

eDeclarer

November 2020

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message

Hello Unit 499!

Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney statistics are out for the month. Congratulations to all at the top of their game! Following are the leaders in each of their categories of play.



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 | Joe Fuchs |
| 5-20 | Leslie Golden |
| 25-50 | <u>David Freimuth</u> |
| 50-100 | <u>Irving Googins</u> |
| 100-200 | Yilmaz Ozturhan |
| 200-300 | William Burns |
| 300-500 | Bob Spivock |
| 500-1,000 | Malcolm Mendelson |
| 1000-1500 | Bill Leimaire |
| <u>1500-2500</u> | Anne Hollingsworth |
| 2500-3500 | Joshua Fendel |
| 3500-5000 | Grant Robinson |
| <u>5000-7500</u> | Jerry Weitzner |
| 7500-10,000 | Chris Pizarra |
| Over 10,000 | Mike Bandler |

Mini-McKenney

In 1974, the ACBL Board of Directors voted to recognize the masterpoint achievements of all players and the Mini-McKenney 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-McKenney Medalion to present to the player.

Standings are updated monthly at the ACBL web site. Winners are as follows:

| | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| 0-5 | Joe Fuchs |
| 5-20 | Roberta Polson |
| 20-50 | <u>David Freimuth</u> |
| <u>50-100</u> | <u>Irving Googins</u> |
| 100-200 | Yilmaz Ozturhan |
| 200-300 | William Burns |
| 300-500 | Bob Spivock |
| <u>500-1000</u> | Malcolm Mendelson |
| 1000-1500 | Michael Kruley |
| <u>1500-2500</u> | Anne Hollingsworth |
| <u>2500-3500</u> | Dan Scarola |
| <u>3500-5000</u> | Grant Robinson |
| <u>5000-7500</u> | Jerry Weitzner |
| 7500-10,000 | Robert Munson |
| Over 10,000 | Mike Bandler |

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

Lyn Sacco



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| President's Message | 1 |
| From The Editor | 3 |
| Letters to the Editor | 4 |
| Unit 499 Milestones | 6 |
| Contributions | 7 |
| Club News | 12 |

...from the Editor

As you can see, there was lots of positive feedback for continuing publication of eDeclarer. I appreciate all the contributions this month, and hope that more of you will share your experiences in future issues. Special thanks to Dianne Lavin for sharing the Covid wedding!

Lisa suggested sharing recipes,.What do you think?

Play bridge, and stay safe!

Judy Keilin

Editor



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

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.

diablowalleybridge.com/ccbc

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUE OR SUSPEND eDECLARER

Hi Judy and to the many of you who put hours into writing the eDeclarer. We thank you! Most of us never get to tell you how your newsletter makes our day. We look forward to it. Possibly you could open up your Letters to the Editor with positive notes from the members. In these days of sadness, we all need to put a smile on our face.

For example, two weeks ago, I had the most beautiful "covid safe" wedding in my garden/yard for our younger son. It was fabulous with just seventeen of us (immediate family). We brainstormed and performed a memorable family skit. The grandchildren played their musical instruments for the bride and groom. The bride did wear her gorgeous wedding dress, which she originally purchased for the 'big' wedding. It was so much fun. The couple even had their dogs as best man and maid of honor, with necklaces of flowers around their necks. The wedding cake toppers were ceramic dogs, carved to look like the real dogs. My daughter-in-law made the cake.

In the end, everyone said they couldn't have asked for a better wedding ceremony - yes, even with the smokey hot air.



Dianne Lavin

Hi Judy,

I am a very new member, but have enjoyed the newsletter and would like to see it continued. Thanks for your efforts!

Carol Gray

I don't know how many people read it. I do the practice hand, read about other clubs activities, etc. I'm fine with continuing or not, either way.

It does help keep a connection for those in the bridge world who play at various clubs in normal times.

Kit Miller

It doesn't have to be an all or none. That is, canceling it or keep publishing it monthly. How about just publishing it occasionally, like when there is some new news? Maybe once a quarter?

That way, Judy, you and Mary and whoever else, don't feel the pressure to get an issue out, when there's nothing much to say.

Andy Fine

Judy,

If it is at all a reasonable option, I would like to continue publication. Classes at CCBC, Rossmoor & LAMORINDA are attracting some new players. Perhaps, offering more 'mini-lesson' options will keep the newbies online.

All my best,

Tom Henry

I'd love to see it continue

I agree that this virus is taking its toll on us bridge players.

It's refreshing to read a few tidbits about Bridge, and some encouraging words.

It helps us stay connected.

Lisa Assoni

I hope you keep the eDeclarer going. I do enjoy reading it.

Jerry Weitzner

A big thanks to all who organized the BBO games without it I would be climbing the walls.

Rosalind Cunha

Hi,

As a regular reader of the newsletter, I wanted to say I do enjoy the newsletter and I hope it will continue. I like to know what is going on in the unit and I always read the tips on how to become a better player.

When face-to-face contact is not possible, it is important that we maintain our proven avenues of communication.

Thank you for your continuous service in this under-appreciated, but always welcome endeavor.

Stay healthy,

Bill LeMaire

Dear Editor Judy,

I do agree that there isn't the same social vibe during the pandemic as there is when we see each other at club or unit games, so there's less energy behind much of the newsletter, but I would miss the lessons or the reported hands that illustrate a lesson by those good-hearted souls who have provided them in the past. I've appreciated those and even corresponded with the authors once or twice.

Thanks for asking,

Dave Pierce

Hi Judy,

I am strongly in favor of keeping the e-declarer, especially during these lockdown times. It's one of my main connections to the bridge world.

Dan Scarola



Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)

Helen Carroll
Margaret Halliday
John Kobzina
Karen Lapin
Peter Wickens
Timothy Zuffi

NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Sherry Ditirro
Chi Ku
Ray Spears
Helen Yang

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)

Rochelle Becker
Christine Foley
Sarah Gopher-Stevens
Pat Silverstein

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)

David Freimuth
Leslie Golden
Ed Marlovitz
Nancy Price

NEW NABC MASTERS (200)

Andy Shockley

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS (1000)

Mel Chaplin
Malcolm Mendelson

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS (2500)

Winnie Jasper

NEW MEMBERS

Harriett Kantor
Song-Song Liao
Gery Yearout

Please welcome these folks when you "See" them at the table online.

DREAMING OF F2F BRIDGE

BY Jackie Zayac

I now understand the meaning of the phrase “Absence makes the heart grow fonder”. I never thought that I would say this, but I miss the “The Goops” of the bridge world. How many of you have arrived at your assigned table only to find it covered in food crumbs, the Daily Bulletin or a half full cup of cold coffee? You have to clean up after The Goops before you can start playing bridge!

Some of you may be wondering who are The Goops? The Goops were brought to life in a poem by Gelett Burgess around 1900. Here it is and please note that the poem is in the public domain because it was published prior to 1923.

The Goops Table Manners

The Goops they lick their fingers.
And the Goops they lick their knives;
They spill their broth on the tablecloth—
Oh, they lead disgusting lives!
The Goops they talk while eating.
And loud and fast they chew:
And that is why I'm glad that I
Am not a Goop—are you?

I hope that many of you remember this poem. This is only one verse, but I loved it and memorized it when I was a child.

Now, I would welcome pre-COVID-19 days at a bridge tournament seeing old friends including The Goops and, yes, I think I would even enjoy cleaning up my assigned table. There might be one exception. The worst thing I ever found left behind by a Goop was this:



Who leaves their Invisiliners on a chair in a side pair game? Not only that, it was the second round of the game! I checked with the player in my seat in the first round and that person was definitely not missing any Invisiliners.

I did not reveal that round one was spent sitting on these lovely Invisiliners. I am certain that the Mystery of the Invisiliners will remain unsolved unless someone comes forward and confesses. In order to accept your confession, you must identify the tournament where the dastardly deed took place.

I hope this brought a smile to your face as you read it. I look forward to seeing everyone—Goop or not—when we return to F2F bridge!

Talk Turkey

I eat turkey year round, and I've played like a turkey at the bridge table too. When folks try and gobble-you-up with their aggressive bidding, don't get your feathers up. Like everyone who plays bridge, this game is quite a learning experience.

Now that we're playing online, I seem to still make the same mistakes more than once, always trying to remember not to repeat them, and feeling like such a turkey when I do. I heard turkeys are not too bright, but actually their little brains are quite intelligent. So the next time you play like a turkey and get the stuffings knocked out of you, just remember what happens to most turkeys at Thanksgiving. Keep your head about you.

I've been a busy lady starting a revival of my past television cooking show "The ShortCut Cook." When the virus started, I decided it was time to help people take the easy way out of the kitchen. So I started a You Tube Channel that caters to the everyday cook. My focus has been making healthy food delicious. You can check out my website shortcutcook.com and subscribe. I do hope my easy recipes will inspire you to get involved with your food. Just think, it's something we all need, and why not make food-fun, fast, and healthy. Try it, you'll like it...

Here's one of my favorite recipes.

Great Balls of Whiskey

14 oz. box, vanilla wafers

3 Tbs. cocoa powder

3 Tbs. corn syrup

1/2-cup pecans

1/4-cup whiskey or flavored coffee creamer

1 cup powdered sugar

In blender or food processor, add wafers and pecans. Chop finely. Mix in all other ingredients.

Roll and shape into small size balls. Cover with powdered sugar.

Let set for 30 minutes, and store in airtight container in refrigerator..

Substitution: Coffee creamer or rum can be used as a substitute for whiskey.

Time:: 8 minutes

Ciao Bella

Lisa Assoni



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

November, 2020

North

S J543

H J

D Q10974

C K104

West

S AKQ 872

H Q876

D 52

C J

East

S 106

H K1093

D 6

C Q86532

South

S 9

H A542

D AKJ83

C A97



The bidding started with North:

P P 1D 1S

2D P 2H 2S

5D P P P

In the article last month, I showed a brief explanation of a restricted choice play. This month's article shows that sometimes it isn't necessary.

The defense started with two high spade leads, south ruffing the second one and drawing the trump in two rounds. Then south played the A of hearts followed by a heart ruff in the dummy followed by a spade ruff and another heart ruff in the dummy then followed by a spade ruff in hand and ruffing the last heart in the dummy. This is followed by the K of clubs where west played the J. Now, this looks like you can use restricted choice, but let's review what happened. West has shown up with 6 spades, followed all the time in hearts (4) and followed to two rounds of diamonds. That tells me that west only has one club, so a club to the 9 is the 12th trick and the 13th is the A of clubs, making 6.

This points out that you must always count the opponents cards in each suit.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal

Improve Your Bridge Play

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

USING JACOBY AND TEXAS TRANSFERS

Ref: Max Hardy, "Standard Bridge Bidding for the 21st Century," 2000

The Texas Transfer

After an opening bid of 1NT, the response of four diamonds is a transfer to four hearts. Four hearts is a transfer to four spades. The bid guarantees 6-cards or longer in the implied suit. Example:

| <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1NT | Pass | 4♦* | Pass |
| | 4♥ | | |

*Texas Transfer to hearts

Jacoby or Texas Transfers—Which One to Use and When

Some players wonder why it's desirable to use Texas Transfers. What's the advantage? Consider these three auctions which show that using both Jacoby and Texas Transfers allows flexibility and more precise description in search of the proper contract.

| <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♥* | Pass |
| 2♠ | Pass | 4NT | |

*Jacoby Transfer to 2♠

| <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1NT | Pass | 4♥* | Pass |
| 4♣ | Pass | 4NT | |

*Texas Transfer to 4♣

| <u>North</u> | <u>East</u> | <u>South</u> | <u>West</u> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1NT | Pass | 2♥* | Pass |
| 2♠ | Pass | 4♠ | |

*Jacoby Transfer to 2♠

The meaning of the first auction is that South has a 5-card spade suit with a balanced hand, and his subsequent bid of 4NT (not forcing) is an invitation to slam in either spades or notrump.

But what if South has 6 or 7 spades and wants to use Blackwood? The solution is to use a Texas Transfer as in the second example. Here 4NT is not an invitation, it is Blackwood. South is taking control of the hand.

What then should be inferred from the third auction where again South is showing extra length in spades? After the Jacoby Transfer, jumping to 4♠ should be taken as a mild slam try and is handing control of the hand to North. North's bid of 4NT is now Blackwood.

In all of the following hands, Partner has opened 1NT (15-17 HCP), and RHO has passed.

♠KJ9642 ♥3 ♦1074 ♣1098

No game is in sight. Make a Jacoby Transfer to 2♠ and then pass.

♠KJ9642 ♥3 ♦K104 ♣1098

You want to invite game. Make a Jacoby Transfer to 2♠, then rebid 3♠ to show the 6-card suit.

♠KQ9642 ♥3 ♦AJ4 ♣1098

You want to be in game, so you bid 4♥, a Texas Transfer to 4♠, and then pass.

♠KQ9642 ♥3 ♦AJ4 ♣K98

Slam is possible. Make a Jacoby Transfer to 2♠, then jump to 4♠. Partner is invited to consider slam.

♠AQJ964 ♥3 ♦KQ4 ♣K109

You only need to know Partner's controls. Make a Texas Transfer to 4♠, then bid 4NT (Blackwood).

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.

Contra Costa Bridge Center

News

New 0–20 Newcomer Game, Tuesday afternoons, [2:00](#), \$3, 12 boards, gentle pace, no partner required, lifelines

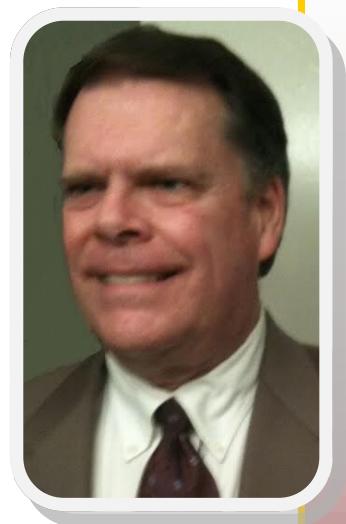
Club Appreciation Week, [October 26–31](#), 1/3 extra masterpoints, no extra cost

Club Championship Week, [November 23–28](#), details to be announced

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

Online Game Schedule

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------------|-------|-----|
| Monday | 9:50 | 99er | \$5 |
| Monday | 10:00 | Open | \$5 |
| Tuesday | 10:00 | 749er | \$5 |
| Tuesday | 2:00 | 0–20 | \$3 |
| Wednesday | 9:50 | 299er | \$5 |
| Wednesday | 10:00 | Open | \$5 |
| Thursday | 10:00 | 999er | \$5 |
| Friday | 10:00 | Open | \$5 |
| Friday | 12:30 | 499er | \$5 |
| Saturday | 10:00 | 199er | \$5 |



Grant Robinson

Contra Costa Bridge Center

Lamorinda Bridge Club

Jerry and Winnie have missed the social aspect of our face-to-face (F2F) bridge games in our home, but do not see this coming back very soon. We have heard that there are some clubs with small table counts re-opening across the country, but we will not be among the first in our area to open for play as we have personal reasons for being very careful. Some of you may already know that Winnie experienced Covid-19 in late March into mid April, and it was very frightening and just plain dreadful to experience. The initial bout lasted 20 days. For 6 days it seemed recovery had arrived but then there was a relapse for 11 days. It took months to be able to sleep again normally in a bed, and she is finally closer to normal feelings of health and stamina. We do not want to open the door to others to have similar experiences. We will continue offering games and lessons online until it seems universally safe to open our F2F club games. Even then we may elect to reopen in phases offering a combination of F2F and online games.

Online Game Schedule:

[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:

Join [BridgeBase.Com](#) (no charge)

List a User Name and Password

Enter your ACBL #

Buy BB\$ with a credit card, to play in the ACBL Virtual Games

Jerry can walk you through this process if you wish to contact him.

The master points 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 or call us for information.

Jerry has recorded a Shark Bridge session which will show you how to set up parameters for practice. For example, 1NT - P - Jacoby Transfers. This can be set up and saved with a veritable infinite number of permutations as responder. (Robots are free so you can practice for hours.) Shark Bridge has a \$20/year fee at this time. You can set up and save multiple practice situations for use at a moment's notice.

Jerry also can give instruction as to how four friends can go together online to play bridge and enable speech so that you can all communicate with each other.

We wish to acknowledge the tremendous efforts made by a small group of key people over the last eight months in forging a partnership between ACBL and BBO and training and supporting Directors to make online bridge a reality enabling all of us to play within the protection of our own homes. This keeps us safe during the pandemic and is saving our bridge clubs. But, nothing can fully replace seeing you all socially.

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

Jerry@wjasper.com,

Winnie@wjasper.com
925-766-5228 (Jerry Cell)

925-683-1908 (Winnie Cell)

925-376-1125 (Home)