

B-E-R
BEER DUDE

Giants are dead; A's likely will have to beat the Yanks in NY to get a shot @ Boston. 49ers & Raiders are works in progress; no worries about the Warriors. I head off to the East Coast for 17 days (Oct 6-23), so I'll be transmitting my Nov column from Myrtle Beach, assuming one of the tropical storms still hanging offshore doesn't blast the area before/after you see this one. Now to the card stuff, including a goofy hand my team played last round during our BBQ Swiss.

BBQ Swiss drew 7 teams, 3A & 4B based on average masterpoints. Len Vishnevsky's crew (Jo Ginsberg, Grant Vance, & Peter Bonfanti) shot 87.5% (105 VP's out of a possible 120) to win it (even tho they lost a match by 6 IMPS); "H" & her crew (Sara Rothmuller, Nancy Gunn & Bob Klein) were next; my crew (Eric, Sandi, Roseanne, & Dick) were 3rd. On the B side, Veda-Ben-Jan Straus-Shahla tied w/Marcia Mattoon-Sarla Purohit-Lois Flock-Stuart Schneck for 1st – Veda's team was the one who managed to beat Len's crew - & mine as well!). Pair game Aug 29 drew 7 tables, which Sandi & Roseanne topped, chasers being E & Dick 2A, Dexter-Gordon & Jack Shiffer-Chet Young 3/4A, & "H"-Larry Zeni 5A. On the B side, Marcia- Lili Basset 1, Vicky Chen 2, & Ben-Jan Kosel 3. Sept 7 drew 6 tables, which "H"-Carol Scott topped. Chasers: Jack Shiffer-Aki Watanabe 2A, Eric & Sandi 3A, John Love-Bob Post 4A/1B, & Dexter-Gordon 2B. Oct Unit Game is Fri 5th

Welcome new members Linda Berkowitz & Yanloi Yengy; Robin Baker is our newest Jr Master (5+).

At da club, "H" was the August MP champ for the 1st time in a good while. Ercan Turken topped the NLM's. Dexter-Gordon hit the 70% club again on Sept 1 (7th one of the year). October, we'll have Jane Johnson Club Appreciation Month games 24th & 26 (Club Champ MP awards), plus an ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint game on Halloween – come costumed if you desire. You find out immediately how you scored, as there will be info travelers w/the pre-duplicated boards, plus info booklets after. Table fees \$7 for that one (because of higher sanction fees/table). Also, I'm considering changing game time to noon so to accommodate slow play (which there is too much of, a lot being attributable to too much talking after a hand's over – if you're not a fast player, SHUT UP & go to the next board – you can discuss hands if you have a sitout, or before I call the next round) & those who have to battle I-80 going home. Let me know what your think – if I move it up, it'll be no earlier than Nov; more likely starting 2019.

To the aforementioned goofy hand: Red vs white in 4th seat, you hold: ♠ x ♥ AKxx ♦ AKQT ♣ ATxx, & see 1♠-P-2♠. I X, then P & 2NT from partner – what now? I took a stab @ 3NT, hoping partner had the ♠K amongst his 3-5 possible points. Down 3 – he'd meant his 2NT as a Lebensohl response (which I don't play – the automatic response is 3♣, which he can pass or correct; I can bid a 5+long suit if not 1-4-4-4). At our teammates' table, the 1st round of bidding went the same as at ours, but opener then bid 4♠, having a 15-16 count w/a club void & solid spades – her partner had raised on a 4-5 count w/a diamond void. The person holding my hand X'd, but her partner didn't lead a trump, so 4♠ rolled home on a crossruff + a ♥ trick. Partner's hand was a flat Yarborough. Strangest "20-20" hand (point-wise) I've ever encountered.

Good luck in Reno if you go – the weather still should be good & dry, & the Nugget has a great casino & Sports Book if you decide to take a break & bet some baseball/football/horse races whilst having a few free libations. Further good luck when you hit the slots/table games. Now all we need around here is for "Indian Summer" to show up – highest temp to date I've recorded on my shaded front porch in the Richmond Annex is 77. I have a cheap (from Amazon) small digital device that tracks temp & humidity, & posts highs & lows for both, which I reset Jan 1.

Tweak beerman1949@gmail.com to brag/gripe/suggest; Unit info & game results available 24/7 @ www.berunit497.org.