



Newsletter

January–March 2021

The Light at the END of the Tunnel!

by Marty Bley



It appears that in the not too distant future, there might be face-to-face bridge again. On whatever level face-to-face bridge returns, expect it to be different from what you remember.

First and foremost, there will very likely be no food supplied by the game director. There may be coffee, tea, water, but that also might not be available. I know from my perspective as a club owner, IF players want snacks/sandwiches, they will need to bring their own. I will work a 20-25 minute lunch break into the game timeframe for games that start in the morning and end after lunchtime. IF we do this, then the game format also may change. We don't want unauthorized information shared inadvertently or otherwise, because, during the break, players discuss a board that hasn't been played by ALL the players. OR I may just make all my games have a 1 PM start time, and that way no lunch break will be required.

Second, some club directors may require you to have had the COVID vaccine. I know I will require that as a club director/owner. Otherwise, I am NOT running the

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Late Breaking News: So yet again an Open Virtual game is dying a slow death. The Limited games (0-20, 199, 499, 999) are doing well in almost every time slot they are run. There are only four Open games that work, really, M/W/F mornings and Tuesday night. All others have died and taken the limited game along with them or are dying as I type....Thursday morning and Monday Afternoon. Why is that? Do you know? If you do, I would like you to tell me, please. You can [email me](#), or you can message me on BBO at username VACB139840 or mooosictch. Many of you have quit playing in the open games, and I would like to know why...if there is more than one reason, tell me all of them. If we don't know what is broken, we can't fix it. Won't you please tell us? No harm, no foul. Thanks!

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game at all, as I am in the high risk category, as are many of our older players.

Third, you may still need to wear a mask. This is to guard you against the people who don't get the vaccine but said they did.... Yes, there will be some of THOSE people and also to guard you/or the rest of us against other situations that might arise.

Fourth, think about the venues where bridge is typically held in our area. Churches for the most part. Will they want us there? Will they require more rent \$\$ because of the added risk to them and their congregation? If they don't want us back, then that game might not return. IF they require more \$\$, expect to pay the same amount or more than you paid for face-to-face bridge prior to shutdown. Not fair you say? Club owners don't necessarily want to make money, but for sure they don't want to lose money. Club owners realize that for online games you pay \$1.25 or \$1.75 for 12 or 18 boards or when you play in the virtual games, you pay \$5.00, generally to play 18 to 21 or even 24 boards. Don't get excited when you go back to face-to-face bridge, and, because directors have to pay rent to the facility where you play, you are paying \$10.00 or more to play 24 boards.

Fifth, there most likely will be less people coming to play face-to-face bridge when it does return. So now you are dealing with less paying customers, but the same or greater costs to run the game....see number 4.

Sixth, ACBL fees may go up because there may be fewer face-to-face bridge clubs and lower attendance at Sectionals, Regionals and Nationals...again, see number 4. ACBL tournament directors do this to earn a living wage. Look at number four one more time ;-)

Seventh, there may well always be a virtual piece attached to any face-to-face game OR there may ONLY be virtual for any particular club game. While I hope to eventually run face-to-face games again, if no face-to-face game resumes in your area, and you don't play virtu-

Earn more Masterpoints in the Virtual Open Games!

Did you know that virtual open games include the table count from the limited games when awarding Masterpoints? A recent open game had only 3 tables. But because there were 23 tables in the limited games, the first place finisher's award went from 0.60 MPs to 3.45 MPs.

ally, then your days of playing duplicate bridge may be over. You might want to re-think your decision not to play virtually now, while you have the time and others have the patience and time to teach you how it works and how to work it ;-)

And last, but not least, in the virtual world you might have gotten into the habit of talking out loud to your partner or the opponents on the screen when they do something stupid or helpful or NOT helpful.....you might want to put a lid on that now, because, at the face-to-face table, that won't be permitted. ;-) AND might even get you into trouble!

This is my next to last newsletter. My last one will be in April. I step down in May as President of the NVBA. The Board is working on various items. The first is having a virtual Annual Meeting in May. The second is finding new people to learn to be directors so that the Unit Game can continue to be held or that club owners who no longer wish to run a particular game can find a replacement, so that YOU can have

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your game continue. I am sure they will continue to work on those issues until face-to-face returns and then will be supportive of those efforts to get clubs up and running again, starting with our Unit Game.

Virtual Annual Meeting you say? Hmmm! Yes, in the next few unit emails you receive, there will be a link for you to click on to advise us about your availability to attend a Virtual Annual meeting on Zoom. If you have not already done so, would you please take the minute or less it requires to respond and tell us if you would participate? We need a minimum of 75 people to respond positively to have a virtual meeting. More would be better ;-)

What to do about the NVBA Annual Awards—Man of the Year, Woman of the Year, Rush Buckley and Rookie of the Year? Virtual awards are not forthcoming. There are awards for the 2019 year that will be distributed at the next face-to-face Annual Meeting we hold. The Board is discussing Virtual awards. The problem is doing the data collection it requires to determine who wins them. The new format of ACBL LIVE requires no files on any directors' computers, as all the information is in BBO Land, and then sent to ACBL Land, and they post it. So, while it looks like we did it, WE really didn't do a thing ;-)

Here is a [link](#) to the ACBL offered events for the first six months of 2021. You will notice some are 'Virtual' club offerings. More Black points than normally issued, Silver Points events, and then the ACBL Regionals that run single and double session events for four days (Thursday through Sunday), when you can earn gold and red points. Due to their success in these regionals, at least four of our Members were able to attain Life Master status: Jamie Dahlberg, Nancy Smagala, Jason Carter and Joia Hertz. So it IS possible, IF you play ;-)

2020-2021 District Six Grand National Teams

There are many reasons to play in the 2021 District Six GNT (the event will be played online).

- All masterpoints won will be colored (Red and/or Gold).
- You can win a District Championship and play intense bridge against your peer group.
- Winners will play to represent District Six at the 2021 summer nationals.
- There will be \$2,000 per winning team to offset travel and hotel costs at the Summer North American Bridge Championships in Providence, Rhode Island.
- You can put a team together and reunite with your friends.

The 2020-2021 GNT for all four Flights will be run over two weekends, the same way as in previous years, except all boards will be played online, so the site is your own home and electronic device. The GNT is an easier way to earn red and gold masterpoints without traveling.

For this year only, there will be NO club qualifying. Everyone who is a member in good standing of District Six can form a team and enter the District level competition for Flights they are eligible to play in, depending on their masterpoint total as of September 1, 2019. (By ACBL rules masterpoint eligibility is determined by the September 1, 2019 cycle, not the September 1, 2020 cycle.)

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The competition contains four Flights:

- In the Open all players may enter.
- Flight A is limited to players with 0-6000 masterpoints.
- Flight B is open to players with 0-2500 masterpoints.
- Flight C is open to players with 0-500 masterpoints who are Non-Life Masters (NLM).

Players can enter more than one flight, if, for example, you are eligible for both Flight A and Flight B, or both Flight A and the Open, since they are run on different weekends, so you and teammates of your choice can register for both events.

Each team must pre-register to play. Pre-registration ends the Tuesday that is 11 days before the Saturday of the event. See the dates below.

Team captains must submit a check for \$100.00 made out to District Six. This covers your team for the first two sessions. You can have 4-6 players on your team, but the pre-registration fee is \$100.00 per team.

You **must** include **all** the following information along with the check:

- Team captain's email address and phone number
- All team members' real names
- All team members' ACBL numbers
- All team members' BBO names.
- The Flight your team wants to enter.

For the Open, Flight B and Flight C address the envelope to:

Lucy McCoy
3353 Taleen Court
Annandale, Virginia 22003-1161

For the Flight A (0-6000) address the envelope to:

Steve Robinson
2891 S. Abingdon Street Apt. A2
Arlington, Virginia 22206-1329

Dates of 2021 Open, Flight B and Flight C GNT

- Pre-register by February 16, 2021
- First weekend February 27-28, 2021
- Second weekend April 17-18, 2021

Dates of 2021 Flight A 0-6000 GNT

- Pre-register by January 19, 2021
- First weekend January 30-31, 2021
- Second weekend - the final four teams and District Six will coordinate and schedule the match.

Additional information about the GNTs is on the next page. You can also go to districtsixbridge.org and click on the GNT Logo, where you will find:

- An overview and Conditions of Contest for the event(s)
- Frequently asked questions (FAQ)
- FAQ centering around online play (Separate)
- How the event will be run on BBO

Anyone with familiarity on BBO will have no problem playing in our event. All players will enjoy the intensity of the competition against their peers.

Frequently Asked Questions about 2019-2020 District Six Grand National Teams (GNT)

1: *What is the status of the 2019-2020 GNT in the Open, Flight B and Flight C?*

When face-to-face bridge ended in March 2020, only the first weekend of the 2019/2020 GNT for these Flights had been played. The second weekend will now be online on January 16-17, 2021. There are four teams left in the Open, six in Flight B and four in Flight C.

2: *How will the second weekend be played online?*

It will be played on the BBO platform. The District Six organizer will set the tables up online, and players will simply have to log onto BBO and log into their Zoom accounts, and they will be placed in breakout rooms. The event will be played under the existing Conditions of Contest for 2019-2020 where possible. These are posted on the District 6 website.

3: *Will the winners of 2019-2020 represent District Six?*

In the Open and Flight A (0-6000) competitions, the ACBL will allow only one team to represent the District. In these two Flights, we will get one winner for 2020 and another winner for 2021, which will be run separately from 2020. If two different teams win the 2020 Competition and the 2021 Competition, they will play off against each other to see who represents District Six in the national competition.

In Flight B and Flight C, we are allowed two teams for the Nationals by ACBL rules. Both the winners of 2020 and the winners of 2021 in these two Flights will represent District Six at the Summer NABC in Providence, RI.

4: *What happens if our players do not have experience playing online?*

There is plenty of time to learn. There are tutorials on how to play on BBO, or ask your friends, and then go online and practice. You can set up team games and play for free in the Casual area of BBO, or just practice there with your partner in the many free games.

If a player on your team is unable to play online, look at the 2019-2020 Conditions of Contest posted on the District 6 website in the GNT section, and read the rules on how to apply to put substitutes/replacements on your team. The basic principle is that a sub, replacement, or augmentation cannot strengthen the team by individual ability or partnership. For more answers to questions, go to Conditions of Contest or see below.

5: *What about security?*

- The ACBL code of behavior will be in effect.
- There will be no kibitzing. (That will stop players from self-kibitzing.)
- For the second weekend, the ACBL requires Zoom cameras on the players. (Cameras are not required for the first weekend.) Each player needs to create a Zoom account (free) on Zoom.com with an email address and password. When a player logs into Zoom, they will be placed in a “breakout” room where they are sitting at a table on Zoom with one player on the opposing team.
- District Six is making arrangements to purchase enough Zoom accounts and employ someone to set up the breakout rooms on Zoom.

6: *Who should I direct my questions to?*

- For Flight A, Flight B, Flight C 2020 or 2021, and for the Open for 2021, ask Bill Cole at 301-602-9024; colebridge@aol.com
- For the Open for 2020, ask Bob Bell at 301-920-0402 or 202-246-2777; r.k.bell@outlook.com

Parade of Winners

In the continuing absence of our usual local tournaments, we list here those NVBA players who finished in the top 10 of their strat in online events.

Online Fall into Bridge Regional October 15-18, 2020

Apple Picking Mid-Flight Pairs (280 Pairs)
5 Phillip Tseng – Frank Huang

Pumpkin Spice Top-Flight Pairs (164 Pairs)
3 Robbie Hopkins – Joan Lewis

Golden Leaves Gold Rush Pairs (304 Pairs) – Saturday
3 Fanjun Kong – Li Chen

Golden Corn Maze Gold Rush Pairs (846 Pairs) – Sunday
9 David Espo – Marianne Keler

Golden Leaves Gold Rush Pairs (318 Pairs)
3 Fanjun Kong – Li Chen
10 Georgia Booker – Sylvester Booker

Cozy Sweater Mid-Flight Pairs (118 Pairs)
1 Craig Pritzker – Nancy Smagala

Online Winter Wonderland Regional

December 17-20, 2020

Golden Bells Gold Rush Pairs (1,070 Pairs) – Thursday
6 Susan Drosdzal – Robert Drosdzal

Hot Cocoa 99er Pairs (34 Pairs) – Thursday
1 Janet Crist – Monika Renard

Frosty the Snowman Side Game (128 Pairs) – Thursday

6 William Lowry – Robert O'Connor

Pine Tree Top-Flight Pairs (84 Pairs)
2 2 Jay Cherlow – Eric Branfman

Deck the Halls Side Game (76 Pairs)
4 Glenn Preston – Adam Winsler

Hot Cocoa 99er Pairs (68 Pairs) – Friday
2 Michael Murphy – Tracy Welch

Frosty the Snowman Side Game (142 Pairs) – Friday

4 Jack Hawks – Anthony Hawks
5 Ryan Connors – Jody Connors

Sleigh Ride Top-Flight Pairs (162 Pairs) – Saturday
3 Shuba Dey – Jay Kelkar

Hot Cocoa 99er Pairs (38 Pairs) – Saturday
4 Michael Murphy – Tracy Welch

Golden Bells Gold Rush Pairs (864 Pairs) – Sunday
1 1 Jim Deckant – Kathy L'Hommedieu

Sleigh Ride Top-Flight Pairs (162 Pairs) – Sunday
9 Rusty Krauss – Barry Falgout

Hot Cocoa 99er Pairs (32 Pairs) – Saturday
5 1 Anne Carter – Tracy Welch
3 1 Deborah Wood – Chris Siple
5 Janet Crist – Monika Renard



Hail and Farewell

We welcome the following new members into our Unit:

Yumiko F Almasov
William J Bailey
Jennie Bishof
Maria Browne
Tracey L Cox
Lorraine E Fisher
Nat Humphries
Mary Kringer
Chandrima Mazumdar
Ann A Park
Michael J Petrina
Prabhu G Ponsksh
Roy Sammarco
Roswitha E Scheu

Sherry V Simon
Steven B Wynn

We welcome the following transfers into our Unit:

Letty Garek
Diane Garrett
David G Hirschland
Eloise C Poretz
Ronald J Shoemaker

We give our regards to the following people who have transferred out of our Unit:

Claudette C Coffey
Joanne B Falkowski

Linda B Goldberg
Michael L Goldberg
Douglas E Lahammer
Rosanna Nosed
Andrea Phaneuf
Roger Phaneuf
Kumkum Ray
Steve Reed
Lisa Van Divender

We are sorry to note the passing of Nancy Abbott, a wonderful bridge player and teacher.



Climbing the Ladder

New Junior Masters

Linda R Devan
Jennifer B Maggio
Jane Marcus
Jane Mitchell
Christel M Nugent
M Sheila Rabaut

New Club Masters

Paul Bernstein
Sylvia S Hall
Joan Kadonoff
Arnold Meyers
Michael J Murphy
Sandra Rosenthal
Hema Virmani
Tracy P Welch

New Sectional Masters

Kimberlee A Grindstaff
George Saile

New Regional Masters

Rekha Arness
Dr Sylvester C Booker

Phillip L Fraas
Amy M Kales
Dr Arthur N Kales
Glenn D Preston

New NABC Masters

Marty I Fuchs
Dee Ann Gretz
Ruth Guerdrum
Sharon Kellett
Richard D Long
Barbara Norton
Marilyn Stone

New Life Master

Nancy Smagala

New Bronze Life Masters

Joan H Axilbund
John Graf
Bryan F Macpherson

New Silver Life Masters

John A Bakovic
Frank S Huang

Craig L Pritzker
Dorothy E Terrell

New Ruby Life Master

Jacob G Hornberger

New Gold Life Masters

Carolyn W Baird
Joyce E Currie
Donna Hickling
Michael G Stafford

New Diamond Life Master

Betty J Burse

Northern Virginia Bridge Association

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