

Diamond in the Ruff: East Bay Unit 502, April 2020

By Larry Bowerman (lmjtbow@pacbell.net)

In these uncertain times, **take care of yourselves and be well.**

As most of you know by now, **the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the postponement and/or cancelation of bridge tournaments and games at most local clubs, including at our own East Bay Community Bridge Center (EBCBC).** The EBCBC made its decision to close indefinitely late in the evening on March 12. As with many other postponements and/or closures, we have no idea how long they will last. Please check the Unit 502 and EBCBC websites periodically for any updates about the on-going impact of COVID-19.

For those of you who miss playing bridge (and who doesn't?), you can always play online at: **BridgeBase Online, OK Bridge, Funbridge and/or Swan Games.** You can find links to each of these four websites at the ACBL website. From the ACBL homepage click on the pull-down menu "Clubs" towards the left side of the homepage, then click on "Play Online."

Assuming that the EBCBC closure continues through April, I'm not including my usual discussion of Saturday or Sunday games. If COVID-19 situation resolves itself during April, that information will be available on the Unit 502 and/or EBCBC websites. Stay tuned; I think that we are in for a roller coaster ride!

If the COVID-19 closures are lifted by the end of April, here are a couple of possible events for your bridge calendars: For those of you in need of Silver Points **May 4th to May 10th is STAC Week (\$10 entry fees).** And, it's not too soon to mark your calendars for the **East Bay Summer Sectional** at the Masonic Center on June 27th and 28th. This is a great event, and the food is excellent.

In the **March 1st Unit Game** Lynn Yokel and Barak Engel finished in first place (71.02%), Tom McKelvey and John Santibanes finished second (58.74%), Bonnie Macbride and Sidney Mar third (56.99%),

Gregory Vance and Andrew Hoskins fourth (56.64%), and Roseanne Smith and Sandi Davis fifth (55.30%). As you can see, Lynne and Barak had an excellent game, and there was good competition for the next four places!

Welcome to new Unit 502 member Sarah Redick. When you see her, please introduce yourself and welcome her to our unit.

Congratulations to the following members on their recent rank advancements: Ronald Hutton to Regional Master, Catherine Fortney to Bronze Life Master and David Pratt to Silver Life Master! When you see them, please take the time to congratulate them. Kudos to all and keep on playing! There is always another goal in front of you!

Marcia Wasserman is writing the May column, so please contact her (marciawasserman@gmail.com) if you have noteworthy results or other items to report.