

December 2017

eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Welcome to December Unit 499!

We are starting the month with a unit game for our players with 0 – 199 masterpoints on Saturday, December 2 at 9:30am at Contra Costa Bridge Center. I hope that all of our 0 – 199 members will play in this extra masterpoint event.

It's silver point time again! STaC Week will be held from December 4 – 10 at our local clubs. I love STaC Week because Unit 499 often has players in the Western Conference overalls earning even more masterpoints. Let's all get out there and represent!

For the second year in a row, the Unit 499 Board of Directors voted to provide funds for each club in our unit to host a holiday party at one December game. Be on the lookout for these special games. Since we have twelve clubs in our unit, our members may be able to attend twelve holiday parties and bridge games too!

On Sunday, December 17, open unit games will be held at Bridge on the Lake at Discovery Bay at 12:30pm and Contra Costa Bridge Center at 1pm. These are the last unit games for 2017 so make plans to play now!

It is hard for me to believe that I am completing my first year as President of Unit 499 this month. I have enjoyed every minute serving as your President. I am so honored to hold this position and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for supporting the wonderful game of bridge. All of you make it such a pleasure to volunteer in our unit. We really have a great group of people! I am looking forward to seeing you all at the tables this month with your holiday attire and good cheer!

May your days be merry, bright, and full of bridge games,

Jackie Z

...from the editor

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to jkeilin@pacbell.net

Volume LXXX

December 2017

Deadline for January is December 15

Happy Holiday Season greetings to all our readers!

Be sure to read the charming article in this issue about Bruce Johnsonbaugh's fabulous garden project just outside the window at CCBC. Make sure you schedule a game there, if you haven't seen it yet, and be sure to let Bruce know how lovely it is. Thanks, Bruce, for the planning and execution of this feature.

It is always my aim to encourage eDeclarer readers to contribute articles, photos, letters, or suggestions about anything relating to bridge. The article about Bruce's garden is an example of something of interest to all of us. Many thanks to Carol and Mark for sharing this. I hope to see more contributions in the new year!

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 and New Members

MILESTONES

New Junior Masters

Dolores Am Solen
Fred Golini
Olga Gordon
Marilyn Gschwind
Nazli Monahan

New Club Masters

Ashok Chakradeo
Dj Dixon
Dudley Harrelson
Kenneth Hills
Pamela McGrath

New Sectional Masters

Sidney Chow
Tom Hensler

New NABC Masters

Malcolm Mendelson

New Advanced NABC Masters

Kairong Michelsen

New Bronze Life Masters

Sefton Boyars
Sandi Cummings
Margy Evans
Carol Harrison

New Silver Life Masters

Bill Samuels
Krishnan Thondukolam

New Sapphire Life Masteers

Tom Trachuk

New Members

Kim Buck
Kevin Guo
Donna Rennie
Margaret Halliday
Andrew VanWye
Victor Chang
Kenneth Hardy
Gladi Meyerson
Catherine Mitchell
Susan Moser

A Room with a View



Tired of looking out the huge picture window at the pile of dirt in back of the Contra Costa Bridge Center (CCBC), Bruce Johnsonbaugh decided to create a room with a view.

Spade in hand, he poured his *heart* into the task: installing a sprinkler system, amending the soil, planting the centerpiece blue spruce - then adding a gorgeous array of low bushes, textured ground cover, and many blooming plants.

Two bird feeders and a birdbath right next to the window attract several species of birds - enchanting players with *diamonds* of splashing water.

Appreciative of the opportunity to enjoy this lovely scene during the dreaded “sit out”, many *club* players have contributed to the project, with monetary donations and some hands-on help.

Many thanks to you, Bruce (and to your wife, Sharry) for creating this *grand slam* of a garden with such *finesse*!



Carol Penskar and Mark Humphrey

Unit 499 Sectional

Bridge players from all over the bay area came to Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon the weekend of November 11-12 for Unit 499's Fall Sectional. We had a great turnout with over 354 players earning silver masterpoints! This is our second event at this venue, so folks now know where it is. It's an excellent facility, with lots of space for tables, chairs, and food.

Players from our unit shined throughout the two days. In particular, on Sunday, players from Unit 499 won all of the Swiss team brackets, with the exception of Bracket I. What a showing!!

Of special interest, our unit was the first to have the bridge tables and supplies delivered in District 21's new wheels! Calvin Harper, who brings the supplies to the regionals, sectionals, and other events in our district, shared that this van has a lot of bells and whistles. His former van had lots of miles, and this new one has plenty of space for all that he brings to our events.

Our unit's Spring Sectional will once again be at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon. Mark the dates on your calendar now - April 28 and 29 - and plan to COME and PLAY!

Anne Hollingsworth



Play a Hand with me

December, 2017

North

S J102

H AK82

D KQJ8

C J10

West

S Q8764

H 54

D A93

C AQ3

East

S 95

H 10963

D 65

C K9542



South

S AK3

H QJ7

D 10742

C 876

East was the dealer on this hand and the bidding proceeded: P P 1S X, P 2N P 3N, all pass.

The opening lead was the 6 of spades and you played the J or 10 from dummy and it holds. What spade do you play from your hand? While it is nice to allow the first spade to be won in dummy, it is most important to win in your hand with the A or K to make it look like you have AK doubleton. You can see that the defenders can take 4 or 5 clubs when they get in with the A of diamonds but they do not know this.

After you win in your hand, west most likely will think that they can continue another spade forcing out your other high honor, but you will win in dummy and take 3 spades, 4 hearts and 3 diamonds making 4. I was asked "what if I didn't get that spade trick in dummy at trick one" and I said the truth is that if you get 2 spades, 4 hearts, and 3 diamonds making 3 you will get a very good board.

Always remember the defenders cannot see your hand so if you can create an illusion, they just might make an error.

I saw one declarer win the spade in dummy and run off 4 heart tricks before leading diamonds. West now knew declarer had a minimum of 10 points outside of clubs and therefore couldn't have the club K so they were able to logically cash out.

Jerry Weitzner

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

LIGHT OPENING BIDS

Opening "light" (less than 12-13 HCP) has been proven to be effective. Not only does it get you into the auction immediately, but it changes the entire dynamics of the auction if the Opponents enter the bidding. As with many Bridge ideas, however, opening light can and is abused.

The "Rule of 20" is a guide to opening light in first or second seat. You add the number of cards in your two longest suits to the number of HCP. If the total is 20 or more, open. If not, pass. It is simple and effective. However, this rule has been abused by players, who don't take into account the quality of the high card points.

Example: ♠A ♥QJ642 ♦J976542 ♣---

Is this hand an opening bid? It satisfies the Rule of 20, but would you be happy defending a high level club or spade contract?

When you open the bidding, your partner expects you to be able to take at least 2 tricks on defense. Without this hand quality, you will be embarrassed defending if the bidding gets competitive, and partner doubles the opponents. Or, partner may cause your side to reach a game contract that cannot be made due to your high card weakness.

Therefore, to open light **you must satisfy the Rule of 20, and your hand should have 2 Quick Tricks**.

Two Exceptions: (1) With 12 HCP and an unbalanced hand, you can open with 1½ quick tricks provided your honors support each other. (2) You should open all 13 HCP hands.

Quick Tricks Table:

AK = 2 QT KQ = 1 QT
AQ = 1 ½ QT Kx = ½ QT
A = 1 QT

As Dealer you hold the following hands:

(10 HCP) ♠QJ85 ♥Q74 ♦AJ975 ♣8
Pass. You satisfy the Rule of 20 but have only 1 QT.

(10 HCP) ♠K9852 ♥AK762♦86 ♣9
Open 1♠. You satisfy the Rule of 20, and you have 2 ½ QT.

(11 HCP) ♠AQ975 ♥73♦Q9 ♣QJ64
Pass. This hand has more HCP than the one before, but has only 1 ½ QT.

(11 HCP) ♠AK975♥73♦J9 ♣QJ64
Open 1♠. This slightly better hand qualifies as an opener because of its 2 QT.

(12 HCP) ♠KQJ3 ♥A87 ♦Q76 ♣842
Pass. You have the required 2QT, but the Rule-of-20 count is only 19.

(12 HCP) ♠A9♥QJ5 ♦K953 ♣Q852
Pass. You satisfy the Rule of 20 but you have only 1 ½ QT and your hand is balanced.



(12 HCP) ♠KJ7 ♥AJ853 ♦QJ7 ♣92

Open 1♥. You can open a 12 point hand with just 1 ½ QT when your hand is not flat and your honors are well connected.

(12 HCP) ♠A74 ♥KJ98 ♦KJ32 ♣76

Open 1♦. The hand is balanced, but it satisfies the Rule of 20 and has 2 QT.

(13 HCP) ♠KJ52 ♥QJ7 ♦QJ9 ♣K93

Open 1♣. You are not proud of this collection, but you should open all 13 point hands.

♠ J 9 3
♥ A 10 9 8
♦ K 9 7 6 5
♣ A 9 4 2

♠ A K Q 9 5 2

♥ K J 3

♦ 4

♣ J 10 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 4

♥ Q 6 5 4 2

♦ Q 10 3

♣ 8 7 5

♠ 10 8 6 3

♥ 7

♦ A J 8 2

♣ A K 9 3

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

FREE DUPLICATE PLAY IN DECEMBER FOR ROSSMOOR MEMBERS

During the month of December all duplicate games will be **free** for members of the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club except for STaC games.

December 4-9 will be Holiday STAC Week. Members can earn extra masterpoints if they score well in comparison with players at nearby clubs who play the same hands. The cost for play during this week is \$4 for club members and \$8 for guests.

The Holiday Lunch and Annual Meeting with elections will be held on Monday, December 11. Lunch is served at 11:30 followed by the brief meeting and play.

Membership dues for 2018 are now payable. There are envelopes for payment available at all regular duplicate games.

Kit Miller



Lamorinda Bridge Club

Lamorinda (formerly 24/680) Bridge Club

Our games run 10am to about 2:00pm with snacks and beverages included. If you would like to contribute a snack item to what is offered, please feel free to do so. We host a Swiss Team Game on the third Saturday of most months during the year, and a pair game on the Saturday of most 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. We also ask that you not park directly in front of any of our neighbors' mailboxes.

Congratulations to some of our first place players in Sections A, B or C since the last newsletter: Kathy Wolf & Mal Mendelson, Dianne Lavin & Fred Golini, Judy Murphy & Eileen Pleticha, Harry & Sheilah Fish, Jerry Weitzner & Darrell Fung. In the October Swiss Team high score went to, Harry Fish, Jerry Chamberlain, David Geary and Winnie Jasper, with a close second to the team of Melinda Hall, Bill Burns, Judy Murphy and Conrad Robertson.

Upcoming Schedule:

December 2017

Wed. 12/6 STaC Pair Game \$11

Sat. 12/9 STaC Pair Game \$11

Wed. 12/13 Regular Pair Game \$10

Sat. 12/16 Food Bank Charity Swiss Team Game \$11

Wed. 12/20 Club Championship Pair Game \$10

Wed. 12/27 Food Bank Charity Pair Game \$11

January 2018

Wed. 1/3 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$10

Wed. 1/10 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$10

Wed. 1/17 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$10

Sat. 1/20 Junior Fund Charity Swiss Teams \$10

Wed. 1/24 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$10

Wed. 1/31 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$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 is every Tuesday evening at 7pm at the Moraga Country Club.

at

Reservations are required with David Geary, dsgeary@comcast.net. If reservation not made by Sunday before, it will only be accepted if needed to avoid a half-table sit-out.

Fee is \$3. ACBL open club, stratified, hand records. Extra Master Points by donating to charity whenever ACBL allows.

Recent results:

10/24 - 5 tables

- 1 - Judy & John Sherwood
- 2 - Colleen & David Geary
- 3 - Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

10/31 - 3 tables

- 1 - Colleen & David Geary
- 2 - Judy & John Sherwood
- 3 - Vijaya Kamath & Ashok Chakradeo

11/7 - 4 tables

- 1 - Stephanie Kung & Blair Hoffman
- 2 - Sue & Shyam Rungta
- 3 - Richard Chen & Irwin Javinsky

11/14 - 5 tables

- 1 - Sue Eltringham & Carol Griffin
- 2 - Colleen & David Geary
- 3 tie - Sanda Henry & George Bazgan
- 3 tie - Richard Chen & Irwin Javinsky

Regards, David Geary

