

March 2018

eDeclarer

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Welcome to March, Unit 499!

We have two unit games being held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018. At 9:30am, the Lamorinda Bridge Club will hold an open game. At 10am, the Blackhawk Country Club will hold a unit game for women only. You must make advance reservations to play at either of these unit games. Reserve your spot now!

After warming up in a Unit 499 unit game, catch the next flight to Philadelphia. The Philadelphia NABC will be held March 8 – 18 at the Philadelphia Marriott. I hope everyone who attends has a wonderful time and wins a lot of master-points!

Whatever you do, don't forget to turn your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on March 10. Daylight savings starts on March 11, 2018 at 2am. That means that another good thing is happening soon.....the first day of Spring! On March 20 at 9:15am, Spring begins.

*****MARK YOUR CALENDARS: SUNDAY, MARCH 25*****

It is the date of our Unit 499 Annual Meeting, Lunch and Unit Game at Rossmoor in the Oak Room. During the annual meeting, we will pass out the Ace of Clubs Awards and the Mini McKenney Awards for 2017. Congratulations to all our 2017 Unit 499 Winners of these awards! The Rossmoor hospitality team always put together a delicious lunch and it is a great venue for playing bridge. I hope you will all plan to attend to congratulate our 2017 award winners and play bridge.

I wish you all great luck and skill at the tables this month.

Jackie Z

Directory

We will print the 2018 Roster towards the end of the first quarter in 2018 and have it available at the Unit 499 clubs.

If there are any changes in your information that is contained in the print version of the 2016 roster, and, if any of you are members of ACBL and also Unit 499, and are not included in the 2016 roster, please advise me.

Bob Barnes, Membership Chair

Bob.Barnes@msn.com

...from the editor

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Submit articles to jkeilin@pacbell.net

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Deadline for April is March 16

There are a lot of great events coming up: Unit Games, Awards of Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs winners, and what promises to be an excellent seminar led by bridge great Larry Cohen.

Think about the Mentoring Program. Whether you are a mentor or a mentee, there is much to be gained from participating.

Remember, this is your newsletter. Consider sharing your ideas, accomplishments, experiences, and/or suggestions for making our bridge community even better than it already is by contributing an article or letter to the editor.

Happy times at the tables!

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

New Junior Masters

Loreta Landucci

New Club Masters

Carol Gurrad

New Sectional Masters

Dianne Lavin

Chuck Silva

New Regional Masters

Pete Davis

Margaret Siverts

New NABC Masters

Sam Earnhardt

New Life Masters

Gary Hargrove

Gregg Rihel

New Bronze Life Masters

Mark Marty

New Silver Life Masters

Louise Gebert

New Gold Life Masters

Conrad Robinson



**Save the Date: May 16, 2018
Larry Cohen Seminar**

New Members

Stephen Clark

Patricia Jenkins

Barbara Johnson

Meiling Lai

Karen Lapin

Kara McDonnell

Ann Peterson

Elizabeth Smith

Noel Norton

Jackie Thomas

Mike Topper



Diablo Valley Unit 499

Welcomes:

Larry Cohen

America's Premier Bridge Teacher



May 16, 2018

\$85 before May 1

\$95 after May 1

Wesley Center

SRV United Methodist Church

902 Danville Blvd., Alamo, CA

Worldwide lecturer for all levels
25-Time National Champion
Among top 10 living most
influential ACBL Players

SCHEDULE

9:00 - 9:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:30-12:00 Lecture on Defensive Strategy (Passive or Aggressive)

12:00-1:00 Lunch Included

1:00-3:30 Lecture on Declarer Play (Don't Paint Yourself Into a Corner)

3:30 Questions and Book Signing

Professional Vu-Graph Presentation, LC Workbook/handout,

Pre-dealt Hands to Play



Registration

Name(s): _____

Email address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Mail Registration and check made out to: Diablo Valley Bridge Unit 499, c/o Bill LeMaire, 5595 Amend Road, El Sobrante, CA. 94803

Questions: jackiezayac@gmail.com or (925) 284-2309

New and Expanded Unit 499 Mentoring Program

Unit 499 has always believed that a mentoring relationship is critical to anyone wanting to advance their skills and knowledge of Bridge. Andy Fine has led this program for several years. Thank you, Andy.

The Unit 499 Board of Directors wants to enhance this program to include the growing number of members who are eager to learn through one-on-one relationships.

What is Mentoring? Mentoring is a learning process designed to help and guide less experienced players by someone with more experience. If the success of our ProAm sessions, led by Mark Humphrey, is any indicator of the desire for learning and teaching among our novices and experts, the expansion of mentoring is something to be valued by all.

The success of any Mentoring relationship is found in the level of commitment of all parties involved. The benefits to the Mentor are:

- Personal satisfaction giving back to the organization.
- Legacy of personal knowledge, insight and experience.
- Higher visibility within the Bridge Community.

Building new relationships.

Benefits to the Mentee are:

- Assistance in defining realistic learning goals.
- Help to build confidence and the encouragement to grow beyond expectations.
- Personalized education.

Building new relationships.

Role of the Program Coordinator...Karen Corburn:

- Gaining and maintaining the commitment from participants.
- Selection and matching of mentor and mentee.
- Promoting the program

Providing tools to facilitate learning and relationships among participants.

We're ready to accept new Mentors and Mentees. Please contact Karen Corburn at kscorburn@gmail.com by March 30, 2018.

Update from Contra Costa Bridge Center

It's been more than twenty months since we opened the doors of Contra Costa Bridge Center! We have just completed our final review of fiscal year 2017 financial results. We want to report to you - our key stakeholders - that our 501(c)(3) continues to be financially strong and is well-positioned for many successful years ahead.

Over the first twenty months, CCBC has averaged nearly 350 tables per month. Our eight-game per week schedule continues to offer playing opportunities for all levels: from brand-new to highly-accomplished players. It is very gratifying to see new faces almost every week. And, there continue to be many learning opportunities: from mini-lessons (prior to five of our games each week) to classes (both onsite and offsite).

We continue to invest in enhancing the club - most recently with a beautiful new garden and a re-paved parking lot.

Many thanks to you - our donors and players - for getting this organization off to such a terrific start!

We are also very grateful to those folks who make it all work for CCBC - managing, teaching, directing games, and handling all of the behind-the-scenes work. Our sincere thanks to Grant Robinson, Ravi Bhalla, Randy Corr, Mike Kruley, Larry Miller, Trisha O'Connor, Ron Olswang, Deb Rechnitz, Dori Dolgin, and Carol Penskar.

We hope that all of you will come out and play in 2018. We are planning even more special events than we held in 2017.

With appreciation,

Mike Bandler

Bruce Johnsonbaugh

Mark Humphrey

Play a Hand with me

Play A Hand With Me...

March, 2018

North

S K94

H A

D K107

C AKQ632



West

S 108752

H 1065

D J62

C 97

East

S ---

H J987

D Q9854

C J854

South

S AQJ63

H KQ432

D A3

C 10

This hand defines the statement that Mike Lawrence constantly uses in his writings when the dummy comes down you must count your tricks and ask yourself "what can go wrong."

On this hand, I received a heart lead in 7N. In either 7N or 7S, the only thing that can go wrong is for one of the opponents to have all 5 spades if the clubs don't split 3-3. However if that is the case you need to clear spades first because you won't know what to discard from the South hand. If the spades are in the West hand you can play a high spade from your hand and then lead toward the K 9 picking up the suit with no losers and making your grand slam. In spades if you carelessly play the K of spades from dummy early you will lose a spade trick down 1.

Interestingly if you are in 7N, playing 4 high spades, assuming you didn't pick up the entire spade suit, before anything else, also squeezes East whose best defense is to discard four diamonds. You now cash the K of diamonds followed by a diamond to your A and East must give up the club guard or the heart guard.

What makes this hand so interesting to me is that if you are in 7N and misplay the spade suit you can still make your contract but in spades you cannot.

This hand is one that shows how awesome and complex this game is.

Did anyone notice that a club lead sets 7N when you don't get 5 spade tricks?

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY



By David Terris

BALANCING AFTER A STRONG 1NT OPENING BID (Part 2)

DONT (“Disturb Opponents’ No Trump”) is a useful convention for competing against a strong 1NT opening bid. In the balancing seat it is particularly useful because it maximizes the chance to find a contract to play at the 2-level.

After LHO opens 1NT, and Partner and RHO both pass, an overcall in the balancing seat has the following meanings.

DBL: One-Suited Hand (6+ card length)

2♣: Clubs and a Higher Ranking Suit

2♦: Diamonds and a Higher Ranking Suit

2♥: Spades and Hearts

2♠: Spade Suit

3♣, 3♦, 3♥, 3♠: A long suit (7+ cards)

Partner’s Responses:

If the balancing bid is DBL, Partner is expected to bid 2♣, which is a relay back to the balancer so that he can show his long suit.

If the balancing bid is 2♣, 2♦ or 2♥, Partner should pass with a fit. If Partner prefers Overcaller’s other suit, he should bid the next higher ranking suit and should have at least 3-card support in all the higher ranking suits.

Recall from last month’s column that a guide to balancing is Mel Colchamiro’s Rule of Two. If your hand has two distribution points, you should bid regardless of strength.

The auction for all of the following hands is:

LHO Part. RHO You

1NT* Pass Pass ???

*15-17 HCP

♠KQJ764 ♥53 ♦65 ♣1065

Bid 2♠. No question about acting. Two doubletons satisfy the Rule of 2. This hand is far from a minimum, even vulnerable.

♠3 ♥K109842 ♦10654 ♣32

Double. After Partner's relay of 2♣, you will bid your hearts. Partner should realize that you could be bidding on such a small hand. Only if Partner has a huge hand plus a good fit should he be bidding further.

♠Q10864 ♥J10432 ♦65 ♣5

Bid 2♥. You are showing both majors.

♠Q10764 ♥K65 ♦KJ5 ♣K2

Pass. This hand does not satisfy the Rule of 2. You would like to bid, but without much distribution you could only offer a bid of 2♠ and hope that Partner has a fit. Look at the danger. There are 15-17 HCP behind those kings. This could be a disaster.

♠AQ107 ♥AK86 ♦Q102 ♣63

Pass. When the hand is balanced, you should pass, even with very strong hands. In this case your Partner cannot have much and your finesses are not going to work, assuming you can get to the dummy in the first place.

♠A983 ♥7642 ♦7 ♣Q1086

Bid 2♣. If Partner bids 2♦, you will bid 2♥. You could miss a 4-4 spade fit, but you can't have everything.

♠62 ♥76 ♦J107 ♣K107653

Double. The double tells Partner to bid 2♣. You can then happily pass.

♠QJ97 ♥KQ106 ♦10952 ♣6

Bid 2♥. Try for the majors, although there is a risk in not bidding 2♦ and possibly missing that fit. Exchange the K♥ or Q♥ with the 9♦, and it would be better to bid 2♦ to maximize your chance of a fit.

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

Club Championship Week

The week of March 19-24 will be a Club Championship Week at Rossmoor.

IMP Pairs

Wednesday, March 21 will be an IMP Pairs game.

Unit Game

Sunday, March 25, will be a Unit Game open and 299er at Rossmoor. Lunch is served at noon followed by play at 1pm.

Swiss Postponed

A previously scheduled Swiss Game for March 24 has been rescheduled for April 7.

Silver Awarded

The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club congratulates Lorraine Grawoig for receiving her Silver Life Master.



Kit Miller

Lamorinda Bridge Club

Lamorinda (formerly 24/680) Bridge Club

Our games run 10am to about 2pm 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' mail boxes.

Congratulations to some of our first place players in Sections A, B or C since the last newsletter: Emily Beaty & George Wang (twice), Dick Haliday & Santosh Jain, Darrell Fung & Jerry Weitzner (three times), Sanda Henry & George Bazgan, Judy Murphy & Maxine Winer, Al & Felicity Warner (twice), Bill Burns & Rosemary Hagman, Winnie Jasper & Conrad Robertson, Russ Kirschenbaum & Judy Murphy, and Perry & Jody Shapiro.

Upcoming Schedule:

March 2018

Wed. 3/7 Unit Pair \$10

Wed. 3/14 Regular Pair \$10

Sat. 3/17 Hospice Charity Swiss Teams \$11

Wed. 3/21 Hospice Charity Pair \$11

Wed. 3/28 Regular Pair \$10

April 2018

Wed. 4/4 ACBL Charity Pair \$10

Wed. 4/11 ACBL Charity Pair \$10

Wed. 4/18 ACBL Charity Pair \$10

Sat. 4/21 ACBL Charity Swiss Team \$10

Wed. 4/25 ACBL 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)





MORAGA CLUB NEWS

The Moraga Country Club duplicate bridge is every Tuesday evening at 7pm. at the Moraga Country Club.

Reservations are required with David Geary, dsgearv@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:

1/23 – 5 tables

- 1 – Nancy & Lew Voils
- 2 – Neil Swanson & Jim Weider
- 3 – Art Donaldson & David Geary

1/30 – 3 tables

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Carol & Mark Penskar
- 3 – Sanda Henry & George Bazgan

2/6 – 5 tables

- 1 – Stephanie Kung & Blair Hoffman
- 2 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 3 – Deb & Wayne Rechnitz

2/13 – 4 tables

- 1 – Carol & Mark Penskar
- 2 tie – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 3 tie – Art Donaldson & David Geary

Regards, David Geary