

March 2016

# eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

## President's Message



Hello, Bridge Lovers,

I hope many of you are attending the NABC(North American Bridge Championships) in Reno. It's in our back yard, so to speak, and we are fortunate to have an NABC tournament so close to us. You can drive, fly, or arrive by train! For those of you who are newer players, this is an opportunity to attend one of these "big, big, big" events and see players from all over the world. In addition, there are lots of games scheduled for all levels of play. And if you want some time away from the tables - there are lots of activities in Reno, and great skiing/snowshoeing/cross country nearby.

Once you have recovered from Reno and finishing your taxes, you'll want to be sure to attend the Diablo Valley Spring Sectional. It will be once again held at the San Ramon Valley High School in Danville. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, April 16 and 17. Wayne Miller is chairing this always well-attended event. Book your favorite partner now, and come and play!

The end of April will bring the closure of the Diablo Valley Bridge Center in Walnut Creek. It's been a wonderful venue for many of us (thank you, Iris). We will be welcoming the opening of the new Contra Costa Bridge Club in Concord in May. As I write this article, the agreement is still a work in process, but very promising. When you see Mike Bandler, Mark Humphrey, and Bruce Johnsonbaugh, please thank them for all of their efforts this past year in looking at locations all over Contra Costa County to identify a venue to continue many of the bridge games now held at Diablo Valley. Information on a game schedule will be posted on our website once it is available.

See you at the tables!

Anne

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### **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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***Deadline for April is March 18***

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

Look for a new feature in this issue. David Terris is sharing his Rossmoor News bridge column with our eDeclarer readers. He presents lessons on bridge conventions in a very easy-to-understand way. What a great way to improve our game!. Thanks, David.

Judy Keilin  
Editor



Mary Krouse, Publisher



# Unit 499 Milestones

## New Junior Masters

Pamela Zaid

## New Club Masters

Linda Boyan

Monica Deutsch

Colin Ferrett

Barbara Promessi

James Roethe

Claire Smith

## New Sectional Masters

Barbara Bottomley

Lori Brewer

Lorraine Helmers

Barry Rauchle

Virgie Van Hook

## New Regional Masters

Duvall Holthaus

William Warren

## New Life Masters

Judy Sherwood



# **Diablo Valley Spring Sectional**



**April 16 - 17, 2016**

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

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

**Saturday, April 16<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)

**3:00 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)

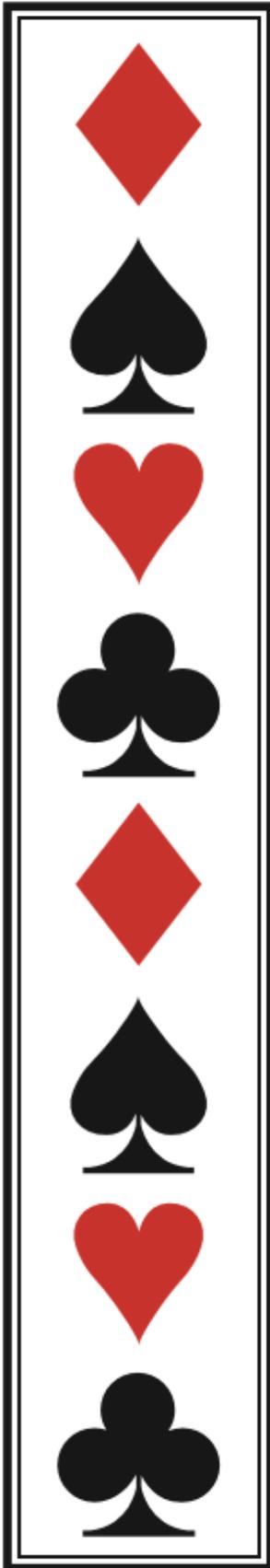
\* Games and strats will be adjusted based on attendance.

**Sunday, April 17<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.

**Table fees:** \$12 per session (Non-ACBL or unpaid members \$15).  
**Tournament Director:** Lynn Yokel (ACBL Sanction) #1604074  
**Tournament Chair:** Wayne Miller 707-746-6169 email [doblevem@yahoo.com](mailto:doblevem@yahoo.com)  
**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.



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND  
**A Benefit Celebration**  
FOR THE  
**Contra Costa  
Bridge Center**

**Sunday, April 3**

DVBC, Walnut Creek

2920 Camino Diablo, Suite 100

**12-1PM** CHAMPAGNE & HORS D'OEUVRES

**1-4:30PM** INAUGURAL GAME

OPEN AND 299ER, STRATIFIED

Donation \$150/pair \*501(c)(3) pending  
Pre-paid reservations by March 31 are a must!

**CAN'T ATTEND THE PARTY?**

Donations are happily accepted.  
Donations of \$250 or more will be memorialized  
on a sponsor plaque in the new location.

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For donations and game reservations,  
please send check made out to CCBC to  
Mark Humphrey  
4 Merrill Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

-OR-

For reservations contact  
Grant Robinson at [GrantMRobinson@gmail.com](mailto:GrantMRobinson@gmail.com)

-OR-

sign up at DVBC

\*We currently have an application for exemption under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code filed with the IRS. If this exemption is granted, this contribution will be tax-deductible.

# Play a Hand with me



North  
S 62  
H Q93  
D J74  
C J10742

West  
S Q8543  
H K105  
D 1092  
C Q6

East  
S J97  
H J642  
D K653  
C A3

South  
S AK10  
H A87  
D AQ8  
C K985

I am South playing in a flight A knockout against a professional player with more than 35,000 masterpoints who is the inventor of a weak-2 bid that shows a suit that could be of questionable value and length. The bidding started by West with 2S, pass by partner, 3S on your right and I bid 3N which buys the contract.

The opening lead is the 4S and dummy is disappointing. After winning the Spade J with the K, it looks like your only hope is to smother the singleton Queen of clubs so you lead the K and much to your surprise it holds. You continue clubs and their A and Q win the trick with the 9 of Spades coming back which you win with the A. You now have 8 tricks and can see another with an endplay against West as long as you can figure out which K they have, so I decided to postpone the endplay and ran the clubs, discarding a heart from my hand. While West discarded the 10 of Hearts and the 2 and 9 of Diamonds, I was worried that he was fooling me, but I led the J of Diamonds from the dummy and East covered, setting up my Q and 8, and since I had 10 tricks in I decided to exit with my 10 of Spades, and West had to lead away from the K of hearts so it was 3N making 5.

A single hand does not prove or disprove a convention, but at the other table the bidding went P, P, P, 2N, all pass, and the play started similarly with East winning the K of Clubs with the A and the Spade return held them to 2 for +120, a 12 imp gain.

Note, that had the opponents' club honors been switched, West could not gainfully lead Spades again. This hand also shows that in a short (12 boards) match how important every overtrick can be. Jackie Zayac and Anne Hollingsworth told me that they lost a match by 1 imp.

Jerry Weitzner

# Improve Your Bridge Play

By David Terris



1NT OR 1 OF A MAJOR?

Welcome to a new Bridge column in which I will present many useful topics, both in bidding and play.

Here is a problem that comes up quite often. Holding 15 to 17 HCP, a balanced hand and a 5-card major suit, should you open the major or 1NT? (*Note that if the 5-card suit is a minor, you always open 1NT.*) For example, as dealer you hold:

S A2 H AQ764 D QJ6 C K63

With this balanced 16 HCP, you could open either 1NT or 1H. If you open 1NT, you may miss a good heart fit if partner happens to have 3 hearts. And, it would be embarrassing if partner transfers you to spades, and you end up playing in a 5-2 spade fit when in fact you happen to have a 5-3 fit in hearts. On the other hand, even with a heart fit, notrump still might be the best spot, and you won't be there if you open 1H.

If you open 1H you have a rebid problem over partner's 1S or 1NT response. Over 1S your hand is too good to rebid only 1NT, not good enough to jump to 2NT, and a rebid of 2H would show a 6 card suit. So your only other option is to temporize by bidding 2C, a 3-card suit.

Over partner's 1NT response, you are too good to pass, and you should have about 18 HCP to raise to 2NT, so again you must temporize by bidding 2C (*Note that if you are playing the "1NT forcing" convention, you have less of a rebid problem since partner expects that a rebid of 2C might be made on a 3-card suit.*)

There seems to be no "right" answer because in any given situation opening either 1NT or 1H could have been the best choice. Furthermore, experts' opinions are divided, and there are a multitude of suggested detailed approaches in the Bridge literature. So, here are a few guidelines for the average partnership:

You can simply agree that you will always open 1NT on 5-3-3-2 hands regardless of having a 5-card major. You will probably be right as often as you are wrong. If you are a beginner or less experienced intermediate, this keeps things simple.

If you want to be a bit more exact in your bidding, several experts (e.g. Max Hardy, Larry Cohen) suggest the following optional exceptions:

Open the major suit if you don't have 3 cards in the other major. For example, because you have only 2 hearts, open 1S with:

S AKJ62 H 97 D AQ5 C Q95

This avoids the embarrassing transfer to the other major suit mentioned earlier and inspires partner's confidence that you won't miss a 5-3 fit.

Open the major suit when the high card points are stacked, i.e. clustered together, or you have two suits unstopped. Open 1H with each of these hands.

S AKQ H KQJ96 D 865 C 85

S KQ H AJ976 D 964 C KQJ

# 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



Sunday, March 6 - UNIT GAME

Lunch at noon, followed by play at 1pm. There will be an open game and a 299er game.

Monday, March 7 - ACBL-Wide Senior Pairs  
(members only)

March 21-26 - CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP WEEK

Wednesday, March 23 will be an IMP Pairs Game.

### *Notice of policy change:*

In accordance with the ACBL policy, guests will be able to play only with a club member in future STAC games at Rossmoor. The only exception to this will be Thursday night STAC games in which two non-members can play together.

Kit Miller

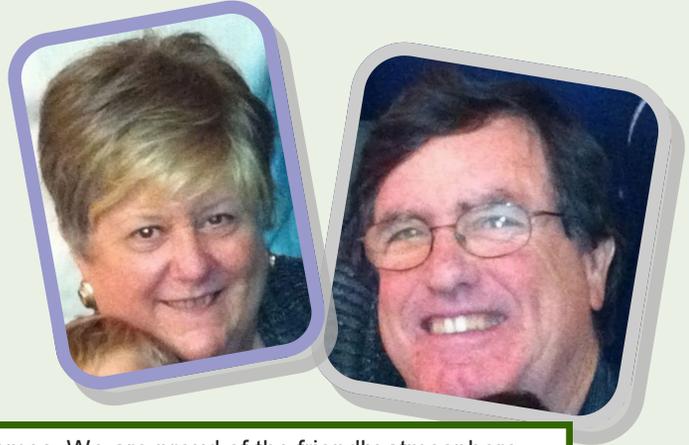
# The 24 / 680 Bridge Club

## The 24/ 680 Club

The location is our home:  
183 Corliss Drive , Moraga 94556  
(on the corner of Corliss and Crossbrook Drives at  
the stop sign)  
On-street parking  
[925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125)

Reservations required:  
Winnie: [Winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:Winnie@wjasper.com) or [925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125) (home)

Jerry: [925-766-5228](tel:925-766-5228) (cell)



Thank you to the many players who have been participating in our games. We are proud of the friendly atmosphere and the pleasant social interactions we have while playing bridge competitively in our Sanctioned Open Games

Our Wednesday games run 10am to about 2pm, with lunch included. We continue to host a Swiss Team Game on the third Saturday of each month. We will be holding as many Charity Games and Special Club Appreciation games and other extra-points opportunities as we can reasonably schedule within the ACBL Guidelines. We hope to support a local Charity several times per year. So far we have made contributions locally to ARF (Animal Rescue Foundation) , the Contra Costa Food Bank, and Nationally to Wounded Warriors Family Support.

All of the games in April at our club will be extra-point games for the ACBL Charities

Please remember that reservations are required in advance for these games. If we have enough notice we can usually arrange for partnerships.

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper  
[Winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:Winnie@wjasper.com)  
[925-376-1125](tel:925-376-1125)

Upcoming Schedule:

March 2016

Wed. 3/2: Regular Pair Game \$8  
Wed. 3/9: Charity (Food Bank) Pair Game \$9  
Wed. 3/16: Regular Pair Game \$8  
Sat. 3/19: Charity (Food Bank) Swiss Teams \$10  
Wed. 3/23: Regular Pair Game \$8  
Wed. 3/30: Regular Pair Game \$8

April 2016

Wed. 4/6; ACBL Charity Pair Game \$9  
Wed. 4/13: ACBL Charity Pair Game \$9  
Sat. 4/16: ACBL Charity Swiss Team Game \$10  
Wed. 4/20: ACBL Charity Pair Game \$9  
Wed. 4/27: ACBL Charity Pair Game \$9

Winnie Jasper

**The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club**

The Moraga Country Club duplicate bridge is every Tuesday evening at ump at the Moraga Country Club. Reservations are required with David Geary, dsgeary@comcast.net. Fee is \$3. ACBL open club, stratified, hand records.

Recent results:

1/19

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Carol & Gary Irwin
- 3 – Maxine Winer & George Bazgan

1/26 – 4 tables

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

2/2 – 3 tables

- 1 – Dennis Tanner & David Geary
- 2 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 3 – Sue & Shyam Rungta

2/9 – 3 tables

- 1 – Art Donaldson & David Geary
- 2 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 3 – Sue & Shyam Rungta

2/16 – 3 tables

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Art Donaldson & David Geary
- 3 – Carol & Gary Irwin

Regards,

David Geary

