

B-E-R
BEER DUDE

Warriors are back on track, & the rain was minimal the day of the D21 Board meeting, & the drive home (I have a place in Soquel inherited from my mom, so I do down a day or 2 ahead & crash there so to have just a 45-minute drive down vice 2 hrs+ from Richmond (& I don't have to rise so damned early!). I write on the eve of the games to determine who's in the Super Bowl; all I want to see are 2 interesting & competitive games – I have no wagering interests.

Jan 11 Unit game drew 6 tables, which E & Sandi topped overall; chasers were “RoJo” (Roseanne Smith-Joanne Cobeen) 2A, Roger Edelson-Marcia Mattoon 3A/1B, Joyce Burks-Trudie Sinclair 4A, & Narvelle Handy 2B. Feb games are Fri 1st & Wed 27th; another follows 2 days later on 3/1.

Not much in-out/rank advancement, again, but – we welcome Board Member Carrie Stoltzfus to the LM & Bronze ranks – she finally got the requisite colored points to go over (she joined before ACBL raised the bar to 500 from 300 MP's). Also welcome transfer-in Linda Rose from Inland Empire (Riverside County area) – she's shown up a few times at our club games. The other advancer is Andrew Sinclair (to 300+ Advanced NABC Master). Nobody moved away/changed Units.

At da club, Dick Walker topped Dec; NLM topper was Roger Edelson. We survived a roof leak Wed 1/16; good weather should allow EC maintenance guys to fix it before the next round. Club Championship game is Wed 13th. Finally – we rewarded our chief “setter-upper” John Love w/a holiday bonus, as we did last year. He's been an invaluable asset – getting there early to set up tables, snacks, & make the coffee – we let him play free as well – he earns it & is a helluva nice gent to boot. Beyond the 2 NAP qualifying games & STaC's we've always had, I doubt I'll run any of the ACBL-wide games that match our club days.

Now to fun stuff, starting w/my trivia question last month. The answer is “A Fine Romance”, which D21 Prez Tom Pajak shot back to me not long after DITR hit his mailbox. Turns out that he was a piano bar player in his college & low-income days in the banking world – that song was part of the repertoire. Nancy Ferguson & BER Pre Joyce Burks also got it. The other oddity is that there are very few song titles containing “bridge(s)” – <10 by my head count, most of which are post-WWII.

I close w/a hand from our 1/16 club game that I played (filling in for E, who was on jury duty) w/Dick Walker. I held: ♠98x ♥Qxx ♦QT9xx ♣Ax. Silent opponents. Dick opened 1♣, I bid 1♦, which he raised to 3. Your call?

I shot 3NT, figuring he had some decent major suit cards, & get the ♥2 lead. He comes down w/not quite what I expected: ♠K ♥Ax ♦AJxx KJ8xxx. No ♠ lead, but I still need a lot of luck (LHO holding ♥K & ♦K; if either red suit hook loses, I'm down 2). Hurdle 1 done when I ran the lead to my Q. ♦9 came next, ducked, & RHO had one. Hurdle 2 covered – finessed ♦ again & ran the suit, tossing a low ♣ from dummy. When I cash A♣, LHO follows w/10 –if it's not from QT, I'm making 3 only. But he plays Q when I lead my last one, so I make 6. Poor LHO, who made an unfortunate (but not improper) choice holding ♠Qxxx ♥KTxx ♦Kxx ♣QT – he had no clue about the majors. A couple pairs bid 5♦, which needs the clubs to behave.

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