

# eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

## President's Message



Happy New Year, Fellow Bridge Players!

At our recent December Unit 499 Board meeting, the Board elected officers for the new year. I am your new President and Jackie Zayac was elected Vice President. Ted Gunn will continue as Treasurer, and Lyn Sacco as our Secretary. At any time if you have questions related to the Unit, please feel free to contact one of us!

I want to give a big shout out to Trisha O'Connor who served as our Unit President these past two years. Trisha has tremendous energy and dedication to both bridge and our unit, I have big shoes to fill following behind her. She has brought many new and exciting events to our unit to help promote bridge, including the Goodwill Award dinner (which will now be an annual event) and the Non-Life Master Sectional. The NLM tournament was such a success, it will be two days in 2015 - September 26-27, with pairs games on Saturday and Swiss teams on Sunday. The Tunnel Tourney was introduced in 2013, with our worthy east bay Unit 502 opponents taking home the plaque the first year, and Diablo Valley winning back the plaque in 2014. Let's keep it on our side of the tunnel this year!

We ended the year with a very well attended holiday party and farewell to DVBC Club owner, Iris Libby. It was a full house with 25 tables, with delicious food provided by both the unit and the players. This gave us all a chance to celebrate the holidays as well as share stories and thanks with Iris for having a great place for us all to "come and play." She will be missed, and we hope she will come back to visit often!

Many of you are headed to Monterey in early January for the regional. As you plan your bridge events for the new year, be sure to mark your calendars for the Annual Unit Meeting on Sunday, March 16, in Rossmoor, and our Spring Sectional, April 18-19, which will once again be at the San Ramon Valley High School in Danville.

See you at the tables,  
Anne Hollingsworth



Anne Hollingsworth, President; Jackie Zayac, Vice President;  
Lyn Sacco, Secretary; Ted Gunn, Treasurer

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### **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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Editor: Judy Keilin

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***Deadline for February is January 19th***

To submit a letter to the editor,  
send it to Judy Keilin at  
[jkeilin@pacbell.net](mailto: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](http://diablovalleybridge.com)

## ...from the editor

Congratulations to our new Executive Board and also to our new board members.

This month, we have a Letter to the Editor. Please take time to read it. Let's all take advantage of what our club has to offer, and let's consider others when we do.

We had a very successful Unit Game, and a festive holiday lunch, as we bid farewell to Iris. We wish her well in her new phase of life in Cincinnati.

Happy New Year to all!

Judy Keilin Editor  
[jkeilin@pacbell.net](mailto:jkeilin@pacbell.net)



Mary Krouse, Publisher



# Unit 499 Milestones

\*\*\* NEW JUNIOR MASTERS \*\*\*

Barbara Bottomley  
Kate Campbell  
Sherry D Dittiro  
Irwin Javinsky  
Brian King  
Barbara L Promessi  
Kerry C Smith

\*\*\* NEW CLUB MASTERS \*\*\*

Joyce Ellenberg  
Eugene Lipson  
Malcolm Mendelson  
William L Morfeld

\*\*\* NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS \*\*\*

William L Whitehead Jr

\*\*\* NEW REGIONAL MASTERS \*\*\*

Mel Chaplin

# Letters to the Editor

I noticed the fairly-new lending library of bridge books at DVBC sometime ago. Looking over the books, I thought it was a wonderful idea – to have books like these for all levels of players available for lending and/or ready reference. My wife and I have donated numerous bridge books to the library, and were glad to do so. Now here's the problem: This past week I wanted to check one of the books we had donated for a particular excerpt that I had narrowed down to it through some research. The book, "Advanced Bidding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", by Max Hardy, wasn't there.

There is a very adequate system in place for individuals wanting to borrow a book from the library. One must sign it out on the "books check-out page", located in the bookcase. Unfortunately, whoever decided they wanted to avail themselves of this book didn't bother to check it out. This library is a great resource for the club, so I encourage members to please simply follow the check-out procedure, so that all of us can continue to utilize this resource and all its contents so unselfishly provided by other members.

So, if someone borrowed "Advanced Bidding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" and inadvertently forgot to sign it out, please return it. If you want to continue to use it, then just properly check it out so other members wanting for it will know where it is.

Jack Meng

I would like to thank Iris Libby for all she has done for our bridge community. Not only has she provided a beautiful facility with a welcoming atmosphere, but through all the difficulties and crises, Iris has done it with a smile and with genuine love and concern for the players. Iris will be greatly missed by all of us, and I wish her well in this next chapter of her life.

Mary Krouse



## Baccillus Bridgeus: The Incurable Disease

**DO YOU HAVE IT??**



**Bridge is a highly contagious, progressive and incurable disease.** According to WHO (World Health Organization) estimates there are currently between 50 and 100 million infected people worldwide. Unlike other epidemics of this scale, bridge attacks primarily in developed countries. While rarely fatal, the disease has enormous negative impact on the lives of infected individuals and on the whole society. This information presents the current state of knowledge on the origins, symptoms and prevention of bridge.

Earlier theories assumed that bridge is an addictive drug, much like alcohol. In 1978, however, two independent teams of Dutch and American scientists isolated *Baccillus Bridgeus*, a very small bacteria causing bridge. This discovery explains why earlier treatment programs such as 'Bridge Players Anonymous' were unsuccessful. *Baccillus Bridgeus* transmits primarily via contact with bridge players. Once inside human body, it lodges itself in the brain, where it attacks the parts responsible for higher cognitive functions. During the tertiary stage (see under symptoms) of bridge, the patient's brain is little more than a tool for *Baccillus Bridgeus* to transmit itself to other victims.

**Origins of the Epidemics:** The bridge epidemic started around 1880, almost simultaneously in Great Britain and in the USA. It appears that a relatively benign bacteria causing *Whist* mutated itself into *Baccillus Bridgeus*. While the reasons for this mutation are not completely determined, a likely hypothesis suggests that it was a result of exposure of the *Whist Bacteria* to high doses of alcohol and boredom among civil servants in certain parts of the British Empire, mostly Egypt and India.

**Symptoms and Relief:** The development of the disease is naturally divided into three stages. During the **first stage**, which is not at all unpleasant, the infected individual enjoys an occasional social game of bridge and does not think of bridge in-between those. Only a small area of brain has been attacked and there are not infrequent reports of a spontaneous arrest of the disease and even of complete recovery.

The beginning of the **second stage** is usually marked by the victim starting to analyze the hand just played. It can be also recognized from the fact of the patient buying the first bridge book, usually with a title like *Improve Your Play Technique* or *Killing Defense At Bridge*. During this stage the victim often joins a bridge club and participates in the first tournament. Once this happens, the prognosis is almost always bad.

The **tertiary stage** of bridge can be recognized by the victim being able to name the current World Champions, winners of the Bermuda Bowl and other major tournaments. It is also marked by the patient owning a full bookshelf of bridge books and/or a subscription to a bridge magazine. At this stage the infected individual loses interest in other pursuits, is a common sight on the tournament circuit, and often dabbles in bridge theory. In extreme cases the victim neglects even the most elementary functions such as eating or personal hygiene.

While there may be periods of marked improvement, which often lull the patient and concerned relatives into a false sense of security *with the patient thinking I can take it or I can leave it*, it is important to recognize that a relapse is unavoidable. Nevertheless, some symptomatic relief can be achieved by simple methods such as getting the victim interested in other pursuits (sex, fly-fishing, crocheting), taking away his/her pocket money, and keeping the patient locked up during club games and local tournaments.

**Cure:** Currently, the only available cure for bridge is a lobotomy. This is performed only in extreme cases.

**Prevention:** Bridge is highly contagious. Conservative estimates indicate that it is 65 times as contagious as chess and about 5-6 times as the most infectious of the so called Nintendo viral group (which usually attack only children and adolescents and disappear, without causing any damage, upon victim's reaching the adulthood). Thus it is very hard to prevent a bridge infection. One should avoid any contact whatsoever with bridge players. If complete avoidance is impossible, do not allow the infected individual talk about bridge and never, ever agree to be *introduced to bridge*.

Recently published results of a 20-year long study by John R. Williams of the Hopkins University lead to surprising conclusions. Thus it is not particularly risky to be in company of bridge carriers, when their number is divisible by 4. On the other hand, it is extremely dangerous to be alone with 3 (or 7, 11, etc.) bridge players for a prolonged period of time (a cruise, chalet holiday, etc.). The reasons for this dichotomy are at present completely unknown and underline our lack of knowledge about *Baccillus Bridgeus*.



Submitted by Arlene Mahlberg

# Ken White Memorial PRO-AM GAME

Thursday, February 19, 2015

Free 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 February 13.**

Please sign up with Mark Humphrey at [markhumphrey@comcast.net](mailto:markhumphrey@comcast.net)  
or 925-377-6508.





# Introduction to Bridge

*For New and Returning Players*



**Instructor:  
Grant Robinson**

Gold Life Master  
ACBL Star Teacher

408-857-7240  
grantmrobinson@gmail.com

- Learn to play bridge
- Brush up on fundamentals
- Balanced overview of all aspects... bidding, play, and defense
- Hands-on learning
- Practice with mentored play
- Learn to play with any partner
- Course material from top teachers and players
- Meet other bridge players and make new friends

Open to all, reservations required

\$97 for series, includes Audrey Grant textbook

**Wednesday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
Jan 14 thru Mar 11, except Feb 11 (8 classes)**

**Diablo Valley Bridge Center  
2920 Camino Diablo, Ste. 100  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
(925) 935-CARD (2273)**

# **Diablo Valley Spring Sectional**

**Guest  
Speaker**



**NEW  
DATE**

**April 18 - 19, 2015**

**San Ramon Valley High School**

**501 Danville Blvd., Danville, CA 94526**

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

**Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**

**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)

**3:15 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, April 19<sup>th</sup>**

**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.**

- Guest Speaker:** Bridge in the "Wild and Woolly" West by Bob Garrett, D21 President, during lunch on Saturday.
- Table fees:** \$11 per session (Non-ACBL or unpaid members \$14). Players with 0 – 99 masterpoints pay only \$6 at the Saturday afternoon session.
- Tournament Director:** Nancy Boyd ACBL Sanction # S1504046
- Tournament Chair:** Jackie Zayac (925) 284-2309, [zayacfamily@comcast.net](mailto: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/bridgepartner499>
- Food:** Refreshments. Lunch available for purchase Saturday and 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. Enter San Ramon Valley High School at the 3rd driveway on your right. Follow parking signs.

# Bridge Instruction

We are starting new sessions of Bridge Lessons on January 26, 2015 in our home, listed below.

Jerry Chamberlain and Winnie Jasper are both ACBL certified teachers and Silver Life Master players. Classes are intentionally kept to a small number of students in order to provide a seminar atmosphere. We progress at the pace of the class.

Space is limited so if you or others you know wish to participate please contact us by phone or e-mail listed below.

Lessons are on Mondays, beginning January 26, 2015,

9am to 11am: Introduction to Conventions

11:30am to 1:30pm: Beginners (Bidding in the 21st Century)

[For those who know very little about card games and/or want to update what they learned years ago in college.]

2pm to 4pm: Defense in the 21st Century

7pm to 9pm: Introduction to Conventions.

If there is sufficient interest an additional Beginning Bridge Class will be held on Sunday Evenings from 7-9pm starting February 1, 2015.

There is a fee of \$80 for a four-week session plus any books or other materials that you may wish to purchase. (We have the ACBL textbooks available for purchase.) After the first four lessons you will have the option to continue if interested to finish out the lessons in the text.

Students are welcome to attend our Supervised Play sessions, 3-5pm on Tuesdays following the Monday Class. There is a charge of \$5 per person to participate and you may ask questions during the bidding and the play of the hand.

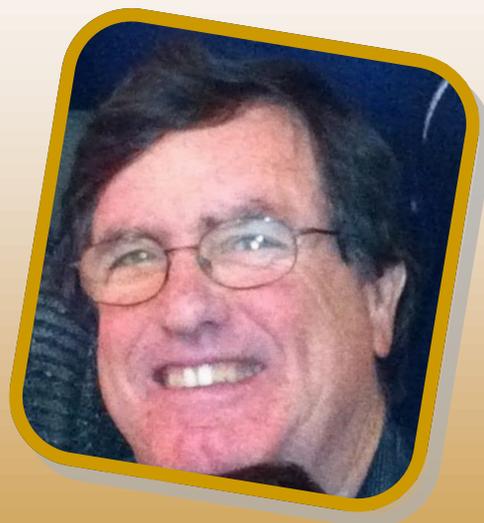
Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga

[925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125)

[Jerry@wjasper.com](mailto:Jerry@wjasper.com)

[Winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:Winnie@wjasper.com)



# 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♥, partner makes a limit raise, you try 4♣, and partner cooperates with 4♦. You check for keycards and discover that partner has an ace and the ♥Q. That's enough for you to bid 6♥. West leads the ♠K, gets an encouraging signal and continues with a low spade to East's ♠A; you trump, making both opponents unhappy. Hearts are 2-1. How do you plan to keep them unhappy?

| NORTH |            |
|-------|------------|
| ♠     | 10 9 8     |
| ♥     | Q J 8 7 5  |
| ♦     | A J 10     |
| ♣     | 5 4        |
|       |            |
| ♠     | 7          |
| ♥     | A K 10 9 4 |
| ♦     | K 9 3      |
| ♣     | A K J 3    |

Don't you dare put all of your eggs in one finesse basket! After drawing trumps, the way to stay alive is to play the ♣AK and ruff a club. If the ♣Q appears (think 37%), the ♣J is high and can be used to discard a diamond. If the ♣Q remains at large, go fishing for the ♦Q. A 70\$ chance (at Least) is better than a 50% 'too quick' finesse chance.

*Tip:*

*When faced with a two-way finesse for a queen (diamonds), the idea is to try to determine which opponent started with the longer diamonds and play that opponent for the queen. In other words you have to count! If you can't tell, you might as well play the opponent you dislike the most for the queen. Then if the finesse works, it gives you more satisfaction. Good luck!*

The West hand: ♠ K Q 6 4 2 ♥ 6 ♦ 7 6 5 4 ♣ Q 10 6

The East hand: ♠ A J 5 3 ♥ 3 2 ♦ Q 8 2 ♣ 9 8 7 2

The hand above is taken from *Take All Your Chances at Bridge*, by Eddie

# 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](http://Diablovalleybridge.com)

## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club

Rossmoor



There will be a Unit Game at Rossmoor on Sunday, January 18, at 1pm, featuring Both a 299er and an open section.

Light refreshments will be served before the game, so plan to arrive at noon. The game will be held in the Oak Room at the Gateway Center at Rossmoor.

## DIABLO VALLEY BRIDGE CENTER

2920 Camino Diablo, W. C., SUITE 100

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



By the time you read this issue of eDeclarer, I will no longer have a Walnut Creek address. My move to Cincinnati will be complete on January 13. Meanwhile, the movers come for the furniture on December 29. After the Monterey Regional, it'll be time to fly to Ohio on January 13th.

I have truly enjoyed being part of the bridge community in Walnut Creek. I will miss all of you players -- you have become an important part of my life, especially in the time I have owned Diablo Valley Bridge Center. We have had a lot of events at DVBC in the past four years, including seminars by Mike Lawrence, Billy Miller and Barbara Seagram. Gene Simpson has lectured here. Ally Whiteneck spearheaded a very successful Mentoring Program that brought many of you into DVBC and ACBL.

We have gone through some difficult times, such as December 2012, with storms flooding the club the first and fourth weekends, and a player driving into the facility the second weekend (luckily, no person was injured -- just a lot of property damage). We have experienced the sadness of losing players, each of them an important and supportive member of our bridge community.

I have worked very hard to make Diablo Valley Bridge Center a friendly, welcoming, comfortable place to play bridge. I feel my efforts have succeeded. I'm very proud of DVBC. Each time I walk into the club, I feel a surge of gratitude for its "WOW" factor.

The considerable talents of Arlen Schechtman (the oak coffee/tea table, custom-made bidding boxes, side tables and pencil holders), Pat George (quality control and partner in creating the side tables), Keith Gunn (our wonderful sound system) have helped create the atmosphere I sought.

Our directors, the newly-retired Marilyn Horan, Ron Olswang, Ravi Bhalla, Jerry Chamberlain, Randy Corr, and Grant Robinson have made it possible for me to relax and play bridge. Their dependability has been all-important to the daily operations at DVBC. Ron, as the previous owner, has been immensely helpful in guiding us through the learning curves.

Our teachers, Ravi Bhalla, Larry Miller (my hero), Trisha O'Connor, and Grant Robinson are helping to grow the numbers at our games, and they all have a following. Our limited games are very well attended, with the Novice Game on Saturday morning now averaging about eight tables, the rookie games HUGE with table counts well into the teens.

Bruce Johnsonbaugh, another of my heroes, continues to run the Youth Bridge Program, for which he deserves a large round of applause.

Judy Lowe has been invaluable -- besides running her large 999er game every Thursday, she helps us in any way she can to have a smooth-running club.

Carol Griffin, who helped us move into DVBC, couldn't persuade her loyal students at Orinda Community Center to move to DVBC, but that's all right. Her presence at the tables always makes me smile. We have supported each other, the best kind of arrangement.

Dori Dolgin continues to be amazingly helpful, finding ways to help save time and money, doing soooo much more than making all our boards.

The Unit 499 Board of Directors has been very supportive and I thank you all for the help you have provided. Mustn't forget to mention the exceptional job of producing the eDeclarer each month -- Judy and Mary -- you have been very patient with me. Thank you very much for taking on this project and making it an interesting read!

Grant has agreed to become the Acting Manager for the next six months, and this has made it possible for my move to be far-less stressful. So, while I may be moving 2500 miles Eastward, I will leave DVBC in very good hands.

COME AND PLAY!!

Iris Libby



## The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club

The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge club will meet in **January 2015** as follows:

Wednesday, 1/7

Tuesday, 1/13

Wednesday, 1/21

Tuesday, 1/27

Games always begin at 7pm. and finish about 10. Fee is \$3 per player. (Note the 50% increase from 2014). ACBL Open Club, with Master Points. Hand records. **YOU MUST SIGN UP IN ADVANCE** with: Winnie Jasper ([winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:winnie@wjasper.com)) for Wednesdays; or David Geary ([dsgeary@comcast.net](mailto:dsgeary@comcast.net)) for Tuesdays.

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

Recent results:

11/19 - 6 pairs

- 1 - Nancy & Lew Voils
- 2 - Art Donaldson & David Geary
- 3 - Sue & Shyam Rungta

11/25 - 4 pairs

- 1 - Colleen & David Geary
- 2 - Irwin Javinsky & Mel Mendelson
- 3 - Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

12/3 - 4 pairs

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

12/9 - 6 pairs

- 1 - Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 - Sanda Henry & George Bazgan
- 3 - Lois & Dick Halliday

Regards, David Geary



- **SWISS TEAM EVENTS at DVBC** •
- **THIRD SATURDAYS** • February through October • 2015 •

**Game Time: 12:30 PM**

**Light Lunch Served at 12 Noon**

**\$40/team**

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](mailto:JERRY@WJASPER.COM); 925-766-5228 (CELL)**

***Names • email and/or phone of team captain***

**NEED TEAMMATES OR A TEAM?**

**WE WILL TRY TO MATCH UP PLAYERS**

**Game Dates for 2015:**

**February 21**

**March 21**

**\*April 11\*(Second Saturday due to Unit 499 Sectional)**

**May 16**

**June 20**

**July 18**

**August 15**

**September 19**

**October 17**