
NVBA E-News - 33% GOLD points at unit game 3/20

NVBA Board of Directors <announcements@nvba.org>
Reply-To: announcements@nvba.org
To: RonKral@gmail.com

Mon, Mar 17, 2025 at 8:06 PM

Dear Ronald:

Last week's unit game had 12.5 tables. Congratulations to winners **Ben Sharp - Pat Herbst (EW)** and **Sumner Steinfeldt - Hal Hindman (NS)**. [Full results here](#). This week's game will offer 33% gold masterpoints as part of ACBL's "March Madness" promotion. There will be open and 99er sections (attendance permitting) and a free pre-game lesson on opening very strong hands with 2C (and how to respond). **Reminder:** If you have not played at the unit game since before Covid, you can **play your first time back for free**.



Unit game rate increase. During the post-pandemic period, our Thursday night game has been operating at a financial loss, over \$33,000 since resuming the Thursday night game. Our attendance is down, averaging 10-13 tables per week versus a pre-pandemic average of 20-25 tables. In order to sustain our fiscal position, **effective April 1, we will be increasing our rates to \$16 for the open players, \$9 for 5-99 players, and \$2 for our 0-5 newcomers.** These fees are all inclusive. No separate security fee will apply. The board will review this in October after we have 6 months of data.

This move was not taken lightly. Like many units in the ACBL, we need to raise rates as we struggle to provide players with a good experience at the bridge table without incurring unacceptable financial losses. **We hope you'll come back to the table soon. We need you, and we want bridge to be available to you for a long, long time.**

The online NVBA 699er Tuesday evening game is suspended this week to avoid competing with the [ACBL Clubhouse March Madness](#) games that will be offering gold masterpoints. When the game resumes on March 25, it will be open to all ACBL members, so please invite friends and family to join, and if you can, please sign up early, as this helps attendance. **Promotion reminder:** Play at least once in the Tuesday online 699er game in March and earn a \$5 coupon valid for the Thursday unit game in April. Coupon is non-transferable and expires April 25.

Congratulations to the NVBA members who [advanced in rank](#) in February: new ruby life master **Rich Ardini**; new silver life master **Ben Sharp**; new life master **Paul Marjoram**; new advanced NABC master **Archana Rathnakar**; new NABC masters **Luanne Beutel, Terrance Mullin, and Alan Yu**; new regional masters **Catherine Murdock and Ben Umansky**; new sectional masters **E. Helen Brettell and Gurupran Khalsa**; new club masters **Nancy Ryback and Neringa Zamani**; and new junior masters **Carol Bracey and Birthe Christensen**.

The **Spring NABC in Memphis** continues this week. Good luck to all NVBA members who are participating! Check the ACBL website for the [schedule](#), [results](#), and [daily bulletins](#). If you'd like to kibitz the major events online, there are several options: check out [this post](#) on Bridgewinners.

Selected Upcoming Sectional, Regional, and National Tournaments

- [Memphis NABC](#) - Wed Mar 12 to Sun Mar 23
- [Lynchburg Sectional](#) - Fri Mar 28 to Sun Mar 30
- [75th Annual City Of Washington WBL Sectional](#) (Silver Spring) - Thu Apr 3 - Sun Apr 6 - **note new location**
- [Charlottesville Sectional](#) - Fri Apr 11 to Sun Apr 13
- [Gatlinburg Regional](#) - Mon Apr 21 to Sun Apr 27
- [Rehoboth Bridge at the Beach Regional](#) - Mon Apr 28 to Fri May 2
- The NVBA website has a list of other [2025 tournaments of interest](#)

Free Lessons for Newer Players Before the Unit Game and 99er Mini Game Alongside the Open Game

- There are **free lessons for newer players before the weekly NVBA unit game** (located at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, [3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria](#)). Each week's lesson will be **from 6:15pm to just before 7pm**. The lessons are aimed at players who want to review or relearn the fundamentals of bridge. They address a progression of topics on bidding and play of the hand.
- If there are eight or more players, **a separate mini game limited to players with fewer than 100 masterpoints will start at 7pm and end at about 9pm**. You are welcome to play in the 99er mini game whether or not you participate in the lesson.
- Reservations are not required, but it would be nice to know who is attending, so we can prepare enough handouts for the lesson and set up tables for the mini game. If you plan to attend this week's session, or a future session, please sign up at [RSVP Bridge](#), which can also help you find a partner, if you need one.
- The lesson is free. All participants in the mini game must pay the facility's \$2 security fee. The mini game is otherwise free for first timers and players with under 5 masterpoints, and half price (\$5) for players with 5 to 20 masterpoints. If you are attending the lesson and planning to play in the mini game, it will help the game start on time if you pay before the lesson starts.

Thursday Night NVBA Unit Game

- The NVBA unit game starts at 7pm. Please arrive at least ten minutes before game time.
- The game is held at [Beth El \(3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria\)](#).
- There is a free lesson for newer players before the game at 6:15pm, and a separate 99er mini game (if attendance permits) from 7pm to 9pm. If you plan to attend, please sign up at [RSVP Bridge](#), which can also help you find a partner, if you need one.
- If you need a partner or teammates for the open section of any Thursday unit game, please email [Amy Elmore](#), preferably by 4pm on Tuesday. You can also use the [RSVP Bridge](#) reservation system to look for a partner.
- Plan ahead for future unit games by viewing the [2025 Unit Game Schedule](#).

NVBA Clubs and Online Games

- The [Clubs](#) page of the NVBA website lists 16 in-person club games. If you're interested in playing one of these games, please contact the listed director to confirm the game is on, make a reservation, and get help finding a partner if you need one.
- The [NVBA online 699er game](#) is on BBO most Tuesdays at 7:00pm (if attendance permits). The game is hosted by NVBA director Joe Hertz in partnership with the SE Carolina Club of Clubs. On BBO, select "Virtual Clubs", then "ACBL - North America", then "NVBA/SE Carolina - 699". If you can, please sign up early, as this helps to increase attendance. Joe hosts a recap of the boards on Zoom following the game.

- All can play in any [SE Carolina Club of Clubs](#) game on BBO. Multiple 799er, 0-2500, and open games are offered each day. If you are an NVBA player, \$2 of your entry fee comes back to the NVBA to help support our activities.

Just for New and Intermediate Players

- Players of all levels are always welcome at the NVBA unit game on Thursday evenings. There is a free lesson for newer players before the game, and a separate mini 99er game (if attendance permits).
- The NVBA online 699er game on Tuesday evenings was established specifically for new and intermediate players.
- ACBL offers [Community Games](#) on BBO on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6pm (0-20 players) and 6:10pm (0-50 players) with a free lesson on Zoom after the game.
- [ACBL Clubhouse](#) games take place on BBO daily, with multiple sessions for 0-20, 49er, 99er, 199er, and 299er players.
- ACBL offers free no-masterpoints [Social Bridge](#) games on RealBridge every Monday from 6pm to 9pm. Drop in any time and stay as long as you like.
- [Shark Bridge](#) offers ACBL members a free daily 12-board no-masterpoints tournament with a robot partner against robot opponents. No board timer or round timer. Start any time and finish by midnight.
- The *Learn About Bridge* section of the [NVBA home page](#) has a list of links to useful resources.

Play well, have fun, and see you at the tables!

Your NVBA Board

Manage Your Subscription

This message was sent to RonKral@gmail.com from announcements@nvba.org

NVBA Board of Directors
Northern Virginia Bridge Association
[11568 Lake Newport Road](#)
Reston, VA 20194-1208

