

North American Pairs

Because the 2020 Spring NABC in Columbus was canceled, players who qualified for the 2020 finals of the North American Pairs were automatically qualified for the Spring 2021 event in St. Louis. In the event that the St. Louis NABC is canceled, the NAP will be held online. Qualifiers will be contacted by email.

two or three flights. We have kept our fees low. We charge \$20 per team per match, which is about a third of what the ACBL charges for regional-rated events.

All flights pay red and gold points. We have had problems with late entries in the past. We will be a little stricter this time. Winners of each flight and possibly the second-place teams in B and C will qualify for the Summer 2021 NABC, if it is held. Please read the rules posted on the D20 website and get your teams registered. Be prepared to have fun.

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

District Board

District finance shows small gain for 2020

Large losses averted with GNT income, lower fees

The D20 board met Oct. 23 on Zoom, generously provided by President **Mike Eyer**. The meeting was attended by most of the area representatives and department heads in the district and **Staci Christian** was a guest.

Financial statements for the nine months ending Sept. 30 showed a net income of \$105.

Our only tournament this year cleared \$12,328, down only slightly from last year. The district received its annual share of Grass Roots income from ACBL. The STA/C held in January was successful, and we had some investment income.

The real star was the GNT event, **Hal Montgomery's** brainchild. He worked hours on the event along with **Rich Carle**. The event brought in \$6,650.

Expenses were kept in check. Most fees were reduced or eliminated voluntarily by the contractors after the pandemic hit, and future expenses are under review. The district agreed to pay an expense reimbursement fee to TurnTables, our equipment supplier, for some fixed expenses, sharing that obligation with District 19.

The board voted to hold another GNT event, starting in December, with finals in April and/or May. The board also decided that any eligibility for NABC competition for the winners will expire on Dec. 31, 2021.

In 2021 tournament news, the first regional is planned for Bend at Riverhouse on the Dechutes, May 24-30. The Eugene regional planned for 2021 will be on a 10 and 3 schedule. The Oregon Trail Regional is canceled for 2021, but we are contracted at the Hilton for 2022 and 2023.

Hal Montgomery was elected to be the new second alternate district director, replacing **Amy Casanova**, who resigned after accepting a position at ACBL.

The position of contract manager has been folded into the tournament manager job. Each tournament manager will be responsible for their own contracts.

The annual meeting will be on Zoom on Feb. 20.

Marie Ashton can be reached at marieashton@comcast.net.



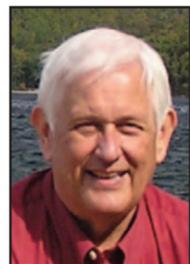
Marie Ashton
Business Manager

Play of the Hand

When a fit is discovered, reevaluate your hand

Today's hand, played in a virtual club game on Bridge Base Online, is a lesson in bidding and defense.

Let's talk bidding first. When my partner showed a fit, I reevaluated my hand and jumped to game. After adding a point for my sixth heart, counting three for the singleton, and upgrading because my points were all aces and kings (no wimpy "quacks"), I now had the equivalent of 19 points.



Jim Flint
Play of the Hand

I could have employed a convention partner and I use — bidding 2NT to ask if he had three or four hearts and minimum or maximum. But I realized the opponents might have half the points (they did) and might compete if given room.

In fact, several tables bid and played spades. East, using the Rule of 20 (high-card points plus the number of cards in the two longest suits), could have opened 1♠. Yes, the honors should be in the two long suits, but they can easily make 4♠.

I could see a club loser, a spade loser and possibly two diamond losers. The goal: to limit losers in diamonds to one.

Dir: North ♠9 3 2
 Vul: E/W ♥Q J 8 2
 Lead: ♠5 ♦J 7 3 2
 ♣Q 9

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

♠8
 ♥A K 9 6 4 3
 ♦A 9 8 5
 ♣K 6

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	1♥
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

After drawing trumps and clearing the club suit from both hands, I pondered the diamond suit. The only way to succeed is for the diamonds to be split 3-2, an honor in each hand. My plan was to lead small toward the jack, hoping West, with honor-third, would pop up with his honor. Then I'd catch East with the other honor, doubleton, which would fall on my ace on the second diamond trick.

West popped up with the king and led the suit back, my ace taking East's now bare queen. Sigh of relief. Contract made.

If West had held the queen-third, going up with an honor would have been under-

standable, albeit wrong. But with the king, he should duck and hope East has the queen.

He should figure East does have the queen. If I held it, wouldn't I have tried a finesse for the king? Besides, West doesn't lose his king; it's still protected. So, there's no harm in ducking.

Lesson 1: If your hand satisfies the Rule of 20, open. The first one to bid has a tremendous advantage in this game.

Lesson 2: Whenever a fit is discovered, reevaluate your hand, whether you're the opener or not. For instance, if the bidding goes 1♦, 1♥, 2♥, you as responder should take a look at game or at least inviting if your hand has extra value. Add points for shortness, quality honors, extra trumps. If the added points add up to an opening hand, go right to game.

Lesson 3: When declarer leads small to a minor honor in the dummy, visualize where the missing cards might be and decide whether it makes sense to take the trick.

Well, I bid too high on this hand, but I got lucky. As Edgar Kaplan once said, "Four hearts is a very good bid — but on some other hand." But then again, 4♥ going down a trick is better than 3♠ or 4♣ making by them.

Reach Jim Flint at pubathome@yahoo.com.

Bridge Haiku

Online

sweatpants trump dresses
 waistband signals jump in suit
 low board means cocktail
 — by Dawn Guenther
 with help from husband David

splintering in hearts
 playing in a three-one fit
 sorry, no undos
 — by Jim Flint

an obvious claim
 why is it not accepted?
 sigh, I'll play it out
 — by Amy Casanova

voids ought to be rare
 yet robots always have one
 so much for random
 — by Chip Dombrowski

In Person

touching cards and friends
 sharing laughter, hugs and tears
 these I miss the most
 — by Dawn Guenther
 with help from husband David

bottomless coffee
 Rosemarie's biscotti treats
 and, oh yes, some bridge
 — by Jim Flint

I miss the laughter
 contagious, like the virus
 keeping us apart
 — by Amy Casanova

move when you're ready
 or chat until the round's called
 beats watching a screen
 — by Chip Dombrowski

GNT Championship final: Wrigley defeats Gibson

By Chris Gibson
The Trumpet

Team Wrigley (Paul Wrigley, Amy Casanova, Rick Prouser and Ray Robert) beat team Gibson (Chris Gibson, Chris Wiegand, Everett Fukushima and Mark Bennett) in the finals of the D20 online open Grand National Teams.

Both teams had a tough semifinal match to get to the championship. Team Wrigley finished fourth in the original round robin, and was picked by first seed Neyhart (Irva Neyhart, Laurie Rowe, David Brower and McKenzie Myers) in the semifinals, and wound up advancing on a tiebreaker. Team Gibson, the original second seed, beat the team that was the most accomplished going into the GNT, the third-seeded Lusky squad (John Lusky, Randy Pickett, Eric Stoltz, Dennis Metcalf, Jon Bartlett and John Ashton).

Wrigley-Casanova and Gibson-Wiegand both played a big club system, while Prouser-Robert and Fukushima-Bennett both played a 2/1 system. Both pairs on the Wrigley team played a weak notrump, while both Gibson pairs played a strong notrump. The final was played in six eight-board segments over two days.

In the first set, Gibson staked themselves an 8-IMP lead after stopping short of a couple of games bid by Wrigley which went down. In the second set, Wrigley came roaring back, aided by good partscore judgment and two swings from different sides playing notrump.



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

Dir: South ♠A K Q 7
Vul: E-W ♥10 7 2
Bd: 3 ♦J 5
♣10 9 5 3

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

♠10 8
♥K Q
♦K Q 3
♣K Q J 8 4 2

West	North	East	South
Fukushima	Casanova	Bennett	Wrigley
			1♣
Pass	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Robert	Wiegand	Prouser	Gibson
			1♣
Pass	1♠	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

Both Wrigley and Gibson started with a big club, but while Wrigley uses 1NT to show a balanced 8-10 with no five-card

suit, Gibson used 1♠ to show either a game force with clubs, a balanced 8-12, or a 4-4-4-1 with 8-12. With 2♥, Wiegand showed a balanced 8-12 with four spades and without four hearts, and Gibson bid game. Robert led his fourth-best heart, while Bennett, from the other side, led his "stronger" major, spades. It was the heart lead that was the killer when Roberts got in with his ♣A and worked out to cash his ♥A, dropping Gibson's now-stiff ♥Q.

Dir: East ♠A Q 4
Vul: E-W ♥A K 10
Bd: 6 ♦K 10 6
♣10 7 3 2

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

♠10 7 3
♥J 7 3 2
♦A 3
♣K Q 8 6

West	North	East	South
Fukushima	Casanova	Bennett	Wrigley
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Robert	Wiegand	Prouser	Gibson
		Pass	1♦
Pass	2NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

2NT for Gibson-Wiegand was forcing and natural. Prouser led fourth best from his longest and strongest, diamonds, while Fukushima led a heart from the other side. The diamond lead was the killer.

Wrigley took the second set by 33 IMPs, surging into a 25-IMP lead. Gibson won the third set by 17 and the fourth set by 5, chipping the lead down to 3 IMPs, and then took the lead on the first board of the fifth set.

Dir: North ♠K Q 10 9 5 3
Vul: None ♥K Q 6
Bd: 1 ♦Q 10 2
♣A

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

♠—
♥A J 10 7 5 2
♦A K 6 4
♣J 9 6

West	North	East	South
Fukushima	Prouser	Bennett	Roberts
	1♠	Pass	2♥
Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	4♠	Pass	5♥
Pass	6♥	All Pass	

West	North	East	South
Casanova	Gibson	Wrigley	Wiegand
	1♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
Pass	3♠	Pass	4♣
Pass	4NT	Pass	5NT
Pass	6♦	Pass	7♦
Pass	7♥	All Pass	

Prouser-Roberts got to 6♥, and made on the nose. Gibson-Wiegand had a much more involved auction, in which Wiegand showed six-plus hearts, four diamonds, short spades, and either five-plus controls (ace = 2 controls, king = 1 control) or 13+ HCP, and in which Gibson showed 16+ HCP and a heart fit without interest in playing in diamonds. When Gibson asked for keycards, Wiegand showed an even number of keycards and a void with her 5NT response. 6♦ was a general grand slam try, showing all the keycards and the queen of trump, and Wiegand decided to accept because of her ♥J 10 and having the ♦K rather than the ♣K. In the play, Wrigley led a spade, ruffed in dummy. Gibson led a club to the ace, ruffed another spade (the ace falling from Casanova), and pulled trump ending in hand to set up spades while he still had the ♦Q as an entry.

The small lead from that deal was short-lived, after another slam decision on board 4, which gave 12 IMPs back to Wrigley (See Mark Tolliver's article on page 11). Gibson got the better of the last few boards, and took a 2-IMP lead into the last set.

On the first board of the last set, the weak notrump reared its head.

Dir: North ♠K 10 5
Vul: None ♥Q J
Bd: 1 ♦K Q 9 6 2
♣J 9 7

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

♠Q
♥K 9 6 3
♦A 10 7 3
♣A Q 5 3

West	North	East	South
Fukushima	Casanova	Bennett	Wrigley
	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

West	North	East	South
Prouser	Gibson	Robert	Wiegand
	1♦	Pass	1♥
1♠	1NT	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

In the Wrigley-Casanova auction, with an 11-13 1NT opening, Fukushima couldn't overcall spades at a comfortable level, and Bennett led a heart, giving Casanova the tempo to make. At the other table, Prouser's 1♠ overcall made it easy for Roberts to find the right major, and Gibson went down two, losing four spades, the ♣K and the ♥A. With that 11-IMP swing in hand, Wrigley wound up winning the final set by 10, and the match by 8.



Second in the GNT Open: Chris Gibson, Chris Wiegand, Mark Bennett, Everett Fukushima



ACBL District 20 Grand National Teams 2021

Win a trip to the summer NABCs in Providence, RI!

District Level competition via BBO:

The event is open to all current D20 players. Club qualification is not required.

- All flights will play a Round-Robin qualifier with format depending on the number of teams
- Teams may consist of four, five, or six players. MP awards will be by ACBL formulae
- Matches will be determined by the GNT coordinator on a periodic basis starting in December
 - Dates, times, and set-up for each match will be arranged by the Team Captains
- For instructions on match set-up, visit: https://web2.acbl.org/NA_Events/GNT/create_team_match.pdf
 - Matches are to be completed as scheduled subject to forfeit
- Teams must register in advance at <https://form.jotform.com/51966681428164> and pay an initial entry fee of \$100
- Payments are accepted by cash or check made out to District 20 ACBL. Send payment to: District 20 Treasurer, c/o Marie Ashton, 6512 SW Midmar Pl., Portland, OR 97223.

District Finals

Top teams from the Round Robin will advance to a playoff round in March/April to determine the champions in each flight.

National Finals

A National Finals is planned for the summer NABCs at Providence, RI.

Advancement from D20 Finals

Winning teams from the four flights will be eligible to advance. In addition, the 2nd place teams in Flights B and C are eligible if eight or more teams participate. Travel subsidies may be offered as determined by the D20 Board in February

Flight Eligibility

An eligible player is any D20 member in good standing. Note that flight eligibility is determined by the 2019 masterpoint cycle.

- Championship flight: open to any eligible player
- Flight B: for eligible players with <2500 MPs
- Flight A: for any eligible players with <6000 MPs
- Flight C: for eligible NLM with <500 MPs.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
The ACBL Conditions of Contest is available online at: https://web2.acbl.org/NA_Events/GNT/2021/ACBL_memo.pdf



Covid-19: Ready or not

What does the new primacy of the online game mean for the future of bridge?

"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change." – Albert Einstein

"It is not necessary to change. Survival is not mandatory." – W. Edwards Deming

There are few corporate blunders greater than the Kodak Corporation's refusal to acknowledge and adapt to changing times. It was a Kodak engineer Steve Sasson who invented the digital camera in 1975. Corporate Kodak's collective response: "That's cute — but don't tell anyone." That Kodak Moment and the company's inability to see the world was shifting from "preserve memories" to "share memories" led a company that at one time supplied 90% of the film sold in the United States and 95% of the cameras to a petition for bankruptcy 131 years after its founding. Perhaps a similar conversation took place at some buggy whip factory a few years earlier.

Covid-19 is the defining event of our lifetimes. It has been our great good fortune that when ACBL was confronted with its Kodak Moment, Greg Coles and a host of other folks realized this was an adapt or die moment. Coles and his crew knew that

online was the only option available.

But doing something and doing the right thing are two different things. The folks at ACBL, partnering with BBO, certainly have, to this point, done it right. Of course there have been a few glitches and probably a few more to come.

Like the digital camera, online bridge had been around for quite a few years before its true potential would become stunningly clear to all of us. Covid-19 promoted online play in a way nothing else could.



Don Marsh
Trumpet Contributor

The differences between face-to-face and online bridge are so obvious they hardly need stating. Online bridge is about as convenient as anything could be. About the only thing missing is, oh right, that f2f thing.

It is pretty easy to score the pluses and minuses of virtual club versus f2f. What might be a little harder to know is what the impact of all of this — both short-term and long-term — will be.

What will the effect of the virtual clubs be once f2f returns? Will the convenience folks have come to enjoy with virtual dissuade them from returning to the clubs? Larger clubs will no doubt be fine. It could, however, accelerate the trend of the shuttering of brick-and-mortars that have

already been struggling to survive. And how will clubs combine f2f schedules with virtual? Online bridge is not going away. That we all know.

Smaller virtual clubs may well struggle versus larger pooling clubs. Does the virtual club situation eventually become some variation of Walmart vs. Main Street?

How about the relationship between BBO and ACBL? Some would say BBO has a somewhat different "feel" with the change in ownership. When Fred Gittleman and Sheri Winestock started BBO it clearly was about bridge first and business second. "We had no plans to turn it into a real business" is how Fred describes it. BBO has done an amazing job through all of this, and yet there may come a time when their priorities and ACBL's priorities may not always be simpatico.

Do the games run by BBO begin to conflict/compete with the virtual clubs?

A real basic question is to what extent are online bridge and f2f bridge the same product? When I posed this question to one of the prominent players in the area, this was the response: "To paraphrase Mark Twain, 'Online bridge isn't bridge, but it rhymes with it.'"

What will ACBL's position be per national events? Will they feel it is easier and more economical for them to continue to hold these events online? And is winning

and event like the Spingold online the same as that same event held f2f?

Then, of course, there is the elephant in the living room or in whatever room online bridge is being played — cheating. Sylvia Shi's recent admission to having cheated online has sent shock waves through the bridge world. (See bridgewinners.com/article/view/confession-of-a-self-kibitzer-pt-2)

This issue must be addressed. BBO and all online vendors must develop technological surveillance and statistical analysis that will ensure the integrity of the game. If the players lose faith in the credibility/integrity of the game, the game is toast.

In the final analysis, this is an adjustment for all of us. Of course we miss the interaction with all our friends. But consider this. We are fortunate to live in a world where we do have the internet. The folks experiencing the pandemic in 1918 did not have that option.

"Adapt or perish, now as ever, is nature's inexorable imperative." – H.G. Wells

"It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent. It is the one that is most adaptable to change." – Charles Darwin

Don Marsh can be reached at demarsh@comcast.net.

DISTRICT 20 RANK CHANGES

JUNIOR MASTERS

Ysela Cain, Chico CA
Zachary Faltersack, Lake Oswego OR
Rochelle Ferran, Truckee CA
Victoria Findlay, Corvallis OR
Kirk Forkner, Albany OR
Rich Frankenfield, Corvallis OR
Stuart Hotchkiss, Boise ID
Dianne Jones, Truckee CA
Peggy Lance, Beaverton OR
Jonathan Pulvers, Portland OR
Carol Stout, Lake Oswego OR
Patricia Summerton, Corvallis OR
Susan Weakley, Wilsonville OR
Sunia Yang, Corvallis OR
Mary Beth Yosses, Portland OR

CLUB MASTERS

Kay Abramowitz, Portland OR
Linda Carney, Portland OR
Barbara Clary, Portland OR
Elizabeth Crawford, Lake Oswego OR
Kristi Crowell, Eugene OR
Beth Culp, Ridgefield WA
Nancy Garboden, Eugene OR
Gary Hansen, Ashland OR
Janet Howard, Waimanalo HI
Dolly Howe, Gleneden Beach OR
David Johnson, Springfield OR
Dave Knoyle, Longview WA
Linda Lonquist, Grants Pass OR
Lin Robbins, Ashland OR
Peter Soni, Newberg OR
Melissa Stark, Kailua HI
Michael Therson, Vancouver WA
Wendi Wolfard, Lincoln City OR
David Wood, Redmond OR

SECTIONAL MASTERS

Susan Alston, Medford OR
Susan Burgott, Eugene OR
George Burgott, Eugene OR
Lynda Campf Weinstein, Portland OR
Keith Crudgington, Eugene OR
Robert Derbyshire, Keaau HI
Cynthia Dulcich, Portland OR
Sally Flinn, Honolulu HI
Randy Forrest, Kelso WA
Charles Jenney, Portland OR
Rebecca Kovach, Eugene OR
William Lide, Vancouver WA
Janet Lide, Vancouver WA
Mary Marsh-King, Philomath OR
Sandra Miano, Honolulu HI
Donald Milligan, Corvallis OR
Shideh Nikkhoo, Honolulu HI

REGIONAL MASTERS

Thomas Ahern, Wilsonville OR
Stephen Bartholomew, Keaau HI
Lynda Bishop, Portland OR
Pat Carroll, Tualatin OR
Susan Circone, Lake Oswego OR
Wayne Harrison, Vancouver WA
Jan Hendrix, Lahaina HI
Peter Heroy, Eugene OR
Dixie Kroupa, Lake Oswego OR
Donna McCabe, Lake Oswego OR
Kathleen Petrucela, Corvallis OR
Philip Porter, Vancouver WA
Judi Roberts, Tigard OR
Janis Rodden, Honolulu HI
Rick Scherer, Vancouver WA
Cammie Sells, Bend OR
Carole Starr, Portland OR
Ken Zeidman, Portland OR

Mary Oparowski, Penn Valley CA
Vicki Poole, Neskowin OR
Susan Poorman, Portland OR
Andrzej Proskurowski, Eugene OR
Ellen Reuler, Portland OR
Shellie Roy, Chico CA
Carol Schaafsma, Eugene OR
John Schmidt, Arcata CA
Sterling Smith, Middleton ID
Peggy Spencer, Honaunau HI
Penny Storry, Neskowin OR
Jill Thach, Kailua HI
Michael Therson, Vancouver WA
Luann Ward, Vancouver WA
Richard Weinstein, Portland OR
Wendy Wiltse, Kailua HI
Wanda Wynne, Lake Oswego OR
Jean Zoeller, Kailua Kona HI

NABC MASTERS

Nick Atanasov, Tigard OR
Deborah Ayars, Waipahu HI
Kurt Browning, Grass Valley CA
Charles Carter, Brookings OR
Denise Cox, Eugene OR
Carol Davies, Kamuela HI
Karen Douek, Portland OR
Maureen Fennerty, Portland OR
Dave Forrey, Nampa ID
Connie Green, Eugene OR
James Hatton, Ashland OR
Gary Haynie, Kailua HI
Lenda Helser, Kilauea HI
JoAn Hill, Kealakekua HI
Carol Koch, Portland OR
Ken Korth, Ashland OR
Steve Marsh, Portland OR
Linda Marshall, Beaverton OR
Ginger McCarthy, Portland OR
Joseph Morgan, Vancouver WA
Eileen Norris, Portland OR
Elizabeth Reid, Kailua Kona HI
Gregory Said, Boise ID
Annabelle Shallenberger, Kamuela HI
Steven Vorenkamp, Portland OR
Sheryl Williams, Portland OR

ADVANCED NABC MASTERS

Deanna Heyser, Penn Valley CA
Jeff Heyser, Penn Valley CA
Mark Jansa, Portland OR
Keith Kalway, Honolulu HI
David Ouyang, Waianae HI

For definitions of ranks, see acbl.org/masterpoints-results/masterpoint-ranks/

Kay Pankratz, Vancouver WA
Cary Wirth, Nevada City CA

BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Thomas Chambers, Portland OR
Michael Claassen, Bandon OR
Dan Edelstein, Vancouver WA
Mike Goffe, Portland OR
Lawrence Levy, Portland OR
Frank Nemeth, Portland OR
Robert Pfeffer, Bend OR
Bonnie Scheeland, Portland OR
Duane St. Clair, Boise ID
Evelyn St. Clair, Boise ID
Karla Stewart, Corvallis OR
Phyllis Sutter, Portland OR
Libby Tomar, Kailua HI

SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Steven Bruns, Honolulu HI
Mary Farrell, Honolulu HI
Michael Green, Newberg OR
John Pearson, Nampa ID
Rebecca Rodenbush, Boise ID

RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Steven Buchthal, Honolulu HI
Karla Claybaugh, Kaneohe HI
Winnie Henggeler, Fruitland ID
Kate Montgomery, Portland OR
Bob Valine, Ashland OR

GOLD LIFE MASTERS

Eileen Boal, Albany OR
Joseph Bussen, Kailua HI
John Cissel, Boise ID
Randy Jean Hiltbrand, Eugene OR
Robert Liu, Honolulu HI

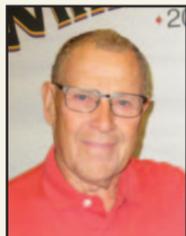
Congratulations!



Vern Katz
Eugene OR



Bonnie Scheeland
Portland OR



Duane St. Clair
Boise ID



Evelyn St. Clair
Boise ID



Craig Thorsen
Hilo HI



Libby Tomar
Kailua HI

THE IN! CROWD
For Intermediate/Newcomer Players



Margi Redden
D20 I/N Coordinator

Where's Sherry?

Sherry Squirrel escaped from her pen. District 20 I/N Coordinator Margi Redden was busy tracking her down and unable to submit the next installment of Sherry's adventures. Sherry will have some explaining to do when she returns.

Fire: New and longtime residents of Southern Oregon lose homes in blaze



Dorothy Vogel



Toni Heitkamp

Continued from Page 1

Vogel recalls her reaction as she prepared to evacuate: "This is ridiculous, I'm sure we're not in danger, I thought. The fire station is just up and around the corner!"

Knowing the one road out would be crowded with people trying to escape, she decided to ride with her granddaughter to her daughter's house near Cave Junction. They arrived to find they too were preparing to flee another fire on its way from California. So a few hours later, they again evacuated, this time going to stay with friends of Vogel's daughter in Grants Pass for a couple days.

Toni Heitkamp had just moved from Portland to Talent about two weeks before the fire, to be close to her son in Ashland. She moved into the one completed building of a new complex that was still under construction, and was still unpacking on Sept. 7.

The next morning, her son called and asked her to gather some things and come to his apartment. Packing just a few things, she and her dogs took off. But after driving around for an hour, she was unable to find any road to Ashland that was open, so she returned home.

Within minutes, a contractor working on the complex construction knocked on her door and told her she had to leave.

"There were no sirens and nothing on TV and nothing on the radio," Heitkamp says. "I grabbed a few more things and got in the car and drove around town for three hours until the authorities finally found a route out where there wasn't a fire. There was still no news. My son was on the phone with me the whole time. It was scary seeing fires everywhere and not knowing if we were going to be able to get out."

Heitkamp eventually made it to Ashland and her son's place. The next day she learned her apartment building was gone.

Likewise, while in Grants Pass, Vogel found out her entire neighborhood was gone. She regretted not bringing her own car, as that too burned to dust. Uncomfortable staying with strangers, Vogel decamped to a friend's house in Ashland, where she stayed for a few weeks "while reality sunk in."

"All my clothes were gone. I couldn't sleep nights, jolting awake, ready to evacuate. And little by little, I absorbed the reality, along with the kindness of friends," Vogel says. One bridge friend called to offer a spare cottage on her land, and another wanted to start a GoFundMe. "You find out that you may have lost everything but not your friends."

Jackie Donnelly of Phoenix also lost her home in the fire. She stayed with her son until moving into a new apartment in November.

Heitkamp stayed with her son for six weeks while looking for a new place in the



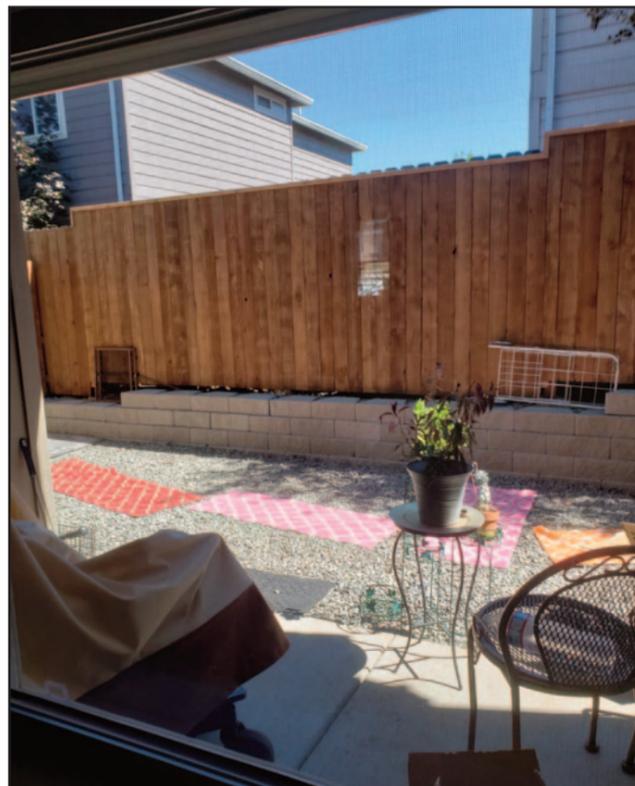
The fire completely destroyed the new complex in Talent where Toni Heitkamp lived.



Nothing was left of Dorothy Vogel's home in Talent.



A structure burns in Talent during the Almeda fire on Sept. 8.



Toni Heitkamp moved from Portland into a new apartment in Talent just two weeks before the Almeda fire. Above: The patio; below: the view.



area before moving back to Portland. She plans to try again living in southern Oregon when her apartment complex in Talent is rebuilt.

"It's amazing that your life can go from idyllic to upside down and starting over in one day," Heitkamp says. "Every day I am reminded all day long of what I have lost and how impossible it seems to put my life back together."

Amazon gift cards from friends helped her get by while she waited for assistance from FEMA.

"I am blessed to have these wonderful friends, and there are glimmers of light many times a day," she says.

The lease on the bridge center in Phoenix was due to expire over the summer. Months after shutting down, club owners packed up supplies and furniture and moved them into a storage facility. They secured a new space nearby for future live play, which was also lost in the fire. But the storage facility survived.

Vogel bought a car exactly like the one that burned, so she wouldn't have to get

used to something new. She moved in with her daughter. And now she's looking on the bright side.

"I find it helpful to think of all the changes I don't have to make in my house. I had an upright player piano I wanted to get rid of and couldn't figure out how. No problem: It's dust. I also planned to redo one of the bathrooms in tile. Thank goodness I don't have to think about that!"

"I'm getting comfortable in my new life, snuggling into it like a warm sleeping bag. And thankfully, there's Bridge Base Online."

Rowe: ACBL considers future of online bridge after end of pandemic

Continued from Page 1

Hendrik Sharples and **Marc Zwerling** for assisting in player investigations. There are a number of volunteers who are active in the investigation process.

There are now about 1,000 guest members whom we hope to entice to join our ranks. They get their ACBL Bulletin online

and can accrue masterpoints for 120 days. It's free and a great way to get started.

Bridge online is here to stay. A large part of our energies has been directed towards what to do for the future. On a positive note, young people are being introduced to the game online. We are also looking at ways to get more members to play in the online games.

Jay Whipple was named volunteer of the year and **Uday Ivatury** was named honorary member of the year. Both men were instrumental in getting virtual clubs going in March. **Georgia Heth** was re-elected president. This is a first in ACBL history for a president to serve more than one year.

Financially, the ACBL is in good shape, and I wish I could say the same for local

clubs. I believe many are suffering. Please share your ideas and concerns with me.

I look forward to 2021 and a vaccine that will allow us to play this wonderful game at a bridge table. I miss the humor, friendship and hugs.

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



Brian and Irva in 2014



Brian and Heather in 2020



Dave and Heather in 2018

Wedding: Two couples split up, remain friends, celebrate new love together

Continued from Page 1

Brian and Irva

Brian Breckenridge and Irva Neyhart dated for about five years, starting back in 2014 when they lived in Corvallis.

“Our relationship started as bridge partners and grew into something much more,” Neyhart said. But as it sometimes happens, Breckenridge and Neyhart eventually became more friends than anything else.

“Over time I think we both realized our connection was primarily bridge,” she said.

Separately they both moved to Portland in 2019, and they continue to play together. While their love story may not have stood the test of time, Neyhart says she and Breckenridge have always maintained a friendship.

“Brian was my biggest cheerleader when I was competing for national point awards. We are friends and care about each other very much.”

Heather and Dave

Heather Dolan and Dave Brower dated for about six months back in 2018.

“I have an affinity for kind, happy people,” Dolan said. “He is most certainly one of them.”

Yet, much like Breckenridge and Neyhart, theirs became more a friendship

story than a love story.

“It didn’t take us long to figure out that although we both love each other dearly, a romantic relationship was not appropriate for us,” Dolan said. “What I gained feels more like a brother to me. He is one of my closest friends and my chosen family.”

Brian and Heather

So how did Dolan and Breckenridge finally make their love connection?

“I met Brian when I started directing the game at the Mirabella towards the end of 2019,” Dolan said. “He and his partner Krista played almost every Monday. After a couple of months, Brian asked me for a game.”

Dolan says she was quite content being single and was not looking for a relationship, but began looking at Breckenridge differently after a fellow bridge player made a comment.

“One day Lynne Shaeffer remarked to me after I partnered with him that ‘My, that Brian Breckenridge sure is a handsome fella, isn’t he? (with her classically raised eyebrow that suggested volumes),’” Dolan said. “But when she asked, it made me stop and consider, as I generally do not pay much attention to what people look like.”

A couple of days later, Dolan was having dinner with her ex, Brower, when he men-

tioned that if he was going to choose a husband for her, it would be Breckenridge.

The two started dating in early March — just before the lockdown. Dolan says they went on a 5-mile hike for their first date and were fairly inseparable after that.

Since Dolan was renting a room from another bridge player, she decided it was best to spend 14 days at Breckenridge’s house to “flatten the curve.”

“A month went by, then two, and I’m still at his house,” Dolan said. “Around June, we both kind of shrugged and I said, well, I practically live here anyway, want to go get the rest of my stuff? No fuss, no muss.”

The decision to get married came quickly after the two had decided to adopt a pair of kittens.

They decided to make it official on Aug. 8, specifically because of the meaning in the number eight to Dolan.

“I love numbers and their symbolic meanings resonate deeply with me. So, I chose 8/8/2020,” she said. “The number eight often correlates with infinity. 2020 is often related to sight/vision. So our wedding date reads for me symbolically: I enter into this union with my eyes wide open and may I look for the best in you. Always.”

The wedding was a simple courthouse affair where the only two witnesses to the big day were Dolan and Breckenridge’s exes, Neyhart and Brower.

The ex factor

Was it weird for the exes to be a part of such a momentous occasion for a former flame? According to Neyhart, there was no awkwardness whatsoever. She says Breckenridge asked her to be a witness during an online bridge game.

“He did make a phone call to tell me he was getting married and then the next day asked me to be a witness,” she said.

“I guess for me it just goes to show that when you surround yourself with people who are happy and supportive of you, this all seems very natural,” Neyhart said. “I know Heather and David have both made me feel very supported and welcome in the Portland bridge community. I know that I am very happy for Brian and Heather and I am sure they feel supported by me and David.”

“This is the way friendships and relationships should work!”

Breckenridge agrees, saying it was the farthest thing from awkward. “We are trying to find a time for the four of us to get a face-to-face game going,” he said.

When asked about any jealousy, Dolan laughs and asks, “Who’s got time for that? Life is too short for such nonsense,” she said. “I have no reason to be uncomfortable around Brian, Irva, or Brower or any combination thereof. We are all friends.”

Clubs: Open games fare better outside Portland; concerns about future

Continued from Page 1

Boise and Honolulu have also had successful transitions to online play.

Unit 470 in Honolulu, the second largest unit in the district, has seen October table counts double from this year compared to last, though that is because there are several clubs in the area that are now reporting under a single virtual club pool. They are also running more games.

The Bridge Cooperative of Boise has seen its open games stay steady and has been able to add evening games. Their future as a brick-and-mortar is uncertain at the moment. They declined to renew their lease.

The ACBL recently began allowing tables in play in limited games to count toward masterpoint awards in open games.

One Portland director suggested that perhaps people newer to bridge are less likely to rely on table feel, and are therefore better at adapting to BBO. It could also be that they are younger and more familiar with computers and technology. Of course, the numbers don’t lie, and the numbers suggest that there are simply a lot more players with less than 1000 masterpoints active in the ACBL — including about 78% of the members in District 20.

Another regular club player, Bob Law of Portland, has embraced the transition to BBO. Law, a Gold Life Master who still



Kathy Holahan

Not interested in playing online without social club environment.



Bob Law

Playing twice as often online in the same amount of time.



Krista Garver

Increased availability of evening games means more chances to play.



Don Marsh

Are pooling clubs drawing players away from smaller games?

works in real estate, has identified an alluring aspect of online play: its effectiveness. “It has been an interesting transition to online bridge, but I feel like I’ve finally adapted to the protocol and techniques and am enjoying playing six days a week,” he said. “It’s a much more efficient way of playing, as I probably spend about the same amount of time at it as I did when I only played three times per week. But I miss the personal contacts.”

Who will play when there is a vaccine, and how will they play? Keeping players engaged and actively playing bridge is vital. So much time is passing that it’s possible people might get out of the habit of playing at the club.

There has been talk of “hybrid” games

which might combine the virtual club BBO games with live club games. While one could argue even a small club game is better than nothing, it will be a little depressing if there aren’t many tables live on a regular basis, even if points are awarded for online tables. We need the energy and human connection to return to our game. For remote areas underserved by brick-and-mortar clubs, the virtual club games could continue to be an option.

The clubs can hopefully continue to profit from running games online in the evenings. As Krista Garver of Portland, a Bronze Life Master, pointed out, “The best thing about BBO is that, thanks to more access to evening games, I get to play a lot more.”

Another possibility that’s starting to

happen is the “pooling” of clubs and their games. “Clubs that are doing lots of pooling are offering bigger games,” said Don Marsh, who owns and operates the Emerald Bridge Club in Eugene. “We all understand the draw for playing in larger games. Hard to say where this is all headed.”

We know that clubs drive membership. A player is more likely to join the ACBL after playing regularly at a live club. An informal poll of bridge players on Facebook indicates that over half learned from a family member, with the other half split between school, other, a friend, or work. Once it’s safe, bring your friends and family to the club! The more bridge clubs out there with good visibility, lessons and teaching programs, well-maintained websites and community involvement will ensure the survivability of the game we love.

Although the news of a covid-19 vaccine is promising, the reality is there are probably going to be several more months of restrictions. We are getting restless and bored. Let’s start thinking of how we will reopen, how we will use our pent-up energy to rebuild and rally. We have learned so much about the way we can play online, and how we can use the platforms to teach, and reach, people. This last lost year feels like a momentum-killer. It will take extra effort to turn it around and get going again.

ONLINE RESOURCES

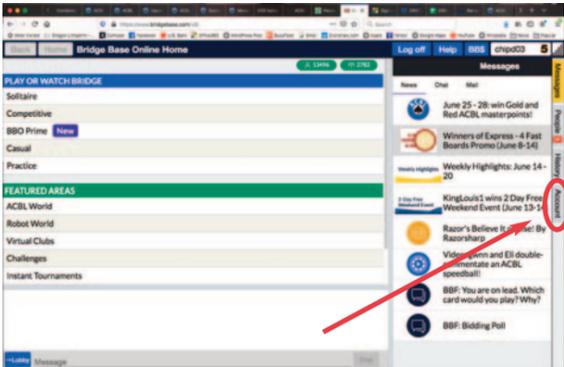
Navigating BBO – convention cards

Since this feature appeared in The Trumpet in Summer 2018, BBO made changes to the organization of the website, making what we published back then useless and outdated. The Trumpet's Navigating BBO series was the inspiration behind the Bridge Bulletin's BBO Help Desk feature, which appeared August through December this year.

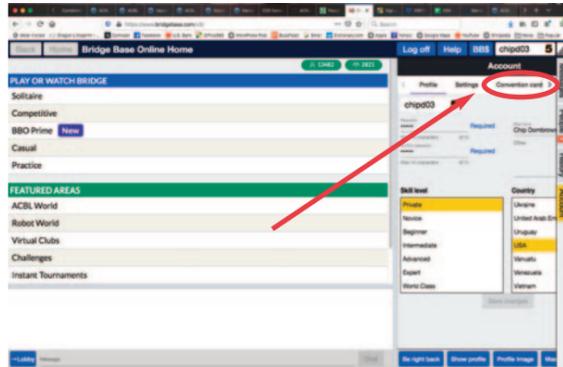
By now most people have figured out how to use BBO. But still one of the most common complaints by people who play online regularly is that their opponents don't have convention cards available. You may have seen this graphic when it was published in the Bridge Bulletin in September 2020, or in the daily bulletin for any of the online regionals held since August.

If you still haven't uploaded a convention card for each of your regular partners, let this be a reminder. It's required.

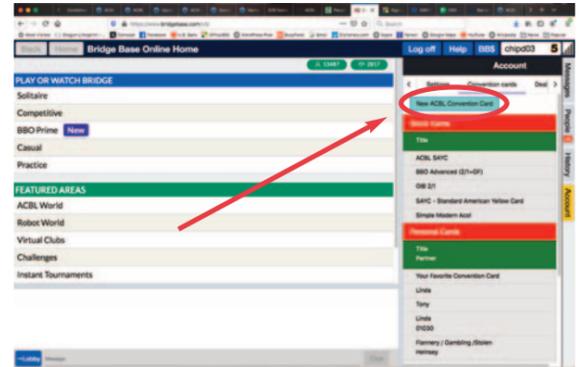
Convention cards disclose your partnership's agreements to the opponents in accordance with the rules of bridge. The ACBL requires that you and your partner make a completed convention card available. Your full names – first and last – should appear at the top. When you sit down to play or register for a tournament with a partner, BBO will see if your partnership has a convention card on file by looking at your list of Personal Cards for your partner's username. If it is there, you will be notified and the appropriate card is loaded once play starts. If your opponents follow this procedure, you'll be able to view their cards as well.



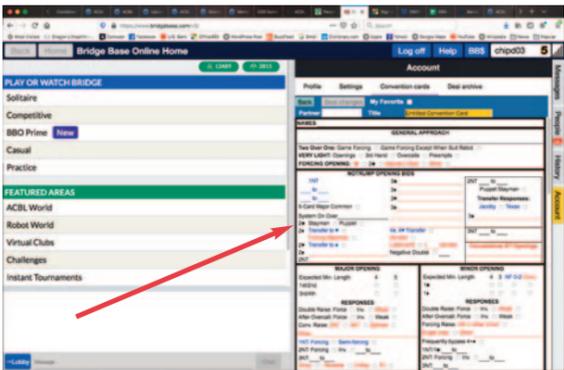
1 After logging in, click on the Account tab along the right edge. Your profile will open as shown at right.



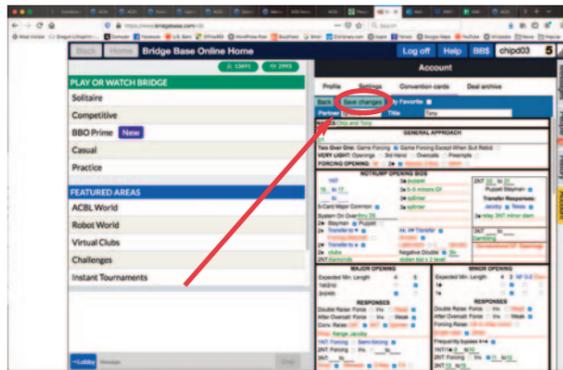
2 Click on Convention cards. The Convention cards section will open.



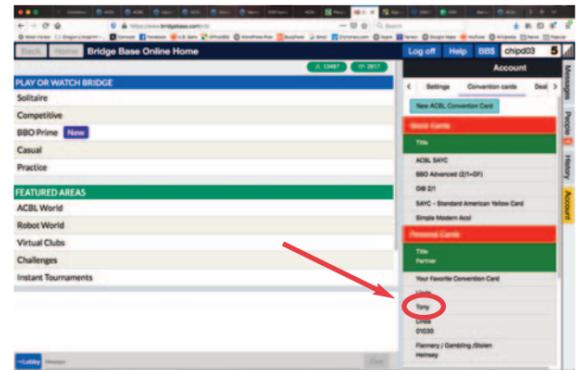
3 To fill out a new card, click on New ACBL Convention Card. If you don't want to start from a blank card, you can also select one of the Stock Cards.



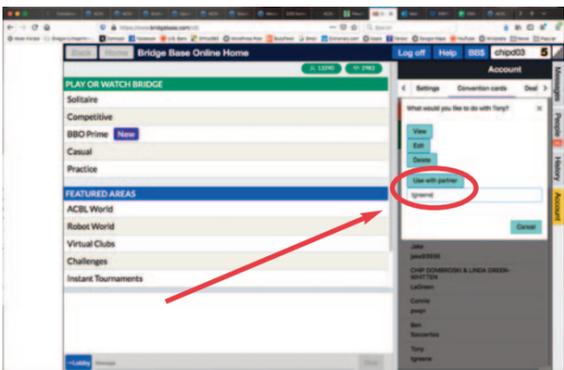
4 A blank convention card will appear. Widen the window by dragging the divider to the left. Click each blank line to place your cursor, then enter the appropriate information.



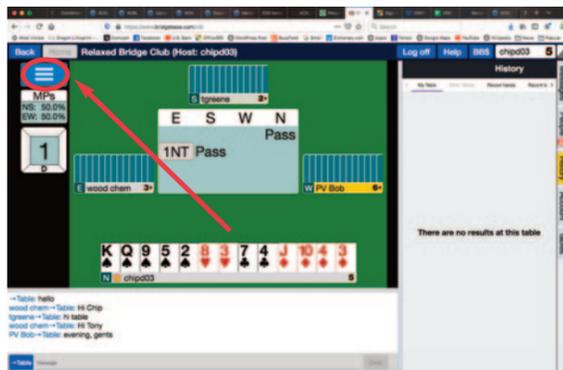
5 Continue filling in the card until it is complete. When the card is complete, click the "Save changes" button at top left.



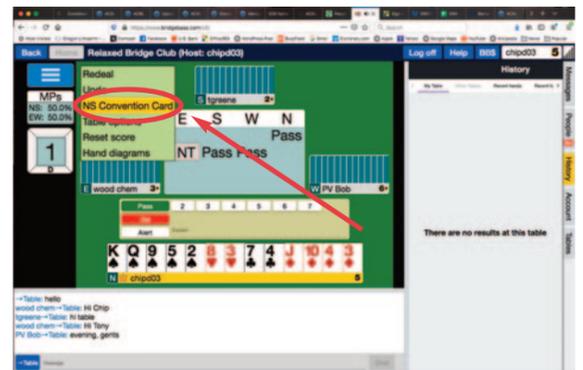
6 To view or edit a card after it is filled out, select it from the list of Personal Cards at the bottom of the Convention cards section.



7 A prompt will ask you what you want to do with the card. Select view or edit as appropriate. In order for the card to be visible to your opponents, you must designate a partner. Enter your partner's BBO name as shown and click "Use with partner."



8 When you want to view an opponent's convention card during a game, start by clicking on the three bars.



9 If the opponents have loaded their convention card, it will appear as a choice in this menu. Select NS Convention Card or EW Convention Card. The card will pop up in another window.

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Letters

Sylvia Shi earns yet another title: Cheater

The Bridge Bulletin's January 2020 issue featured Sylvia Shi, "The youngest woman Grand Life Master," on its cover. She started playing bridge in 2011. In 2015, she won the Lebhar IMP Pairs and the NABC+ Mixed Swiss Teams; in 2016 she won the Sternberg Women's BAM and the Women's World Team Championship; and in 2017 she won the Smith Life Master Women's Pairs.

Her latest title, however, is cheater. On July 23, in a post on the Bridge Winners website, Shi admitted that she had been cheating from late April through the end of June in "most" events she played on BBO. She did so by self-kibitzing, i.e., opening a second BBO window and watching all four hands while she was playing them.

What could possibly motivate a top-ranked professional bridge player to cheat while she played online? Shi offered this explanation:

"I didn't do it for money, glory, results, victories, some sort of fulfillment, or masterpoints.

"I wasn't under pressure to win or do well in any way.

"I did it because it was so, so easy, and so tempting. I knew I should not look, but I made the choice to do it anyway. I am the kind of person who loves to read a spoiler for a movie before watching it. It was very tempting for me with the hand records easily available to look when I could. I found it addictive. So maybe this makes it even worse, as I don't even have a good excuse."

Some of her supporters see Shi as a victim.

The very first posting on Bridge Winners following Shi's confession was by friend and fellow pro Janice Seamon-Molson:

"This is clear proof of what I said earlier: the covid thing has people crazy. While I don't condone the actions, I do believe being locked up is skewing a lot of people's judgment. She is my friend and bridge partner and will be my friend and



hopefully my bridge partner for a long time."

Molson views Shi as a victim of the coronavirus, forced to cheat to relieve the pressure of being cooped up indoors.

Fellow pro Jill Myers also defended Shi: "I think Sylvia is a woman of character who totally fell off a wagon."

Young pro and fellow Grand Life Master Adam Gossack defended Shi as well:

"Sylvia is a friend of mine and I need to stand up for her ... The world is not black and white like this. Sylvia has done great things for bridge. ... She is an asset in the bridge community for sure. I believe Sylvia ... would never cheat in real life."

Asked what he meant by "in real life," Gossack said, "I meant at the bridge table, in person."

Shi herself offered a similar defense:

"At the time I started, this type of cheating wasn't such a hot topic issue. I rationalized, I'm not a cheater, this isn't something I would do in real bridge. I'll just see the cards sometimes. It will all be over when we get back to face-to-face bridge in a few months. It sounds so stupid when I say it now."

The great majority of readers, however, was unpersuaded, finding it a flaw in Shi's character that led her to cheat. One said that it would excuse robbing a bank via the internet instead of waving a gun at a teller.

While prominent defenders sought only a temporary suspension of Shi's career, others called for a lifetime ban, to send a message that the ACBL considers any cheating serious and that no one is above the law.

In a special meeting on Aug. 17, ACBL approved a negotiated resolution of Shi's misdeeds, suspending her for three years, with three additional years of probation, forfeiting 25% of her masterpoints, and removing her Grand Life Master title.

But ACBL apparently has no plans to publicize the incident. Although the Bridge Winners post quickly prompted over 1,000 responses, there was absolutely nothing in the August issue of the Bridge Bulletin. In September, President Georgia Heth mentioned obliquely that "Many of you will have read the accounts on Bridge Winners from two world-class players who have admitted to online cheating." But there was no mention that one of them was Sylvia Shi. It was up to George Jacobs, in his October column, finally to name names. In the November issue, Heth again tried to gloss over the issue by commenting only that "a prominent player was suspended for three years."

Online play is vital. It has provided bridge players with a much-needed opportunity for engagement during the pandemic. And its partnership with BBO is pumping much needed funding into ACBL. It's the fear of playing against cheaters, however, that is a primary reason that many players still stay on the sidelines. It is vital that ACBL addresses the issue more concretely, publicizing the fact that not even players at the highest level can get away with cheating.

Dennis Kendig
Ashland OR

No entry?
How about
peach
cobbler

By Amy Casanova
The Trumpet

I played a hand very poorly on BBO the other night. It was so obviously a mistake I am not certain it merits writing about. So, how about a recipe from when I baked for the bridge club?

Many of the recipes were quick and easy, relying on boxes of cake mix and cans of fruit. Here is one crowd-pleaser that I re-created at home, swapping the cake mix for a biscuit topping and adding a hint of spice.

Ingredients:

1 stick butter

Peaches, or any favorite fruit, either 2 lbs. fresh or (2) 16 oz. cans, partially drained

1 box yellow cake mix*

1/4 teaspoon nutmeg (optional)

Heat the oven to 350 degrees. In a 9"x13" baking dish, melt the butter.

Toss the fruit and nutmeg in the butter, sprinkle cake mix over fruit, bake at 350 for 30 minutes. Serve warm (reheat if necessary) with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

*Alternatively, for a less-sweet version, substitute biscuits for cake mix. Drop biscuit dough over fruit and bake according to biscuit directions.

OK, here's my embarrassing hand:

♠2 ♥K 4 2 ♦7 4 2 ♣A K J 8 5 4

My partner opened 1♠. I chose to game-force with 2♣. After hearing 2♠, I bid 3♣. Partner bid 3♦ and I bid the obvious 3NT. A diamond was led. Here is the dummy:

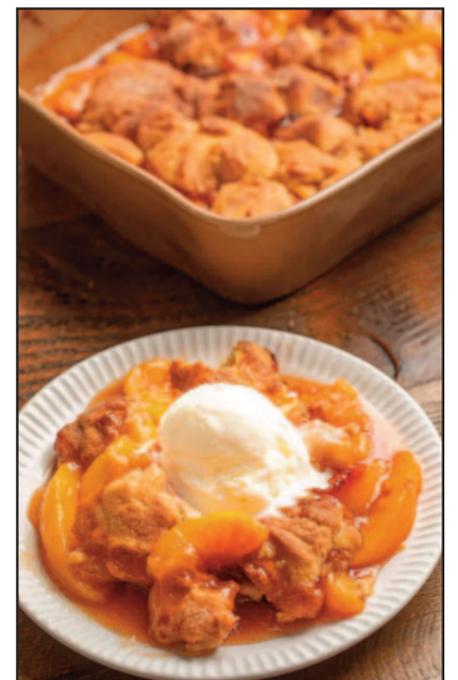
♠A K 10 9 8 6 ♥9 7 6 5 ♦A 9 ♣10.

I didn't see much point in ducking, so I won the ♦A. I now led the ♣10, letting it ride.

What a dumb play!

The only way to bring the club suit in is if they split 3-3, so a smart player will overtake the ♣10 with the jack and hope to win six clubs, one diamond, and two spades – making 3NT. Letting the ♣10 hold and hoping to gain entry with the ♥K is just foolish.

Normally, at the bridge club, I'd eat my feelings at the snack table, perhaps having a bite of this delicious dessert or a handful of peanut M&Ms. This time, I was stuck at home with nothing good to eat.



What you won't see in the Bridge Bulletin, and when you'll see it

As an insider, I want to reply to the last portion of Dennis Kendig's letter regarding the lack of publicity of recent cheating cases in the Bridge Bulletin.

When I interviewed Georgia Heth for the story about her re-election in the January issue, she mentioned that Kendig's complaint is one she hears often. She asked me to let people know that there are rules regarding how and what information from these cases is published and where.

The ACBL codification dictates how results of disciplinary cases are published. If a member is expelled, there is a brief statement of that in the Bridge Bulletin. If the outcome is anything else, it is reported on the website.

To find information on disciplinary cases, interested readers should go to acbl.org/ethics and click the button for Under Discipline. From there, go to Hearing Reports.

The same portion of the website features ACBL Recorder Robb Gordon's occasionally updated dashboard showing the number of active investigations, cases pending, negotiated resolutions, cases heard and decided, and members disciplined.

This, in the view of the board which adopted these rules, is the appropriate place for this type of information.

Another point that is a commonly misunderstood issue is the timing of our production cycle.

It would have been tremendously foresighted to include news of Shi's July 23 confession when we sent the August issue of the Bulletin to the printer two weeks prior to that.

Around the time Shi published her confession, we were finishing up the last articles for the September issue. As one of the last pieces to be submitted, Heth's column was able to (obliquely) mention it.

Had we intended to write an article about it, the earliest possible issue it could go would be October.

The magazine is sent to the printer three weeks before you receive it. The two weeks before that are devoted to proofing, so articles are turned in at least five weeks before. And we give ourselves two weeks to gather and write our stories, so to make it onto the production calendar, we have to know about it at least seven weeks ahead.

With deadlines like these, the Bridge Bulletin will never be a timely publication, and as such, we don't strive to be.

What you did see in August was news of Andrew Chen breaking the record for youngest Life Master. That happened May 27 — too late for us to include in the July issue, except a brief mention in Heth's column. Had it happened a week or so later, the story may have appeared in September.

— Chip Dombrowski

Eyer: Video of district board meeting available

Continued from Page 1

So, what you really want to know is, when will there be tournaments? Well, like with everything else in these challenging times, we don't know. ACBL has canceled all tournaments through at least Feb. 28. Tentatively, we are planning on going ahead with our postponed Bend regional next May. But if you make reservations at

our beautiful new location in downtown Bend, know nothing is certain. Will there be NABCs for the GNT winners and all the usual events? Stay tuned.

The meeting was recorded. If you're interested in watching it, drop me a line at leela.tardis@gmail.com and I'll be happy to share.

Thanks again to all the hardworking board members and workers. Thank all of

you for hanging in and being safe. We know there are some of you who have only dipped your toes into the online, but as the two recent memorial games for Portland longtime players and characters Diane Cullen and Mary Hovda showed, there are lots of players out there.

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

AROUND THE UNITS

Two members lose homes in Alameda fire

"When it rains, it pours" has special meaning in 2020, especially in southern Oregon where, in the middle of the pandemic, wildfires destroyed almost 3,000 homes and businesses — mostly in Phoenix and Talent, some in Ashland.

At least two Unit 484 members, **Jackie Donnelly** and **Dorothy Vogel**, lost their homes and belongings in the Alameda fire. Jackie found refuge in her son's home before moving into a new apartment in November. Dorothy stayed with her daughter near Cave Junction while figuring out what to do next. Both also found refuge and solace — and a welcome distraction — by joining the online virtual club games with their bridge friends.

"We are all heartsick over the personal and community loss," said **Gee Gee Walker**, unit president. "We are extremely thankful that we all survived safely."

Before the pandemic, Unit 484 members played live bridge in a Pacific Plaza shopping center space. In mid-summer, clubs vacated the space, stored supplies and furniture, and secured another space across the highway for future live play.

The Pacific Plaza building burned to the ground in the fire as did the newly reserved space. The storage unit was



Jackson County



By Jim Flint

bridgewebs.com/unit484medford

untouched by the fires.

Neighbors and friends and families have come to the aid of fire victims, just as they have for health and economic victims of covid-19. Communities have rallied with generosity and care.

It brings to mind the words of Woodbury University (Calif.) professor Joan Marques: "When it rains it pours. Maybe the art of life is to convert tough times to great experiences: we can choose to hate the rain or dance in it."

The losses people have experienced are nothing to dance about, but the big hearts of people who lent a helping hand surely have lifted spirits. It's a dance of sorts.

Board member moves

John Cowles, a resident of Ashland and Talent for nearly a decade, moved with his wife Anne to New Mexico in October, now residing in a 55+ community near Albuquerque.

Cowles served several terms on the board, including in the role as president, and chaired several tournaments

over the years.

Many of his friends and partners stay in touch and continue to play bridge together on BBO. His contributions to the unit will be missed, including the dynamite chili he occasionally brought to unit potlucks.

Annual meeting goes virtual

With face-to-face meetings on hold, the unit held its annual election of new board members by email.

Notices were sent to all members who had provided email addresses, asking for votes to be returned by Nov. 20. Election results, too late to be reported in this edition of the Trumpet, will be covered in the spring edition.

Unit 484 races on home stretch

With only the fourth quarter of 2020 remaining, the race for top masterpoint winners in Unit 484 was tightening at the top.

As of ACBL's Oct. 6 reporting, the leaders and their total masterpoints earned toward the Mini-McKenney awards were as follows: **Gee Gee Walker**, 134.46; **Jim Flint**, 128.38; **Molly Tinsley**, 123.63; **Bob Scott**, 117.50; and **Dennis Kendig**, 105.18.

A number of Unit 484 members were among the top 25 of District 20 races in several of the masterpoint categories.



Eugene/Springfield



By Don Marsh

www.emeraldbridgeclub.org

Eugene mourns two

We are all truly saddened by the loss of our beloved **Kathleen Wilt**. We send our thoughts to John and all her family.

Kathleen was such an amazing person. Gentle. Kind. Caring. Always present in every moment. There is perhaps no better way to describe Kathleen than to share what she chose to do with some of the precious time that she had left.

She took on one more project. She created handmade cards — nearly a 150 of them — to leave with friends. She wanted to express her appreciation to those folks who had touched her life in some way. With the limited time and energy left to her, she chose to focus, not on herself, but to share her love in those last days.

We are also saddened by the loss of Dr. **Libby Glenn**. I had the opportunity to experience a number of bottom boards from Libby ranging over a number of years. I first encountered Libby and her husband Richard all the way back

Continued on Page 12



Kathleen Wilt



Libby Glenn

Brookings pair is on a spree



Brookings Tri-City Bridge Club



By Debbie Grasham

We're having lots of fun here on the coast. Especially since the fires have died down. We have several members who are playing regularly online in virtual club games, tournaments and casual games.

The most successful are **Steve Carter** and **Steve Prokov**. Since the lockdown (through Oct. 14) they've scored 48.35 masterpoints, including some silver and gold. They really enjoy playing with local clubs. The competition is fierce and our club earns some money.

Special games have given them their gold but the hours are totally East Coast-centric, which makes playing very early



Steve Prokov and Steve Carter

challenging. They both really miss playing against our local members.

We all get excited when we run into Tri-City members on the opposite side of the online table. And even a bad day is better if you at least outperform people you know.

Have a safe and sane holiday season and hope to see everyone at the bridge table.

Redding, Chico form virtual club

Feels as though we've been on pause since March! No big tournament or game winners to report.

Several have continued their bridge using BBO. The SYC games draw many of our players. Many players challenge the robots regularly. We have one virtual club game which we share with Chico. It boasts 11 and 12 tables each week. Some of our players enjoy casual games online regularly.

No face-to-face playing, but we continue to get our bridge fix. Playing online does have some benefits. No problem what to wear, no travel, we can have facial expressions, even give vent to our frustrations.

For those of us hard of hearing, not a problem. What we sorely miss is our face-to-face connection, visiting, catching up on the news, all social interaction. Hopefully, this all is just a pause in our bridge lives. One day soon we'll have both face-to-face and online.



Redding



By Joan Sullens

www.bridgescore.com/redding

We've lost some friends this period. Sad to report the passing of **Bill Moon**, former director and teacher **Carol Sandberg**, **Lucille Muns Tyner**, **Al Jensen**, **Bill Street** and **Don Jacobs**. Bill, Carol, Lucile, Al and Bill had not played in the past few years. Don played regularly up to his passing in October.

Don had planned on walking in the Relay for Life cancer fund walk. Not to be. His fellow bridge players have come together, raising \$1000 for the charity. **Nikki Blum** coordinated the effort. She and **Barbara Hopson** walked the 6 miles in his honor. Kudos and thanks to all.

Winter Wonderland TOURNAMENT

'Tis the season for gold points

December 17-20

Play in the next online regionally rated event and win gold!

One- and two-session events for players of all levels with start times throughout the day.

acbl.org/virtual

Player roundup

By Amy Casanova and Jim Flint
The Trumpet

In November, we asked players around the district this question: *What do you like about playing on BBO? Here are their answers.*



Renee Ferrera

"My favorite part is when I play casual bridge with my regular teammates using Zoom. We can see each other, talk about the hands right after we play them, and visit throughout. It feeds that need to be with other people."

Renee Ferrera
Portland OR

"I love the absolute focus on the screen with minimal distractions."

Robert Serrett
Ashland OR



Robert Serrett



Bob Law

"Not being able to hear my partner mutter under their breath or see their grimace regarding my bidding or play."

Bob Law
Portland OR

"It doesn't replace face-to-face bridge, but I'm glad it's there. No revokes or bids out of turn, and hesitations don't mean anything."

Hendrik Sharples
Brush Prairie WA



Hendrik Sharples



Jon Gassaway

"Apart from BBO, I enjoy watching bridge streams with commentators on Twitch and chatting with players through Discord."

Jon Gassaway
Portland OR

"I play more often since it saves time with 18 boards and no travel time. And online, I'm better able to concentrate."

Kathleen Moore
Jacksonville OR



Kathleen Moore



Bill Fry

"I love that I can play safely with my friends in Portland or Denver from the comfort of home."

Bill Fry
Denver CO

"Staying connected with my bridge community. It's a great way to stay with the game I love and the people I love to be with."

Gee Gee Walker
Medford OR



Louis Beauchet



Bob Scott

"The ability to practice with partners from all over the world."

Louis Beauchet
Sherwood OR

"You get immediate feedback after each hand concerning your mistakes."

Bob Scott
Ashland OR

"You can play all day in your pajamas."

Charlene Martindale
Boise ID



Gee Gee Walker

Expert Lesson

The hand that decided this year's Open GNT

How counting the opponents' shape can guide you to the percentage play

By Mark Tolliver
The Trumpet

Beginners and intermediates frequently ask experienced players about how they can improve their game. There is no great answer. Different players have different areas that need improvement. But one area where additional focus would help is to make it a habit to keep track of the opponents' distribution and to use that information to make percentage plays.

A hand from this year's Open Grand National Teams illustrates the process.

North
♠A 6 5 4 3
♥A K 7
♦3
♣A Q 9 6

South
♠Q 9
♥J 10 6
♦A Q J 6
♣K J 3 2

West	North	East	South
		Pass	1NT ⁽¹⁾
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	2NT ⁽²⁾	Pass	3♣ ⁽³⁾
Pass	6♣	All Pass	

- 14-16 HCP
 - Four or more clubs, game forcing
 - Club fit; implies no spade fit
- Note: Hands were rotated for ease of reading.

Now to set the stage. This hand was played in the fifth of six sets of the district's Open Grand National Team finals. The match was close, and this slam determined the winner of the event.

West led the ♣10. Declarer won dummy's queen, East followed with the 4. What if anything can be learned from the lead?

Well, West might have high cards in all the other suits and decided to go passive to avoid giving the contract away on opening lead. Or, it could be the classic, I don't know what to lead, so I'll lead a trump. More likely, they suspected this could be a 4-4 fit and wanted to reduce the possibility that the contract would be made on a crossruff. West might have hoped their side could win an early trick and play a second trump. Now in dummy, declarer led a spade toward the queen and when East played low, declarer played the 9. This is a strange play, though it didn't really cost anything. Declarer may have thought that if East didn't play the king, he didn't have it.

Anyway, the spade to the 9 lost to the 10 and West played back the ♣8. This looks like West expected dummy to be 5-4 in the blacks with a likely singleton in one of the red suits and was continuing the plan to prevent a potential crossruff.

Declarer won the club return in hand with the king and played the ♠Q which

was covered and won by the ace and ruffed a spade from dummy with the ♣J. Good news for declarer, the spades split 3-3 and dummy's two remaining small spades were now good! Declarer promptly drew the last trump and West discarded a heart and East followed.

So, let's update the position:

♠6 5
♥A K 7
♦3
♣9

♠—
♥J 10 6
♦A Q J 6
♣—

Declarer has lost only one trick and has won the other five tricks and needs all the remaining tricks to make the slam. We can see two winning spades, a high trump, the ♥AK and the ♦A. This means declarer needs one extra trick from the red suits. Obviously, declarer could take either red suit finesse immediately to determine the fate of the contract. Declarer didn't do that. Why? Because, when a contract depends on a certain guess, it is better to defer the guess to the last possible moment. Perhaps you will learn something that will point you to the winning choice.

Here, our declarer cashed the last trump. East discarded a diamond and West discarded a heart. Now declarer cashed one of his two winning spades. East discarded a heart and West threw away a diamond. Now declarer followed another good rule of declarer play and cashed the ♥AK. Why? The reason is that if you can take one of two plays for a contract, try to combine your chances.

With three hearts having been discarded, there would be the extra chance that the ♥Q might drop, which would yield the 12th trick. Alas, that didn't happen. East followed to the first heart and discarded a diamond on the second heart. West, of course, followed to both hearts.

Declarer now cashed dummy's last spade winner, throwing the ♥J from hand. East discarded another diamond and West also discarded a diamond. So now declarer had to make his final decision and let's take a look at what was left.

♠—
♥7
♦3
♣—

♠—
♥—
♦? x
♣—

♠—
♥—
♦A Q
♣—

The question marks are used because we don't know the value of that diamond card. Declarer now thought long and hard. Was the diamond finesse the way to make the 12th trick? Or since West had to keep the ♥Q to guard declarer's 7, was he forced to stiff the ♦K, which means they had been squeezed? Declarer was tortured because there was absolutely no doubt that the contract could now be made if the end position was guessed correctly.

Declarer decided that the squeeze had worked and played a diamond to the ace.

This was an anti-percentage play. Why? Well if you have been following the play carefully, here is what you know. West was revealed to have 3=5=3=2 distribution. East had 3=2=5=3. How do we know? Well we saw the clubs played out, we saw that spades were 3-3 and we saw that East discarded on the second heart honor after discarding a heart earlier.

This is another important principle of declarer play (and defense too!) Count the opponents' distribution! It will take time and lots of practice, but the information you get from counting is critical to making percentage plays, which will greatly improve your results.

See how that principle applied on this hand? Declarer knew the opponents originally held eight diamonds between them and that East held five of those diamonds. The king could be in either hand, but it is 62.5% (five out of eight diamonds) to be with East and only 37.5% to be with West. The percentage play, by a wide margin, was to finesse East for the king.

Now, maybe declarer felt the trump lead strongly suggested that West didn't want to lead away from something. If so, declarer went against heavy odds to play a hunch.

This was the full deal:

Dir: East ♠A 6 5 4 3
Vul: Both ♥A K 7
♦3
♣A Q 9 6

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

♠Q 9
♥J 10 6
♦A Q J 6
♣K J 3 2



Mark Tolliver is an Emerald Lfie Master who has represented the U.S. in a world championship, reaching the semifinals of the 2015 D'Orsi Senior Bowl.

What I should have said, What I said

By Jim Flint
The Trumpet

In honor and memory of Mary Ann Madden, the creator and long-time editor of the "Competition" for New York magazine, we offer this compilation as a bridge adaptation of one of her favorite and most popular reader competitions:

1. What I should have said.
2. What I said.

1. "You probably had a couple clubs mixed in with your spades."
2. "You bid a freakin' three-card suit?!"

1. "Oh, well, stuff happens."
2. "Maybe if you had pulled the #&@*# trumps, they wouldn't have gotten four ruffs!"

1. "Things don't always work out, but I do like an aggressive bidder."
2. "I know you were third seat, but only an idiot would open, red, with a five-card suit to the 9 and 7 HCP!"

1. "Nobody had bid the minors, so I can see why you might think I had one."
2. "Why would you, for god's sake, bid an unusual notrump with 4-4 in the minors and values in the majors?!"

1. "Wish I could have had a trick for your double, partner."
2. "When they cruised to slam, what in the hell made you think your A-K was going to cash in the suit I preempted — hmmm?!"

1. "Yes, you and dummy *did* have a lot of clubs together, and I certainly *might* have been void."
2. "Why didn't you just return my lead, dammit?"

1. "Nice bid, partner."
2. "Jeez, you sure lucked out on that one, thanks to the numbskull defense!"

1. "Yeah, you're right, the ♠5 doesn't really *look* like a winner."
2. "Would it hurt to *count to 13* once in a while?!"

1. "Thank you, partner."
2. "Nice dummy. Gosh, one whole trump for me and six nice clubs to the jack! Thank god we're not vulnerable!"

1. "It's an interesting and complicated game, isn't it?"
2. "Eight ever, nine never!!!"

1. "You're one of my favorite partners, Jane."
2. "You're one of my favorite partners, Joan."



Chris's Corner

ACBL tournament director Chris Wiegand answers your questions on rulings.

What to do when a play seems suspicious

Q: I was playing online on BBO. My opponent took a strange action that worked well with their partner's holding. I think they may have been communicating or somehow "aware" of their partner's hand when they took the action. What should I do?

A: This is an excellent question that is a byproduct of online play. Sometimes when we are looking at results, our "spidey senses" tingle that something may be amiss, but we don't have the time, resources, or experience to proceed further.

One hand is not necessarily proof of misbehavior. Many things can affect one hand: an opponent thought partner made a call rather than an opponent, the opponent mislicked, or the dog started barking and the opponent simply lost concentration. And every now and then, even though we make a mistake like this, we get lucky and happen to "catch" partner.

What is far more important is establishing a pattern of behavior/choices/actions that may be based upon unauthorized information, and each point of data is a piece of the puzzle. I like to think of it like a piece of pointillism; each point is just a dot of color, but when you put all the dots together, they form a picture.

So how should you proceed? First, do not say anything to the opponents at the table. It is not your place and it will sound like an accusation of cheating, which itself is a violation of our laws and regulations. Instead, message the director and ask for a review, not for score change, but for potential suspiciousness. The director may realize something you do not, so that it becomes a moot point.

If something may be amiss, the director should encourage you to file a player memo (acbl.org/bbomemo). A link to this player memo can also be found on BBO in the ACBL Virtual Clubs section; it is a blue button at the bottom next to "Substitutes." These memos are not accusations of cheating; rather, they are simply a report of something amiss that may be one of the data points in a bigger picture.

These memos go to the ACBL national recorder, Robb Gordon, who will file the information appropriately or determine if further investigation is warranted. If further investigation is warranted, he has the resources to do further research and make determinations if proceedings should go forward against the player/pair. Many more details on this topic were included in the article on page 18 of the September 2020 ACBL Bridge Bulletin. A step-by-step guide to saving the board for a player memo was shown on page 24 of the October issue.

Just like a neighborhood watch, we need everyone's help in reporting suspicions so that appropriate measures can be taken. Thank you in advance for taking the time to fill in a memo.

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



TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

ACBL-WIDE ONLINE EVENTS

DECEMBER 2020 17 – 20	Winter Wonderland	Online regional
JANUARY 2021 18 – 24	Silver Linings Week	Virtual clubs
FEBRUARY 2021 25 – 28	Hollywood Magic	Online regional
MARCH 2021 6 – 8 11 – 21	NABC Robot Individual Spring NAOBC	Online NABC Online NABC – (if NABC not held in St. Louis)

DISTRICT 20 REGIONALS & SECTIONALS

MARCH 2021 5 – 7 5 – 7 19 – 21 TBA	Heart of the Valley Sectional Honolulu Sectional Chico Almond Blossom Sectional Rogue Valley Spring Sectional	Benton County Fairgrounds, Corvallis OR Ala Wai Clubhouse, Honolulu HI Chico Women's Club, Chico CA Dan Voorhies Bridge Center, Phoenix OR
APRIL 2021 9 – 11 10 – 11 TBA 30 – May 2 April 30–May 2	Redding Spring Sectional Vancouver Spring Sectional Ontario Sectional Seaside Sectional Golden Clam I/N Regional	Win-River Resort & Casino, Redding CA Washington School for the Deaf, Vancouver WA TBA, Ontario OR Seaside Convention Center, Seaside OR Seaside Convention Center, Seaside OR
MAY 2021 TBA 14 – 16 May 24–30	GNT – All flights Honolulu Sectional ORE. HIGH DESERT REGIONAL	Online at home Ala Wai Clubhouse, Honolulu HI Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend OR
JUNE 2021 TBA	Eugene Sectional	Northwest Christian College, Eugene OR
JULY 2021 TBA 9 – 11 July 26–Aug. 1	Salem Sectional Honolulu Sectional EMERALD EMPIRE REGIONAL	Keizer/Salem Area Senior Center, Keizer OR Ala Wai Clubhouse, Honolulu HI Valley River Inn, Eugene OR
AUGUST 2021 13 – 15	Vancouver Summer Sectional	Washington School for the Deaf, Vancouver WA

TOURNAMENTS IN NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS

DISTRICT 19: www.d19.org March 26–28 April 12–18 April 29–May 2 TBA June 22–27 Aug. 16–22	Seattle Sectional, Everett WA Victoria Regional BC Tri-Cities Sectional, Richland WA Penticton Regional BC Anchorage Regional AK Lynnwood Regional WA	DISTRICT 18: www.wasumi.org March 26–28 April 5–11 May 1–2 May 10–16 Aug. 9–15	Salt Lake City Sectional UT Lethbridge Regional AB Missoula I/N Sectional MT Saskatoon Regional SK Calgary Regional AB
DISTRICT 21: www.d21acbl.com March 6–7 April 17–18 April 30 – May 2 May 31 – June 6 Aug. 31–Sept. 6	Santa Rosa Sectional CA Larkspur Sectional CA Sacramento Sectional, Orangevale CA Sacramento Regional CA All-Western Regional, Santa Clara CA	DISTRICT 17: www.d17acbl.org March 1–7 May 25–31 Aug. 9–15	Tucson Regional AZ Denver Regional CO Phoenix Regional, Scottsdale AZ
		DISTRICT 22: acbldistrict22.com/d22 April 5–11 Sept. 6–12	San Diego Regional CA Costa Mesa 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

Jennifer Cooper, Medford OR	Margaret Rosenthal, Happy Valley OR
Joanne Copsey, Redding CA	Martha Sheppard, Bend OR
Henry Hamaker, Portland OR	Bob Shuell, Vancouver WA
Roger Hamilton, Portland OR	Wendee Shuell, Vancouver WA
Austin Hendrickson, Gresham OR	Marilyn Ward, Bend OR
Stuart Hotchkiss, Boise ID	Carol Warren, Portland OR
Bettina Lee, Lake Oswego OR	
Susan Peterson, Portland OR	

Welcome!

Eugene

Continued from Page 10
to the days of the Eugene Bridge Club when the games were held at the Eugene Garden Club on High Street. I had that same experience some number of years later at EBC when she played with her son Davey, as she referred to him. When she would

come out with "Oh, Davey" when dummy hit, you knew Davey was going to receive "input" on the ride home.

While she was a formidable foe at the table, I shall always remember her for her graciousness.

We shall soldier on without these two. But it will not be the same.