

May 2016

eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Hello, Bridge Friends,

I hope many of you attended our Spring Sectional last month. We had a big turnout for the event, with players from all over the bay area attending. Wayne Miller did a wonderful job of chairing this event, ensuring everything was in place early Saturday morning for all the players. Bruce and Sherry Johnsonbaugh did a fabulous job with the hospitality - again. There were plenty of delicious nibbles throughout the two days for the bridge players to enjoy. It's the best hospitality in the area at a sectional. If you see them, please give them your thanks. We hope a good time was had by all!

Please plan to attend a farewell game at the Diablo Valley Bridge Center on Sunday, May 1 for Iris Libby. There will be a game and food, and a chance to see Iris and catch up with all her activities. Please check the unit website for more details: diablovalleybridge.com.

We are really excited that Barbara Seagram will be presenting a one day seminar for our unit on Friday, September. The event will be at the Shadelands Art Center. We'll have flyers and more information available in early summer, so be watching for more news. For the newer players, this is a "must attend" seminar. Most of you know Barbara as the author of "25 Bridge Conventions You Should Know" as well as other notable bridge books. She is an excellent speaker and it will certainly be a fun filled educational day for all.

I'm sure to see many of you at the tables in May for STAC week (May 2-9) and unit games!

Best,
Anne

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Deadline for June is May 15

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

...from the editor

Two big events this month: First was our fundraising Gala for our new bridge club. Unit 499 members really came through with generous donations. If you haven't made yours, there's still time. Thanks to those donors, bridge will continue!

The second event was our sectional, again well-attended. Attendees enjoyed competitive bridge and great food, as always. Thanks to Wayne Miller for chairing the event, and the Unit 499 board for support.

Judy Keilin
Editor



Mary Krouse, Publisher



Letters to the Editor

Hello All You Fabulous Unit 499 Chefs!

Thanks so much for your generous donations to hospitality for our Spring Sectional. The food was delicious, turnout great, and all seemed to really enjoy all of the wonderful nibbles as well as the cards.

Your generosity is what makes this a successful event, so thanks to you all!

Lyn Sacco

Hello, Board of Directors,

I wanted to thank all of you for your help in making our recent weekend sectional a success! We had a good turnout and received lots of compliments. Many of you helped with the set-up, which was completed by 8 AM, or in preparing items for the wonderful hospitality, or in clean-up on Sunday - or all three!

Big applause goes to Wayne who took on the responsibility of shouldering this event. He did an amazing job of coordinating the facility, chairs, directors, and all those "little details" that make the event run smoothly. Thank you, Wayne!!

A big thank you also goes to Bruce and Sharry. WOW!!! The hospitality was absolutely the best of any sectional any of the players have attended. Folks kept saying how wonderful it all was...and returning for more snacks:-).

Thanks to all of you who came to play! We hope you enjoyed our spring event.

See you all at the tables soon!

Best,
Anne

Unit 499 Milestones

New Junior Masters

Albert Chu
Bonnie Clawson
Ingrid Hsu
Susan Kimmel
Dean Ruddell

New Club Masters

Jennifer Langan

New Sectional Masters

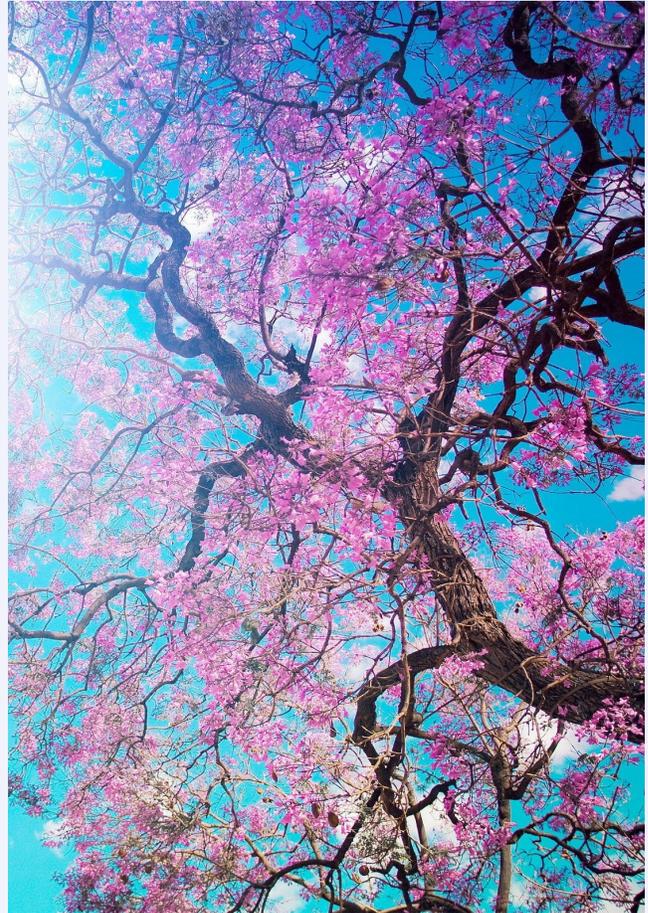
Mary Evenson
Carol Shannon

New Ruby Life Masters

Donna Barker
Pat Crane

New Gold Life Masters

Gail Giffen



GALA

On April 3, a fundraiser was held at DVBC for the benefit for our new club, Contra Costa Bridge Center. Donations have been pouring in, and the new club is expected to be a great success.

Attendees of the Gala enjoyed a lovely catered lunch, provided by Mike and Linda Bandler. Many thanks for that, as well as all the hard work involved in getting this club started. Kudos to Mike, Bruce Johnsonbaugh and Mark Humphrey for pursuing until a successful venue was found.

Photos of Gala attendees can be seen below.



Play a Hand with me

North

S J1098

H 7

D AK852

C K32

West

S 732

H KQ53

D 74

C J1095

East

S KQ

H A642

D 93

C AQ874



South

S A654

H J1098

D QJ106

C 6

We are going to call this hand “best to be quiet”.

The bidding went P by South, P, 1D, 2C, X, 3C, 3S, 4C, 4S, all pass.

You are West on this hand and as your partner leads the A of Clubs, North states “I hope your spades are better than mine”. Can you use this information to your advantage?

On the Club A, you signal with the J indicating that you like Hearts and your partner now leads the 2 of Hearts to your Queen. It is now up to you to envision where the setting trick will come from. Looking at dummy and remembering the comment, it is most likely to be in the trump suit so you continue with a low heart and declarer trumps with their 8 of Spades and then leads the J of spades covered with the Queen and the Ace, while you follow with the 2. Declarer then leads the 4 of Spades to your 3, his 9 and partners King.

Your partner now leads the A of Hearts forcing declarer to trump with the 10 of Spades and lo and behold your 7 of Spades is now the setting trick.

It is most unlikely that if declarer hadn’t drawn attention to his poor trump holding you would not have visualized that the 7 of Spades would be promoted. Also, declarer could have cashed the K of Clubs discarding a heart so they wouldn’t have had to trump so many times in their hand.

Congratulations if you solved this problem.

Jerry Weitzner

Improve Your Bridge Play



IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

THE RESPONSIVE DOUBLE (Part 1)

Here is a useful convention that is easy to use and remember. When partner makes a takeout double of opener's suit and RHO raises opener's suit, advancer's double is called a *Responsive Double* and shows two suits.

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
1♣	Dbl	2♣	Dbl*

*Responsive Double

The rule is very simple. If opponents bid and raise a minor suit, the responsive double shows at least 4 card length in both majors. Similarly, if the opponents bid and raise a major suit, it shows both minors. Other examples:

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
1♥	Dbl	2♥	Dbl*
1♣	Dbl	3♣	Dbl*
1♦	Dbl	4♦	Dbl*

*Responsive Double

The bidding level to which the responsive double applies is a matter of partnership agreement. Most play it to at least the 3♦ level. Others play it as high as 4♦.

IMPORTANT: In this auction advancer's double is only responsive if RHO raises Opener's suit. If RHO bids a new suit or notrump, a double would be for penalty.

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
1♣	Dbl	2♣	???

♠J763 ♥Q1072 ♦A104 ♣J2

Double. Opponents are bidding and raising a minor. You have both majors and aren't sure which is best. Your responsive double shows both majors and allows partner to decide which is best.

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
1♥	Dbl	2♥	???

♠Q6 ♥842 ♦AJ107 ♣Q982

Double. Opponents are bidding and raising a major. You don't have the other major, but you have both minors. When opponents are bidding and raising a major, the responsive double shows both minors. Since you are asking partner to bid a minor at the 3-level, this hand is about a minimum.

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
1♣	Dbl	3♣	???

♠KQJ6 ♥K842 ♦Q7 ♣872

Double. You are requiring partner to bid at the 3-level. For this, you need somewhat more than a minimum—either in strength or distribution.

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
1♥	Dbl	2♥	???

♠Q653 ♥642 ♦AJ104 ♣J8

Bid 2♠. You have the unbid major. Bid it. A double would show both minors.

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
1♦	Dbl	4♦	???

♠A9532 ♥QJ64 ♦743 ♣A

Double or Bid 4♠. If you play responsive doubles to this level, you can double. Otherwise, bid 4♠ since you know partner has at least three.

<u>LHO</u>	<u>Part.</u>	<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>
1♥	Dbl	3♥*	???

*Weak

♠Q653 ♥6 ♦QJ104 ♣KJ85

Bid 3♠. Even though you have both minors and could double, you should prefer the unbid major.

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



May 2-7 will be Spring Fling STAC Week at Rossmoor.

The Monday game is restricted to members only.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday a non-member may play with a club member.

Thursday night's game is open to everyone.

IMP Pairs Game

On May 19 an IMP Pairs game will be held at 7pm. Non-members can play in this game.

Kit Miller

Thank You to All



I've been the proud, happy, distressed, dismayed, confused, pleased, satisfied and for the past year, absent, owner of Diablo Valley Bridge Center for the past five and a half years (almost). It has been a very interesting time, especially December 2011. Thanks to Chris Pisarra, we have a photo history of that eventful month: First weekend -- Flood; Second weekend -- creation of the first drive-through bridge club in America; Third Weekend -- Christmas/Holiday Celebration amidst the plywood-covered doorways; Fourth weekend -- a second flood! All the drama was followed by three months in COZY quarters provided by the owners of ExecuCenter while our room was dried out, repaired, repainted and re-carpeted. Lordy, the patience of bridge players is epic!!

I have a long list of many to be thanked for all their help since January 2011. I'm sure I'll miss some, but here goes:

Ron Olswang, who sold his enterprise to me, then helped me learn how to manage it. He was, and still is, a valuable addition to the bridge community, always willing to lend a hand in whatever capacity he is needed.

Keith Gunn, who set up the wonderful sound system that will soon become a memory. How many of you notice the whereabouts of the speakers? They are very subtly placed – all Keith's work.

Chris Pisarra, who has taken photos of every major event and shared them with us.

Carol Griffin, who helped me survive moving week from Pleasant Hill to Walnut Creek, and who always gave valuable advice when asked.

Bruce Johnsonbaugh, who, as a volunteer, has run the Bridge for Youth program since 2012.

Jerry Chamberlain and Winnie Jasper, who loaned us folding tables and chairs and even metal plates and bowls. You will be able to take your tables home soon. Jerry helped out as a director, too.

Ally Whiteneck, who started a wildly successful Mentoring Program and kept it going for a year; besides recruiting mentors, she also recruited some fine players to give seminars at DVBC – Mike Lawrence, Billy Miller and Barbara Seagram, as well as Gene Simpson from the Bay Area. It was Ally who put forward the idea of a bridge library, too.

Joyce and Ted Mirwald, who started the Beginning Bridge lessons at DVBC and continued until they moved south.

Trisha O'Connor, who took over from Joyce and Ted and has done an admirable job ever since, also directing the Thursday afternoon Novice Game while also filling in for directors at other games.

Larry Miller, who moved his very successful Rookie Game to DVBC and who spearheaded the Pro-Am Games for the first several quarters. He has been my hero!

Judy Lowe, who moved her huge Thursday 999er game from Danville to DVBC and gave us more exposure, then sold the game to DVBC when she moved to Palm Desert. As we worked together, my respect for her grew, as did our friendship. I mustn't forget to mention her wonderful assistants, Sharon Tarpinian and Wayne Miller.

Margy Evans, who contributed ideas and cash for our custom-made bidding boxes, and who has been an on-going supporter of the center.

Arlen Schechtman and Pat George, who have contributed many hours and Arlen's carpentry talents. Because of them, we have a beautiful "tea" table and all our fine side tables. My brother, Jim Glasener, provided the first set of table tops, then Arlen refinished all of them when he created the extra tables we enjoy.

Ravi Bhalla, who has built up the Tuesday morning game from three or four tables to a regular ten plus every week and who generously gives time to any player who wants to know more. Now, he is teaching a 2/1 class that will help every player who takes it.

Brian Eisenberg, who first directed at DVBC and helped us get off the ground, then became our accountant, always with helpful suggestions.

Randy Corr, who with the late Bill Barron, started the Saturday morning Novice Game as a way to "pay it forward" in the game both had come to love. The Novice Game has become tremendously successful as a feeder program to the rookie and open games.

Zina Stokol, who "loaned" us her metal tea table several years ago, and who has contributed her time and considerable culinary skill to making our gatherings even better. Zina, you may yet get your tea table back.

My friend, Jules Campbell, who loaned her artwork to hang at DVBC. Michael O'Connor, who loaned his fine photographs.

Grant Robinson, who has been a fine Club Manager since January 2015, directing and teaching, as well as being our computer technical expert. My move to Ohio was made far less stressful knowing that he was in charge at DVBC. I cannot say enough good things about Grant, who has grown into this job and surpassed expectations by any measure.

Dori Dolgin, who has been an amazing help to me, to Grant, and to DVBC. Dori makes the boards for every game at DVBC, at Rossmoor, and for other clubs in the area. She is becoming a bridge player, too!! Dori is dependable, efficient, a self-starter, and she is always willing to go the extra mile when we need her.

Herb Constant, who helps with picking up and putting away table markers, bridgemates, pencils, mugs, etc. His name describes him – constant in his willingness to help out.

Loren Waxman, always helpful when we had problems that required a major cleanup (e.g. the floods).

Angie Murray, who inspired me to join the board of Unit 499; Bill George, who inspired me to run for president of the board. All the members of the board of Unit 499, who have continued to support DVBC and strengthen the bridge community.

Finally, each and every bridge player who has come through our doors – my deep gratitude goes to all of you.

Now, the next chapter of Contra Costa County bridge begins – the new Contra Costa Bridge Center. Thanks to many long and tedious hours of effort by Bruce Johnsonbaugh, Mike Bandler and Mark Humphrey, the players will continue to have a fine place to play. Some things will be different, some will remain the same, and duplicate bridge will continue to grow in popularity. I am proud to have been a part of Unit 499 and look forward to an occasional return to the Bay Area to join you at the tables.

The 24 / 680 Bridge Club

We thank the many players who have been participating in our games for helping us to promote the friendly atmosphere and the pleasant social interaction we have while playing bridge competitively in our Sanctioned Open Games. We welcome the participation of Bruce Cropper, who has come back to playing bridge after a 50-year hiatus, and many other Lamorinda players who have found success earning points in our Special Charity Games.

Our Wednesday games run 10AM to about 2:00 PM with lunch included. We host a Swiss Team Game on the third Saturday of most months during the year.

Please remember that reservations are required in advance for these games. If we have enough notice we can usually arrange for partnerships. You may reserve games in advance when you know your schedule.

May 2016:

Wed. 5/4 STaC Pair Game \$9

Sat. 5/7 STaC Pair Game \$9

Wed. 5/11 Grass Roots Charity Pair Game \$9

Wed. 5/18 Grass Roots Charity Pair Game \$9

Sat. 5/21 Grass Roots Charity Swiss Team Unit Game \$9

Wed. 5/25 Grass Roots Charity Pair Game \$9

June 2016:

Wed. 6/1 Charity Pair Game \$9

Wed. 6/8 Club Championship Pair Game \$8

Wed. 6/15 Regular Pair Game \$8

Sat. 6/18 Charity Swiss Team Game \$10

Wed. 6/22 Regular Pair Game \$8

Wed. 6/29 Regular Pair Game \$8

July 2016:

Wed. 7/6 Charity Pair Game \$9

Wed. 7/13 Club Championship Pair Game \$8

Sat. 7/16 Charity Swiss Team Game \$10

Wed. 7/20 Regular Pair Game \$8

Wed. 7/27 Regular Pair Game \$8

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

Winnie@wjasper.com; 925-376-1125



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

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

The Moraga Evening Duplicate Bridge Club

The Moraga Country Club duplicate bridge club is every Tuesday evening at 7pm 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:

3/22 - 3 tables

- 1 - Mary Stuart & Al Dessayer
- 2 - Lois & Dick Halliday
- 3 - Sue & Shyam Rungta

3/29 - not enough players for a game

4/5 - 3 tables

- 1 - George Bazgan & Ashok Chakradeo
- 2 - Art Donaldson & David Geary
- 3 - Lois & Dick Halliday

4/12 - 3 tables

- 1 - Andrea & Dan Green
- 2 - Art Donaldson & David Geary
- 3 - George Bazgan & Ashok Chakradeo

Regards, David Geary

