

eDeclarer

December 2018

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Welcome to December Unit 499!

I hope you are all ready to earn some silver points during STaC Week, December 3 – 9, 2018. If you need silver points and don't want to travel very far to get them, they are available at your local club during this week.

We have a unit game scheduled on Sunday, December 16, at 1pm at the Contra Costa Bridge Center. It is an open unit game so come one and come all!

On December 9, the composition of the Unit 499 Board of Directors will be changing. Ted Gunn, Patti Kogan and Bill LeMaire will be going off the Board. If you see them at a game, please thank them for their service to Unit 499. They are all very hard-working and I have really enjoyed being on the team with them. New Board Members will be Sam Earnhardt, Kathrine Loh and Andy Shockley. In August, Clare Smith joined the Board. She is doing a fabulous job as our new Membership Chair. Please welcome our new Board Members when you see them. The other Unit 499 Board Members are Rich Ahlf, Lisa Assoni, Karen Corburn, Andy Fine, Anne Hollingsworth, Bruce Johnsonbaugh, Mike Kruley, Barbara McKay, Marian Renvall and Lyn Sacco.

It has been my pleasure to serve on the Unit 499 Board of Directors for almost six years. I was fortunate to work with wonderful people who wanted to give their time and energy for the betterment of bridge in our unit. The sectionals, guest speakers and special events that Unit 499 hosts are always top notch! Each Board Member also has a specific assignment to keep the unit running smoothly.

I will really miss being on the Unit 499 Board of Directors, but I will continue to be a member of this great unit! With the current President, Secretary and Treasurer leaving the Board, I can't wait to find out who will be our new President and Executive Committee! Look for an announcement after the December 9 Board Meeting.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy 2019.

Warm regards,

Jackie Z

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Deadline for January is December 20th

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/ccbc

...from the Editor

Welcome and congratulations to the new Unit 499 Board Members! Having served on the Board for eleven years, I know how rewarding it is to be a part of making our unit one of the best. Thanks to all of you, including those who have served in the past. Special thanks to Jackie for her unfaltering leadership this past year.

STaC Week is upon us. Let's all earn some silver points!

Enjoy the holiday season with friends, family, and especially, good health!

Judy Keilin

Editor



Mary Krouse, Publisher



Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

New Junior Masters

Paul Grassman
Ken Steiner
Emily Van Vleet
Robert Wherritt

New Club Masters

Fred Golini
Loreta Landucci
Dennis Snarr

New Sectional Masters

Colin Ferrett
Steve Oliver
Carol Skuce

New Life Masters

Bruce Poster

NEW MEMBERS

Richard Schanmier
Robert Steben

Please welcome these new members when you meet them at the table.

Happy
Holidays!

WHAT ARE YOU HIDING

It may be the gift-giving time, as we near the season of buying presents.

Some hide them under a tree, others celebrate for days, or mail them, and some just don't care.

Not everyone celebrates Christmas, but if you do, December is upon us and winter is near, so clean out your closets and bring out the cheer - Santas, pandas and all the cute toys. Put up a tree and have some tea, if you've got the energy. How about a Hot Toddy! Remember when lots of us celebrated the holiday season with this special drink? It seemed to warm your heart and give us comfort, all in one cup. Hm, I'm getting thirsty; it must be 5 o'clock somewhere!

So, what should you be hiding? It's your bridge hand. If you don't cover your cards, and you don't think folks won't take a peak, you're not cookin' on all four burners.

I've done it, not intentionally, but I try and swiftly turn away, and tell the opponents to hide their cards. (*most of the time*). I've really only seen one pair cheat, pretty blatantly, and they were dismissed from The Bridge Center. Of course, there are the Italians, who during a world championship, after winning; were discovered cheating. The directors reviewed a video of the game, and just with a minimal separation of their fingers, that indicated what card should be returned. Of course the title was taken away.

So, it's imperative to be cautious at the bridge table, and don't assume someone can't see your cards OR overhear the bidding and outcome of the hand. Even when I groan, make a face, roll my eyes, or take a deep breath, they're all giveaways. Poker face is what we need, so you don't reveal what you're hiding.

Wishing you all, a Happy, Healthful Holiday.

Lisa Assoni

Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me...

December, 2018

North

S K9742

H J75

D AJ8

C 86

West

S Q10653

H 9

D Q643

C J105

East

S J8

H KQ108632

D 106

C 73



South

S A

H A4

D K972

C AKQ942

This deal is from the Open Pairs in the Santa Clara Regional. The bidding went 1C by S, p, 1S, 3H

4C,p,4D,p then 6C all pass. I was on lead with the 9H.

Declarer won the A H and drew trump. He then led the A Spades and he thought for a long time before leading a Diamond to the A. He then cashed the K Spades discarding his losing Heart and trumped a Spade back to his hand and led a Diamond towards the dummy and played the 8 losing to the 10 and therefore going down.

This is an interesting hand that revolves around the fact that he was in 6 Clubs and can afford to lose 1 Diamond trick.

The percentage play on this hand in the Diamond suit would have been to come back to the K Diamonds hoping for the 10 or Q to drop doubleton or failing that, for the suit to have been 3-3.

This is a common card combination that you should remember. Most important is to give yourself the best chance to make the contract you are in. This would have been worth 68 %.

Had you been in 7 then you would have to play for the Diamond Q to be with West and when the suit splits 4-2 you have to hope for a Spade-Diamond squeeze against West which is there.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

Improve Your Bridge Play

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Source: Unknown

Twas the night before Christmas, Two guests in our house
Were winning at Bridge Versus me and my spouse.

“Please tell me,” she shouted, Why didn’t you double?
“Twas plain from the start , That we had them in trouble.”

“Tis futile my dear,” Said I, taking no stand,
“To discuss it with you—Let us play the next hand.”

“Remember next time,” Said she, icing a frown,
“To double a contract That’s sure to go down.”

So I picked up my cards In a downtrodden state,
Then I opened One Spade And awaited my fate.

♠ 9876

♥ 65432

♦ 8765

♣ ----

♠ ----

♥ QJ109

♦ KQJ109

♣ KQJ10



♠ AKQJ10

♥ AK87

♦ ----

♣ A987

♠ 5432

♥ ----

♦ A432

♣ 65432



My friend sitting South Was like many I've known,
He played and he bid In a world all his own.

"Two Diamonds," he countered With scarcely a care.
The ace in his hand Gave him courage to spare.

My wife, she smiled faintly, As she tossed her head,
Leaned over the table: "I double," she said.

And North for some reason I cannot determine,
Bid Two Hearts as though She were preaching a sermon.

I grinned as I doubled, Enjoying the fun,
And turned round to South To see where he'd run.

But South, undistressed, Not at loss for a word,
Came forth with Two Spades—Did I hear what I heard?

The other two passed And in sheer disbelief
I said, "Double, my friend, That'll bring you to grief."

South passed with a nod, His composure serene;
My wife with a flourish Led out the heart queen.

I sat there and chuckled Inside o'er their fix—
But South very calmly Ran off eight straight tricks.

He ruffed the first heart In his hand right away,
And trumped a club On the very next play.

He crossruffed the hand At a breathtaking pace
Till I was left holding Just five spades to the ace.

In anguish my wife cried, "Your mind's growing old.
Don't you see six notrump On this hand is ice cold?"

By doubling this time I'd committed a sin.
It just goes to prove That you never can win.

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



December 3-8 will be Holiday STaC Week.

The **Holiday Party and Annual Meeting** will be December 10. Lunch will be served at 11:30am, followed by a brief meeting to elect new board members and then play. Members who would like to contribute homemade cookies or non sticky treats for dessert are encouraged to do so.

There will be no game on December 25, Christmas Day.

Reminder: No fragrances are to be worn at duplicate bridge games. Many of our members have severe sensitivities to fragrances. Thank you for your consideration.

Kit Miller

Lamorinda Bridge Club

Our games run 10am to about 2pm with snacks and beverages included. Following Open Game Board Play we offer a light potluck lunch with an opportunity to discuss the hands using provided hand records. Contributions of snacks and shared food dishes are welcome. 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. Beginning in January 2019 we will offer Pair Games Limited to 299 master points on the second and fourth Fridays of most months (see the posted schedules by month).

Reservations are required in advance for all 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 at least three 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, or too close to disposal containers left at the curb for pick-up that day. We learned recently that the mailman refused to deliver a neighbor's mail due to a car parked blocking the mailbox. **Please help us be good neighbors!**

Congratulations to some of our first place players in Sections A, B or C since the last Newsletter:

Fred Golini & Dianne Lavin (twice), Dennis & Renee Ross, Joan & Laura Tasker, Pam Docherty, Vijaya Kamath & Joyce Ellenberg, Russ Kirschenbaum & Kathy Wolf, and Susan Schlicht & Maureen Hentsschel.

Upcoming Schedule:

December 2018

Wed. 12/5 STaC Pair Game \$11

Sat. 12/8 STaC Pair Game \$11

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

Sat. 12/15 Food Bank Charity Swiss Team Game \$11

Wed. 12/19 Club Championship Pair Game \$10

Fri. 12/21 299er Food Bank Charity Pair \$10

Wed. 12/26 Regular Pair Game \$10

January 2019

Wed. 1/2 NO GAME

Wed. 1/9 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$10

Fri. 1/11 Junior Fund Charity Pair 299er \$10

Wed. 1/16 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$10

Sat. 1/19 Junior Fund Charity Swiss Team Game \$10

Wed. 1/23 Junior Fund Charity Pair \$10

Fri. 1/25 Junior Fund Charity Pair 299er \$10

Wed. 1/30 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 game continues to be each Tuesday night at 7pm. Reservations required with dsgeary@comcast.net. ACBL Master Points and hand records.

10/16 – no game

10/23 – 3 tables

- 1st tie – Richard Chen & Irwin Javinsky
- 1st tie – Sanda Henry & George Bazgan
- 3 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

10/30 – 2 tables

- 1 – Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain
- 2 – Art Donaldson & David Geary
- 3 – Sanda Henry & George Bazgan

11/6 – no game

11/13 – 2 ½ tables

- 1 – Anne Hollingsworth & Blair Hoffman
- 2 – Art Donaldson & David Geary
- 3rd tie – Sanda Henry & George Bazgan
- 3rd tie – Richard Chen & Irwin Javinsky

Regards, David Geary



Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

Blackhawk Country Club

Contact Lilah Newton at

lilahnewton@yahoo.com

The Blackhawk Bridge group will have a very special game on December 5th during STaC Week. We have invited gentlemen to join us on that day. We will play in the main dining room of the club. After the game is over, we will be served a delicious lunch consisting of a cup of soup followed by an entrée salad with your choice of chicken or salmon. Belgian chocolates will be passed for dessert. Cost of lunch is \$20 plus cost of bridge is \$8 for a grand total of \$28 for the day. All master points awarded will be silver. Game time is 9:30am. For reservations please contact Lilah Newton at 925-648-3154 or at lilahnewton@yahoo.com.

Lilah Newton

