

B-E-R
BEER DUDE

Happy MMXX/unhyphenated ABC TV show! DC circus continues – fagettaboutit & go have fun @ the Monterey Regional/play our club games. I worked the 1st Fri eve as an NABC volunteer (registration/prize desks, which were side-by-side), & had my usual good time – one of our club regulars, Marcia Mattoon, joined me – she’s always fun to be around, given her ebullience & great sense of humor. Section top prizes (awarded day after the games) were wine (choice of Cab or Chard) & a pretty cool LED flashlight for minors/non-drinkers – we gave away a bunch of flashlights to some kids from China who’d done well on Thxgiving day, plus another 1 or 2 to adults who didn’t want wine. Registration goody was a wireless phone charger – we also had area guides for those who wanted them. Some kind of minor gut flu hit me the following Mon & Tue, so I couldn’t work the other 2 sessions I’d signed up for. Don’t know if the escalator from Powell St BART to S side of Market ever was fixed – it wasn’t working on my nite.

The big surprise of the nite I worked came from reading the game schedules & the Daily Bulletin. There were 2 Paul McDaniels memorial games on the schedule – one a pair game Fri nite, the other a limited team game the 2nd Saturday – I suspect the Woolseys paid the sponsorship fees (Paul did a lot of “handyman” work for them & house-sat at times when they were away), but I didn’t see either of them, even tho there was a high-end team game in the room directly across from my volunteer spot. A short obit for Paul was in the DB (I presume his sister wrote it), but it didn’t state when he died. I knew that he’d gone into hospice early summer (he had some kind of terminal cancer), but neither Eric nor I ever heard anything afterward. Paul was a great guy & consummate partner – he never barked or screamed, even when playing w/those of lesser skills than his expert ones. He loved to cook (his spicy vegetarian beans were a fixture at our BBQ Swisses for 20+ yrs). He served on the Unit Board for many years, was a theater technician (props/lighting for Community theaters), a big baseball fan, & had a stentorian voice. We’ll miss the hell out of him – he was 74 when he passed.

We start 2020 as we ended 2019 – with a Unit game on Friday the 3rd; Wed Unit game is 29th. Wed 11/27, Gerda Janos-Marcia Mattoon topped a 6.5 table 1-winner movement (I play this to limit the sitout to 2 boards). Chasers were “H”-Miye Takeuchi 2A, Kerstin Barnett-Carrie Stoltzfus 3A/2B, Dick Walker-Aki 4A, Joanne Cobeen-Trudie 5A, Dexter-Gordon 3B, & the Tamms 4B. Wed 12/18 drew 7 tables, which Carol Scott-“H” topped, with Dexter-Gordon 2A, Prez Joyce-Elliot Zeller 3A/1B, Eric-Dick 4A, Sandi-Roseanne 5A, Eric Bronfield-Charlotte Goode 2B, & Meg Gallaway-John Love 3B.

Not much on the in-out front, so I’ll save that for Feb column – rank advancers are listed in this newsletter, so no need to be redundant by wasting column space. I just wish ACBL would get its S**T together w/the software that provides me & my fellow Unit electronic contacts the I-O reports so we don’t get so many phantom newbies/transfers-in who show up on the same report as transfers-out – not to mention folks assigned to the wrong Unit when they join ACBL New members get assigned to Units by zip code, which we were asked to provide 10+ yrs ago. Ours are 947XX (Berkeley & Kensington), 948XX (Richmond/San Pablo/El Sobrante) & some 945’s (El Cerrito/Pinole/Hercules/Rodeo/Crockett). Once a member, one can transfer to another unit (we have 10-20 members who live in nearby units’ turf; East Bay 502 has roughly the same # who live in our turf).

At da club: Roseanne Smith was LM MP champ; Roger Edelson & George Proper tied for top NLMs. 2020, we’re closed just 2 Weds (1/1 & 12/23) & Fris (11/27 & 12/25). I’ll have put up all the Unit game/Club Champ/NAP Qual game info on our website during the holiday break. The Western Conference has dissolved, so I won’t have a clue about 2020 STaCs until after the D21 board meeting in Monterey on the 11th – what I find out, I’ll post here in Feb & on our website. We turned a small profit this year, which is OK – we’re 501(c)(3) as the Unit owns the club. I run it not to lose \$\$ rather than break even – the latter practice, from experience, guarantees you’ll lose \$\$\$. Our gross annual revenues are far less than \$25K, so we don’t have to do any IRS filings. As club manager, I just have to file 1099-MISCs for myself & any relief director who makes more than \$750 in any given year. 2 New Years’ resolutions for newbies & escargots:

** Play faster! Don’t rehash hands until you’ve played all the boards in the round! Don’t overthink hands – your 1st instinct more likely is the correct one. Slow play is unfair to the other players in the game!!! Not to mention that it irritates the hell out of directors.

** Learn how to play card combinations; concomitantly, learn distribution percentages (but also realize that opponents’ bidding may indicate variations from the norm) – any Eddie Kantar book on card play is worth a read & will help you improve your declarer play (& defense).

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