

Hi folks,

It's hard to believe that it was just March 14th that we closed the club *because of the potential impact of the corona virus*. How life has changed. At the Board meeting when that decision was taken we had agreed to meet again on the 30th to consider the fate of our scheduled Sectional. About three days later that meeting was cancelled along with the Sectional.

There is a world of information circulating about the impact of the virus and what measures we should take both individually and collectively to minimize its effects. If you check the ACBL website you will find a summary of what is happening in the bridge world, summaries of cancelled events, and most importantly, summaries of the latest pandemic news and sensible precautions. I am not suggesting this as your only source of information but it is fairly current and it is not overwhelming.

In that same vein ACBL, Bridge Base on Line, and The Common Game have partnered to offer daily (and day-long) tournaments (which do award masterpoints) to help pass the time we spend at home these days. The ACBL web site (<https://www.acbl.org/clubsupportonlinegames/>) has full instructions on how to take part. If you do choose to get involved there is a charge of \$5.00 for a tournament and \$6.00 for a day-long event; and, the ACBL will return \$4.00 of each entry to the local club. It seems like a good way to keep your hand in, to earn a few masterpoints, and to support your club. Again, we are not promoting this, just passing on the information that it is available if you wish to take part.

On another couple of fronts:

The club and the Board have had a number of emails from members asking how everyone was doing and lending support. There was a very nice note from Judy Cardwell (a spring and summer member who comes to us from the Kingston area) with a virtual bouquet of daisies and another came from Norma Brousseau asking how everyone was doing and reminding all to stay safe.

Finally, these are tough times for everyone. Recall that the club used to run a number of charity games over the year with a portion of the table fees going to local charities. Well, those local charities are suffering along with the rest of us. Over the years we have directed the Club's support to either:

- a. The Gathering Place - <https://www.thegatheringplacenorthbay.ca>
- b. The North Bay Food Bank - <https://northbayfoodbank.ca>

Both these groups do good work and need our support now more than ever. If you can find your way clear to do so, you can make a donation to either group through their web site.

Lastly – keep safe, keep in touch, and keep your spirits up.

Thanks – your Board