

eDeclarer

April 2020

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Greetings Unit 499!

Amidst the backdrop of Covid-19, the days seem hopeful, light, and warm amongst blooming outpourings.

The annual meeting scheduled for March 22 has been cancelled. The President's message for March was a speech I had intended to give to the membership at that meeting. The second part, the awards, I had intended to be the April President's message.

Congratulations to each recipient who follows below!

ACE OF CLUBS

The vast majority of ACBL members play in local club games most of the time. To recognize achievement at the club level, the Ace of Clubs competition was created in 1984. These club champions are recognized at the unit level, district level and ACBL-wide. All points won at the club level are counted in this contest with the exception of those won in STaCs (Sectional Tournaments at Clubs) and on-line games. This award was renamed in 2011 in honor of Grand Life Master Helen Shanbrom of Tamarac, FL. Shanbrom has been one of the most active players in the ACBL for decades and has won the top category of the Ace of Clubs more times than any other member in ACBL history.

Winners are as follows:

- 0-5 Judy Niver
- 5-20 Irving Googins
- 25-50 Yilmaz Ozturhan
- 50-100 Barry Handelsman
- 100-200 Furqan Naeem
- 200-300 Georgia Lambert
- 300-500 Malcolm Mendelson
- 500-1,000 Wayne Rechnitz
- 1000-1500 Anne Hollingsworth



500-2500 Irwin Lichtblau
2500-3500 Bradley Komsthoeft
3500-5000 Bonnie Johnson
5000-7500 Jerry Weitzner
7500-10,000 Edward Nagy
Over 10,000 Mike Bandler

MINI-MCKINNEY

In 1974, the ACBL Board of Directors voted to recognize the masterpoint achievements of all players and the Mini-McKinney races were established. The winners at each level of achievement are recognized by the ACBL each year in the April issue of the Bridge Bulletin and at the district level. Eligibility is determined by each player's masterpoint holding at the beginning of the calendar year. The home unit of each winner may purchase a Mini-McKinney Medallion to present to the player.

Standings are updated monthly at the ACBL web site.

Winners are as follows:

0-5 Judy Niver
5-20 Irving Googins
20-50 Yilmaz Ozturhan
50-100 Mark Kogan
100-200 Furqun Naeem
200-300 Georgia Lambert
300-500 Malcolm Mendelson
500-1000 Mike Rippey
1000-1500 Anne Hollingsworth
1500-2500 Irwin Lichtblau
2500-3500 Katherine Loh
3500-5000 Tom Trachuk
5000-7500 Linda Friedman
7500-10,000 Daniel Friedman
Over 10,000 Mike Bandler

Congratulations to all! Good luck at the tables! Bid those slams and make them!

Lyn Sacco

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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send it to Judy Keilin at

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Mary Krouse, Publisher



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...from the Editor

Hard times are upon us bridge players. Now's the time to embrace online bridge.

Life as we know it is on hold, but we now have the time to get into all those projects we never had time for. It's important to self-isolate, but we can keep in touch with friends and family just the same. I'm going to Face Time with mine later today. We can see each other and hear our voices – better than nothing!

I repurposed our Google Groups so that we can keep in touch with our bridge friends. Consider sharing your isolation experience. We all can use tips on how to order food, and how to make do without some of our favorite ingredients. Recommend some good movies that we can watch on TV. Let's hear from you!

I'd also like to reach out for some articles for eDeclarer, since there isn't much bridge news. Mike Bandler submitted a nice story about a bridge hand that you can enjoy in this issue. He's promised to have something each month for us. Another friend sent a cute poem about bridge. I'm hoping for lots of contributions. You all have time for this.

I miss my bridge games and my bridge friends. Playing backgammon and gin rummy with Jack just isn't a substitute for picking up those thirteen cards and hoping for an amazing hand.

Be healthy and optimistic that this will be over soon, and that life won't be too different than it was before.

Judy Keilin

Editor



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

diablowalleybridge.com/ccbc

Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Richard Defoe
Joe Fuchs
Gessica Johnston
William Quarles
Stuart Rowe
Terri Rowe
Ray Spears
Eileen Tarrab

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Dave Blanchard
Jane Blanchard

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS

Mary Jane Duthie
Ed Lichtig

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS

Melinda Hall
Stephen Walker

NEW NABC MASTERS

Kerry Smith

NEW LIFE MASTERS

Carol Henry

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS

Carol Henry
Mary Quinn

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS

Rosemary Herrick

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTERS

Bonnie Macbride

NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTERS

Sandy Williams

NEW MEMBERS

Colette Chess
Steve Dinning
Gayle Eleanor
Frankie Ferguson
Neil Librock
Rami Muaddi
Tom Philipps
Bernice Rudley
Antoinette Clair
Peter Figdor
Brian Hamrick
Emily Kriens
Sherry Wu

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

BRIDGE BASICS IN RHYME

With 12 or more points, I'm required to speak
And mention a suit that is not very weak -
With 5 cards or longer, I need not be cute,
I merely will open with one of that suit.

But with a 4-card major ... ah, that's the rub -
I know I must open, so I do so with 1 club. [or 1 diamond but that doesn't rhyme]
With 15 - 17, one no-trump will do.
And with 22 or more, I'll open with 2. [2 clubs]

When the opponents have opened, now I have trouble.
I have an opening bid and I say so by, "Double!"
If the opponents have opened, my back's to the wall -
I have length and good points, so I overcall.

My partner has opened, and I'm in a fix
Because I must pass with less points than six.
But what if my count is six to nine or bad ten?
I must respond once, but need not again.

But 10 to 12 points is pretty nice.
I will plan to respond, not once, but twice.
With 13 or more points, I would be to blame,
If I let the bid end before we reach game!

Source Unknown

Spreading the Word

What the Heck! This virus has really knocked the cards off the table.

I want to continue with helpful happy words, and seasoned this column with a little Joy. Good news is uplifting and can help heal the reader.

So, April is a lovely month for online bridge playing. The origin of April stems from the Latin word Aprilis. On the first of April, the ancient Romans had a festival honoring Venus Verticordia, goddess of love, and the changer of hearts. Love is an emotion that evokes kindness and caring. As we come to the tables this month, let's show sensitivity to our opponents and partners.

Speaking of hearts, diamonds are the birthstone for April. Who doesn't love a diamond, especially when you reach the milestone for becoming a Big D player. Diamonds are the hardest natural precious stone. We should be a lot like the diamond. Tough to beat, and a resilient player.

Mark Humphrey's is a man who exhibits all of the above fine qualities. He's devoted much of his free time to helping all of us at Unit 499. He's simmered along, keeping his cool, and stirred the pot to help make CCBC a great success. We recently had a grand Pro-Am game, hosted by Mark and Lynne. This twosome made another fine day in the neighborhood. Food was abundant, tables were filled to the brim, and everyone applauded their hard work, care, and concern for all players. Over the years, Mark has made his indelible mark, as he's organized so many wonderful events with Lynne always there to aid and assist. Great duo! Thanks so much for being the kind-hearted folks you are.

My partner was Grant Robinson. Hey, I lucked out. Grant, as you all know is the manager of our Club. He's made Contra Costa Bridge Center a great place to learn, and play bridge. Hey, we tied for first!

A good friend, Tom Henry, wrote his quote for this month, "I never lose at bridge. I win or I learn." Isn't that how life's supposed to play out?

Remember during these scary times, you can only do your part to keep yourself and others safe. It appears the only control we have over this situation is ourselves. SO-000 try and project positivity in your thinking and speaking. Each day, take a reflective time to count your Blessings. You'll make each day a better one.

Ciao Bella/Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook



Bridge Sportsmanship

I thought I'd share an experience I had at the bridge table more than ten years ago. I am doing that because I have noticed in our friendly club games people are sometimes ready to jump on a minor error by the opponents, such as accidentally dropping a card on the table, or dropping a card on the table and then immediately realizing it was a mistake.

My point is that one should think about whether it is necessary to call the director to get satisfaction. Is it really the right thing to do, even if it is technically a problem?

Back to the story. I was playing in the finals of a National Board-A-Match event with a long departed dear friend, Mike Katz. Mike and I bid to a questionable Diamond slam that was a stretch. Our opponent on the opening lead was World Champion Zia Mohammed. Zia made his lead, and Mike, by mistake, dropped a low card on the table instead of winning the trick. He immediately said "oops". Zia asked him if that was the card he meant to play and Mike said "no". Zia then said "pick it up". Mike proceeded to make several finesses and make the contract. Our teammates doubled five Diamonds which made, and were sure we lost the board. Imagine their surprise at what happened.

I happened to meet Zia in the elevator later and complimented him on his sportsmanship. He just simply replied that it was the right thing to do.

I'd ask you to think about this when something similar happens against you. It's perfectly OK to say "pick it up", just as Zia did.

Mike Bandler

Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me....

April, 2020

North

S A953

H 8

D A7

C AQJ865

West

S QJ4

H 5

D J983

C K9743

East

S K1082

H K964

D 652

C 102



South

S 76

H AQJ10732

D KQ104

C __

This hand occurred in a local club game and appears rather deceptive as to the play.

The bidding started 1H by South then P, 2C, P followed by 3H, P, 3S, P, then 4N, P, 5D (showing 3 key cards), P, 6H, all pass.

The opening lead was the Queen of Spades and after studying the dummy you observe that you have a Spade loser, a potential Heart loser, and a potential Diamond loser. The declarer at my table won the A of Spades and threw his losing Spade on the A of Clubs. Now there is only 2 possible losers. He then took the Heart finesse and the good news was that it won, but the bad news was that the contract failed.

The best chance to make this hand is to play A and K of Diamonds and ruff the losing Diamond, never taking the Heart finesse. You hope the Diamonds split evenly and if one of the opponents are able to over ruff the dummy it is with the K of Hearts. That is not the case here and your careful play works, you only lose a Heart trick.

This deal shows the importance of looking for alternative ways of making a hand as well as understanding the distributional odds. The Heart finesse only wins when east has Kx and that is very unlikely. Please note that an opening trump lead always beats this contract

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Improve Your Bridge Play



IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

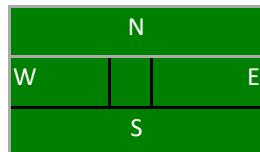
MAKING 5 DIAMONDS DOUBLED ON 14 HIGH CARD POINTS

The following deal occurred some time ago at the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club.

East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ 10
♥ A K 10 8 5 4
♦ A Q J 4 3
♣ 9

♠ A Q 9 6
♥ Q J 9
♦ K 2
♣ K Q 10 4



♠ K J 7 4
♥ 7 3 2
♦ 8 6
♣ A J 6 2

♠ 8 5 3 2
♥ 6
♦ 10 9 7 5
♣ 8 7 5 3

After two passes West opened 1NT, and the auction proceeded as follows:

East South West North

Pass Pass 1NT 2♥

3♥⁽¹⁾ Pass 3♠ 4♦

4♠ 5♦ Dbl All Pass

Looking for a fit in spades and denying a heart stopper.

Opening lead: 4♠

West won East's opening lead with the A♠. There was no use continuing spades since it was obvious from the auction that Declarer North would ruff the next spade trick. So West continued with K♣ which held. He continued with the Q♣ which was ruffed by Declarer. From there it was straightforward to make the 5♦ contract. North led the A♥, ruffed a heart, took the diamond finesse and pulled the remaining trump. North then laid down the K♥, smiling as Opponents' remaining hearts dropped, and he could now claim. Even if the hearts were divided 4-2, North would still be able to ruff another heart to set up the suit. So with a favorable location of the K♦, North/South made 5♦ doubled with only 14 HCP for a score of 750.

When South bid 5♦, he never expected that his team would make the contract. He was sacrificing against the 4♠ game. But ironically East/West cannot make 4♠. They would be down 2 at the 4♠ contract. North/South would collect 2 heart tricks, 2 diamonds and a heart ruff for a score of only 100. So it was a phantom sacrifice that paid off bigtime.

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

Until further notice all bridge clubs in Unit 499 are closed due to the coronavirus. Stay home, stay safe! Visit our website for information.

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club has suspended all bridge games in an effort to protect members from COVID-19.

A notice will be sent out when games resume.

Kit Miller



Lamorinda Bridge Club

Lamorinda Bridge Club

In deference to the state of emergency declared due to the Coronavirus Covid-19, we closed down all lessons and games starting Friday, March 13. It now appears that we must refrain from group activities and Shelter-in-House at least until April 7.

ACBL has encouraged all Bridge Clubs and Units to cancel or postpone Games and Tournaments at least through May 11.

We will be monitoring public announcements and messages from ACBL so that we can keep our own little bridge community safe from the spread of the virus.

We will notify our students and players via email messages when it appears safe to resume bridge activities through our Lamorinda Bridge Club.

Congratulations to some of our first-place players in Sections A, B or C since the last Newsletter: Tom & Gayle Hester, Daisy Lennon & Sandi Cummings, May Mok & Ethan Wood, Linda Ingham & Joyce Ellenberg, Jody Shapiro & Bill Burns, Jerry Weitzner & Darrell Fung, Melinda Hall & Jamie Ney, Vernita Davidson & Beth Majchrzak, Carol Penskar & Randy Corr, Bob & Annette Horwitz, Mike Kruley & Jacob Rosenberg, Derek Southern & Sid Landman, Connie Driscoll & Emily & Maddy Klein, Larry Lange & Judy Murphy, and Rosemary Hagman & Beth Majchrzak.

Upcoming Schedule: To be announced once more is known about when we can resume meeting together in groups

.Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

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