

B-E-R  
BEER DUDE

I'm writing 99% of this as if I had the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month deadline for the old *Forum* - the tail end hit the day before the deadline (49ers in the playoffs being the reason). I gained no weight over the holidays – my over-indulging days are long gone; hope you were as fortunate! Now on to the usual stuff you see here.

Unit games: Last game of 2019 (Fri 12/20) drew 5.5 tables (6-table 8-round Howell), which Lamar-Dick topped. Dexter Gordon were 2A, then Eric-Carol Scott 3A, the Tamms 4A/1Bm & Narvelle Handy-Linda ward 2B, Jan 3 to start the year drew 7.5 tables, with Prez Joyce-Trudie Sinclair on top,. Chasers were Eric-Sandi 2A, John Love-Bob Post 3A/1B, "H"-Carol Scott 4A, Jan Straus-Miye 5A, Marian Chabot-Annette Goldberg 2B, Dolores Mackinnon-Chet Young 3B, & Ray Barber-Inja Hwang & Roger Edelson-George Proper 4/5B. Feb games are Fri 7<sup>th</sup> & Wed 26th.

We got a late huge influx of new members in 2019, most of whom seem to be UC students (based on the addresses) who we'll see rarely, as they play either online or at local night games they can get to. So we welcome: Richard Catterton, Yijia Chen, John Chin, Ila Deiss, Tracy Haase, Leif Jenssen, Jessica Pasternack, Susan Soong, Alexander Meli, Lisi Covarubias, Yuhan Jiang, Lisa Nguyen, Xavier Panitz, Esther Schroeder (a club semi-regular who plays w/Jan Straus a few times/month; they're long-time friends), & Sheqi Zhang. We lost Gunnar Niemi to East Bay (he lives in Emeryville, their turf) & Harold Hayashi to SF (he moved across the Bay), & replaced Gunnar w/Ellen Winters who transferred in from East Bay.

At da club: Dexter-Gordon were Dec LM co-champs; Elliott Zeller topped the NLMs. Club Champ Feb game is the 12<sup>th</sup>. STaC's remain the same for May, Aug, & Dec – the Western Conference hasn't yet completely dissolved due to some financial issues regarding the late *Forum*, so we're good for another year. All games for 2020 are up on our website, which I'll be updating to add/delete as events occur. We had a slow year for 70% games – just 4 in 100 sessions! Don't ask me why – I have a clue, but I won't speculate. We made a profit in 2019, but even with our 5% rent increase, we won't have to raise table fees for a while, since the Unit (which owns the club – I just manage it) is well financially solvent.

My annual KUDOS to our "setup man" John Love, who opens up 85-90% of the sessions, puts up tables, & makes coffee. He plays free, & gets a cash bonus at the end of the year. Plus KUDOS to Carrie Stoltzfus (a Unit Board member) for creating a club directory (voluntary opt-in, as the Unit cannot publish player info without members' consent) that's posted on our website, as is all our game info for the year! Only thing missing is Longest Day (June) which I'll post once I get the week ACBL is having it.

A "no lose" bridge tip: If you as declarer have a trump suit that has JXXX opposite ATXXXX & have an entry to where the JXXX is, lead the J! If the suit is split 2-1 w/honor-X btwn J & A, you're likely to get a cover & end up w/no losers when you should have had one – the concomitant rule when defending is DON'T cover when you see a 6-card suit in front of you or know there's a 6-card suit behind you (based on a weak 2 opener/weak jump shift response). A 6-4 fit missing KQ has one loser for sure, barring the "sucker play" I described, 2 losers if the suit is 3-0 & KQ are behind the A.

GO NINERS!

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