

eDeclarer

February 2019

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Recently it has come to the attention of the Unit 499 Board of Directors that a club has been observed cheating. While I want to thank the folks who have alerted us to the improprieties, I want to take a moment to explain some of the thoughts from ACBL regarding the "incidents."

I contacted Karen Corburn our Discipline Chair, as well as Ray Yuenger, the discipline chair from District 21. Here is what he has to say:

"It turns out that the described activity is specifically exempt from disciplinary procedures of the ACBL's Code of Disciplinary Regulations ("CDR").

What you describe may not exactly qualify as 'cheating.' In my own club, our directors have a dilemma when a player shows up solo or is called in to fill out a half-table with the director. Most players appreciate not having sit-outs. Some directors don't feel right competing against their customers, but they want their partner to have an opportunity to earn masterpoints, so they sometimes have used pseudonyms for themselves. The falsely named player doesn't collect the points but the partner does. However, one director inquired some years ago and learned that such a practice is prohibited. Specifically, the ACBL Handbook says the following: Chapter 4 of the Handbook is titled "The Club Sanctioned Bridge Game." Section 2 of Chapter 4 pertains to the Types of Club Masterpoint Games. Section II of Section 2 is titled "Invitational/Restricted Game."

Section II states in pertinent part: "The following regulations should apply when an ineligible person or pair participates in a restricted club game:

- At no time should the director use a pseudonym, non-member, deceased member or similar to disguise the identity of an ineligible player or pair.
- If a player falls outside the masterpoint limits for the given game but has only recently gone over the threshold, for that one time a director may allow the pair to be eligible but club management or the club director should advise the player they will no longer be eligible to play in that game.
- Clubs always have the opportunity to raise the ceiling of their masterpoint-restricted games by submitting a request in writing to the Club and Member Services Department.
- If the club determines that having a director, manager, or ineligible player playing with an eligible player will serve the club's interests they may do so. This pair should be marked as ineligible, and as explained in III.B., below, the rankings shall be affected accordingly.
- In the case where two ineligible players are asked to play so that the game will not have a half-table, this pair should remain a phantom pair with none of the scores recorded, either for this pair or for their opponents.
- An ineligible pair (not the phantom pair) will still count for the club's monthly total of tables."

So there you have as much information as I have. Play bridge, have some fun, and don't let the dogs get you!

Lyn Sacco

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Deadline for March is February 18th

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

Recently, some of our games at CCBC and Rossmoor were added to The Common Game, which is an organization fully supported by the ACBL. The Common Game adds to the bridge experience by allowing players to compete against other players all over the country, playing the same randomly-generated hands. Results are emailed immediately after the game, with the added bonus of some hand analysis – an opportunity to learn new skills. There is NO downside to belonging to The Common game – no cost to either clubs or players.

Much to my dismay, the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Board voted to discontinue participation in The Common Game, due to complaints from a small number of people who felt that the hands were “fixed” to produce distributional hands that were difficult to bid and play, both for beginners and advanced players. An analysis of hands, both from The Common Game and from ACBL, showed no difference in the distribution. Random generation will often produce distributional hands.

I have received a good amount of feedback from players who are as appalled and outraged as I am. I don't expect anything to change as a result of this decision. I just feel sad that a great resource for improving my bridge game has been lost.

You can read more about The Common Game at thecommongame.com.

Let's keep on playing this great game!

Judy Keilin,



Mary Krouse, Publisher



Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

New Junior Masters

Joanne Thorne

New Club Masters

Yilmaz Ozturhan

New Sectional Masters

Sylvia Victoria
Ann Wyatt

New Regional Masters

Patti Kogan
Andy Shockley

New NABC Masters

Nancy Thomas
Nancy Voils

New Silver Life Masters

Mark Humphrey
Kit Miller

New Gold Life Masters

Daniel Tataru

New Sapphire Life Masters

Michael Gosnell

NEW MEMBERS

Barry Engelstad
David Freimuth
Dorothy Prokop
Veronica Berlin

Let's welcome these new members when you meet them at the tables.

Face to Face

No, it's not combat, but this brain game can produce some anxiety. If you're the person who wants to scratch, well, welcome to the world of Bridge.

When some folks come to your table, and they've beaten the socks off of you, you try not to exhibit signs of disdain. After all, it's just a game. If I hear that one more time, I'm going to scream out in Italian! *Sel Pazzo!*

which means "Are You Crazy"? You try and retain your composure, think positively, and focus. Deep breathing helps too. I pray a lot. I can imagine God saying, "Take a lesson, and pay attention."

So what does this all mean? Peoples' facial expressions can be deceiving. The poker face is now turning sour. Your partner hates your bid and appears disgusted. The opponents sense that they may be on to something big, like winning the round. In other words, it's best to remain silent, still, and make no eye contact with your partner. Say "thank you", when the hand is laid down. Of course you don't mean it, but it gives you more confidence by just telling yourself, "I can do this, I can do this, I really can". Don't forget to pull out your rabbit's foot.

Bridge Players, this game's for you. It's a love/hate relationship, I admit, but the thrill of winning, and the agony of defeat, is served up often. This does happen to all of us. Remember the life-long benefits of playing bridge. It's a real mind-saver.

Lisa Assoni



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me...

February,2019

	North	
	S KQ109	
	H K54	
	D AK6	
	C A32	
West		East
S J5		S 432
H Q983		H 762
D QJ92		D 543
C QJ7		C 10986
	South	
	S A876	
	H AJ10	
	D 1087	
	C K54	



This deal is from the Bracket 1 Knockouts at the recent Monterey Regional.

North opened 1C and raised South's 1S to 4.

The opening lead was the Queen of Diamonds which you win in dummy. You can see that you have a club loser, a diamond loser and possibly a heart loser if you guess wrong in that suit.

You start by drawing three rounds of spades thanking someone that they did split 3-2. Now, which way do you take the heart finesse? Some players say that the Queen lies over the Jack and others say to take the finesse through the opponent you like least!!!!

The answer to this question is do not take the finesse at all, just play off your top clubs and your other top diamond and put the opponents in. They will take 2 minor suit tricks and then they will have to lead hearts for you or give you a ruff and sluff, making 5.

Sometimes they will find the same play, but if not and they guess wrong in hearts then you win 1 imp which can be very important in a short match.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

Improve Your Bridge Play

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

DON'T LEAD THAT ACE

How many times have you seen this, even from some experienced players? They lead an ace against a notrump contract without realizing what that means, or they lead an unguarded ace against a suit contract, which, more often than not, unnecessarily yields an extra trick to Declarer.

Look at this example from "Eddie Kantar Teaches Modern Bridge Defense," 1999

North Deals
None Vul

♠ J3
♥ Q7
♦ AQ765
♣ K853

♠ AK8742
♥ 105
♦ 98
♣ 1092



♠ 109
♥ 986432
♦ J3
♣ A74

♠ Q65
♥ AKJ
♦ K1042
♣ QJ6



South opened 1NT and North bid 3NT. West led the A♠, dummy followed with the 3♠, East played the 10♠, and South ducked with the 5♠. At this point the defense is cooked. No matter how West continues, Declarer has a spade stopper, and East will not be able to return a spade when he obtains the lead. Declarer drives out the A♣ and makes overtricks.

If there is any hope of establishing the spade suit, West must under lead the AK so that if East gains the lead, he has a spade to return.

Leading an Ace at a notrump contract, has a specific meaning. It is from a holding headed by AKJ10, AKQ10, or AQJ10, and it demands that partner discard an honor and unblock the suit. If he has no honor, he should discard in such fashion as to show count.

Suppose, in the hand above, West also had the A♣. Since he has a 6-card suit, there would be some justification for leading with the AK in hopes of establishing the suit himself and then having the A♣ as an entry. Even then a lead of a low spade accomplishes the same thing as long as Declarer must drive out the A♣ in order to make the contract.

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

February 7 is an IMP Pairs Game.

February 21 is a Unit Game.

Thursday night games are held at 7pm. in the Oak Room at the Gateway Center.

Reminder to all: Please do not attend bridge games if you are coughing or sick. Directors will send sick people home.

Kit Miller

Lamorinda Bridge Club

Our Wednesday and Saturday 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 hand records. Contributions of snacks and shared food dishes are welcome. We host a Swiss Team Game on the third Saturday of the month, and a pair game on the Saturday of STaC Week. Beginning in January of 2019 we will offer Pair Games Limited to 299 master points on the second and fourth Fridays (see the Unit 499 site for schedules posted 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:

Malcolm Mendelson & Irwin Javinsky (three times), Melinda Hall & Jamie Ney, Bob & Annette Horwitz, Winnie Jasper & Barbara Hanson, Joan Tasker & Diane Kennedy, Rosemary Hagman & Liz Rutter, Al & Felicity Warner, Jim & Joan Tasker, Judy Murphy & Pam Docherty, Judy Peak & Andrea Miller, Olga Gordon & Maxine Winer, Darrell Fung & Jerry Weitzner, Fred Golini & Dianne Lavin, Winnie Jasper & Rosemary Hagman, Holly Chapin & Mary Stephens, Jim Roethe & Bill Schmicker, Melinda Hall & Eileen Pleticha, Vijaya Kamath & Joyce Ellenberg, Bob Alfandary & Sue Nurock, Dianne Lavin & Claudia Tyson, and Greg Riehl & Linda Ingham.

Upcoming Schedule:

February 2019

Wed. 2/6 ARF Charity Pair \$11

Fri. 2/8 ARF 299er Charity Pair \$10

Wed. 2/13 Club Championship Pair \$10

Sat. 2/16 ARF Charity Swiss Team \$11

Wed. 2/20 Regular Pair \$10

Fri. 2/22 Regular 299er Pair \$10

Wed. 2/27 Regular Pair \$10

March 2019

Wed. 3/6 Unit Pair Game \$10

Fri. 3/8 Club Championship 299er Pair Game \$10

Wed. 3/13 Hospice Charity Pair Game \$11

Sat. 3/16 Hospice Charity Swiss Team Game \$11

Wed. 3/20 Regular Pair Game \$10

Fri. 3/22 Hospice Charity 299er Pair Game #10

Wed. 3/27 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 game continues to be each Tuesday night at 7pm. Reservations required with dsgeary@comcast.net. ACBL Master Points and hand records.

1/8 – 4 tables

- 1 – Richard Chen & Irwin Javinsky
- 2 – Barbara McKay & Irwin Lichtblau
- 3 – Mal Mendelson & Derek Southern

1/15 – 6 tables

- 1 – Richard Chen & Irwin Javinsky
- 2 – Deb & Wayne Rechnitz
- 3 – Andrea & Dan Green

Regards, David Geary

