

eDeclarer

March 2020

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Hello Unit 499!

In general, Unit 499 receives the majority of its monies from

- a portion of ACBL membership dues paid by continuing members, and
- game fees collected at our sectionals and special events, such as Celebrity Guest Speakers.

The Unit spends funds on costs related to

- our sectionals and special events (such as the Tunnel Tourney and ProAm),
- reimbursing clubs in our unit for providing refreshments at the unit games,
- free play coupons for new members, supporting mentoring and Youth Bridge programs,
- maintaining our website,
- providing a printed membership directory,
- helping the clubs in our unit acquire needed bridge equipment and
- general administrative expenses (such as postage, mailing, etc).

The Unit's cash is relatively stable from year to year. At the end of December, 2019 we had \$32,284 in the treasury. Last year, the amount was about the same.

The Unit held four events during the year:

- the Summer Sectional in June,
- the Fall Sectional in November,
- a Goodwill Lunch and Game in May (honoring our past Goodwill Award winners),
- the Tunnel Tourney in October

Monies from the Unit were used to support the Mentoring and Youth Bridge programs, free plays for new members, two Pro Am events, the Goodwill Lunch and Game.

Coming up this year:

- Our two sectionals - the Spring Sectional on April 25th and 26th and our Fall Sectional on November 7th & 8th. Both Sectionals will be held at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon.
- The Tunnel Tourney on October 2, 2020 will be held at Unit 501 in Oakland.

Looking forward to the coming year with all of the events outlined!

Lyn Sacco



TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message	1
From The Editor	2
Unit 499 Milestones	3
Unit News	4
Bridge Columns	6
Club News	10

Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Editor: Judy Keilin

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Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

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March 2020

Deadline for April is March 18

To submit a letter to the editor,
send it to Judy Keilin at

jkeilin@gmail.com

...from the Editor

The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club lost one of its most delightful members in December. Iris Darroch was an excellent player and formidable opponent. Please read the lovely tribute written by her beloved cousins elsewhere in this issue.

Be sure to put our April Sectional on your calendar – April 25th & 26th.

See you at the tables.

Judy Keilin



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

diablovalleybridge.com/cbc

Mary Krouse, Publisher



Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Christine Foley
Thomas Greer
Kathy Parrish
Sally Thorpe
Judy Wallace

NEW CLUB MASTERS

David Freimuth
Paul Grassman
Carol Gray
Jenifer Lart

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

William Billings
Bonnie Clawson
Sandra Crinnion
Bill Dorband
William Schmicker

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Joyce Ellenberg
Chuck Silva

NEW NABC MASTERS

Alan Woodberry

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Roberta Gravelle
Linda Ingham

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Roberta Gravelle

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Jack Hawks
Mary Stuart

NEW MEMBERS

Margaret Becker
Carl Blaha
Bob Britt
Kristen Foster
Carl Cubba
Renu Gupta
Elena Hernandez
Mary Jolls
Steve Mico
Cecilia Muaddi
Patricia Pike
Jonathan Shek
Sevda Zorlu
Denise Malvini
Nancy Pinder
Marilyn Schaeffer

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

IN MEMORIAM

IRIS DARROCH

13th December 1930 - 19th December 2019

Iris was a wonderful cousin to us, “her twins” as she called us. She was twenty years older than us, and was the sophisticated, elegant cousin, who left her hometown of Portsmouth, on the south coast of England and moved to London to work. We admired her so much! She moved to Lady Margaret Hall settlement in Lambeth, a residence for young ladies moving to London, making life long friends. There she began her successful career as a bookkeeper, secretary and PA, becoming indispensable to those she worked for. She also loved singing, the opera and ballet and the arts in general.

When Iris’s mother, Lillian, died at an early age (her father had died sometime previously), Iris decided to spread her wings and work for a time in Australia. Having been brought up on the coast and then travelling by ship to Australia, is this where her love of the sea and cruising began? Iris never really settled in Australia, so in the late sixties, she decided to work her way back to the UK, stopping at San Francisco and, of course, she never made it back, although in some respects she never lost her love for Britain and British traditions, including the Queen. Once again she soon became a key PA, working in the city and continue her passions for opera, shows, meals out with friends, and of course, bridge.



After retiring, Iris decided she needed to move from San Francisco and chose Rossmoor as home. This was about twenty-five years ago. She loved living in her condominium and soon made many friends, enjoying bridge, the cinema, going to the theatre, and of course, going to restaurants. She loved good conversation and relished a lively debate. We were lucky enough to visit Iris on a number of occasions and could see her love of the community and her surroundings.

Iris tried, to no avail, to interest us in playing bridge, but we were so proud of her skill, knowledge and achievements, and she loved telling us of her partners and of particularly challenging games they had won together.

Iris leaves behind many friends, whom she cherished and valued greatly. What is striking is that she made, and kept, friends throughout her life. She still kept in touch with family friends in Portsmouth, she made lifelong friends in London and in Australia and she kept in touch with friends she made in San Francisco. Finally she had deep friendships with her fellow bridge players, neighbors and Rossmoor residents. They all had one thing in common; they loved and admired her.

Iris was a force of nature. Having never married, she was fiercely independent and had an optimism and zest for life which carried her through many months of chemotherapy after she was diagnosed with cancer. She had a great sense of humor, although Iris did not suffer fools gladly! We greatly admired her intellect, her passion for bridge, her commitment to friends and loved ones, and her kindness.

We were privileged to have Iris as a cousin. She is greatly missed.

Helen Gilchrist and Eileen Gordon



MARCH MADNESS

March Madness means Tournament of sixty-eight college basketball teams in which all teams battle to a sudden-death situation, meaning if they lose, they're out. It's just that simple, right?

Well, take that to the bridge table and chomp on it. Yes, it can be March Madness each time we play the game, and we're hoping to remove the mad from madness, and replace it with glad; displaying our "Cool-as-a Cucumber" attitude. When you know you have your opponents over a barrel, graciously accept the win. For some folks, this is the only social outlet they have, and correcting new players when they've made a mistake and gloating, is downright distasteful. If the other team asks for your opinion, so be it, but unauthorized criticism is best kept to yourself. And yes, I've given my share of unsolicited advice. Mum's the word!

Have you ever had to eat humble pie? Well, I've eaten my share at the bridge table. I don't like losing, and I don't think you do either. Losing gracefully is a misnomer. Others at the table will console you with "We all come in last sometime", "Heck, it's only a game", but when they lose, they become crusty crabs or worse, snapping turtles, and just watch their faces turn beet red. And then they're the grumblers, like me, who complain because we just can't get a good hand. I have heard some say, "We're bored playing defense". Well, I'm again turning over a new leaf by accepting what I've been dealt and keeping a poker face. (That will require me to put a bag over my head.)

Fire up the engines and get ready to roll for our Spring Sectional. Save the date: April 25th and 26th at Dougherty Valley High School, 10550 Albion Rd., San Ramon, CA 94582.

We meet at our usual hangout, and let the games begin on Saturday at 10am and you can play two rounds. Sunday is dedicated to Swiss, and it's so fun! We'll have lunch for purchase, and our usual array of goodies to snack and enjoy. For directions, game times and all the details, please log onto diablovalleybridge.com. It's an event that shouldn't be missed. Hope to see you all there.

Ciao Bella

Lisa Assoni



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me...

March, 2020

North

S K9864

H 432

D 7

C QJ97

West

S 10

H K6

D AK9543

C A863

East

S QJ

H A5

D QJ1086

C K1052

South

S A7532

H QJ10987

D 2

C 6



This deal is dedicated to one of my first partners who recently passed away. He is Ron Huffaker and was a very good player, one of the best defenders I have had the privilege of playing with. We were playing in a Regional in Salt Lake City with Barry Crane and Peter Rank in 1964. I became a life master when we won the event, a board-a-match team.

Our opponents this round were Paul Soloway and Dick Walsh. West (Paul) opened 1D and Ron bid 2D which was Bailey showing 5 Spades and at least 3 Hearts. Dick bid 2S, a cue bid, in support of Diamonds, I bid 4S and it went P, P, double (because of his doubleton spade).

The opening lead was the K of diamonds and Dick after a very long time put the Q under it showing he wanted a heart switch so he could trump the 3rd round. From my point of view it looked like they had misjudged their assets, could easily make 5 diamonds.

In any case, Paul led the K of hearts and Dick thinking his partner had the Q overtook and led one back and as you can see I won the trick, drew trumps and threw away three of dummy's clubs making 4. From this you can see that some of the best players in the world make errors too. Even if they had taken their 4 tricks setting me one, we would have won the board because **OUR** teammates did bid 5D and made it losing 1S and 1C (note, there is a safety play in the club suit).

Up until recently I played with Ron each year in the San Diego Regional where we always had fun, a friendship and partnership that lasted just under 60 years.

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

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



Carol Griffin

And all year round there is: **Drop-in** bridge Thursdays from 10-noon for social supervised bridge and "**Newplicate**" (for those who are new to duplicate) on Tuesdays from 12:30-4pm All activities are at the new lovely location of Wilder Ranch (except for Newplicate), just 1/4 mile beyond Orinda exit off of Highway 24

Carol also offers a variety of classes at Lafayette Community Center on Mondays and at Wilder Ranch club house (thru Orinda Community center) on Thursdays. Please contact the appropriate community center for details or visit her website at: carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com



Carol T Griffin

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Web Site: carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com

If this is an emergency please call as I do not necessarily look at my email every day.

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. We are now holding Limited Pair Games (less than 299 master points) on the second and fourth Fridays (no lunch following the Friday games).

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:

Bob Sieben & Tom Henry, Jerry Weitzner & Darrell Fung (twice), Melinda Hall & Jamie Ney, Rudy & Marilyn Ruff, Connie Driscoll & Emily Beaty (twice), Leslie Wagstaff & Judy Murphy, Bruce Silverman & Maddie Klein, Bill Schultz & Bob O'Conner, Daisy Lennon & Sandi Cummings, Larry Lange & Judy Murphy, Winnie Jasper & Derek Southern, and David & Judy Niver.

Upcoming Schedule

March 2020

Wed. 3/4 Unit Pair Game \$10

Wed. 3/11 Regular Pair Game \$10

Fri. 3/13 Hospice Charity 299er Pair Game \$11

Wed. 3/18 Hospice Charity Pair Game \$11

Sat. 3/21 Hospice Charity Swiss Team Game \$11

Wed. 3/25 Regular Pair Game \$10

Fri. 3/27 Regular 299er Pair Game \$10

April 2020

Wed. 4/1 ACBL Charity Pair Game \$10

Wed. 4/8 ACBL Charity Pair Game \$10

Fri. 4/10 ACBL 299er Charity Pair Game \$10

Wed. 4/15 ACBL Charity Pair Game \$10

Sat. 4/18 ACBL Charity Swiss Team Game \$10

Wed. 4/22 ACBL Charity Pair Game \$10

Fri. 4/24 ACBL 299er Charity Pair Game \$10

Wed. 4/29 ACBL Charity Pair Game \$10

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

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 is each Tuesday night at 7pm.. Usually lasts until about 10pm. Reservations are required by the Sunday before with David Geary @ e-mail: cocgeary@gmail.com. ACBL Master Points, hand records, stratified. \$3 per person.

1/21 - 3 tables

- 1 - Barbara McKay & Irwin Lichtblau
- 2 - Deb & Wayne Rechnitz
- 3 - Colleen & David Geary

1/28 - 3 tables

- 1 - Anne Hollingsworth & Irwin Lichtblau
- 2 - Maxine Winer & Derek Southern
- 3 - Sanda Henry & George Bazgan

2/11 - 3 tables

- 1 - Stephanie Jung & Blair Hoffman
- 2 - Art Donaldson & David Geary
- 3 - Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

Regards, David Geary



ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

March 16-21 will be a Club Championship Week.

The game on March 18 will be an IMP Pairs Game.

On March 22, a UNIT GAME will be held at Rossmoor. There will be a 499 section and an open section. Lunch will be served at noon followed by play at 1pm.

All games are held in the Oak Room at the Gateway Center.

Kit Miller

