

eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Remembering our Past, Honoring our Present, Looking to the Future

Each year, we nominate a person to receive the ACBL Goodwill Award for Unit 499. That person gets a pin and a bit of short-term acknowledgement, and the achievement is pretty much forgotten, except by the recipient. The Board of Directors has decided to celebrate this year's winner, (to be announced) and all the previous winners, by having a casual meal and an evening of bridge. The date is a Tuesday evening, May 20th. Please save the date. There will be a new and special game as part of the festivities. In next month's e-Declarer, Beth Eggers will provide the details. The success of our unit owes a great deal of thanks to those who go above and beyond and who receive this award.

Speaking of special events, you are all invited to the Annual Meeting at Rossmoor, on Sunday, March 16th. The Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards for 2013 will be presented. There will be a light lunch at noon, followed by a Unit Game. We hope many of you will be able to attend.

We are looking to the future of our unit by encouraging newer players. Unit 499 is proud to announce that there will be a one-day, two-session Sectional event for 499er NLM on September 20th. It will be at DVBC and we will begin advertising it in the next couple of months. We have never done anything like this before and we hope that this will be the beginning of a successful long-term event for those climbing the point ladder to Life Master.

Finally, we hope to see many of you at the Burlingame Regional as you warm up to play in our Sectional on March 29th and 30th. We were again able to reserve San Ramon Valley HS in Danville, which is the best venue we have had in many years. Spread the word, mark the date with your partners, and maybe find a new team for Sunday's Swiss Team game. Our future is looking bright!

Trisha O'Connor

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to jkeilin@pacbell.net

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Deadline for April is March 18th

To submit a letter to the editor,
send it to Judy Keilin at
jkeilin@pacbell.net

Be sure to visit the unit website for more information on our clubs and events, as well as archives of our newsletters.

diablovalleybridge.com

This month we have made some changes to eDeclarer. We've trimmed it of information that is on our website, so that what appears is fresh and new, and not repetitive as it was in previous months.

I'd like to know what it is you like or don't like about this new version. Please be honest! You can email your opinions to me at jkeilin@pacbell.net, or if you'd like to be anonymous, mail you comments to me at 121 Alta Vista Way, Danville, CA 94506.

In this issue, you will find the winners of the 2013 Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs Awards, both on our Unit level, and on the District and National levels. Congratulations to all!

Our Sectional is coming up soon on March 29 & 30. A spectacular brunch is in the offing for Sunday before the Swiss Team game. You don't want to miss this!

Beth Eggers is looking for ways to get bridge classes going in our middle schools. If you know of any middle school teachers who might be willing to help, please contact her. Read her article in this issue for more details. These kids are the future of bridge, and we need to get them interested.

Judy Keilin



Mary Krouse, Publisher



Unit 499 Milestones

*** NEW JUNIOR MASTERS ***

Alice L Adachi
Lydia F Bolinger
Pauline L Stoddard

*** NEW CLUB MASTERS ***

Duvall Holthaus
Barbara M Klein
Joseph W Moreau
Philip Reagan

*** NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS ***

William W Boorman
Cornelia R Gould

*** NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS ***

Ed Gould
Charles A Rollins
Michael A Sabol

*** NEW REGIONAL MASTERS ***

Faith L Greenberg

*** NEW NABC MASTERS ***

Steven P Nelson

*** NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTERS ***

Anne Hollingsworth

*** NEW LIFE MASTERS ***

Annette G Eastman

*** NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS ***

Andy Fine



Announcements

Unit 499 Membership Directory

Do you feel left out since you are not in the 2014 Unit 499 Membership Directory?

There is still time to get in the addendum to the 2014 Membership Directory!

Please send your name, address, telephone number and/or cell number and e-mail address to:

jackiezayac@gmail.com

The deadline for inclusion in the Membership Directory addendum is March 31, 2014. Send an e-mail request to be included to Jackie Zayac today!

Thanks,
Jackie



DO YOU KNOW A MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER?

Our unit keeps trying to advance our Junior Bridge program. Last year Ally worked out an afterschool program at two schools and Bruce still has an active pizza and bridge junior group every Tuesday night at DVBC. It's a fun evening. If you know of any new, young bridge players...even beginners, all are welcome.

However, findings by ACBL show that the most successful Junior Bridge programs follow the same pattern: a regular Junior High program with cooperation between the school and the local club. In our area, both San Francisco and Reno have similar programs. They hire a teacher(s) from the school to monitor an afterschool class or "club" and use the library or one of the classrooms. The bridge unit provides teachers (and snacks). This is the most successful method because the same students come consistently to the class. Word spreads, teachers and parents buy into the benefits of duplicate bridge, and the program grows.

We have tried a few forays into our local middle schools without much success. We think an ally might help. Does anyone know a middle school teacher or – even better—administrator who might help us get something started? Or be willing to listen? We have packets of materials, letters to parents, etc. ready to go.

Contact Beth Eggers at betheggers@gmail.com if you have any ideas. Thanks.

2013 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney Winners Unit 499

MP Category	Unit 499	No of MP's	D21 Rank	National Rank
0-5	Mel Chaplin	33	12	-
5-20	Stephen Russell	69	7	79
20-50	Felicity Warner	49	16	-
50-100	James Raby	89	7	-
100-200	Jacqueline Zayac	184	1	38
200-300	Anne Hollingsworth	182	3	54
300-500	Irwin Lichtbalu	207	3	68
500-1000	Lawrence Swanson	159	25	-
1000-2000	Kathryn Von Dohre	256	10	-
2500-5000	Grant Robinson	326	16	-
5000-7500	Daniel Friedman	442	8	-
7500-10,000	Edward Nagy	44	19	-
over 10,000	William Harker	455	11	-

2013 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Awards

MP Category	Unit 499	No of MP's	D21 Rank	National Rank
0-5	Mel Chaplin	18	19	-
5-20	Barret Clack	44	5	86
20-50	Gerard Milano	39	9	-
50-100	James Raby	54	9	-
100-200	Max Creamer	76	4	-
200-300	Mark Humphrey	79	3	-
300-500	Irwin Lichtbalu	85	4	-
500-1000	Andrew Fine	82	24	-
1000-2000	Marvin Suchman	137	10	-
2500-5000	Barbara Hanson	97	-	-
5000-7500	Chuck Wong	79	22	-
7500-10,000	Edward Nagy	0.5	16	-
over 10,000	Mike Bandler	122	6	-

Improving Your Game



BRIDGE ETIQUETTE

Recently my partner and I were mid-way through a hand defending a contract, when someone brusquely interrupted the play to ask for a board for the next table. This caused a break in the thought-processing for all of us at our table. Declarer took a minute to reconstruct her plan, and the game continued. At the conclusion, my partner apologized, saying that we lost a defense trick because he never regained full memory of the previously-played tricks after the interruption.

A few days later, I mentioned this to one of our directors, who said that the rules allow for an adjustment in our favor if we felt we were damaged. I didn't know this, and I suspect that many of you didn't either.

SO, North-South players should move their played boards away from the table, rather than putting them under the board currently in play, but **MORE IMPORTANT**, players needing a board from a table where play is in progress should wait until play is completed before asking.

Judy Keilin

I Guess I Was Absent that Day

Golf is a game of honor and strict rules. Bridge is a game of honor and strict rules. However, if you've ever played golf with an 18-hole women's group one day, and an informal couples' group the next, you know the wide difference there can be between etiquette, traditions, and rules.

Some behavior, for instance, card-snapping, can be just a minor breach of etiquette or actually illegal depending on one's intent. Card-snapping, a pet peeve for many, is quickly drummed out of newer players. However, especially at tournaments, card-snapping and other annoying tactics are actually used as distractions by some overly-competitive players. If you are distracted by any consistently annoying behavior, speak up. The opponents may not be fully aware of their table talk, arguing, body language or snapping and a gentle correction is all that's needed. If the behavior continues, calmly call the director.

Tempo is a constant issue and some opponents will be counting, "one one thousand, two one thousand..." in their heads, ready to pounce. The easiest solution is to *always* bid a bit slower and more deliberately than you need to, so that when you do slow down during a tough decision, it will not be so obvious. But let's say that you do dither too long and then pass, do you think your partner is barred from bidding? Is that a rule? Not necessarily. Be prepared for a director call from your opponents if your partner does bid, and don't be upset. Your opponents need to protect themselves. Your partner is *not* allowed to take any inference from your long hesitation by rule, so in most cases that means he must pass. However, if he can prove to the director that he planned to bid no matter what you did, and his cards back him up, a bid is legal. I learned this the hard way at one of my first tournaments. My partner hesitated at least ten seconds and then passed. I had a wonderful hand with a seven card suit, but thought that I was barred from bidding. I did the "honorable" thing and passed. When I spoke to the tournament director later, I found out that my "honorable" move cost us a slam.

Yet in another instance, when I thought I was being clever, it turned out that I was cheating. Whenever an opponent led a new suit, and I had a singleton, I would hesitate a moment as if I were trying to decide between two cards. I was so pleased with myself when I actually did fool an opponent and get an undeserved ruff. Of course, besides being illegal, I was fooling my partner as well.

Is false-signaling legal? Sure, especially when you know your partner has bupkis. But if you and your partner have an agreement that you will always false-signal in certain instances, and you don't inform your opponents, that's illegal. A partnership was kicked out of a southern California club because they always stated that they had no signals. Turned out that one man would play one set of signals and his partner would play another. Only they knew what to look for each time. Tricky....and wrong.

"Giving unauthorized information" to our partner crosses the boundaries of etiquette, rules and honor...but specific examples can be confusing. It's difficult to remember when to alert a bid and when not to, so memorize the red. Try to control those sighs when an unexpected dummy comes down. Remember to always use the stop card or never use the stop card when making a skip bid....don't ever use it just because you want to "wake your partner up." And don't forget to wait five seconds (or is it ten?) when an opponent uses the stop card. This rule annoys me, so I'm doing well when I remember to wait for the count of five.

Even "cheerful" table talk gives too much information. Have you heard players say, "Wait a second, I have five suits," while arranging a hand? They've let everyone know that they don't have a void. Most of us have bad habits at the table, so don't feel defensive if you're corrected or a director is called. What's tolerated or even encouraged at one club may earn a director's call at another. Rules don't change, but traditions and tolerance levels, do. Speaking of tolerance....

"Zero tolerance" came about because playing duplicate bridge is a bit like putting a scratch golfer, a rule-addicted 18-holer, and a duffer in the same group and expecting them to get along for the next four hours. Arguments will occur. Feelings will be hurt. Zero Tolerance allows the director to be called before little disputes get out of hand. Still...let's be cheerful and try to find a bit of tolerance for the foibles of others. We're more than just participants...we're members of a wonderful, extended, sometimes whacky, bridge family.

Beth Eggers

Declarer Play

Looking at the hand to the right, determine your line of play before reading the Solution. You are South.

After you open 1♥ and partner responds 2NT, Jacoby, it is difficult not to get to 6♥, but it may be difficult to make it! Opening lead: ♥10, East following. Plan the play.

NORTH

♠ Q J
♥ A J 8 6
♦ A J 4 3
♣ J 10 4

SOUTH

♠ A 10
♥ K Q 5 4 3 2
♦ K 6 2
♣ A Q

Three finesses available! One thing to remember: save finesses in equal length suits, particularly equal length short suits, until the end. In other words, save the spade finesse until the bitter end: maybe even later. It is actually wisest to start with the club finesse because that finesse is headed into the West hand, the hand that cannot attack spades safely. In addition, if the club finesse loses, you have established a club winner for a diamond discard, a discard that could be helpful in setting up that suit by trumping a diamond for a possible spade discard.

If the club finesse wins, draw the last trump, and cash the ♣A. If the king doesn't drop, play the ♦A, ♦K and a diamond toward the ♦J (the best play for three diamond tricks.). It produces three tricks whenever the suit breaks 3-3, whenever West has the ♦Q or whenever East has a doubleton Q. If that doesn't work, take the spade finesse.

If the club finesse loses and a club comes back (as good as anything), win in your hand, enter dummy with a trump, and discard a diamond on the ♣J. Now is the time to play the ♦A and ♦K and trump a diamond. If the ♦J is high, cross to dummy with a trump and discard the ♠10 on it. If the ♦J isn't high, take the dreaded equal length spade finesse. You have done everything in your power to avoid the spade finesse. But guess what? It may work!

Tip:

When considering which of several finesses to take and there is a danger hand (East), do yourself a favor and take the first finesse into the non-danger hand (West).

The West hand: ♠ K 9 6 5 3 ♥ 10 9 ♦ 10 8 5 ♣ K 7 5

The East hand: ♠ 8 7 4 2 ♥ 7 ♦ Q 9 7 ♣ 9 8 6 3 2

The hand above is taken from *Take All Your Chances at Bridge*, by Eddie Kantar, by permission of the publisher, Master Point Press.

Club News

This section is for club owners and managers who wish to submit news about their games. Please go to our website for information about all our clubs, game times, and to check on the latest results.

Diablovalleybridge.com

DIABLO VALLEY BRIDGE CENTER

2920 Camino Diablo, W. C., SUITE 100

CALL: 925-935-2273 or 925-943-2273



When this is read, the March winds will be upon us. The 2014 calendar pages are flipping so fast!

DVBC hosts the Youth Bridge twice a month, the second and fourth Tuesdays. Bruce Johnsonbaugh, ably assisted by Ted Gunn, Lisa Assoni, et al, has been helping a fine group of young folks to become adept bridge players before they graduate from middle/high school. Thank you, Bruce and crew, for your dependable presence in this laudable effort. They come in, bearing pizza and bottled water, and quickly get to the business of bidding and playing. It's fun to watch them interact. If you would like to be part of the fun, please call Bruce.

I'm looking forward to the Pro-Am game on February 27th. As usual, the roster is totally full, thanks to the organization of Larry Miller, Lisa Assoni and Ron Olswang. We'll have a fine time, I'm sure. You'll already know who won when eDeclarer arrives.

Something that will NOT have already occurred is the upcoming Unit 499 Sectional March 29-30. The Board of Directors has been putting plans in place for months, and I hope you've put it on your calendar. DVBC will be dark, except for our Saturday Morning Casual Bridge Players, Mary Furlong has been coordinating this game for a very long time, asking for no recognition or reward. That gives me an idea.....

While I'm mentioning (just) some of the folks who are a huge help to the Diablo Valley Bridge Center, I'd like to add one more - Dori Dolgin. Some of you might not know that Dori makes all our boards, keeps track of changes in schedules, and generally makes sure we have the right number of boards and hand-records for every game. As well, she helps me in other ways too numerous to list. Now, she is taking beginning bridge lessons with Trisha O'Connor, and I hope to sit across from her at a bridge table in the fairly near future.

Almost forgot to mention the new game!! Ravi Bhalla will be directing a 499er game on Thursdays, starting March 6 at 6pm. We'll see you there, if you have fewer than 500 masterpoints.

COME AND PLAY!!

Iris Libby

Bridge on the Lake-Discovery Bay

Discovery Bay Community Center

1601 Discovery Bay Blvd

As of February 1, the Bridge on the Lake duplicate game has moved to the new Discovery Bay Community Center at 1601 Discovery Bay Blvd, Discovery Bay 94505. Game time is the same: 12:30 pm Saturdays.

The Community Center allows us to accommodate more tables and it has ample parking, including handicapped.

We will have a Unit Game on April 12th, a Club Championship Game on April 26th, and a StaC game May 10th. June will bring our annual participation in the locally successful Worldwide Bridge Tournament on the 7th, and then we will host an ACBL-sponsored Longest Day Event for Alzheimer's on June 21st.

With the added space at the Community Center, we expect these events to be even more popular than in past years.

Reservations are appreciated. Call 516-4380 or 925-759-6365 (Cell). The website is diablovalleybridge.com

Arlene Mahlberg

Bridge on the Lake

Club Owner, Manager



ROOKIE BRIDGE

Wednesday mornings at 8:50am until about 12

DIABLO VALLEY BRIDGE CENTER

2920 Camino Diablo, W. C., SUITE 100

CALL: 925-923-2274 or 925-943-2273

For information, contact Larry Miller at oldlw@aol.com

Winners since my last report:

North/South

1/22 - John and Mary Schelling

1/29 - Peter Wickens /Charles Jacobsen

2/5 - Doug Eisner/Fred Kovar

2/12 - Felicity Warner/Betty Argabright

2/12 - Roberta Gravelle/Sue Puccini (tie)

East/West

1/22 - Ismini Maclean/Rich Ahlf

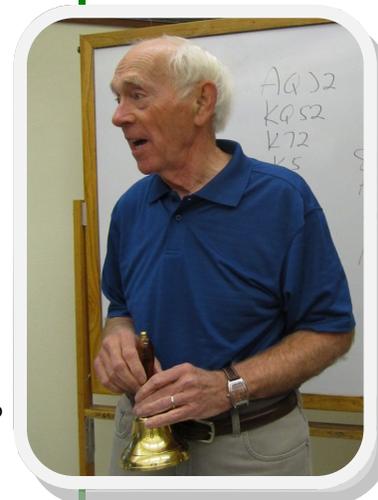
1/29 - Linda Ingalls/Karen Fearon

2/5 - Carol Harrison/Sandi Cummings

2/12 - Joan Billeci/ Joan Baker

High game was Harrison/Cummings at 70%. High game North/South was the Schellings at 68%

Larry Miller



The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club

The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge club will meet in March 2014 as follows:

Wednesday, 3/5

Tuesday, 3/11

Wednesday, 3/19

Tuesday, 3/25

Games always begin at 7pm. and finish about 10. Fee is \$2 per player. ACBL Open Club, with Master Points of course. Hand records. YOU MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE with: Winnie Jasper (Winnie@wjasper.com) for Wednesdays, or David Geary (dsgeary@comcast.net) for Tuesdays.

On Wednesdays we meet at the Moraga Country Club, upstairs. On St. Andrews, a short distance from Moraga Way. On Tuesdays we are usually at the Country Club, sometimes at homes.

Results:

1/15 - not enough players for a game

1/21 six pairs

- 1 – Ann Elliott & Carol Irwin
- 2 – Art Donaldson & David Geary
- 3 tie – Kathy Gray & Al Dessayer
- 3 tie – Francoise & Alvin Buchignani

2/5 - not enough players for a game

2/11

- 1 – Colleen & David Geary
- 2 – Lois & Dick Halliday
- 3 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

Regards, David Geary



BRIDGE • SWISS TEAM EVENT
SATURDAY, March 15, 2014
DVBC, 12:30 PM
St. Patrick's Special Lunch Served
12 Noon
\$40/team

NEW!! We hope to have a separate Section of teams of beginning players, all having less than 50 MP.

The Game will be Handicapped per directions on ACBL SCORE to give teams with lower master-point totals a boost when playing against more experienced players, OR strati-flighted if enough teams enter to accomplish this.

LIMITED TO 24 TEAMS

Please make a reservation in advance on
The sign-up sheet at DVBC
Or contact Jerry Chamberlain

JERRY@WJASPER.COM; [925-766-5228](tel:925-766-5228) (CELL)

***Names • team master-point total • email and/or phone
of team captain***

**NEED TEAMMATES OR A TEAM?
WE WILL TRY TO MATCH UP PLAYERS**

Diablo Valley Spring Sectional

NEW DATE



NEW DATE

March 29 - 30, 2014

San Ramon Valley High School
501 Danville Blvd., Danville, CA 94526

Presented by Diablo Valley Unit 499 (<http://diablovalleybridge.com>)

Saturday, March 29th

10:00 AM

3:00 PM

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 1)
(0-750/750-2000/2000+)

Two Session Stratified Open Pairs (session 2)
(0-750/750-2000/2000+)

Single Session Stratified Pairs*:

Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)

299er (0-50/50-100/100-299)

99er (0-20/20-50/50-99)

Single Session Stratified Pairs*:

Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)

299er (0-50/50-100/100-299)

99er (0-20/20-50/50-99)

* Games and strats will be adjusted based on attendance.

Sunday, March 30th

10:00 AM & TBD: Bracketed Swiss Teams. Brackets posted at tournament. **Teams must play both sessions.** 7 rounds/7 boards (lowest bracket plays 7 rounds/6 boards). 20 VP Scale for all brackets.

Table fees: \$10 per session (Non-ACBL or unpaid members \$13)

Tournament Director: Nancy Boyd. ACBL Sanction # S1403110

Tournament Chair: Jackie Zayac. (925) 284-2309, zayacfamily@comcast.net

Partnerships: Partnership desk available at tournament. Also, use Unit 499's Google Group to find a partner: <http://groups.google.com/group/DVSPartnerships>

Food: Refreshments Saturday and Sunday. **Sunday Brunch at 9:15 AM.**

Directions: Take I-680 and exit onto El Cerro Blvd., turn west on El Cerro approx. 0.4 miles to Danville Blvd. Turn left onto Danville Blvd and drive 0.2 miles. San Ramon Valley High School is on the right.

SWISS TEAM GAME SCHEDULE

**Swiss team games are held at DVBC on the 3rd Saturdays of each month,
except for January 25 and December 20, 2014.**

**All games will be \$10 per person
(\$5 per person if ALL 4 TEAM MEMBERS ARE UNDER 300 MP'S).**

Games will be stratified or handicapped.

Dates for 2014 are as follows:

February 15

March 15

April 19

May 17

June 21

July 19

August 16

Sept 20

October 18

November 15