

eDeclarer

October 2020

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Hello Unit 499,

Here we are moving into the Fall season, and still no face-to-face bridge. What a long time it has been since seeing old and new friends at the table! One has to wonder how much longer, but the promise of a vaccine in the future of 2021 seems promising. Of course, we will still have some restrictions after receiving a vaccine. So much for the certainties of life.

The Pro-Am, held September 13 was a roaring success! Thanks to Mark Humphrey for organizing and Mike Kruley for directing. Folks who played were happy to again be in the arena of competition with our wonderful "Pro" bridge players. Congratulations to all of the winners for this year! Bridge Base Online gives us some wonderful opportunities for play and tournaments. We are lucky to have access with such an easy engagement. Things move slowly with the pandemic, and bridge is no exception. We on the Board of Directors of Unit 499 are tasked with filling spots on the Board with knowledgeable and capable members. If you or friends wish to serve, please contact me directly through my email lyn.sacco@gmail.com. We are always looking for valued input and experience. I continue to play on BBO, and know that I will continue to play there until the virus restrictions are lifted.

Be well, and bid those slams, confirming your ability to compete in the ever-wide arena of bridge.

Lyn Sacco

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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

jkeilin@gmail.com

Mary Krouse, Publisher



...from the Editor

The online ProAm game was a big success! If you haven't participated yet, think about signing up next time. It's a Win-win situation.

BBO crashed recently during the 15th hand. No one could log back on, and the game had to be cancelled. Tough for those of us who were doing well, and tougher because it was double-points week. Lo and behold – two days later we received notice that two extra days would be added to double-points week. Thanks for giving us another chance!

See you online!

Judy Keilin

Editor



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Here's a big Thank You to Mark Humphrey, Mike Kruley and Grant Robinson for their superb execution of the annual Pro-Am Game on Sunday September 13 - didn't even miss the food!

Also, a shout-out to my Pro Partner, Susan Schlicht. I learned a lot on Sunday and hopefully my playing will improve. Thank you, Susan.

Patricia Torres

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

Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)

Kathy Cook
Muriel Furland
Gary Hargrave
David Minor

NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Janice Adragna
Neil Librock
Tom Philipps
Richard Tullis

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)

Stephen Clark
Ronald Forney
Russell Silverstein
Joanne Thorne
Dianne Wesselhoft

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)

William Stevens
Sylvia Victoria
Michael Whitaker
Ann Wyatt

NEW NABC MASTERS (200)

William Burns

NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTERS (3500)

Josh Fendel

NEW MEMBERS

Chi Ku
Helene Magen
Rick Pyle
Helen Yang
Dona Newell
Timothy Zuffi
Christie Noble

Let's welcome these folks when you meet at the virtual table.



I'M HAVING FUN, AREN'T YOU?

A very special Thank You to our heroes Mark and Lynne Humphrey, who once again brought us together to play our Pro-Am game. For several years now, Mark has made his mark by spending weeks of his precious time to make this happen. Once again, they made our day VERY FUN. My partner, Nancy Munson, played like a pro. She spent time talking with me after the play, and I was appreciative of her time and talent. All pro's, Thank You.

Geez, I sorely missed being together, and being the foodie I am, I also was sad not to enjoy our great breakfast. So many folks put their "Best Food Forward" and dished up some very tasty dishes. I especially missed Lynne's Breakfast Casserole, so I asked her if she would share her wonderful recipe with us.

Lynne also shared how back in the days when food at Unit 499 sectionals was a really big deal, and we provided all kind of amazing offerings. Many years have past, but there was a time when we could actually use the kitchen at the sectional and decided to serve breakfast casseroles. Several of us made these and baked them in the school oven. Someone give me this recipe, and its been on my Hit Parade for at least a decade or more. Miss those days!

Well, I'm so excited to serve-up Lynne's recipe. She graciously sent me a copy of this yummy dish, *just for you*. She also made one, and added sausage/cheese. Get creative. Try it, you'll love it!

Chili Eggs (serves 10)

8 slices white bread (remove crusts and cube)

¼ lb. butter or margarine

8 eggs separated

1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese

7 oz. can chopped green chilies (mild)

2 cups milk

Salt and Pepper

Mix melted butter and bread cubes. Place in bottom of 13 x 9 greased casserole or cake pan. Sprinkle with grated cheese than chilies. Beat eggs whites until stiff; add salt and pepper to taste. Fold slightly beaten egg yolks into egg whites. Add milk.

Pour egg and milk moisture over other ingredients and REFRIGERATE OVERNIGHT.

Next morning, preheat oven to 325 degrees, add casserole, and bake for at least 45 to 50 minutes. Be certain it's cooked through. Serve with a breakfast meat (bacon, sausage, ham). Perfect with fruit, muffins, toast or coffee cakes. YUM!

Thanks Lynne

Ciao Bella,

Lisa, ShortCut Cook



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

October, 2020

North	
S	K10986
H	J954
D	K76
C	5

West	East
S	Q
H	Q8
D	QJ954
C	KQ943

South	
S	A532
H	K6
D	A102
C	A872



The bidding started with North: Wests 2C showed clubs and a higher suit.

P P 1N 2C

X P 2S 3D

3S P P P

So, here I am in 3S. Maybe partner should have bid 4.

The opening lead was the K of clubs. I won the A and led a low spade towards the dummy. The Q came up and I led the 10 from dummy letting it ride and then a spade to the A. Note, restricted choice wins again. I ruffed a club in dummy and led a heart towards my K. East rose with the A (a very bad play) and led a heart whereupon the Q dropped under my K.

I now know that West has 1-2-5-5 distribution and is in trouble.

I ruffed another club in dummy, cashed the J of hearts pitching a diamond, and ruffed the last heart in my hand. My hand is now a low club and the K x of diamonds. My dummy is A 10 2 of diamonds. West must keep a high club and therefore must discard a diamond. Now my diamonds are all good, making 6!!!!

Note, this hand demonstrates the restricted choice play as well as a criss-cross squeeze (when I ruff the last heart in my hand). It was important that I had discarded my diamond on the J of hearts, saving my losing club to set up that squeeze.

For those of you not familiar with the term restricted choice, it stems from the idea that if a player has the doubleton QJ, they will play them randomly, but when the suit splits 3-1 and their singleton is an honor, then that honor is the only one they can play. When they bid showing shortness in 2 suits then the spades are more likely to split 3-1.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

Improve Your Bridge Play

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

SOME IMPORTANT PLAYS AT NOTRUMP

Combining Your Chances



NORTH
 ♠86 ♥AQ96 ♦AQ8 ♣8432

SOUTH
 ♠A10 ♥742 ♦KJ75 ♣AKJ7

With no bidding by the opposition, you as SOUTH are now Declarer at a contract of 3NT. West leads 4♠, dummy plays the 6♠, East plays the Q♠, and you hold up with the 10♠. East continues the suit and you play your A♠.

You see that you have 8 top tricks: 1 spade, 1 heart, 4 diamonds and 2 clubs. To make your contract you will have to make an additional trick in either hearts or clubs. You can take a finesse in either of those suits, but which one is best? Or, is it simply a guess?

There is a better approach than simply taking either finesse. There is a possibility that one of the opponents holds Queen doubleton in clubs. So to maximize your probability of success, you first lead the AK of clubs. If the Queen drops you are home. If, as likely, it does not drop, you can now fall back on the heart finesse. This line of play gives you a better than 50% chance of success.

Keeping the Dangerous Opponent Out of the Lead

	♠ 852				
	♥ Q4				
	♦ KQ953				
	♣ AK3				
					♠ Q109
♠ J74					♥ 1085
♥ AJ963					♦ J764
♦ 102					♣ QJ9
♣ 765					
					♠ AK63
					♥ K72
					♦ A8
					♣ 10842

Once again, SOUTH is Declarer at 3NT. The lead from WEST is the 6♥, and the Q♥, played from the dummy, holds the trick. There are 8 top tricks, 2 spades, 3 diamonds, 2 clubs, and the heart already won. You can see that if EAST gets in the lead, you are finished because hearts will be led through your King. So you should play the hand to try to keep EAST out of the lead. You could hope the diamonds break 3-3 (less than 50% chance), but if not, opponents will get in and you will go down.

At trick 2, lead a low diamond, and, if EAST plays low, play the 8♦. WEST will win the trick with the 10♦, but now your K♥ is protected. You can run the rest of the diamonds and claim the contract. If the hand was such that EAST was able to force your A♦, you must then rely on the suit breaking 3-3. This line of play is also known as an “avoidance play.”

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.

Also visit ACBL.org to find information about on line classes and places to play.



Lamorinda Bridge Club

LAMORINDA

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

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

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.

Jerry has started teaching a beginning bridge class and virtual seminars on specific topics using a platform which is a combination of Zoom Conferencing and an online program called Shark Bridge. Anyone interested in the list of topics/classes offered, please email call for information.

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper Jerry@wjasper.com, Winnie@wjasper.com

925-766-5228 (Jerry) 925-683-1908 (Winnie) 925-376-1125 (Home)

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556



or