

# eDeclarer

August 2020

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

## President's Message



Greetings, Unit 499!

Days are long, walks are invigorating, and nature shows itself in an abundance of wonderful events daylong.

Bridge Base continues to be my game of choice, and I am getting in lots of play. Hope you are also. Bridge Base seems to be falling into a routine, and I am happy to have it as a diversion to the reality with which we are all living presently. Folks are friendly, the game goes fast, and after the two plus hours spent playing, I am ready for down time. Funny how much energy playing online takes as compared to the "in-person" play at the card tables.

All tournaments from ACBL are cancelled through the end of the year, and who knows what will happen after that. It is wonderful to have Bridge Base to fill in the time of the day that may have been devoted to in-person play. The clubs in our Unit seem to be doing well with all the constraints afforded. Plenty of games, and lots of tables - just right for the soothing of the soul!

Hang in there, continue playing online, and notice all of the many-splendid events during the day, of which you are involved.

Lyn Sacco

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### **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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***Deadline for September is August 21***

## ...from the Editor

### FROM THE EDITOR

Here I am again, trying to come up with something to say after another month of "same old, same old". I really miss my old life that included movies, theater, concerts, travel, and dinners with friends and family at home and in restaurants. Instead, there's a lot of TV (and now baseball games!), reading, cooking, baking, online shopping, house-cleaning, online bridge, trips to the supermarket, short pleasure drives, and occasional socially-distanced happy hours outdoors with neighbors. I can only hope that a vaccine and treatment will be found soon.

In the meantime, let's play bridge and win Masterpoints!

Judy Keilin

Editor



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

[jkeilin@gmail.com](mailto:jkeilin@gmail.com)

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](http://diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc)

# Milestones and New Members

## MILESTONES

### NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)

Janice Adragna  
Kristin Anderson  
Frankie Ferguson  
Kasia Kern  
Tom Philipps  
Carol Sayers  
Richard Tullis

### NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Kate King  
Katherine Erickson  
Joe Fuchs  
Brian King  
Stuart Rowe  
Terri Rowe

### NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)

Leslie Golden  
Elizabeth Majchrzak  
Thomas Miller  
Judy Murphy  
Judy Niger  
Judith Ruble  
Candace Wilkes

### NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)

Ed Becker  
William Burns  
Kenneth Durr  
Carol Gurrad  
Yilmaz Ozturhan

### NEW NABC MASTERS (300)

Mark Kogan  
Patti Kogan

### NEW LIFE MASTERS (300/500)

Laurie Hailey  
Mary Schelling

### NEW RUBY LIFE MASTERS (1500)

Brian Eisenberg

## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome these folks when you  
"meet" them online.

Robert Kahl  
Jack Chang  
David Minor  
Rojean Danilson

# IN MEMORIAM

## Brenda Aday

Brenda passed away suddenly at age 83. She was a very warm and giving person. She volunteered for several years as a responder to calls on a Crisis Hotline. She was active in her church. She had a very kind heart - and would do anything for someone in need.

Other passions in recent years included gardening and reading. Brenda loved a good joke - and had a hearty laugh. Always smiling, she could be a little stubborn, according to some.

A bridge player in our community for more than thirty years, Brenda gave back to the bridge community: she was one of the first to volunteer for every ProAm, and actively mentored several beginning players. She is survived by three sons and five grandchildren - as well as many close friends.

This memoriam was provided by two of Brenda's closest friends (and bridge partners) - Marilyn Horan and Angie Murray.



## Carol Penskar

Carol passed away at age 68, after battling Parkinson's disease for about five years. Carol had a successful career in finance and consulting. She was very active in her community, volunteering for many roles with Orindawoods and Town of Orinda councils. She was an avid reader and tennis player, and enjoyed traveling. Her number one passion was her family - husband Mark (who is also a bridge player), son David, and daughter Becky. Carol took up duplicate bridge about ten years ago - and became very proficient very quickly. She was an active bridge mentor, and supporter of Contra Costa Bridge Center (where she handled the accounting from 2016 to 2018).

And Carol was a fighter - in all the best ways. After being diagnosed with Parkinson's, she was determined to fight it - and make the very most of her life. She continued her volunteer work, she worked out, she kept her mind sharp, and carried on with as many other normal activities as she possibly could. Carol never had a negative word to say about anyone. She had many, many friends and fans.

Mark Humphrey



## Bob Rasp

I met Bob Rasp in 2006. He was a mere seventy-three years old and still playing softball. His bridge partner in Brentwood was his buddy, also named Bob. I had a heck of a time deciding which Bob people were talking about. When his friend passed away, Ken became his partner; when Ken passed away, I became his partner. We hit it off well as a bridge partnership and as friends. He was married at nineteen to the beautiful Sicilian, Paula. Since I am also Sicilian, we understood each other very well.

He and Paula loved Monterey, so I suggested they eat at my cousin's restaurant, Rosine's. They never ate anywhere else after that! We also enjoyed talking baseball. He was a huge Yankee fan, and we would kid each other when the season was in full swing. His Buffalo Bills were also a soft spot. In fact, his BBO name was BILLYANKEE. Our last bridge game on BBO on July 2 was a nice 61% game. Bob enjoyed playing bridge immensely and was always trying for that overtrick!

As a young married man of nineteen, Bob worked and went to night school to further his education. Work took the family, soon four children, from NY to Texas, to the Bay Area. All the while, Bob continued his education. He completed a BS, MS and almost a PhD in night school while working full-time. Upon his retirement from the business world, Bob taught business classes at the university level. He loved teaching. When they left San Ramon for Brentwood, Bob enjoyed golf and continued his softball career until the age of eighty.

We will miss Bob at the bridge table and as a friend and neighbor. Rest in Peace.

Rosemarie LaFrancesca

*Here's a little humor to lighten our game.*

## WHY THE CLEANING LADY QUIT

A cleaning woman was applying for a new position.

“When asked why she left her last employment she replied,

Yes, sir, the wages were good, but it was the most ridiculous place I ever worked.

They played a card game they call BRIDGE, and last night a lot of folks were there.

As I was about to bring refreshments, I heard a man say ‘Lay down and let’s see what you got.’

Another man said ‘I got strength, but not much length.’

And then another man said to a lady, ‘Take your hand off my trick.’

I pretty near dropped dead just when a lady answered, ‘You forced me. You jumped me twice when you didn’t have the strength for one good raise’.

Another lady was talking about protecting her honor.

And, two ladies were talking and one said, ‘Now it’s my turn to play with your husband while you play with mine.’

Well, I just got my hat and coat, and as I was leaving, I hope to die if one of them didn’t say,

‘Well, I guess we can go home, that was our last rubber!’”

Submitted by Margy Evans

# COVID HAIR

Kit Miller, after her third "homegrown" haircut and color.

(Editor's Note: Kit, you look great! Maybe there's a new career on the horizon for you!



# Dicey Times

It's a new day, I hope it goes my way, I'll clean the house, I'll wash the floors, and when I'm done, I'll have some fun. But as the months pass by, I'm getting very lazy, and I think I'm going crazy.

I wash my hands, counters as well, and even cook healthy meals. So you should try to enjoy your time, and season it with a bridge game or two. And remember to keep your distance from others, and maybe later, we'll all enjoy a cup of hot tea. *(More like a bottle of wine)!!!*

Don't stray too far without your mask. Your safety comes first, so when you see a neighbor walking by, nod your head, smile, and chat from six feet away.

**So, a diversion for you to read: DID YOU KNOW** that it's August and for a fun tidbit, this month was originally Sextilis, the sixth month of the Roman calendar, and consisted of thirty-one days? It became the eighth month with a length of twenty-nine days around 700 BCE, when January and February were added to the year. Julius Caesar added two days to the month around 45 BCE. Who knew!

As you all know, it's hot outside. It's been downright blistering. So what better way to cool down than to turn on the air, and get online for a lively game of bridge. You'll be indoors with the air-conditioner blowing, and your brain will be flowing. Remember, bridge is a lot like a great dessert. Once you get a taste for it, you always come back for seconds, thirds and never get your fill. It's a brain game that can take you through your youth, and dishes out a smorgasbord for a lifetime of learning. Sometimes we get so busy with watching the news, that we forget our brain needs exercise too. This is especially true during these challenging times. Don't get Corona Brain, log online, and begin to train. Yes, life has changed, and now we're becoming isolated and lonely.

Truly, playing online bridge will help boost your spirits. If you've registered with the ACBL, you're on your way to becoming an active bridge player. If you're having difficulties logging on, contact your local director. He or she will show you the way.

Ciao Bella!

Lisa Assoni

The Short Cut Cook



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me...

August, 2020

North  
S K654  
H 76  
D AK1052  
C 62

West  
S 1073  
H J9854  
D Q 74  
C Q8

East  
S Q2  
H 32  
D 863  
C K97543

South  
S AJ98  
H AKQ10  
D J9  
C AJ10



Sometimes the opponents save you from a disaster. This deal came up on a virtual club site on BBO.

The bidding started out with my opening 2N and my partner bid 3C, Puppet, which asks if I have a 5 card major and I responded 3D saying no but I do have one or two 4 card majors. My partner then said 3H which said he has a 4 card spade suit.

At this point I had confused this with Smolen which says he has 5 spades and 4 hearts so I wanted to play it in the 4-4 heart fit and I bid 4H. My partner knew something was wrong so he corrected to 4N but I thought that was Key Card for hearts so I said 5D showing 1 or 4 controls and he said 5H trying to get me to 5N but I thought that asked if I had the Q of hearts and since I had 4 controls and the Q of hearts I bid 6H and my left hand opponent loving his holding doubled and my partner didn't want to play in a suit that had bad splits said 6N and we played it there.

The opening lead was the 3 of spades and with the diamond finesse working I took 4S, 3H, 5D and the AC making 7. My partner said without the double he very well might have left me in hearts because he couldn't figure out what was going on.

This shows that even the best of us can mess up as well as the opponent who would have gotten a top for setting us in 6H until he told us about the bad split which resulted in us getting almost 90%.

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

# Improve Your Bridge Play



## IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

### THE “NEW MINOR SUIT FORCING” CONVENTION (Part 4)

#### When Opener’s Rebid is a Jump to 2NT (Continued)

Last month we considered the case where Responder’s initial call is 1♣, and Opener jumps to 2NT. But, when Responder’s initial call is 1♥ and Opener jumps to 2NT, the auction is more complicated because Opener’s rebid of 2NT does not deny his having four spades. Responder’s initial 1♥ bid could possibly be made with 4 hearts and 4 spades or 5 hearts and 4 spades. So, when Responder uses “New Minor Suit Forcing (NMF):

As before, Responder may be seeking a possible 5-3 heart fit. But, when his hand has both 4 hearts and 4 spades, or 5 hearts and 4 spades, he will use NMF to seek a possible 4-4 spade fit.

When Opener does not have heart support but does have 4 spades, he rebids 3♣. Responder will either set the contract at 3NT or 4♠.

When Opener has both 3-card heart support and 4 spades, he must first show his heart support. If Responder then returns to 3NT, it means he started with only 4 hearts and 4 spades and is using NMF to seek out the 4-4 spade fit. Opener can then confidently bid 4♠.

When Responder has 5 hearts and 4 spades, he should not use NMF. Instead, Responder rebids 3♠ (a reverse), and leaves it up to the Opener to set the final contract.

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>Opp.</u>
1♣	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	???	

As Responder, holding the following hands, what should you bid?

♠852      ♥KJ732      ♦KJ6      ♣53

Bid 3♦ (NMF). You want to learn if there is a 5-3 fit in hearts. Depending on Opener's rebid, the final contract will be either 3NT or 4♥.

♠K852    ♥AJ73    ♦96    ♣1075

Bid 3♦ (NMF). It is possible Opener has four spades. If he bids them, you will set the contract at 4♠. If he shows 3-card heart support, you will retreat to 3NT. Since you are not bidding game in hearts, Opener now knows that because you used NMF, you have 4 hearts and 4 spades and are seeking a 4-4 spade fit. If he also has 4 spades, he will correct the contract to 4♠.

♠J752    ♥QJ942    ♦AJ8    ♣9

Bid 3♠. By reversing you describe your hand with 5 hearts and 4 spades. Opener will set the final game contract.

#### Opener's Rebids after Responder Uses NMF

<u>Open.</u>	<u>Opp.</u>	<u>Resp.</u>	<u>Opp.</u>
1♦	Pass	1♥	Pass
2NT	Pass	3♣!	Pass
???			

As Opener, holding the following hands, what is your bid?

♠KQJ5    ♥A5    ♦AJ65    ♣A63

Bid 3♠. You may have a 4-4 spade fit. Responder will rebid either 3NT or 4♠.

♠AK95    ♥AQ6    ♦K986    ♣Q10

Bid 3♥. First show your heart support even though there might be a 4-4 spade fit. If Responder rebids 3NT rather than game in hearts, he must have only 4 hearts and 4 spades and has used NMF to seek a spade fit. So you now correct to 4♠.

♠AQ2    ♥A6    ♦AK763    ♣Q63

Bid 3♦. You don't have heart support, but you can show your 5-card diamond suit on the way to 3NT or higher, as the case may be.

♠A2♥Q63    ♦KQ87    ♣AKJ10

Bid 3♥. If Responder rebids 3NT rather than 4♥, you will pass. Responder has indicated a hand with 4 hearts and 4 spades, but you have no spade 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](http://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.*

*Also visit [ACBL.org](http://ACBL.org) to find information about on line classes and places to play.*

## CCBC

We at CCBC work hard to bring you a rich schedule of well-run games, and we are delighted to see so many of you enjoying them. Thank you!

The week of [July 27–August 2](#) all games will award Silver masterpoints at one-third more than the current rate. An extra \$1 covers the additional ACBL sanction fee.

The complete CCBC schedule follows, but check website for changes:

[Mo 9:50](#) 99er \$5

[Mo 10:00](#) Ope \$5

[Tue 10:00](#) 749 \$5

[We 9:50](#) 299 \$5

[We 10:00](#) Ope \$5

[Thu 10:00](#) 999 \$5

[Fri- 10:00](#) Ope \$5

[Fri- 12:30](#) 499 \$5

[Sat- 10:00](#) 199 \$5

All games play 18 boards with at least 7 minutes a board allowed.

Grant Robinson

## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor



The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club (RDBC) has made a change in the maximum masterpoints allowed in the Tuesday and Saturday online games. These games are no longer open. Both games will have a limit of 0-5000 points.

All players for Rossmoor games need to be ACBL members and have their ACBL number registered with BridgeBase online.

Rossmoor's New Online Game Schedule is as follows:

Monday - 12:30 p.m., 0-5000 masterpoints, \$4

Tuesday - 12:30 p.m., 0-5000, \$4

Wednesday - 12:30 p.m., 0-5000 masterpoints, \$4

Thursday - 12:30 p.m., 0-500 masterpoints, \$3

Friday - 10:00 a.m., 0-200 masterpoints, \$3

Saturday - 12:30 p.m., 0-5000, \$4

The RDBC Board feels these games correspond closely to the Rossmoor games in our pre shutdown world.

Kit Miller

# Lamorinda Bridge Club

Lamorinda Bridge Club is hosting bridge games online through Bridge Base Online.

The game schedule is:

Tuesday 7pm Open Game \$5

Wednesday 10am Open Game \$5

Wednesday 7pm Limited Game (199) \$5 (New Game)

Wednesday 7:15pm Limited Game (499) \$5 (New Game)

Thursday 3pm Limited Game (299) \$5

Thursday 3:15pm Open Game \$5

Friday 10am Limited Game (499) \$5

Saturday 10am Open Game \$5

Sunday 10am Limited Game (299) \$5

Sunday 10:15am Open Game \$5

ACBL/BBO is running Silver Linings Week July 27 through August 1, (Monday through Sunday). All games will be awarding triple the BBO value of points and they will be Silver. The table fees for these virtual games are higher than regular games. Lamorinda will increase the table fee from \$5 to \$7 for each game, for this week only.

To participate you have to: (1) Join BridgeBase.Com (no charge), (2) List a User Name and Password, (3) Enter your ACBL #, (4) Buy BB\$ with a credit card to play in the ACBL Virtual Games. The masterpoints you will earn in regular tournaments will ultimately be increased by 50% over the normal Bridge Base Points once the results are posted to the ACBL Live for Clubs Website. Unfortunately ACBL Policy for Virtual Games allows only our registered club members (those who played with us during 2019) to invite a guest as partner, and we are not allowed to have two guests play together as partners. If you or your guest encounters problems entering games, please contact Jerry. He can talk you through the process.

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper - [jerry@wjasper.com](mailto:jerry@wjasper.com), [Winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:Winnie@wjasper.com)

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