

# NVBA's Unit Game Guaranteed Partnership Program

Hello fellow bridge players! Before beginning to explain this wonderful program, I'd first like to give a tremendous round of thanks to the driving force behind formulating and making this program the success that it is, Leo Cardillo. Without Leo's dedication and commitment, this program would not be the success that it is. As we move forward with a new group of guaranteed partners (GPs) and hundreds of new members, we'd like to clarify what this program is and is not, how this program works, and some thoughts to improve it.

## What is the Unit Game Guaranteed Partnership (GPP) program?

- It is a service that the Unit provides at no cost to the membership. If at the last minute, you find yourself without a partner or teammates **for any Thursday night, Unit Game event**, the Guaranteed Partnership Coordinator (GPC) will facilitate matching you up with a partner or pairing you and your partner up with another pair for a team event.
- The Unit provides a similar guaranteed partnership service for NVBA-sponsored Sectional games **for the Friday afternoon through Sunday games**.
- Unfortunately, the GPP is neither a clearinghouse where the Unit will find you a partner prior to the evening of the Unit Game nor is it a reservation system where you 'place your order' for a partner for a specific Unit Game.

## What if I need a partner or teammates for a Unit Game event?

- Just come to the Unit Game as early as possible. We suggest that you arrive no later than 6:40. The later you arrive, the harder it is to match you up with a partner. **Do not call or send emails asking for a partner.**
- Check in with that evening's GPC – you can ask the game's director to point out this person. The GPC will ask you for your name, masterpoints, the section in which you wish to play (e.g., Open, A/X, B/C, 199, or 0-20), and for a team event how many partners you need.
- As people begin signing in with the GPC, he/she will begin to match you up with another player or pair based on masterpoints and system (e.g., SAYC, 2/1). If either person/team does not feel that the match is for them, they have the prerogative to ask for another match and the GPC will do everything to accommodate you.
  - Our first objective is to match up people who come to play with someone else who comes to play; not necessarily with one of the GPs.
  - Please keep in mind that this is a partnership for one game and not for life. The choosier you are and the number of matches that you turn down reduces the likelihood of getting a partner for that game and increases the chances that you may not play that evening.

- Our GPs are assigned if and only if we need an extra person to make up a pair or a team. If at the end of pairings, there are 2 players who are fairly equally matched and one of them chooses not to play with the other, the Unit will not match that person (the decliner) with a GP; we recognize that player's prerogative not to play with the other person. We will provide a GP to the person who was willing to play with the other player.

### **Why should I become, how do I become, and what will I do as a GP?**

- The GPP provides you the opportunity to give back some of what you've received. We've all needed a partner at one time or another and now you have the opportunity to return the favor.
- It will benefit your game tremendously. While a regular partnership can be more fun or even provide for a better game, we have found that you may learn a tremendous amount playing with myriad players from all skill levels. You get the chance to see different styles, conventions, and techniques; things that you may not get playing repeatedly with the same person. Think of this as getting free lessons.
- You do not have to commit to play every Thursday. The GPC sends out a weekly request for GPs and if you are interested in serving as a GP for that week, simply reply so stating. The first 2 or 3 people (depending on the needs for that particular week's game) that reply to the email will get the nod to play as a GP.
- The Unit compensates you. If you are selected to be a GP for a specific Unit Game, the Unit will give you a free play whether or not your services are needed for that evening. Additionally, if your services are needed and you play, you play for free.
- GPs are required to play with any person with whom they are matched by the GPC. All we ask, relative to your skill level, is that you are capable and comfortable playing with any other person at or below the section (i.e., Open, A/X, B/C, 199) in which you normally play. We try to match up players needing a partner with a similarly skilled GP.

### **What are some future plans for the GPP?**

- One idea is to construct a 'reservation system' accessible through the NVBA website. This would allow members, who know days or even weeks in advance that they need a partner for a specific game, to enter some data, such as: name, phone number, email address, system played, masterpoints, section to play in, and date partner is needed. Any other person who needs a partner would be able to access this information and the two parties can contact each other and arrange to play. Once the date is passed, the system would delete the data.
- We welcome any other ideas or suggestions; please talk with the GPC.

### **Interested?**

If you are interested in serving as a GP, please send me an email to [ny2va@yahoo.com](mailto:ny2va@yahoo.com). We are always looking for GPs to play at the A/X, B/C, and 199er levels.

