

President's Message



Greetings Unit 499!

Even though daylight savings time is no longer in force, the days seem long. I miss the interaction of other people—these are challenging times!

Bridge on BBO continues to be one of many ways to satisfy the bridge fix that most of us crave. Sometimes it is frustrating not to be able to talk to the table. Sometimes I wonder about cheating—it seems such an easy feat to accomplish. While I realize that a majority of folks are ethical, sometimes the results lead to different conclusions.

Whatever the days find you doing to confront the realities of the virus pandemic, I hope you have time to continue your bridge journey with joy and happiness!

Lyn Sacco



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send it to Judy Keilin at

jkeilin@gmail.com

Mary Krouse, Publisher

...from the Editor

There's a very timely and clever revision of *Twas the Night Before Christmas* in this issue. It's sure to make you laugh, or, at best, bring a smile to your face.

One of our members is helping in the fight to control Covid19. Read about what Bob Barnes is doing, and thanks to Clare Smith for bringing it to our attention.

There's also an article and photo of a former member, who moved away. Thanks to Margy Evans for that. If any of you want to share similar news, please submit it.

One of our regular columnists is resigning. David's lessons have been very popular with our readers, and they will be missed. Thanks to David for his contributions to eDeclarer, and to helping up play better bridge.

Be sure to check next month. We may have a new bridge guru to provide some pointers for improving our game. Fingers crossed!

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/ccbc

Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS

Carl Blaha
Song-Song Liao

NEW CLUB MASTERS

Kristin Anderson
Ray Bland
Richard Devoe
Steve Dinning
Gary Hargrave
Jane Ryan
Timothy Zuffi

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER

Edward Mien

NEW REGIONAL MASTER

Leslie Engler

NEW NABC MASTERS

Regina Hartwig
Max Hinkle
Jeffrey Mojcher

NEW LIFE MASTERS

John Mount
Clare Smith

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER

Addie Mattox

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER

Barbara McKay

NEW MEMBERS

Carmella Smith

Please welcome Carmella when you meet her at a game.

T'was a Month Before Christmas 2020

T'was a month before Christmas,
And all through the town,
People wore masks,
That covered their frown.

The frown had begun
Way back in the Spring,
When a global pandemic
Changed everything.

They called it Corona,
But unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times,
It didn't bring cheer.

Contagious and deadly,
This virus spread fast,
Like a wildfire that starts
When fueled by gas.

Airplanes were grounded,
Travel was banned.
Borders were closed
Across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown
To flatten the curve,
The economy halted,
And folks lost their verve.

From March to July
We rode the first wave,
People stayed home,
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged
The lockdown was lifted.
But away from caution,
Many folks drifted.

Now it's December
And cases are spiking,
Wave two has arrived,
Much to our disliking.

Frontline workers,
Doctors and nurses,
Try to save people,
From riding in hearses.

This virus is awful,
This COVID-19.
There isn't a cure.
There is no vaccine.

It's true that this year
Has had sadness aplenty,
We'll never forget
The year 2020.

And just 'round the corner -
The holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house
And put up the tree,
When no one will see it,
No one but me.

But outside my window
The snow gently falls,
And I think to myself,
Let's deck the halls!

So, I gather the ribbon,
The garland and bows,
As I play those old carols,
My happiness grows.

Christmas ain't cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope.

Source Unknown

Old Friend Update

Margy Evans and her husband, Art, recently planned an outing with former Unit 499 members, Christa Krick and Bobbi Monahan, and Bobbi's husband, Dan. What follows is her news of those folks.

The Monahans weren't able to join us, so Art stayed home. Christa and I had a one-on-one visit, which was perfect.

Christa Krick left Danville about a year ago and moved to Palm Desert where the sun always shines. She is recovering from hip surgery and is gradually getting back to swimming and walking. Her travel business has taken a hit, but she's looking forward to spring when, hopefully, COVID will be a thing of the past. Christa communicates with Judy Lowe and sees her now and then in North Carolina.

Bobbi Monahan, a Danville bridge player, lives in same development as Christa, so the Evanses get to see some of the "old time" bridge players. Margy and Art continue to enjoy life in the desert. The season isn't the same without the Canadians and with the impact of the virus on restaurants and shops.



OUR HERO: BOB BARNES

I've learned that one of our wonderful bridge friends has helped a lot of us. I believe Bob needs a "Cheer" and "Rah Rah" from us all.

The following is what I'd like everyone in our club to know.....

When is the last time you met a caring person who helped with a global crisis?

Well, folks, when we stop to consider a person who has taken a test vaccine to see if this could help solve the Covid19 crisis, we have a person right here in Unit 499 Diablo Valley Bridge Club who has done this for us.

The person, who I know did this for everyone, is Bob Barnes. Little did he know when he offered to participate, he would be in one of the successful 90+ percentage trials. Perhaps you know someone else in our club who helps us in our difficult times...let's thank these folks. And now, I thank Bob.

I believe anyone who does this for everyone is a terrifically wonderful person. And we know Bob is!

Clare Smith

Ed. Note: I reached out to Bob for more information, and his response follows.

The trial is being conducted at Diablo Clinical Research on Ygnacio Valley Road in Walnut Creek.

The trial is two years long but may be cut short. It requires an online diary response every week (very simple).

I have participated in other trials at DCR previously. They sent me an email and asked if I wanted to participate, and obviously, I said yes..

I enjoy the participation in trials, as I believe in the benefits, and am very curious. I also reported some curious body pains that occurred but were told that those pains were not related to COVID19.

I was given injections (2) in the same pattern – 2 weeks apart. Blood samples are/were taken and standard COVID 19 tests taken (2). I was told about the meeting frequency and the shots, blood samples, and recording requirements.

Bob Barnes



Christmas Cheer

Oh my! Christmas Cheer, to be passed along with some tears. This Covid thing can bring you down, especially without visiting with family or friends. This holiday has been sprinkled with sadness. Diverse cultures celebrate this day with different names. However, each one's focus is always on sharing, giving and caring. So if you don't want to sing the lonely- holiday blues, get out of your comfort zone, call a friend, order take-out food, visit your online worship center, or donate to your favorite charity. AND THERE'S ALWAYS BRIDGE.

When playing bridge, I do that quite often, but haven't been keeping my butter knife sharpened. This dull blade is often smeared to the bottom of the heap. I know that my coming in last, made someone else take first. Hard to swallow, but remember, you're not alone if you engage in the game of bridge. Spirits will lift, holidays will pass. and you can count your blessings. Each December 31st, I make a joy column of events that etched my soul with happiness. Yes, I've had to dig deep to remember, but our health, food, and shelter have taken top priority. OK, toilet paper too...Yikes!

Are you cooking at home? Well how about a cheer-me-up recipe!!
It's crabby season, really, but this fabulous fish does wonders to lift the spirit.

Crab Salad

So take a break, buy a freshly cooked crab, shelled, and enjoy. A glass of champagne would be just the right compliment. Add a few cooked shrimp, then top with the crab meat. Add some sliced cucumber, lemon and dressing, your choice.

This is a real ShortCut Cook treat! Yum!



Ciao Bella,
The ShortCut Cook,
Lisa



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

December, 2020

North

S J1086

H K52

D 843

C AKJ

West

S 7

H AJ976

D AKQ5

C 876

East

S 95

H 43

D 9762

C Q10942

South

S AKQ432

H Q108

D J10

C 53



The bidding started with South:

1S 2H 3S P

4S P P P

North's 3S bid was a limit raise and based upon 6 spades in my hand I decided to go to game hoping he had me covered in the other suits.

The defense started with 3 top diamonds, south ruffing the 3rd round and drew trumps in 2 rounds.

The decision here is to either take the club finesse and give up a heart or to play on hearts for one loser. The normal way to play hearts would be to lead from dummy to your 10 and hope east has the J.

However, west bid hearts and is most likely to hold the J. Knowing that, this shows a card combination that rarely occurs, but is worth recognizing. Since there are no diamonds in your hand or dummy, you can eliminate the clubs by playing the A and K and ruffing the J. Now you play the Q of hearts from your hand and if west wins this, they must lead away from the J into your 10 or give you a ruff and sluff. If west ducks the Q of hearts, you simply lead towards the K and ultimately only lose one heart trick.

Some times the opponents bidding tells you how the cards are distributed and by seeing this card combination you are able to take advantage of that information.

FYI, the club finesse is 50%, but based upon the bidding this line is well over 90%.

Jerry Weitzner

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Improve Your Bridge Play

IMPROVE YOUR BRIDGE PLAY

By David Terris

YOUR OPENING LEAD: SHOULD YOU LEAD A TRUMP?

Reference: Eddie Kantar, "Modern Bridge Defense," 1999

Most of the time you do not select a trump as your opening lead. But there are some situations where a trump lead is quite advantageous, in fact screamingly called for.

One of the more frequent occurrences is when your RHO bids two suits and LHO prefers the second one. Example:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

As East you are on lead holding:

♠KJ98 ♥972 ♦A75 ♣753

From the bidding it is possible that N/S have found a 4-4 fit in hearts. Since South passed, it is also likely that he could have 1 spade and 3 hearts. If he had 2 spades and 3 hearts he would have probably corrected to 2♠. You have good spade tricks which you don't want to see ruffed out in the dummy. Lead a heart, and if you get in again with the A♦, lead another heart.

When the Opponents outbid you, and dummy figures to have ruffing power, but you know that you have the majority of the points, lead a trump. Example:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
Pass	1♣	2♠ ¹	Dbl ²
4♠	Pass	Pass	Dbl
All Pass			
Preemptive			
Negative			

As West on lead you hold: ♠93 ♥AQ5 ♦AJ75 ♣A53

Lead the 9♠. Partner opened the bidding, so most likely he has at least 12 HCP. Your side, then, has at least 27 HCP. It is also likely that North has a side suit singleton or void, so you want to eliminate as much of dummy's ruffing power as possible to preserve your side suit tricks.

LHO makes a single raise of Opener's suit, and the hand is passed out. When your honors are all in the side suits, lead a trump. Example:

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♠	Pass	2♠	All Pass

As East on lead you hold: ♠732 ♥KJ9 ♦A764 ♣Q98

Lead the 7♠. Most likely dummy has 3 trumps and a side suit singleton or doubleton. You have no other good lead, so lead a trump with the hope of reducing dummy's potential ruffs.

A less frequent occurrence is when Partner passes your takeout double at the 1-level. The only way he would do that is if he has very long trumps with good spots, as many or more than Declarer.

<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
1♠	Dbl	All Pass	

As East on lead you hold: ♠54 ♥A876 ♦KJ75 ♣AJ10

Lead the 5♠. Partner wants you to help him draw Declarer's trump.

This will be my last column. After writing columns for the Rossmoor News and e-Declarer for the past five years, I've decided to hang it up. I've enjoyed contributing these columns and hope that some people may have gotten something out of them.

Thanks for the opportunity to contribute.

David



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.

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

NEW ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE GAME ONLINE

The new 99er game held on Tuesdays . at 12:30pm did not draw as many players as expected. Therefore, the board changed this game to a 199er game.

The current Rossmoor online game schedule is listed below:

Monday, 0-5000 masterpoints

Tuesday, 12:30 PM, two games: 0-199 and 0-5000

Wednesday, 12:30 PM, 0-5000

Thursday, two games: 12:30 PM, 0-500 and 4:00 PM, 0-5000

Friday, 10:00 AM, 0-200

Saturday, 12:30 PM, 0-5000

All games are \$4.

The club is very pleased so many members are enjoying the online games. We all look forward to the day we can play in person again.

Kit Miller



Lamorinda Bridge Club

Jerry and Winnie have exchanged their usual sheltering location at home for two weeks at the Vidanta Resort in beautiful Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico. Yes, it is a timeshare, but the Wi-Fi has been giving us the opportunity to run our games and teach our classes from here. It will be very tough for us to give up the sea view from our deck as we return home on November 21st, but we will be well-rested and have all of our dental work behind us. (Anyone interested in details on our team of dentists down here should talk to us about the possibilities!)

As we are gearing up for December and thoughts of going into 2021, we are very grateful for the opportunity to continue hosting bridge activities on line, provided through the joint efforts of people at both ACBL and Bridge Base Online.

We will continue to participate in all of the special tournaments being offered. When the games are offered at a higher cost due to extra points being awarded, you will see out table fee occasional go from \$5 to \$6 per game, but not often.

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)

1. List a User Name and Password
2. 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 is 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.

FYI- sign of the times- Two players on separate air flights competed in an ACBL game while enroute. LOL

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

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