

eDeclarer

August 2021

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Hello Unit 499!

Lots happening in the bridge world—we are starting to open up to face to face play in the clubs. CCBC held their first game last week with all players having to show a vaccination card. There were about 8 ½ tables, some folks with masks and some without. Personally, I will continue to wear a mask. The headlines with reports of variant outbreaks I find to be sobering.

The schedule for club games is as follows:

CCBC – back to in-person Bridge 3 days/week (w 3 days still on BBO)

Rossmoor – back to in-person Bridge 4 days/week (w 2 days still on BBO)

Blackhawk – back to full in-person bridge (2 days/month)

Brentwood – 1) Bridge on the Lake Discovery Bay (Sat) – will stay on BBO w no specific plans to re-open

2) Friday – hopes to re-open around Jan 1, 2022 On BBO now

3) Tues – Susan, who does Fri game, might run this game around Jan 1 On BBO now

Danville – waiting to hear from facility when it might re-open – July at the earliest

Diablo Country Club (3rd Tuesday of the month) – Will be re-opening August 17th

Lamorinda – plans to maintain its schedule on BBO for foreseeable future

Moraga (Tues night) – no intention of opening in person (Lamorinda has Tues night BBO game)

Orinda – will resume when facility re-opens – likely Nov

Enjoy your game, whether face to face or online. Bid those slams, and make them!

Lyn Sacco

Here's the information on becoming a Club Director on the ACBL webpage. If you click the link to "Taking the Exam", it lists several dates for the course on line, with the first one offered in mid-August.

https://www.acbl.org/clubs_page/club-administration/club-directors/become-a-club-director/

Become a Club Director

[Director Courses Schedule](#)

Become a Club Director

Opening a new bridge club or starting a new game is an exciting venture for bridge players. Clubs are like families, and you as the director have the opportunity to be the perfect host. The atmosphere of fun and competition is yours to create.

What does it take to be a good club director? These are the essential requirements:

- Technical skills needed to run bridge games of all types.

- Knowledge and understanding of the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and ACBL regulations.

- Knowledge of Live for Clubs, ACBLScore, and ability to work with required software and hardware.

- Public relations skills to balance the roles of referee, judge, teacher, psychologist and entertainment director.

First, however, you need to prepare for the Club Directors Exam.

Preparation

You can prepare for this exam by studying on your own or by enrolling in the Club Directors Course, which is given regularly at the North American Bridge Championships, online and at number of regional tournaments. It is an open-book, online test. You must answer at least 65 percent of the questions correctly to pass the test and become a certified ACBL Club Director.

These materials will help in your preparation for the exam:

- ACBL Laws of Duplicate Bridge. ([view](#) or [purchase](#))

- ACBL Club Directors Handbook ([view](#) or [purchase](#))

- Updated Duplicate Decisions ([view](#) or [purchase](#))

- ACBLScore – [Download this FREE MS Windows-based software](#). No authorization code is required

- [Live for Clubs tutorials](#)

Taking the Exam

Registration for taking the exam can be found at <https://my.acbl.org/events/lookup>. Look for the "Test Only" sign-up.

You can also register for the full club directors' course at the link above.

Questions?

Email Melody Euler at melody.euler@acbl.org.

...from the Editor

Face-to-face bridge is here! There are still issues as to the wisdom of this. Read the comments from our readers in Letters to the Editor. The in-person games are definitely smaller. Some of the online games have been canceled. There is definitely a dearth of Directors. Check out the President's Message for info on how to become a director, and consider taking the course to help our bridge community grow and thrive.

There's a book recommendation for you readers. That book is on my kindle and next in line to read.

However you decide to play, enjoy your games!

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Being shut-in due to physical reasons and Covid-19, my reading time has been quite extended. One of my favorite books has been "THE CARDTURNER" by Louis Sachar. It is a comic novel with its setting being the bridge table. This a must for all reading bridge players!!!

Jackie Marshall

"Editor's Note: Since writing my From the Editor column, I finished reading The Cardturner. It was a delightful story and I really enjoyed it. I think you will, too."

FACE-TO-FACE VS ONLINE GAMES

I know of three vaccinated people who have gotten the delta variant. Personally I think it's much safer to play online.

Sydney Dodds

While I enjoy F2F games, of course, I prefer BBO at this stage. I had the shots and have had no issues but still, I don't want to rush back, especially given COVID seems like it's picking up again, and Contra Costa County. is deemed a hot spot. I realize I'm likely being overly cautious. The idea of wearing a mask for a few hours does not appeal.

Judy, I appreciate your taking the mini-survey. I hope you get plenty of comments, so we can have a meaningful sample of respondents.

Andy Fine

I have no problem with a vaccinated no-mask group. There is no scientific evidence that masks in such situations are necessary. My main concern would be the lavatory situation and the possibility of unvaccinated homeless entering.

Having recently had the experience of wearing my mask for two consecutive hours, the first time I have had to do so since Covid, I can relate that I felt sick after that length of time and had to leave the venue and remove my mask for ten minutes to recover. That would not go well in a bridge game.

We are very much looking forward to F2F and plan on playing in the future.

Joel White

RDBC is the only sizeable local bridge club in the area allowing unvaccinated players to attend F2F games. I really don't get it, and I won't participate even if they wear masks. Too bad. I'll play at CCBC even if it's further to drive instead of

use BBO

Ira Feldman

We would like to play F2F soon but will wait until masks are not required. We miss seeing our friends and, hopefully, we'll recognize everyone.

Margy and Art Evans

I most definitely think that masks should be worn. Personally I am continuing to play on line. Unfortunately this pandemic is far from over.

Olga Gordon

I disagree with you, Olga, 100%. Get over it lady.....there is no evidence that masks protect us. Our governor doesn't even wear one!!!!

Dona Newell

During the height of Covid last winter, recommendations were to limit commercial indoor time to 60-90 minutes (I forget which). Rossmoor checked their air filtration rate of all public facilities during the shut down.

On Monday, July 19th, Rossmoor requested all players wear masks during F2F bridge. Prior to the game , They sent people out to retrieve their personal masks or had free mask available.

By the fifth round, masks were coming off. By the sixth round, only 25% of the people were wearing masks. Masks are not effective worn below the nose. Necks scarves and neck gaiters worn as a mask are not effective as the material is to porous.

If non-compliance an issue bring back BBO.

DISTRICT 21 NEWS

On June 1, Tracey Bauer resigned as the D21 President. Vice President, Sigrid Price, then assumed the position of President. At the June 29 meeting of the District 21 Board of Directors, three new officers were elected: Anne Hollingsworth, from our own Unit 499, is now Vice President, Ray Yuenger is Secretary, and Lynn Bartz is the new Treasurer

Anne Hollingsworth

Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

New Club Masters (20)

Ben Bernstein
Carl Blaha
Cecilia Muaddi

New Sectional Masters (50)

Olga Gordon
Dresden John
Lorna John
Rick Pyle
Nathan Roundy
Bill Sederowitz
Timothy Zuffi

New Regional Masters (100)

Jenifer Lary
Doris McMullen
David Niver
Judy Niver
Linda Walker
Candace Wilkes

New Advanced NABC Master (300)

David Ehlers

New Life Master (300/500)

Nevena Stoimirov

New Gold Life Master (2500)

Pat Crane

NEW MEMBERS

NEW MEMBERS

Laurie Howard
Edward McDermott

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

Special Club Game

Hello, everybody.

We had such success with Unit 499's special club game on BBO (twenty tables), that we have decided to schedule another game. There will be a couple of changes - we are scheduling two separate games - a 499er game and an open game. And, the game will be held during Stardust Week on BBO - so extra masterpoints, with 1/4 gold!

The games will be on Sunday, August 1. 499er game will start at 1pm and the open game at 1:15. Same instructions as before - see below.

To offer the game, the Unit has obtained a club ID on BBO, and you can find the game by looking for vacb904995, or just search for Unit 499.

The idea is to give something back to all the bridge players in our unit, so we are offering the game at minimal cost - \$3. But, the game is designed to be restricted to only players who are members of Unit 499 (Diablo Valley).

So, mark the date on your calendars.

Several people had trouble registering on the day of the previous game. We recommend that you register about 15-20 minutes prior to game time to allow the director to resolve any registration issues.

If you have any problems registering on the day of the game, please chat to vacb904995 on BBO or contact Michael Kruley, who will be directing the game, at this e-mail address (bearkruley@gmail.com), or by calling 925-609-8517.

Michael Kruley

UNIT 499 SPONSORED BRIDGE GAME



Sunday, July 11, 2021 was a very hot day, but an absolutely perfect day for the Unit 499 Board of Directors to host a bridge game for our unit members on BBO! The Unit 499 Board of Directors would like to thank all 80 of you who attended the game. It was an amazing turnout of Unit 499 members! We have all missed seeing all of you face to face on a regular basis and it was our pleasure to hold this game for you to play in on a sweltering, summer day.

Special thanks to Andy Fine and Anne Hollingsworth for getting the sanction worked out with the ACBL so Unit 499 could host this game. Thank you to Lyn Sacco, Sam Earnhardt and Mike Kruley for advertising the game. Super-duper special thanks to Mike Kruley for directing this game for our unit members. I am sure that Mike was kept hopping all afternoon with 20 tables in play. Thank you also to the entire Unit 499 Board of Directors for approving my vision to run an event to bring us all together for an afternoon of bridge.

Thank you to all of you who supported the event! It made your Unit 499 Board of Directors very happy to "see" all of you at the game. We hope you held more points than this picture shows!

Enjoy your summer,
Jackie Z
Unit 499 Board of Directors

FACE TO FACE

So much has gone down, but I'm most pleased to say "Harrah" that some of us are back in the clubs. This past Thursday, I played at Diablo Valley Club for the first time. It's been nearly one and a half years since my feet stepped into our bridge hangout! How refreshing to see so many other folks that we missed so much.

However, smiles and all, the players were out to WIN. It was a tournament day, so it was back to normal. With most folks having lots more master points than my partner and me, we got the stuffing knocked out of us. Ruff, Ruff day—but happy to be back.

August has been anything but a midsummer's night dream. It's been downright hot. September also is a unique month unto its own transitional span of time. In California, it's considered the last month of summer with a pizzazz of special seasonings. With little time left, August symbolizes squeezing out more fun, water, beach balls, picnics, and travel. But for all of us, this Pandemic has limited our outdoor, indoor activities. So folks, what's left, but bridge-INDOORS. Yep. The game is back in town! Online or sit at the Club, keep your cool without a swimming pool.

Remember, bridge is a lot like a great dessert. Once you get a taste for the game, 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 our other activities that we forget our brain needs exercise too. So often as we age, we become more isolated, and thus, more lonely. Truly, bridge is a connection for socialization, and beef's-up your brain skills- *you smarty pants*.

Our Board isn't bored! We continue to meet monthly as Board Members, and each person works hard for no money. Our President, Lyn Sacco, has continued to carry on, and is very precise, positive, and cheerful. This has helped our group stay focused and continue to serve our Unit 499. Our V.P., Sam Earnhardt, has been dedicated to aiding and assisting wherever needed. Our Treasurer, Suresh Gadad, is right on the money! Andy Shockley, our Secretary, doesn't mince words. He keeps our Board well-informed.

Rich Ahlf, has been a dedicated board member for years, as our publicity specialist. Rich has been keeping a low profile, but ready-set-to-go. Marian Renvall is the hostess with the mostest, and is much appreciated for her hospitality. Clare Smith knows your name. She's very diligent in gathering all the data from our unit and updating our website. Pat Torres is happy to help with membership. Jackie Zayac and Anne Hollingsworth were elected to be representatives for the ACBL Board for Unit 21. The District has five representatives, and we are very proud of them. They help resolve lots of bridge issues. Ed Lichtig, a Member At Large, is always there to pitch in wherever needed. You don't need to ask Ed twice. Bruce Johnson-baugh, has been our hero for helping kids who want to learn this awesome game. Hoping to engage youth, he's held classes for years. Mike Kruley, a dedicated Board member, a mentor, Director and more. He also directed the online bridge game on July 11th. Tough job, but he kept on truckin'. Last, but not least is Andy Fine, Andy's been serving our unit for many years. He wears many hats, like keeping us on track for upcoming tournaments, a scheduler, a mentor and more. And yes, I'm on the Board too.

Hey, how about a special thank you to Judy Keilin, Editor and Mary Krouse, Publisher of eDeclarer, who help keep us on top of our game. Much appreciated.

Please take care, and we look forward to seeing you eye to eye soon.

Stay safe and sane,
Chow,
Lisa, The Short Cut Cook



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

August, 2021

North

S 9532

H A8

D KQ3

C A1052

West

S QJ7

H Q753

D 876

C Q43

East

S 10

H K10642

D 10542

C J86

South

S AK864

H J9

D AJ9

C K97

1C P 1S P

2S P 4S all pass

This deal shows a classic end play position that occurs often enough that it is worth remembering.

The bidding is rather routine to arrive at the best contract of 4 spades.

West starts off with a heart lead and as declarer you can see 3 potential losers assuming spades split either 2-2 or 3-1.

You should win the A of hearts because if spades are 2-2 you will put the opponents in with a heart. Next, play two high spades and now you see 1 spade loser, 1 heart loser and a potential club loser.

The object at this point is to avoid that club loser and to do that you want the opponents to break the club suit for you or to give you a ruff and sluff.

At my table I now cashed the 3 diamonds ending in my hand and led the J of hearts not caring who won it. West played the Q of hearts and cashed their high spade and now led a low club. I played low from dummy winning East's J with my K and led to the 10 which won, making 5.

Note, had East won the heart and led a club I would have won the Q with the A and then finessed the 9 again making 5.

As a defensive problem, West should have led the Q of clubs and then I would have had to guess whether they started with the QJ or to play for the honors to be split. Again, a very interesting deal.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net



BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



PREEMPTIVE BIDDING AT THE TWO-LEVEL

By Mel Chaplin
melchaplin@comcast.net

Most modern bidding systems utilize the opening bids of 2H & 2S as preemptive two-bids. Many players also use 2D as a preemptive two-bid but other uses have come into favor for the 2D bid including Flannery, Mini-Roman, the Mexican 2D bidding system & the Precision bidding system. This is due to the supposed ineffective obstructive qualities of a preemptive 2D bid.

Preemptive bidding is an important component in one's defensive toolbox. Effective preemptive bidding balances risk against possible reward. The more reward a situation offers the more one should be encouraged to preempt. But if the risk looks to be greater than the reward one should be more cautious in preempting. Most expert players preempt aggressively at times & are more cautious other times.

An opening preemptive two-bid can be constructive for Partner &/or obstructive for the opponents. It can be constructive for Partner in the sense that Opener is limiting her hand with respect to HCP (usually 6-10 HCP) & shape (usually a 6-card suit). But more frequently a preemptive two-bid is meant to obstruct the opponent's bidding. How a partnership uses the preemptive two-bid is a matter of attitude towards preemptive bidding. On the conservative side would be bridge professionals Bob Hamman & Jim Marsh Sternberg who advocate a disciplined approach to preemptive bidding while at the other extreme would be bridge professional Howard Schutzman who advocates opening 2H with a hand such as ♠K1032 ♥1076542 ♦54 ♣Q in first, second or third seats! Schutzman's view is that the primary objective of a preemptive bid is to obstruct the opponent's bidding & that any constructive aspects of a preemptive two-bid are of little value. He further points out that the four Spades in his sample hand should be no worry since most of the time the trump suit will be Hearts. Lastly, Schutzman states it's difficult for the opponents to double a preemptive bid (really?).

So far this discussion of whether to use a disciplined approach or a hyper-aggressive approach to calling a preemptive two-bid lacks an important factor. That factor is the defensive value of preemptor's hand. If preemptor has some defensive hand values she should be conservative with her preempts but if preemptor's hand has no defensive qualities she should preempt aggressively.

In the following discussion I will tend to lean toward the disciplined approach to opening a preemptive two-bid. One excellent reason to prefer the disciplined approach is that occasionally preemptor's Partner has a good hand & wishes to explore game, or even slam. Several of Responder's available tools for advancing Opener's preempt are effective only over a disciplined preemptive two-bid by Opener.

ASPECTS TO EVALUATE WHEN CONSIDERING A PREEMPTIVE TWO-BID

Three main factors which influence the decision to open a preemptive two-bid are (a) the vulnerability, (b) the quality of preemptor's 6-card suit & (c) her position at the table.

VULNERABILITY

The most important consideration in deciding to call a preemptive two-bid is the VUL¹. It's essential to be able to quickly calculate your potential score should a preemptive bid fail. For example one might have a disciplined preemptive two-bid that has a chance of going down two, doubled & VUL, for a score -500 points. That score would not compare favorably to the score the opponent's would receive for making their NV major suit game (-420 points). One must be able to make these mental calculations rapidly.

¹ Abbreviations used in this document: NV = Non-Vulnerable; VUL = Vulnerable.

A useful guide available to aid in making these decisions is the “Rule of 2-3-4” which is based on the number of losing tricks in preemptor’s hand & the possible number of tricks the partnership may lose in a doubled contract. Embedded in the “Rule of 2-3-4” is the assumption that Partner will provide one trick to the final contract. This chart may be useful:

<u>VUL</u>	<u>Preemptive Bid</u>
VUL vs NV	An anticipated <u>2</u> tricks set.
Equal VUL	An anticipated <u>3</u> tricks set.
NV vs VUL	An anticipated <u>4</u> tricks set.

#1) Opener’s Hand: ♠KQJ1093 ♥xx ♦xx ♣Kxx (9 HCP).

We VUL/They NV. Opener in first seat bids 2S which is passed out. Opener can win five Spade tricks & the Club King in his hand (Opener can count the Club King as a trick). Perhaps an “iffy” presumption? But giving himself the Club King Opener’s Hand satisfies the “Rule of 2”. Embedded in the “Rule of 2-3-4” is the assumption that Partner will contribute one trick to the 2S contract. Also “iffy”? So Opener might actually score seven tricks. A 2S contract might be down one trick doubled (-200 points) or down two tricks doubled (-500 points). The risk is going down two tricks doubled but the reward would be going down only one trick doubled when the opponents can make a NV game (-420 or -400 points)

#2) Opener’s Hand: ♠QJ10982 ♥Axx ♦xx ♣xx (7 HCP).

We NV/They NV. Opener bids 2S in first seat which is passed out. Opener will win four Spade tricks & the Heart Ace in his hand for a total of five tricks, which is three tricks short of making 2S thus satisfying the “Rule of 3”. Assuming Partner can contribute one trick to the 2S contract Opener might win six tricks. If doubled, 2S down three tricks would be -500 points but down two would be only -300 points. Again the risk is going down three tricks doubled for -500 points when the opponents making a NV game would be scoring only +420 or +400 points. The reward would be going down only two tricks doubled for -300.

#3) Opener’s Hand: ♠xx ♥J109xxx ♦Jxx ♣Ax (6 HCP).

Equal VUL. Opener should bid 2H in third seat! Yes, 2H in third seat. We will subsequently review the logic. Opener should win three Heart tricks & the Club Ace for four tricks in his hand thus satisfying the “Rule of 4”. Assuming Partner can contribute one trick to the contract Opener may win five tricks. 2H down three tricks, doubled, NV, would be -500 points which would be OK if the opponents can bid & make a VUL game (-620 or -600 points).

While the “Rule of 2-3-4” is often a reasonable guideline to help decide whether to choose a preemptive two-bid, one should still rely most heavily on recognizing the VUL, proper evaluation of suit quality & position at the table. And, there is no substitute for good judgment. Always be sound & cautious when choosing to preempt when VUL vs NV. Insist on being within two tricks of your bid when VUL but be more aggressive when NV.

SUIT QUALITY

Many hands containing 6-10 HCP & a 6-card suit can be considered for an opening preemptive two-bid. However, not all of these hands are suitable for doing so. Most of the HCP should be located in the 6-card suit for a suitable preemptive two-bid but an old ultra-conservative “rule” stating that the 6-card suit must include two of the top three honors is no longer heeded by most bridge authors & players. A better definition of a good preemptive suit is one where preemptor is not likely to get into trouble if her Partner is short in the preemptive suit. So a hand such as QJ10932 is preferable to a hand such as AQ10632 because the former hand will often win more tricks if preemptor’s Partner has only a singleton. It’s possible that the player sitting behind preemptor’s AQ10632 holds KJ9 so despite holding three of the top five honors preemptor can win no more than three tricks in the suit.

The intermediate cards in preemptor's 6-card Heart suit can often be more important than the top cards when preemptor is trying to survive a miss-fit. But the 6-card suit must have some quality. A suit such as Q97643 would not be considered appropriate by most players as an opening preemptive two-bid, except perhaps in third seat when NV.

#1) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥KQJxxx ♦xxx ♣Kxx (9 HCP).

Opener should bid 2H regardless of the VUL & position at the table. Most of preemptor's HCP are in her 6-card Spade suit. And the hand has only one defensive trick at most.

#2) Opener's Hand: ♠Axx ♥J10xxxx ♦Kx ♣xx (8 HCP).

We VUL, they NV. This hand should NOT be opened 2H in first or second seats but a 2H bid should be strongly considered in third seat. Nearly all of preemptor's HCP are in the side suits. Partner will likely be miss-led by preempting with this type of hand in first or second seat.

POSITION AT THE TABLE

First seat is the best position to use a preemptive two-bid. Get your bid in before the opponent's can begin to exchange information. In second seat, one should have a well-defined & disciplined preemptive bid because Opener has passed & preemptor's Partner might have a good hand. In third seat one should be very aggressive when preempting, particularly if the VUL is favorable. The reason for being very aggressive in third seat is, of course, that the fourth seat player likely has a very strong hand & preemptor's objective is to make it as difficult as possible for the opponents to find their optimal contract. Marty Bergen uses the acronym WARIB when discussing preemption in third seat. WARIB = White Against Red Isn't Bridge. What Bergen means by "Isn't Bridge" is that he advocates being very aggressive when preempting in third seat with favorable vulnerability. There is often great upside in doing so & very little downside.

I recently experienced the wrong end of this third seat preemptive bidding philosophy. I was playing online with a relatively new partner. We were VUL, the opponents were NV.

Mel's Hand: ♠J10xx ♥KQJx ♦Qxxx ♣J (10 HCP).

Alice's Hand: ♠Kxx ♥A ♦AK10 ♣AKJ109x (22 HCP).

RHO	Mel	LHO	Alice
P	P	2H	Dbf
P	2S	P	4S

LHO's hand was ♠Qx ♥1098xx ♦x ♣QJxxx (5 HCP).

I had a difficult bid after Alice's Take-Out Double. Of course I had no idea she had 22 HCP. Holding three nice hearts I wanted to bid 3NT but I couldn't do that since I also had only a singleton Club. So I settled on 2S which was a bit of an underbid because it showed only 0-7 HCP. Alice then erroneously jumped to 4S. There was no need for a "fast arrival" bid here. A better bid would have been 3C thus giving me the opportunity to bid 3H which would have been forcing. Alice would then likely have bid at least 3NT which was a better strain than 4S. Several N/S pairs bid & made 6C or 6NT. This is the type of bidding situation that Bergen refers to as WARIB. A weak, off-shape Take-Out Double in third seat can sometimes wreak havoc with the opponent's finding their optimal contract.

Page 2●●●●●PREEMPTING AT THE TWO-LEVEL-THE FINE PRINT●●●●●

Don't intentionally bid for a minus score when you have significant defensive values. If one's preemptive bid is doubled & goes down, the cost will be high if the opponents can make only a part-score. The more defensive tricks the potential preemptor holds the less likely the opponents can make game.

PREEMPTING WITH A VOID

#1) Opener's Hand: ♠_____ ♥QJ10xxx ♦xxx ♣K10xx (6 HCP).

It's OK to preempt holding a void & a very weak hand (≤ 7 HCP).

#2) Opener's Hand: ♠AJ10xxx ♥10xx ♦KJ10x ♣_____ (9 HCP).

This hand should NOT be opened 2S in any seat, at any VUL. The hand is simply too strong for a preemptive bid. Bid 1S. The hand meets the "Rule of 20".

PREEMPTING HOLDING AN OUTSIDE 4-CARD MAJOR SUIT

#1) Opener's Hand: ♠xxxx ♥AQ10xxx ♦x ♣Kx (9 HCP).

We NV/They VUL. Opening a preemptive 2H in first or second seat holding four small Spades should be of little concern because of the poor Spade quality. But most of the time a preemptive bid in one major suit denies four cards in the other major.

#2) Opener's Hand: ♠KQ10x ♥xx ♦KQ10xxx ♣x (10 HCP).

This hand meets the requirements to open a preemptive 2D but, in general, it's best NOT to preempt in a minor suit when also holding a quality 4-card major. Opener should bid 1D. The hand satisfies the "Rule of 20".

OPENING A PREEMPTIVE TWO-BID HOLDING A 5-CARD SUIT

#1) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥AQJ10x ♦xxx ♣K10xx (10 HCP).

Opener should bid 2H in third seat. Holding four of the top five honors this Heart suit can be treated as a 6-card suit so Opener should make the tactical bid of 2H to obstruct the opponent's bidding.

FURTHER READING

Robert Hamman. "Opening Preempts". Championship Bridge Series, No. 24. 2001.

Jim Marsh Sternberg. "Consults with the Doctor". Bridge Bulletin. January-May 2021.

Howard Schutzman. www.bridgesights.com April 04, 2021.

Max Hardy. "Standard Bidding for the 21st Century". pp 173-176. 2000.

Next time: Responding to a Preemptive Two-Bid.

CORRECTIONS

Two errors were made in July's article THE RESPONSIVE DOUBLE.

Page 11. EXAMPLES. Problem #3 bidding should read:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1H	1S	2H	Dbi

Page 12. PARTNER'S REPLY TO YOUR RESPONSIVE DOUBLE. Problem #3. Partner's hand should read:

Kx AKxx xx KJ10xx (14 HCP).

Sorry, Mel Chaplin

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. [Dia-
blovalleybridge.com](http://Diallovalleybridge.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

The Rossmoor Club is back to in-person bridge as well as some continued online games.

The schedule is:

Monday: Open & 499er, 12:30, members only!

Tuesday: Open & 199er, 12:30, members may invite a guest to play

Thursday; Online, 0-5000, 1 pm (NO Thursday Evening-live game)

Friday: 0-100 (note the change from 0-50) 9am, members may invite a guest, AND Online, 0-5000, 1pm

Saturday: Open, 12:30, members may invite a guest

The Wednesday game has been cancelled.

No drinks are provided and no food to share is allowed at this time.

MASKS are recommended for EVERYONE, including those fully vaccinated, as per county guidelines. Masks are available at the games

if needed.

Have fun; be safe!

Kit Miller



Diablo Country Club Bridge

1700 Country Club Lane, Diablo, CA

We are set to resume bridge at Diablo Country Club on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This month it will be August 17th. The game will start at 9:30 and is usually over between 2 and 2:30. We break for lunch around noon. We will have a menu of lunch choices to select from. The cost will be \$32, \$25 for Diablo and \$7 for bridge.

As always, all are welcome, but you do need a reservation, which you can make by emailing or calling Mary Krouse. (925) 820-3541, diablokr@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there. Mary

Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

News

Contra Costa Bridge Center has resumed limited **in-person play!**

- **Mondays, 10:00**, Open, in-person
- **Thursdays, 9:30**, 999er, in-person
- **Saturdays, 9:30**, 199er, in-person

Proof of full vaccination required for entry to the hall.

Online games are suspended on the days above; online games continue on other days of the week. Full schedule below.

The masterpoint boost for online club games has been reduced from 50% to 25%. At the same time, in-person clubs were granted 12 Club Championships to use this year. Approximately every other in-person game will be a **Club Championship** offering 2–3x regular masterpoints with no extra charge. And, there will be more **North American Pairs** qualifying games.

Stardust Week Online, Monday through Sunday, July 26–31, all online games. Double regular (½ more than usual) masterpoints, ¼ Gold, \$6.

North American Pairs (NAP) Unit Final — All Flights, Sunday, November 2, 1:00, single session

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

Game Schedule

Monday	10:00	Open	In-person	\$9
Tuesday	10:00	749er	Online	\$5
Wednesday	9:50	299er	Online	\$5
Wednesday	10:00	Open	Online	\$5
Wednesday	2:00	0–20	Online	\$4
Thursday	9:30	999er	In-person	\$8
Friday	10:00	Open	Online	\$5
Friday	12:30	499er	Online	\$5
Saturday	9:30	199er	In-person	\$8



Grant Robinson
Club Manager

Lamorinda Bridge Club



Lamorinda Bridge Club will slowly transition into a new HYBRID schedule of Bridge Opportunities

Beginning August 1, 2021:

Virtual Online Game Schedule:

Tuesday 7pm Open Game \$5

Wednesday 10am Open Game \$5

Saturday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$5

Saturday 10am Open Game \$5

Sunday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$5

Sunday 10:00am Open Game \$5

You are welcome to partner with a Robot in any of our games.

Please note that there are time changes associated with the addition of the 499er games on Saturday and Sunday mornings. The Limited Games will begin 10 minutes before 10am. The Open games will begin on the hour at 10am.

We continue to watch the spikes in Covid as the states are opening up to more normal activity and have decided to be conservative in our plans. We will announce later when our face-to-face games will resume. In the beginning we will offer the following:

Anticipated Face to Face Schedule (TBA):

Tuesday 3pm - 5:15pm 299er 18 boards \$10

Wednesday 10am - 1:30pm Open Game \$10

Winnie Jasper and Jerry Chamberlain

925-683-1908 (W Cell), 925-766-5228 (J Cell)