

May 2014

eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Is it Time Yet....?

Remember when your kids were little or you were young and awaiting a much-anticipated event? "Is it time yet" or "are we there yet" was repeated ad infinitum.

Well, Unit 499ers, it is time. We are beginning our search for members to serve on the unit board. The board consists of fifteen members who serve three-year terms. Each year, five people are replaced, unless current board members agree to serve another term.

Right now, two of the five members with terms expiring have agreed to serve another term. Just as a side note, this is the third term for both members. So we are just looking for three new members to begin a term in December.

Our unit has been successful in attracting new members and in running well-organized Sectionals. We have also brought new events to members, the Tunnel Tourney, the Goodwill dinner, and coming up is our first O-499er NLM tournament. These events are possible because our board members are eager to give back to the game we all love. Whether they serve for three, six or even nine years, their enthusiasm for the game and the unit is what makes us a success.

Please consider volunteering your time to serve on the board.

You may contact me or any board member to find out what is required of board members. Don't be shy! We look forward to hearing from you.

Trisha O'Connor

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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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

Our Sectional was a great success! Hope you all did well and got lots of points.

There are a lot of great events coming up: the Silver Rush Tournament, the Dinner game to honor Goodwill Award winners, and two new classes starting - just to mention a few. Check details elsewhere in this issue.

You might also want to check the Unit 499 website to see how you can subscribe to our Google Groups. One is for Unit 499 news, including when this newsletter is published, and the other is the Partnership Group - great if you're looking for a partner for any event or game.

The California Capital Regional is coming up later this month. Be sure to make plans to attend!

Feel free to contribute to eDeclarer. We'd love to hear your thoughts and opinions on what's going on in our unit, including suggestions to help improve on what we're doing.

Judy Keilin



Mary Krouse, Publisher



Unit 499 Milestones



*** NEW JUNIOR MASTERS ***

Kenneth Hills

Debby A Rechnitz

James Roethe

*** NEW REGIONAL MASTERS ***

Bob Barnes

Lee Farrell

*** NEW NABC MASTERS ***

Tecca Blankfeld

Ted Mirwald

Improve Your Game

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 jump to 3♣ after partner's 1♠ response, partner leaps to 6♣. West leads the Q♦. Clubs are 2-1. Plan the play.

NORTH
♠ A J 6 5 4
♥ A Q
♦ 3 2
♣ J 8 3 2

SOUTH
♠ K 3 2
♥ 8
♦ A 9 5
♣ A K Q 10 9 5

You have two suits with finesse possibilities to play around with, spades and hearts, but be reminded, if the opponents get in they will cash a diamond!

If the heart finesse works, you can discard a spade on the ♥A, then probably set up the spades for two diamond discards and an overtrick. If spades cannot be established for two discards, you will concede a diamond and ruff your remaining diamond. Easy enough if the heart finesse works, but what if it doesn't? They cash a diamond and down you go --- and maybe the spade finesse was right all along!

If the spade finesse works and the suit breaks 3-2, you have thirteen tricks; even if the suit breaks 4-1, you can concede a diamond, ruff a diamond and make your slam without worrying about who has the ♥K. But if the spade finesse loses, they take a diamond and down you go. So which finesse should you take?

Neither just yet, it was a trick question. You can increase your chances dramatically by playing the ♠A and ♠K to see if the ♠Q drops singleton or doubleton (33%). If it doesn't, take the heart finesse. This must be better than guessing which finesse to take. Besides, testing spades keeps you alive for the heart finesse. Your chance of making the hand on this line is a bit more than 65%, better than taking a spade finesse after cashing the ♠K first. Incidentally, if the contract were 7♣, you should play it the same way.

Tip:

When you can't afford to give up the lead and you have two finesse suits, one missing a queen, the other a king, and you need to pick the right one to make your contract, don't try either! Play the ace-king of the suit missing the queen, and if the queen doesn't drop, try a finesse in the suit missing the king.

The West hand: ♠ 8 7 ♥ K 9 6 3 2 ♦ Q J 8 7 ♣ 6 4

The East hand: ♠ Q 10 9 ♥ J 10 7 5 4 ♦ K 10 6 4 ♣ 7

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

HAND OF THE MONTH

		NORTH	
		♠ A Q J 6 3	
		♥ A 8 6 3	
		♦ Q 8 4 3	

	WEST		EAST
♠	K 9 8 4		♠ 10 7 5
♥	4		♥ J 9 7
♦	K 10 9 7 6		♦ 2
♣	9 7 4		♣ A J 10 6 5 2
		SOUTH	
		♠ 2	
		♥ K Q 10 5 2	
		♦ A J 5	
		♣ K Q 8 3	

Contract is 6 Hearts.

On a Club lead, ruff and lead a Diamond. to the Ace. Take the Spade finesse and discard a Diamond. Ruff a Spade. Ruff a Club. Ruff another Spade, ruff another Club. Ruff another Spade and ruff the final Club. Now lead a Diamond. East has only trump left, having discarded a Club on the third Spade ruff (best play). Loser on loser leaves South with KQ of Hearts.

On a Spade lead, take the finesse, discard a Diamond on Queen of Spades. Come to hand with the Ace of Diamonds and ruff a Club. Now ruff a Spade, ruff a Club, ruff a Spade, ruff a Club, ruff a Spade, ruff a Club. Now lead a Diamond. Same result as above.

On a Diamond lead, win the Jack, take the Spade finesse and discard a Club on the Spade Queen. Ruff a Spade, ruff a Club, Ruff a Spade, ruff a Club, now come to hand with a Heart, finessing the Jack, and ruff a Club. Finally, lead the last Spade. If East ruffs, overruff, draw his last trump and play the Diamond Ace, conceding trick 13 to West. If he discards, discard a Diamond. and then lead a Diamond. from dummy. East is again end-played. He has a Club and two trumps. Declarer has two top trumps and the Ace of Diamonds. West has 3 Diamonds.

On a trump lead (really!), win in hand, capturing East's Jack, then take the Spade finesse, discarding a Club on the Queen. (Only three trump left in dummy to deal with Clubs). Now come to hand with the Diamond Ace and ruff a Club, ruff a Spade, ruff a Club, ruff a Spade, ruff a Club. Now lead the last (good) Spade. If East discards, discard a Diamond and then lead a Diamond Whatever East does declarer is left with two good trumps. If he ruffs, overruff, draw his last trump and lead the Diamond Jack. At this point West has only Diamonds left and must return one to dummy's Queen.

All double-dummy, of course, but a fun puzzle for intermediates and advanced beginners.

Larry Miller

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



Hi, everyone. I hope you are enjoying the beautiful spring weather the Bay Area is experiencing right now. I'm still hoping for two or three more ground-soaking rains to boost the dam levels before hot, dry summer arrives.

DVBC is also experiencing "beautiful weather." May will be a very busy month, and I hope you will check the calendar for all the scheduled activities. The FIRST Friday Five Dollar Potluck/Game will kick off the festivities, and I hope you will come out and support this new event.

I will be gone April 29-May 15, first walking in a half-marathon in Cincinnati on May 4 (visiting with family and friends beforehand), then flying to Florida to spend a week+ with my daughter, Melissa. She is scheduled to return to the United States on April 30, and I can hardly wait to spend time with her.

Until I see you---- COME AND PLAY!!

Iris Libby

In Memoriam

Sadly, we lost one of our players recently. Jack Fulcher, husband of Lisa Evans, will be remembered for his great wit and sense of humor as well as his expertise at the bridge table. We will miss you, Jack.

Bridge on the Lake-Discovery Bay

Discovery Bay Community Center
1601 Discovery Bay Blvd
Discovery Bay

Our Unit Game on April 12th was won by Pat and Jim Leary sitting N/S with Jackie Zayac and Roger Smith winning Overall at E/W with a 63% game.

On May 3rd the game will return to our home (1245 Beach Ct) for one week due to a conflict in scheduling at the Community Center. Since it's also Kentucky Derby Day, we will celebrate the "Run for the Roses" at post time and suspend play to watch the Derby for a few minutes on TV. Everyone picks a Derby contender from a hat and the player who has the winning horse will receive a prize. Last year's winner was Lynn Gast. Lots of hooting and hollering for just two minutes.

The May 10th STaC game will be back at the DB Community Center.

Everyone who is interested in participating in the Saturday Worldwide Bridge Contest this year should mark their calendar for **June 7th** and let me know as soon as possible if they plan to play. It has become a very popular event and our Bridge on the Lake club has produced worldwide finishers every year with a 3rd place **in the world** last year by Carol & Harold Emme.

Arlene Mahlberg



The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club

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

Wednesday, 5/7

Tuesday, 5/13

Wednesday, 5/21

Tuesday, 5/27

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:

3/19 six pairs

- 1 – Marge & Milt Greenstein
- 2 – Winnie Jasper & Mary Hufford
- 3 – Sue & Shyam Rungta

3/25 eight pairs

- 1 – Andrea & Dan Green
 - 2 – Colleen & David Geary
 - 3 tie – Kathy Gray & Al Dessayer
 - 3 tie – Mary Alice & Art Donaldson
- 3/5 not enough players for a game

4/2 four pairs (team game)

- 1 – Art Donadlson & David Geary
- 2 – Sue & Shyam Rungta
- 3 – Marge & Milt Greenstein

4/8 seven pairs

- 1 – Irwin Javinsky & Mal Mendelson
- 2 – Colleen & David Geary
- 3- Kathy Gray & Al Dessayer

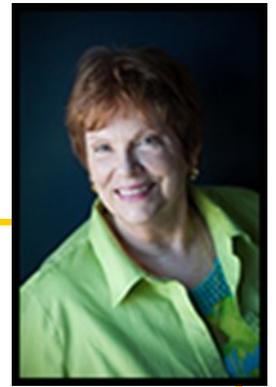
4/16 six pairs

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Renee & Dennis Ross
- 3 tie – Lois & Dick Halliday
- 3 tie – Art Donaldson & David Geary

Regards, David Geary



Bridge Instruction



Competitive Bidding Class starts June 10th

Would you like to find ways to disrupt your opponent's bidding when you are quite sure they have most of the points?

How do you know what to do when your right hand opponent has opened the bidding and you have an opening hand?

When should you preempt and when should your partner respond to a preempt?

These and other questions are covered in Audrey Grant's Bridge Basics 2 – Competitive Bidding.

The Competitive Bidding class starts June 10th and will run for eight consecutive weeks. The cost is \$12 per class. If you pay for all eight classes at the beginning, you get one class free.

The class is taught by Trisha O'Connor and will run from 2:30 – 4:30 each Tuesday at Diablo Valley Bridge Center, 2920 Camino Diablo, Suite 100, Walnut Creek. You may make reservations by calling DVBC at 925-935-2273 or by contacting Trisha at misbridgewc01@gmail.com.

DECLARER PLAY BRIDGE CLASS

The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club (RDBC) is pleased to offer a class in declarer play for beginning and intermediate bridge players. It is an eight week class held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays beginning May 12. Depending on enrollment, a Tuesday morning class may be added. The class will be taught by Michael Gosnell and/or Ravi Bhalla. It will be held in the Oak Room at the Gateway Club House in Rossmoor.

Specifics covered will be making a plan for playing no trump and trump contracts, developing tricks through promotion and finesses, ruffing and discarding losers, handling entries and the trump suit. A review will be made of Standard American bidding including Stayman, strong two club openers, slam bidding and preempts. Each class will include instruction and practice deals which reinforce the material taught. The Diamond Series "Declarer Play" book will be used and will be available for \$20 through the instructor.

The cost is \$40 for RDBC members; \$50 for resident non-members, \$10 of which will cover dues in RDBC for 2014; \$80 for non-residents. Checks should be made payable to the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club.

To enroll call Barbara V. Smith at 925-256-4430.

Kim Miller

Beginning Bridge Classes to start June 12th



Trisha O'Connor, Instructor

“Bridge is such a sensational game that I wouldn’t mind being in jail if I had three cell-mates who were decent players and who were willing to keep the game going 24 hours a day.”

Warren Buffet

WHERE?

It isn’t necessary to get thrown in jail to learn bridge. A new beginning bridge class is scheduled to start at Diablo Valley Bridge Center, 2920 Camino Diablo- Ste 100, Walnut Creek.

WHEN?

Classes start on Thursday, June 12th and will run for eight weeks from 2-4pm. The price is \$12 per class. If you pay for all eight classes up front, you get one free.

For reservations, you may call Diablo Valley Bridge Center, 925-935-2273 or call Trisha at 925-457-9995 or e-mail at misbridgewc01@gmail.com

BRIDGE • SWISS TEAM EVENT

SATURDAY, May 17, 2014

DVBC, 12:30 PM

Light Lunch Served

12 Noon

\$40/team

We hope to continue having a separate Section
of teams of beginning players.

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 (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 Unit 499 0 - 500 NLM* Sectional

NEW EVENT

**SILVER
RUSH**



Location: Diablo Valley Bridge Center
2920 Camino Diablo, Suite 100
Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014

Stratified Newcomer 99er Pairs 10 AM & 3 PM
(0-20,20-50,50-100)

Both events have single session games; play either or both

Stratified Pairs 10 AM & 3 PM
(0-100, 100-300, 300-500)

*Only Non-Life Masters with less than 500 MPS may play in this sectional. Strats based on average. Director may change strats based on attendance. Silver points awarded for all events.

Space limited – Reservations recommended. Sign-up sheet available at Diablo Valley Bridge Center. Please provide individual MPs on sign-up sheet. If you are unable to use the sign-up sheet, contact Beth Eggers for reservations.

Tournament Director: Grant Robinson. ACBL sanction # 1409160

Tournament Chair: Ted Gunn – edwinmgunn@mail.com

Reservations: Beth Eggers – betheggers@gmail.com

Table Fees: \$10 per session (\$13 for non-ACBL members & unpaid)

Food: Refreshments provided.

Directions: For directions go to diablovalleybridge.com (click on sectionals tab)

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

