

eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER



President's Message

Poppin' Our Buttons

Our unit is growing at the fastest rate of all the twenty-two units in our District. We added seventy-seven new members in the past twelve months, bringing our total membership, as of June, 2014 to eight hundred sixty-one members.

With so many new members, it might be a good time to talk a bit about how we got to where we are. Going back in history, ACBL was founded in 1937, but did not include much of the West Coast. Our area was called the Western Conference. Today, we are part of ACBL, which includes the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda & military bases around the world. Today, we are still called the Western Conference and have board members on each District board.

According to Ken Monzingo, the Publisher of The Forum, during the 40's through the '60s, bridge was all the rage and the best place to play it was in the Western Conference. The biggest regional in the US was called Bridgeweek. It started in LA, with a greeting from the Mayor at the Ambassador Hotel. After a week-end of spirited play, the group took the train to San Francisco. Playing bridge for the entire train trip, they were greeted by the San Francisco mayor and ended their ten days of play at the San Francisco Fairmont. This one event drew over ten thousand tables. Sounds fun and exhausting.

Today, the Western Conference consists of Districts 17, 21 (ours) & 22, which include much of California, excluding LA, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and parts of Wyoming and Nevada.

Our Diablo Valley group is Unit 499 and has clubs in Brentwood, Discovery Bay, Walnut Creek, Orinda, Danville and Moraga. Members also reside in Concord, Pleasant Hill and Martinez. We have a few members who reside outside our unit, but prefer to be members of Unit 499. Who can blame them!

Our unit is very active and growing. We encourage all to participate to the fullest. We have three fun events coming up. The very popular Pro-Am will be September 11th at DVBC. The details are on our website at diablovalleybridge.com. Sign-ups are required.

September 20th, we will be hosting our first-ever 0-499 Non-Life Master one-day Sectional. We hope that many of our players will sign up. The tournament will be held at Diablo Valley Bridge Center in Walnut Creek. There is a sign-up sheet on the corkboard at DVBC. Reservations are highly recommended, as space is limited.

Finally, the second "Annual Tunnel Tourney" will be on Sunday, October 5th at Unit 502's playing site. Details will follow in next month's column.

See you at the tables.

Trisha O'Connor

from the editor

There are lots of events coming up.

STaC Week is August 8-18 at all clubs. Here's your chance to get those coveted silver points.

On Thursday, September 11th, the ProAm game will be held at DVBC. It's a great opportunity for those of you with less than 300 points to play with a "Pro", and conversely, a chance for the more-seasoned players to help a newer player. In addition, you get to have pizza before the game - included with no extra charge!

September 20 is our Non-Life-Master Sectional for players with less than 500 points.

Our Fall Sectional will be November 8-9. That's the one with all the great food!

Finally, every third Saturday is Jerry Chamberlain's Swiss-Team game, including lunch (also great food).

Put these events on your calendar, and look for more information about these and more upcoming events elsewhere in this newsletter, and on the Unit 499 website.

Judy Keilin
jkeilin@pacbell.net



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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Deadline for September is August 17th

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

Mary Krouse, Publisher



Unit 499 Milestones

*** NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS ***

Bobette Atkins
Marilyn Chaplin
Nancy Price

*** NEW REGIONAL MASTERS ***

Richard Ahlf
Stephen Russell
Margo Wentz
Betty Wood

*** NEW NABC MASTERS ***

Barbara McKay

*** NEW LIFE MASTERS ***

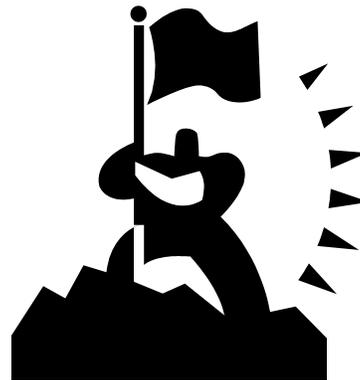
Mark Marty
Patricia Taylor

*** NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS ***

Pat Krock
Robert Lohse
Patricia Taylor

*** NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS ***

Nancy Munson



Diablo Valley Fall Sectional



Salute to Veterans

Nov. 8th & 9th, 2014

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

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

Saturday, November 8th

10:00 AM

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

Single Session Stratified Pairs*:

Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)
299er (0-50/50-100/100-300)
99er (0-20/20-50/50-100)

3:00 PM

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

Single Session Stratified Pairs*:

Open (0-750/750-2000/2000+)
299er (0-50/50-100/100-300)
99er (0-20/20-50/50-100)

* Games and strats will be adjusted based on attendance.

Sunday, November 9th

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. Brackets based on team masterpoint average. Teams may elect to play in top bracket.

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

Tournament Director: Nancy Boyd. ACBL Sanction #: S1411087

Tournament Chair: Anne Hollingsworth (925) 934-3149, scootcat@pacbell.net

Partnerships: Partnership desk available at tournament. Also, use Unit 499's Google Group to find a partner: <http://groups.google.com/group/bridgepartner499>

Food: Refreshments Saturday & Sunday.

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.

Ken White Memorial PRO-AM GAME

Thursday, September 11, 2014

Pizza at 6:30pm – Bridge 7-10pm
(\$10 for Ams, Free for Pros)

Diablo Valley Bridge Center

2920 Camino Diablo, #100

Walnut Creek 925-935-2273

Always a fun event – and a great opportunity for mentoring by some top-notch players. Each “amateur” (**less than 300 MPs**) is matched with a “professional” (more than 300 MPs). Limited to 40 AMs and 40 PROs. So sign up early! **The deadline is Sept 7.**

AMS:

Please sign up with Gloria Marchick at gloriabmarchick@comcast.net. Include your MP total.

PROs:

Please sign up with Mark Humphrey at markhumphrey@comcast.net or Larry Miller at oldlw@aol.com.

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)

Improve Your Game

Declarer Play

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

An auction of 1 NT – 3NT gets you the opening lead of the ♥6, East playing the ♥J. Plan the play. (This is question A.) Question B: Plan the play with the same lead, but this time you have the ♦K J 2 instead of ♦K 3 2?

NORTH

♠ A 7 2
♥ 4 3
♦ A 8 5 4
♣ A 7 6 5

♠ K Q 6 4
♥ A 2
♦ K 3 2
♣ K J 3 2

(A) You have eight top tricks and dare not let them in before you get nine. Win the ♥A and test spades, a suit that allows you to stay alive even if it doesn't break 3 - 3. If it doesn't, you still have eight tricks. You are now reduced to the club finesse: Play the ♣A and low to the ♣J, your best chance for three club tricks.

(B) With ♦K J 2, you have three chances. Test the spades, again staying alive if they don't break 3 - 3. If they don't, you still have two suits to play around with, both missing a queen, both having finesse possibilities. Which finesse to take? Remember the combining two-queens rule? When missing a queen in two suits, finesse possible in either suit, cash the ace and king of the longer suit (clubs) and if the queen doesn't drop, take finesse in the shorter suit (diamonds). This is a recording.

The West hand (A) ♠ 10 8 3 ♥ K 10 8 6 5 ♦ 10 7 ♣ Q 10 9

The East hand (A) ♠ J 9 5 ♥ Q J 9 7 ♦ Q J 9 6 ♣ 8 4

The West hand (B) ♠ 10 8 ♥ K 10 8 6 5 ♦ 10 7 6 ♣ Q 10 9

The East hand (B) ♠ J 9 5 3 ♥ Q J 9 7 ♦ Q 9 3 ♣ 8 4

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

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club

Rossmoor

STaC Week

Monday, August 18, through Saturday, August 24, will be STAC WEEK at Rossmoor. All games will be open to the public.

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY-WEEK GAMES

In September the community of Rossmoor will be celebrating its 50th anniversary! To commemorate this special occasion the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club (RDBC) will be holding special games September 15-21.

- Monday (12:30pm) will be an upgraded Club Championship game with extra points awarded. The winners will attend a free Rossmoor Club luncheon. (Residents only.)
- Tuesday* (12:30pm) will be an individual game with a social twist. Players will get new partners on each round.
- Wednesday* (9:30am) will be an IMP pairs game (similar to Swiss Team).
- Thursday (7pm) the regular **open** game will be held.
- Saturday* (12:30pm) the regular game will be held.
- Sunday will be an **open** Unit game held at 1pm with light refreshments served at noon.

**Members of the RDBC may invite non-members and non-residents to play with them in these games.*

Kit Miller

DIABLO VALLEY BRIDGE CENTER

2920 Camino Diablo, W. C., SUITE 100

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



Recently, I gave a lesson on bridge etiquette to our Novice group (at the request of several of the players). A brush-up might be helpful to you who are reading eDeclarer. Here are some ways to show good manners in the Bridge World and at DVBC:

- 1) North is in charge of the table. This includes several responsibilities:
 - a) Welcome East/West to the table -- do **not** ignore players who have just arrived for the next round.
 - b) Score each hand on the BridgePad, always asking E/W to press the NEXT button if they agree with the score.
 - c) Move an already-played board to the side table or pass it to the next table to play (this might be assigned to South).
 - d) E/W will **not** move the boards while at the table, but might offer to move boards after play.
 - e) Do **not** discuss any previously-played hand after the new E/W have arrived.
 - f) Do **not** say aloud the score or the percentage. Remember, this information can help folks at adjoining tables.
 - g) Do **not** discuss how the hand was played, or how it SHOULD have been played until the game has ended. Circle the number of a hand you want to discuss with your partner.
- 2) Do **not** touch the bid box until AFTER you have decided what you will bid. Also, do **not** "hover" over the bidding cards prior to bidding. When defending, place the card you plan to lead on the table, **face down**, and ask partner/opponents, "Any questions?" This will often prevent a lead out of turn...
- 3) East/West also has responsibilities. Do **not** leave your coffee cup, score sheet, or any personal item at the tables where you have played. Be tidy, please. Do **not** discuss any previously played hand at the table. **Thank** N/S as you leave the table at the end of the round.
- 4) Dummy: DUMMY **will not** touch the cards until DECLARER calls for the desired card to be played. When you are the Declarer, call clearly for each card you want from the Dummy hand, e.g. Spade four, please; Heart queen, please. If you have just played a certain suit, say, the Spade four, and you want another Spade immediately, you needn't repeat the strain -- just say which card you want Dummy to play. When you just call for a Spade, Dummy is to assume you are asking for the lowest card of the strain. To be clear, you can say, "Go UP" meaning the highest card, or simply specify which Spade you want Dummy to play. Also, please do **not** play from your hand, or from dummy, before your opponent, left or right, has played. It can cost you tricks, if you "assume" anything about where certain cards lie.
- 5) When to call the director:
 - a) If someone leads/bids/plays out of turn, please call the director at once. The opponents have several options, depending on which seat leads/bids/plays out of sequence.

- b) If opponents are rude to one another or to you -- **call** the director **AT ONCE**. All you need say is: "An opponent is spoiling my enjoyment of the game." It is one of the director's responsibilities to ensure that all the players have a pleasant environment in which to play.
- 6) When you call the director, or the caddy, use the word "**Please**." These people are here to help you -- be polite to them. If you disagree with a director's ruling, make a note of it on your score sheet and talk with the director after the game, requesting an explanation. Directors are not perfect, either, and they will be happy to discuss with you the reason for a particular ruling. Sometimes, a modification or change is in order.
- 7) PLEASE -- Do **not** bend the cards when putting them on the table -- it makes an unpleasant "snapping" sound, distracting to other players. Instead, lightly drop the card from your hand onto the table, and it will make nary a sound! Also, when you play a card, either hold it so everyone at the table can see it, or place it, face up, on the table. Opponents shouldn't need to stretch halfway across the table to read your card.
- 8) If you sneeze or cough, please try to confine it to your elbow, a tissue, or the inside of your blouse/shirt. Use hand cleaner asap after coughing or sneezing. I want all of you to stay healthy!
- 9) If you have had a snack and your hands are sticky, please use hand cleaner before touching the cards. We want the cards to stay clean and pleasant to the touch.
- 10) Side tables are at each corner of the bridge tables. After playing a board, please place the used board on the side table closest to the table to where the board will be moved for the next round. The side tables are also for your coffee/water/soda/score sheet. The tables are NOT to hold a woman's purse. Please either hang the purse on one of the pegs provided for this, or leave it at an empty table. If you **MUST** take your purse with you around the room, please put it on the floor under your chair, making sure purse straps will not trip a passerby.
- 11) SPILLS -- please call the Director right away, whether it is coffee, tea, soda or water. The sooner a spill is attended to, the better.
- 12) Please do not ask a question about the opponents bidding unless you plan to take an action. Unauthorized information to your partner can cost you a penalty.
- 13) At the end of the game, please make sure you take all your "stuff" away from the table, e.g., soda can, coffee cup, glass, convention card, etc.
- 14) Finally -- **HAVE A GREAT TIME AT THIS WONDERFUL GAME!** Remember, no matter how long we have played, we are all bridge students.

Iris Libby

The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club

The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club will meet in August 2014 as follows:

Wednesday, 8/6

Tuesday, 8/12

Wednesday, 8/20

Tuesday, 8/26

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

We meet at the Moraga Country Club, upstairs. On St. Andrews, a short distance from Moraga Way. Results:

6/18 four pairs

- 1 – Nancy & Lew Voils
- 2 tie – Irwin Javinsky & Mal Mendolsen
- 2 tie – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

6/24 - six pairs

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

7/2 – six pairs

- 1 – Nancy & Lew Voils
- 2 – Marge & Milt Greenstein
- 3 tie – Sue & Shyam Rungta
- 3 tie – Winnie Jasper & Judy Murphy

7/8 – six pairs

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Sue & Shyam Rungta
- 3 – Nancy & Lew Voils

Regards, David Geary



Tournament Results

Top Finishers at Recent Bay Area Tournaments:

San Francisco Sectional (June 7 - 8)

Swiss Teams - Bkt 3 - Kathryn Von Dohre

East Bay Summer Sectional (June 14-15)

Sat Morn 500/1000/1500 Pairs - Judy and John Sherwood

Santa Clara Firecracker (June 25-29)

299er Swiss Teams - Wayne and Debby Rechnitz

Anne Hollingsworth



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

October 18

November 15