

February 2017

eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Happy February Unit 499!

Traditionally, February is the month for lovers, but I think we should change it to be the month for all forms of partnerships.....including bridge partnerships. Bridge is a partnership game and I would like to encourage everyone to recognize and thank all their bridge partners for playing bridge with you. A kind word, a flower or a piece of candy are all great ways to let your bridge partners know that they are appreciated.

We have two unit games this month and they are both being held on February 16. For those players with less than 1,000 masterpoints, CCBC will hold a unit game at 9:30am. A unit game will also be held at Rossmoor at 7pm, which is open to all players. I hope you will all plan to attend and compete for the higher masterpoint awards!

February 25 will be our first Pro-Am Event for 2017 at CCBC. If you are a "Pro" (life master and above), this is an excellent way to give back to our unit. I know that the "Ams" appreciate the chance to learn something new and play with a "Pro". The game will begin at 9:30am, but everyone should arrive at CCBC no later than 9am to fill out a convention card with his or her partner. This is a great event and I am always excited to find out who will be my partner for the day. It reminds me of finding out who your teacher is going to be for the new school year! (Editor's Note: Maybe, but a new teacher lasts a whole school year, and an "Am" bridge partner is only for three hours!)

I hope you all have a great time playing bridge this month, and I hope you will take the time to say or do something nice for your bridge partner(s).

Jackie Z

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Editor: Judy Keilin

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Submit articles to jkeilin@pacbell.net

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February 2017

Deadline for March is February 17

...from the editor

My partner, Jack, and I attended two great tournaments recently - The Palm Desert Regional and the Monterey Clambake Regional. There were a lot of familiar faces from home at both. We are so lucky to have so many tournaments that are close enough to reach by car.

We had an interesting auction in a team game one day in Monterey. Jack was dealer, and held AKQJxxxxxx of hearts, A of diamonds, and the 4 of spades. He opened 5H (!), because he had the K covered. Two passes followed, and the next bid was a double. Now Jack saw the K of hearts, and bid 6H which was passed out. At the other table, it was opened 6H, so it was a push board - a missed opportunity for our opponents who would have scored high had they not doubled.

See you at the bridge table.

Judy Keilin, Editor



To submit a letter to the editor,
send it to Judy Keilin at
jkeilin@pacbell.net

Mary Krouse, Publisher

Be sure to visit the unit website for more information on our clubs and events, as well as archives of our newsletters.

diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc



Unit 499 Milestones

New Junior Masters

Jackie Birdsong

Linda Walker

New Club Masters

Jeanette Bartz

Mark Curtis

Donna Derr

Lorna John

New Sectional Masters

Monica Deutsch

New Regional Masters

Barbara Bottomley

Sam Earnhardt

Ivan Faggen

New NABC Masters

Cynthia Kight

Samuel Kight

Debby Rechnitz

New Advanced NABC Masters

Steve Russell

New Silver Life Masters

Anne Hollingsworth

Mike Kruley

New Gold Life Masters

Kathrine Loh

Play a Hand with me

North

S 973

H A3

D QJ5

C KJ753

West

S 10 6

H Q10986

D 987643

C ---

East

S KQJ842

H J2

D 102

C Q42



South

S A5

H K754

D AK

C A10986

The bidding starts Pass by West, Pass, 2S to you and you double. North responds 3 Clubs which denies having less than 8 points and shows a club suit. With the bad hand they respond 2N asking you to bid 3 Clubs and then they could pass you there or bid their suit.

At the table, I bid a conservative 3N since I couldn't think of a constructive raise and still be able to play in 3N. As you can see, if you were to guess the way the clubs split, you could make 7C and always make 6 if you don't.

So how do you play 3N with the 10 Spades lead to the J?

To start, you should duck this and win the continuation. You know that if East gets in with the Q of clubs, they will cash whatever spades they can.

My recommended line is to cash all of the red suit winners and when you play the 3rd Diamond, East shows out so you know that they started with 6 Spades, 2 Diamonds, at least 2 Hearts and unless they had 5 Hearts they are going to have one + clubs. Therefore you cash the K Clubs first and when West shows out you end up with 1 Spade, 2 Hearts, 3 Diamonds and 5 Clubs for making 5 which would beat anybody that didn't bid a slam in clubs.

I will admit that one player I know quite well failed to get a count on the hand and started clubs in haste by taking the A and groaned when West showed out. Then I recovered by cashing my red suit winners and put East in with a spade and at the end they had to lead a club into my K J making only 3 for a 35% result which deserved to be a zero. Making 5 would have been a 65%.

Jerry Weitzner

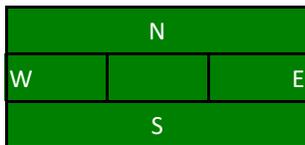


IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

HOLDUP PLAYS AT NOTRUMP (Part 1)

S 764
 H 96
 D KJ1093
 C KQ7

S J1053
 H KJ843
 D 5
 C 832



♠ AK9
 H A75
 D Q862
 C A105

S Q82
 H Q102
 D A74
 C J964

A basic tactic in Declarer's play of a notrump contract is the holdup play. Its purpose is to cut opponents' communication so that they cannot cash their established tricks. Depending on the particular situation, when the opponents lead a dangerous suit, it might be best for Declarer to hold up, once, twice or not at all. We will explore these situations in the next three columns.

This hand illustrates the basic idea. South is Declarer at 3NT and West leads the 4H. Once South knocks out the Ace of diamonds, he has 10 tricks (2 spades, 1 heart, 4 diamonds and 3 clubs). But, if he immediately wins with his A H, his only stopper in that suit, then when East gains the lead with his A D, he can continue hearts to defeat the contract.

Declarer cannot afford the loss of 4 heart tricks. West started with 5 hearts, and East 3, so if South holds up twice before taking his A H on the third lead of the suit, the defense is powerless because East will not have another heart to lead when he gains the lead.

The Rule of 7 is a useful guide to determine the number of tricks Declarer should hold up. When the opponents lead a suit that can potentially be set up to defeat the contract, Declarer subtracts the total number of cards in that suit from the number "7" to get the number of tricks to hold up before taking his winner. In the example above the West's low heart lead appears to be from a long suit, Declarer's dangerous suit. Declarer's and dummy's hearts total five. So Declarer should hold up for $7-5=2$ tricks and take his winner on the 3rd lead.

In the example above, suppose North has 3 hearts, giving a combined total of 6 hearts on Declarer's side. The danger is still that West started with at least 5 hearts, which if that's the case East has started with 2. So it would only be necessary for Declarer to hold up once and take his Ace on the second lead of the suit. This is verified by The Rule of 7, which gives $7-6=1$ trick to hold up. There is no need to hold up any further because if opponents' hearts are divided 4-3, instead of 5-2, the defense can only get 3 tricks in the suit and cannot defeat the contract.

The Rule of 7 is not sacrosanct. There are situations, to be discussed, where it should be ignored. Next time: More hold up plays.

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



DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall
Hartz Ave, Danville

The Danville club is a limited masterpoint stratified game. Currently that limit is 2500. I run all the special events that I qualify to run. Probably 80+% of the games pay as well or better than an open game that is not a special event. Checking my page on the website you can see if a special event is being held that week. Try the NEWS link if that information is not on the front page. Nowadays it is extremely rare for the game to be a Howell movement. About the only time it happens is if there is a Regional tournament in the district. Many of my players attend the local tournaments and I may close during them. If you have not played in Danville recently please give us a visit.

Games are held at the Veterans Hall on Hartz Avenue in Danville, at 9:30am on Fridays.

Thank You,

David Sterling



Lamorinda Bridge Club

Our games run from 10am to about 2pm with lunch included. We host a Swiss Team Game on the third Saturday of most months during the year, and a pair game on the Saturday of the three STaC Weeks per 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.

Our neighbor directly across the street at 184 Corliss has requested that we leave the equivalent of two parking spaces open in front of their home at all times as they are in and out all day long with carpools and transporting three children to school and activities.

Please try to park on our side of the street and/or around the corner on Crossbrook Drive or in our driveway. We have a walkway from the driveway to the front of our house.

In a continuing effort to offer as many extra point games as possible during 2017 we have instituted the following table fee changes:

All Regular Pair and Team Games: \$10 per person

All ACBL Sponsored Charity Pair and Team Games: \$10 per person

All Local Charity Pair and Team Games: \$11 per person

All STaC Games: \$11 per person

Upcoming Schedule:

February 2017:

Wed. 2/1 Charity (ARF) Pair Game \$11

Wed. 2/8 Regular Pair Game \$10

Wed. 2/15 Regular Pair Game \$10

Sat. 2/18 Charity (ARF) Swiss Team Game \$11

Wed. 2/22 R Regular Pair Game \$10

March 2017:

Wed. 3/1 Regular Pair Game \$10

Wed. 3/8 Regular Pair Game \$10

Wed. 3/15 Charity (Hospice) Pair Game \$11

Sat. 3/18 Charity (Hospice) Swiss Team Game \$11

Wed. 3/22 Regular Pair Game \$10

Wed. 3/29 Regular Pair Game \$10

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

Winnie@wjasper.com; 925-376-1125

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

Lamorinda Bridge 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 meets every Tuesday evening at 7pm at the Moraga Country Club. Reservations are required with David Geary, dsgear@comcast.net. Fee is \$3. ACBL open club, stratified, hand records.
Recent results:

12/20 – 3 tables

- 1 – Colleen & David Geary
- 2 – Anne Hollingsworth & Susan Schlict
- 3 – Sue & Shyam Rungta

12/27 – 2 tables

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 tie – Sue & Shyam Rungta
- 2 tie – Sanda Henry & George Bazgan

1/3 – 3 tables

- 1 – Sue & Shyam Rungta
- 2 – Susan Schlict & Greta Westeson
- 3 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

1/10 – 3 tables

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

1/17 – 4 tables

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Mal Mendelson & Irwin Javinsky
- 3 – Art Donaldson & David Geary

Regards, David Geary



ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club

Rossmoor

Saturday, February 4, ACBL-Wide International Fund Game at 12:30pm

Thursday, February 9, IMP Pairs Game at 7pm

Thursday, February 23, Unit Game at 7pm

Kit Miller

