

President's Message



Hello Unit 499!

In general, Unit 499 receives the majority of its monies from

- a portion of ACBL membership dues paid by continuing members, and
- from game fees collected at our sectionals and special events, such as Celebrity Guest Speakers.

The Unit spends funds on costs related to

- our sectionals and special events (such as the Tunnel Tourney and ProAm),
- reimbursing clubs in our unit for providing refreshments at the unit games,
- free play coupons for new members, supporting mentoring and Youth Bridge programs,
- maintaining our website,
- providing a printed membership directory,
- helping the clubs in our unit acquire needed bridge equipment and
- general administrative expenses (such as postage, mailing, etc).

The Unit's cash is relatively stable from year to year. At the end of December, 2020 we had \$34,306.00 in the treasury. Last year, the amount was about the same in the treasury.

The Unit usually held four events during the year:

- the Summer Sectional in June,
- the Fall Sectional in November,
- a Goodwill Lunch and Game in May (honoring our past Goodwill Award winners),
- the Tunnel Tourney in October

Monies from the unit were used to support the Mentoring and Youth Bridge programs, free plays for new members, and two Pro Am events.

With Covid, we have been sheltered, playing online with no face to face action. Hopefully with the vaccine, things will return to normal in a short period of time. Continue to bid those slams online and make them!!

Lyn Sacco

...from the Editor

Vaccinations are occurring, and life is getting better. Maybe clubs will be opening soon, and tournaments will be offered. Flying is still not recommended, however we are fortunate to live in an area where we can drive to many tournaments. I believe masks will be required for an extended period of time. By being vigilant, we will be able to resume some of the activities we've missed this past year.

Hope to see you soon!

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.

diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)

Robert Waggener

NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Frankie Ferguson

Janet Howard

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)

Janice Adragna

Kathy Bertonneau

Ray Bland

Gary Hargrave

Jenifer Lary

Neil Librock

Tom Philipps

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)

Bonnie Clawson

Christine Foley

Loretta Landucci

Richard Lutz

Roberta Polson

Bruce Silverman

NEW NABC MASTERS (200)

Ed Lichtig

Christie Noble

NEW LIFE MASTERS (200/500)

Furgan Naeem

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS (2500)

Tom Franklin

NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTERS (5000)

Bonnie Johnson

NEW MEMBERS

Eileen Benway

Betsy Pottruck

Mark Seidemann

Lee Haze

Be sure to welcome these folks when you meet them at the virtual tables.

APRIL BRIDGE

April is a lovely month for playing bridge. 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 online format this month, let's show sensitivity to our opponents and partners. I personally was harassed by a player, and called the Director. Should this happen to you, don't hesitate to call for assistance. Help will be on the way.

My favorite stone, 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 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 - even online! We played the Ams versus Pros game, and it worked beautifully. Mike and Bruce continue to help us move forward. Grant manages to keep us on the right track.

Yes, the venue has changed, but we flexible players have adapted to the new technology driven by playing online. Some have had difficulties with this transition, but there's always help if needed. Each of us has the opportunity to utilize this "New Way To Play."

We just got our second vaccine, finally. I know it's been a topic of conversation for most of us. Take the shot and gain a lot. Now if we can just get to the next level where we don't have to wear our masks. It's such a task, I'll bet I have over twelve masks!

Take care and stay sane. Play bridge and you'll be in the game.

Lisa

The ShortCut Cook™



KUDOS TO BOB AND BRUCE

Just a heads up. Our own Bob Munson (playing with Bruce Tuttle from Berkeley) came in fifth overall in the National North American Open Pairs top flight. He originally qualified to represent District 21 over a year ago. The finals were supposed to be held at the Spring Nationals but were postponed due to Covid 19. They were finally held online last week.

Dan Friedman



Bruce Tuttle, and Bob Munson

VISITING FRIENDS

Greetings from sunny Palm Desert. The Corburns, Karen and Dennis, visited Art and Margy Evans at their desert home. We had lots of laughs and fun bridge games.

Margy



Dennis and Karen Coburn, Art and Margy Evans

Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

April, 2021

North

S 9654

H K52

D Q62

C 1062

West

S KQJ108732

H 106

D 4

C J73

East

S A10

H A

D K109753

C Q984

South

S -----

H QJ98743

D AJ8

C AK5

1D 1H 1S 2H

3D 4H 4S P

5H X P P P

This deal actually occurred the day after last months deal. You have just taken a 5H save over their 4S. West leads an obvious singleton diamond. It looks like you will lose 1 heart, 1 diamond and 1 club for minus 100 which should be a good score because they are making 3 or 4 spades.

It is very important that you play a low diamond at trick one from the dummy winning your jack. When you lead a heart, East wins it and gives his partner a diamond ruff while you play low from your hand and the dummy. I saw at one table where the declarer played the Q diamonds at trick one covered by the K and winning the A and then after leading trump East played the 10 diamonds with West ruffing the J and had to lose another diamond, down 2 for -300 which was not a good score.

Very important to visualize what will happen as the hand plays out.

Jerry Weitzner

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Slam Bidding



This is the most interesting part of duplicate bridge for me, trying to get to a good slam. Once you bid a slam usually the playing is straight forward. Accurate and precise communication is vital between you and your partner and make it as clear to your partner as possible so that you or your partner can actually count number of tricks. Modern bidding has many tools that can get you to a slam, but again you and your partner have to agree on the tools and their usage. My partner and I have been able to find quite a few minor suit slams when our opponents are in 3NT going down and often that one board is good enough for your team to advance to the next round.

Ace Asking response is either 1430 or 3014 once a suit has been agreed. For simplicity I will be using 1430 in this article. In a suit contract there are 5 keys 4 aces and the K of trump. Once either partner initiates a keycard auction the responder has to follow through until the asker goes back to the agreed trump suit.

1. Roman key card (RKC) – 4NT asks for keys

5C = 1 or 4 keys

5D = 0 or 3 keys

5H = 2 without Q of trump

5S = 2 with the Q of trump

2. Queen ask – when the response to RKC does not specify the Q of trump then the next step up asks for the Q and an outside K.

If you don't have the Q of trump then just bid 5 of your agreed suit

If you have the Q of trump and an outside K (below your suit) then bid the K suit

If you have the Q of trump and no outside K (below your suit) then bid 6 of your agreed suit

3. Minorwood

4C is key card for C and 4D is key card for D. For the following assume trump suit is C.

4D = 1 or 4

4H = 0 or 3

4S = 2 without Q

4NT = 2 with the Q

My partner and I agree that after we are in 3NT 4C/D is minorwood since we have passed 3NT that means we never play in 4 of minor in a game force auction. We either bid 3NT or 5 of a minor. So if we want to play in minor we have to bid 5 of the minor. Of course we do stop at 4 of a minor contract if we are not in a game force auction

Both 1D-2D-4D and 1C-2C-4C are minorwood game force auction if you play inverted minor.

1D-3D(preempt)-4D therefore is not minorwood since we are not in a game force auction

4. Exclusion

Jump to the 4 or 5 level of a new suit after you have a suit agreement and you have a void in that suit and it asks partner for all key cards excluding the ace of the void suit. Some agreements use the 5 step keycard 0,1,1+Q,2,2+Q

5. King ask when you have all the keys

5NT is used to ask for the K. I prefer to use it to respond the lowest K. So you would bid your lowest K below trump if you don't have a K below your agreed suit you just bid 6 of your agreed suit

6. Responding to RKC with a void.

If you have a useful void and you have an odd number of keys then you jump to the void as long as it is below your trump suit.

If you have an even number of keys you bid 5NT

The following examples are slam hands that I have actually played or bid with a partner. I am trying to show my analysis and sequence of bidding, using the definitions of keycard asking from above. There are usually multiple ways to bid these hands.

Examples

1. Partner xxxx/Ax/AKQ/QJxx

You -/KQxx/JTxxx/AKxx

Partner bids 1NT – 2C

2S – 3D (5 card suit and implies we don't have a S fit and I have 4H)

4D(minorwood) - 5S(void in S + 1 keycard)

6C (K of C ? we have all the key cards) – 7D

When partner bids 6C asking for the K of C he promises all keys and wants to investigate grand slam. Since you have both K of C and K of H the 2 missing Ks then you just bid 7D.

So this is a minorwood in action with 29 HCP and a great fit and you can get to 7D. And interestingly 3NT goes down with a S lead

2. Partner xxxx/Ax/AKQ/QJxx

You -/KQxx/JTxxx/AKxx

This is the same hand as above but this time I am bidding with a different partner so our sequence is different. The initial couple of bids are the same.

Partner bids 1NT – 2C

2S – 3D (5 card suit and implies we don't have a S fit and I have 4H)

3H(cuebid) – 4S(exclusion)

7D

The 3H bid cannot imply a H fit. It is a cuebid accepting D as trumps. Partner is saying I am interested in D slam if you have the right hand.

The 4S is a jump so it would be exclusion in this auction. We have already found a fit in D

If you play 5 steps exclusion which is 0, 1, 1+Q, 2, 2+Q not counting the A of S since partner has 3 keys + the Q of trumps he jumps to 7D

3. Partner A/A9xxxx/QJx/Jxx

You xx/Kx/Axx/AKQTxx

1H – 2C (2/1 game force)

2H – 3C

4C (minorwood, we are in a game force auction) – 4H (0 or 3 assume 3)

4S (Q?) – 5H (Q of C + K of H cheapest K)

(7C

From the bidding partner knows that you have AKQ of C at least 6 of them, K of H and A of D. With 2 long suits and all the controls partner bids 7C

4. Partner KQxxx/KJxx/x/A9x
 You AJ/Axx/AKQxxx/JT
 1S – 2D (2/1 game force)
 2H – 3D
 3S (rebid S with good enough S and not wanting to be in NT) – 4NT (RKC for S)
 5S (2 keys + Q of trump) – 5NT (K ask we have all the keys)
 6H(lowest K below trump suit) – 7S

We have all the keys and a long running side suit

5. Partner AKJx/AJTx/xxx/Ax
 You -/xxx/AKJxxxx/Kxx
 1NT – 2NT (transfer to D)
 3D - 3S (singleton or void)
 3NT – 4D(minorwood)
 4S (0 or 3) - 4NT(Q of trump?) or 5C (the next suit up if you play 4NT is to play)
 5D (no Q of trump) – 6D

6. Partner KQxxx/A/Qxxxx/Tx
 You AJx/Qxx/AKJT/Kxx
 1S – 2D
 3D – 3S
 4D(minorwood) – 4S(0 or 3)
 6D – pass

Since you know you have a fit in both suits, you pass so that you can protect the K of C if you are the declarer in 6D.

7. Partner KQJ/Qxx/AKJTxxx/-
 You AT9x/Kxxx/Qxx/Qx
 1D – 1H
 2S(reverse) – 4S
 5D – 6D

Partner made reverse to show his strength but then goes back to D which you like as well. With 3 D to the Q you bid 6D. So his 2S made not be a 4 card suit just a very strong hand.

8. Partner AKxxx/x/xx/QJT98
 You xx/KJT98x/-/AKxxx
 (1D by opponents) – 2NT(you-lowest 2 unbid suits) – (3D by Opponents) – 5C(partner)
 (P by opponent) – 6C – all pass

In this auction there is no room to ask for aces but you know partner promises 5 or more H and 5 or more C. With a void in the opponents suit you just bid 6.

Kathrine Loh can be emailed at ladyrossmoorbridge@gmail.com

BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



THE NEGATIVE DOUBLE-Part 2

By Mel Chaplin
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Last time we reviewed SPECIFIC auctions promised by Responder's Negative Double & Responder's use of the Negative Double after Intervener bids 1S. If Intervener bids at the 2-level Responder can still call a Negative Double if she holds the correct hand structure. In such bidding sequences Responder's Negative Double does NOT promise SPECIFIC distributions. Rather, Responder's actions are more FLEXIBLE.

ADDITIONAL FLEXIBLE NEGATIVE DOUBLE BIDS BY RESPONDER

#1) Responder's Hand: ♠KQ10xxx ♥xx ♦xx ♣xxx (5 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1D	2C	Dbl

Responder doesn't have sufficient hand strength to call a free bid of 2S (need 10+ total points) but she can call a Negative Double to encourage Opener to compete. If Opener next bids 2D or 2H Responder can now bid 2S without increasing the level of the contract. Responder's 2S bid shows a long Spade suit but less than 10 total points.

#2) Responder's Hand: ♠Qxx ♥AQxx ♦xxx ♣xxx (8 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1D	2C	Dbl

Responder's Negative Double promises only ONE major suit. It's too restrictive to require Responder to hold both majors after Intervener bids at the 2-level. Opener has to be aware NOT to call a jump bid in this bidding situation because he may jump in the major suit that Responder does not hold.

#3) Responder's Hand: ♠AQxx ♥K10x ♦x ♣Jxxxx (10 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1C	2D*	Dbl

*Pre-emptive.

After Intervener bids the second minor suit Responder's Negative Double promises EITHER four cards in both major suits OR one 4-card major & support for Opener's minor. Responder is looking for a 4-4 Spade fit but if that doesn't work out she can still support Opener's Clubs.

#4) Responder's Hand: ♠KJx ♥A10xx ♦Q10xx ♣10x (10 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
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1C 1NT* Dbl

*
15-18 HCP.

Responder's Double is for Penalty. This is NOT a Negative Double. Responder should have 10+ HCP to call a Penalty Double.

WHEN NOT TO USE A NEGATIVE DOUBLE

Responder Holds A Strong Two-Suited Hand.

#1) Responder's Hand: ♠KJxx ♥xx ♦Kx ♣AQJxx (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1D	1H	???

???Responder should bid 2C (game-forcing). Responder should NOT call a Negative Double even though she has four Spades. The better strategy is to first establish the game force.

#2) Responder's Hand: ♠QJ10xx ♥AQ10x ♦xxx ♣A (13 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1C	1D	???

???Responder should bid 1S, NOT call a Negative Double. Holding 5-4 in the majors Responder should bid her 5-card major suit.

#3) Responder's Hand: ♠AQx ♥QJ10x ♦Ax ♣Jxxx (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1C	1D	???

???Responder should bid 1H. To call a Negative Double in this specific bidding sequence Responder MUST have four cards in both major suits. Responder should bid 1H, just as though Intervener had not bid.

#4) Responder's Hand: ♠10xxx ♥AQxx ♦Jx ♣J10x (8 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1D	1H	???

???Responder should bid 1NT. When most of Responder's HCP are in the opponent's suit Responder should NOT call a Negative Double.

Responder's Hand Is Worth Just One Bid.

#1) Responder's Hand: ♠AJ10x ♥Jxx ♦xxxx ♣Jx (7 total points).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1H	2C	???

???Responder should bid 2H. Responder's hand is worth just one bid so she should support Opener's suit. Responder should NOT call a Negative Double here even though she holds four Spades. Her side already has discovered a 5-3 Heart fit.

#2) Responder's Hand: ♠x ♥xxxx ♦KQxxx ♣J10x (6 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1D	1S	???

???Holding this one-bid hand, Responder's pre-emptive jump to 3D rates to be more effective than calling a Negative Double. Even if a 4-4 Heart fit is discovered the opponents likely would win the final contract in Spades.

Responder Holds a Notrump Hand.

Responder's Hand: ♠K10xx ♥KJ10x ♦xx ♣Jxx (8 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1D	1S	???

???Responder should bid 1NT. Responder's Spade holding is more important than showing her 4-card Heart suit. A potential disadvantage of this approach is the lost opportunity to find a possible 4-4 Heart fit.

Responder Wants to Defend.

#1) Responder's Hand: ♠x ♥Qxxx ♦K10x ♣KJ10xx (9 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1S	2C	???

???Responder should pass hoping Opener will call a Re-Opening Double.

FURTHER READING:

Karen Walker. Bridge Bulletin, pg 44, October 2020.

August Boehm. Bridge Bulletin, pg 50, August 2020.

Robert Todd. Adventures in Bridge. www.advinbridge.com.

Max Hardy. "Standard Bridge Bidding for the 21st Century." pp 223-227, 2000.

Next Time: The Negative Double-Part 3.

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. Dial-valleybridge.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

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

News

Stardust Week, Monday through Sunday, March 22–28, all games. Double regular ($\frac{1}{2}$ more than usual) masterpoints, **25% Gold**. Extra \$1.

Sunday 499er and Open Swiss Teams, March 28, 1:00, \$6.

Using new BBO capability to hold Swiss team games.

No pairs game.

Teams of four players.

Two brackets: 499er and Open (no stratification).

Need teammates? Use the unit partnership newsgroup, or contact me. Pairs guaranteed to play; singles if possible.

[Click here](#) for details about playing in ACBL Virtual Club Swiss Team tournaments on BBO.

Sundays are Special Game, Sunday, April 11, 1:00, stratified open pairs.

Charity Week, Monday through Sunday, April 12–18, all games. Double regular ($\frac{1}{2}$ more than usual) masterpoints. Extra \$1.

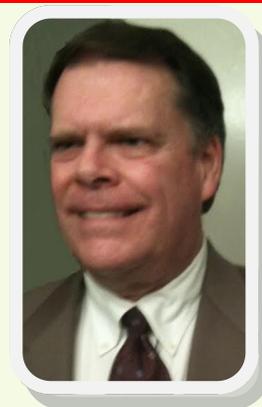
Sunday 499er and Open Swiss Teams, April 18 (third Sunday), 1:00. Double regular ($\frac{1}{2}$ more than usual) masterpoints. Extra \$1.

Regular schedule during the ACBL Stay@Home, Play@Home tournament, April 22–25.

0–20 Newcomer Game, Wednesday afternoons, 2:00, \$4, 12 boards, guaranteed partner, gentle pace, lifelines.

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

Monday	9:50	99er	\$5
Monday	10:00	Open	\$5
Tuesday	10:00	749er	\$5
Wednesday	9:50	299er	\$5
Wednesday	10:00	Open	\$5
Wednesday	2:00	0–20	\$4
Thursday	10:00	999er	\$5
Friday	10:00	Open	\$5
Friday	12:30	499er	\$5
Saturday	10:00	199er	\$5
Sunday (2nd and 4th Sundays, as scheduled)	1:00	Open	\$5



Grant Robinson
Club Manager

Lamorinda Bridge Club

Online Game Schedule:

Tuesday 7pm Open Game \$5

Wednesday 10am 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



Due to dwindling participation the Sunday Evening game has been cancelled. You are welcome to partner with a Robot in any of our games.

Occasionally ACBL/BBO offers special games awarding higher levels and/or different color Master Points. For these games the Table Fee may be increased to \$6 per person.

Supervised Play (Tuesdays, 3pm-5pm): Lamorinda has for years offered a 2-hour session for our students to practice what they are learning. When we were Face-to-Face the charge was \$5 per session, During the Pandemic we suspended the session. Now that it is clear that we will continue virtual bridge for yet more time, we have arranged to make it available once again through the Shark Bridge Platform. The session has voice activation so that participants at each breakout table will be able to talk with each other, and if there are questions about the bidding or play of any hand, the director can be called to your table to discuss it with you, just as was done in F2F. We do have to pay Shark Bridge for this opportunity, so there will be a charge of \$7 per session, payable by Check, Venmo, or PayPal. You may sign in as a single or with a partner. We will take special requests in advance for hands on a theme. Otherwise hands will be random. To participate in Supervised Play please sign in to our permanent "Classroom Link": <https://secure.emabridge.com/bridge.php?h=acbl&t=Jcvernon23&ac=eCHuOkrkWr6b3OZmdbZ9cA> The link does not open until 2:50pm, and we try very hard to start at 3pm straight up. (We can easily send the link by email, which makes it just a "click" to join.)

If you have family and/or friends/neighbors who wish to learn our "bridge" game then pass along our contact information. We offer ongoing lessons and private tutoring sessions.

As many of you know Jerry as well as others in our district and nationally have spent numerous hours in Zoom sessions over the last year with ACBL. In the beginning it was every day at 4 PM learning how to run virtual games on BBO. ACBL did a Herculean job in putting this all together. During a recent session Greg (ACBL) reminded us it had been a year and a week since F2F bridge stopped. March 25th was the first virtual game. There was much discussion about F2F returning and under what auspices. Greg was able to bring up a couple of stats (sorry if I am off a number or two). About 85 F2F weekly games are being played as of now. One was been playing since last July. Greg also said that only a small number were over 10 tables. At Lamorinda Bridge Club we are beginning to plan for the future. We haven't any answers but rather lots of questions.

1. Masks?
2. Only vaccinated players or anyone?
3. Distance? 4 at a table is hardly separation. Plus, actually handling cards others have already touched?
4. With virtual games we play 18-21 boards which takes about 2 hours. In F2F a year ago we NEVER played less than 24 boards and 3.5 hours was not uncommon, plus travel time to get to the venue.
5. Virtual games will almost certainly continue in some form. Personally, I think the night games will be mostly virtual. So, many clubs will offer a hybrid program of games, F2F and Virtual. One very important consideration is even though a person is fully vaccinated, you can still become infected with the virus and spread it to others. The only difference is that we will not be seeing people become critically ill and die from the virus itself if they have been vaccinated. Much of what the future will bring will be how the pandemic plays out.

Jerry Chamberlain & Winnie Jasper

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