

## President's Message



Hello Unit 499!

Here we are in the beginning of Fall, my favorite season! I enjoy seeing the leaves and trees change colors to welcome the change of season and new weather that is gracing our lands.

Unit 499 Board of Directors met by Zoom this past Sunday. There was discussion and voting concerning the Fall Sectional, usually held in November. We voted to cancel the Fall Sectional for this year due to Covid concerns. It seems, in discussion, we have discovered that the clubs and regionals that are being held attract about 40% attendance rate of the usually high turnout. That means that for every twenty tables of play in the past, there are approximately eight tables in play with the pandemic times we are currently in. So we wisely decided not to hold our Sectional this year.

I do hope that you are enjoying your bridge time online with BBO and the other bridge sites on which you play. BBO keeps me sane and in the game. I am glad to have it during these trying times. I think it takes the stress off, as well as keeping me sharp about the game. Not fun having no hand records or discussion after the game, but, oh well, these are trying times!

Enjoy your game, and your partners. I get together with my partners once a week for coffee (and masks) to discuss relevant aspects of the game. Bid those slams, and make them!

Lyn Sacco

## ...from the Editor

I hope you all enjoyed the short-lived WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Featuring Judy Lowe in the last issue. There's an update on Judy elsewhere in this issue. Let's all send her some uplifting wishes at this tough time in her life.

I haven't received any response from players who have moved away to continue WHERE ARE THEY NOW?, but I will be happy to resurrect it if anyone contributes.

It's almost baseball playoff time! My team isn't looking great right now (BBO players should know me as Redsoxfan1). Ever the optimist, I'm hoping they can pull it off and, at least, beat the Yankees. On the other hand, it's exciting to see one of our local teams doing so well. Time will tell!

Judy Keilin,  
Editor



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### **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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**Deadline for November is October 21**

To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at [jkeilin@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc)

# Milestones and New Members

## **MILESTONES**

### NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)

Patricia Gallinatti  
Susan Margolis

### NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)

Linda Kahn  
Kurt Teichmann

### NEW NABC MASTERS (200)

Yilmaz Ozturhan

### NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS (500-750)

Sam Earnhardt  
Felicity Warner

### NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTERS (5000)

Grant Robinson

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Judy Carter-Johnson  
Peggy Skornia

Please welcome these folks when you meet them online or at the tables.





Hello Unit 499!

I have volunteered to be a guest columnist for Lisa Assoni this month while she is at home recuperating from a recent accident. I received this information from Lisa and she said it is fine for me to share it with you:

*Some of you had noticed I was remiss in writing the September issue. Life can change in an instant, and mine did. No wonder people, as we age, decide to buy a single-story house. When I walked upstairs, and gingerly walked down, I grabbed for the railing, and missed it. Broke both ankles, And other things that were extremely rare. No more ugly details.*

I am certain you will all join me in wishing Lisa a very speedy recovery! We can't wait for your return! We will all look forward to the results of all the simmering and seasoning you are doing so you can provide us with a new batch of delectable bridge news!

*So, what's new in the bridge world?*

On the National level, ACBL is trying to navigate through the return to live bridge. Some of our local bridge clubs opened F2F, but most have closed again because of the spike in Covid-19 cases. It is important that we all play in Virtual Club games to support our clubs during these very trying times. BBO may have cheaper games you may play in, but we all love our Unit 499 clubs and this is a continuing opportunity to give back to them financially after they have given us so many hours of enjoyable entertainment, a sense of community and, on occasion, a dose of the agony of defeat at the bridge table!

District 21 recently canceled the Reno Regional scheduled for October 4-10, 2021 due to the Covid-19 surge. Time will tell if we will be able to hold the District 21 Monterey Regional which is scheduled for January 3-9, 2022. Mark your calendars now...just in case!

Your Unit 499 Board of Directors is meeting every month to discuss the bridge issues affecting our unit. Here are some highlights from our September 19, 2021, Board Meeting:

The Unit Board voted to cancel the Tunnel Tourney which is held in the fall each year with Unit 502, East Bay Unit.

The Unit Board voted to cancel our Fall Sectional which was to be held on November 13-14, 2021.

The two games hosted by the Unit during the summer were well received. The Board is planning to host another event in October. Look for an announcement which will be coming soon for the date and time.

Let's hope that things improve greatly on the Covid scene in the months ahead so we can safely return to F2F bridge. I, for one, miss each and every one of you!

Happy October and Happy Halloween!

Jackie Zayac

Unit 499 Board of Directors

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Unfortunately, no one who moved away responded to my call for updates, so this column is temporarily suspended.

Below is an update on September's featured player, Judy Lowe:

Unfortunately, Judy (who now answers to Julia) Lowe missed her high school reunion in Merced last week because she was consulting with a team of doctors at Duke University Hospital about a treatment plan for her newly discovered Stage 4 Stomach/Esophageal Cancer. She began a regimen of radiation and chemotherapy treatment on September 20, 2021.

Judy gave me permission to share her story because she would love to hear from her friends in Unit 499. Here is her contact information:

Julia "Judy" Lowe  
5110 Cobbler Ridge Ct.  
Greensboro, NC 27455  
(925) 628-4130  
Email: [julialowe38@gmail.com](mailto:julialowe38@gmail.com)

Life is precious. Enjoy each day.

Jackie Zayac



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

October, 2021

North

S J985

H 73

D Q954

C 862

West

S K10632

H 96

D J7

C J943

East

S AQ74

H 3

D AK10862

C 105

South

S \_\_\_\_\_

H AKQJ10542

D 3

C AKQ7

P P 1D 6H

all pass

This deal was given to me by Judy Keilin who stated that she saved it from a trip back east many years ago. It didn't come with an author, but was titled: "Requiem for a small slam". I am admitting to using this article almost verbatim.

You sometimes have to close your eyes and bid a slam with no guarantee of making it, because there is no way of finding out what you would need to know. In most of these cases, the slam is bid simply because you feel you're a favorite to succeed.

Take this deal where South had to decide what to do after East opened 1D. He felt sure he'd lose a diamond trick so the question was whether he'd also lose a club trick.

South reasoned that if partner held the J clubs, the slam would be laydown, and also and that if the North hand contained 4 or more clubs, the odds would favor not losing a club trick. If North held a singleton or doubleton club, the 7C could probably be ruffed in the dummy.

Accordingly South leaped directly to 6H. He was naturally disappointed to find partner with the club holding, 3 small, that made the slam a shaky proposition. The outcome seemed to depend entirely on a 3-3 club division, a 36% chance that was not about to materialize, but he found a way to make the slam anyway.

After East won the first diamond trick, he tried to cash the A of spades which was ruffed by South. South then cashes one high trump and then played A, K and Q of clubs. When East showed out and was unable to ruff, it was then a simple matter to trump the 7 clubs with dummy's remaining heart, thus bringing the slam home.

It might seem that South took a very big chance when he didn't draw all the trumps before playing his high clubs, but his approach was well reasoned. He was sure to succeed if the missing clubs were 3-3, and he would also make it if they were 4-2 or worse if the long clubs were in the hand with the outstanding trump.

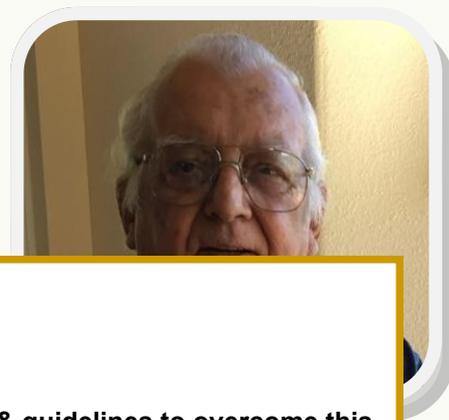
If one of the top clubs had been ruffed then the contract was doomed regardless of how South played it.

Hands like this one are truly rare and when you do as this declarer did, you are well rewarded.

Jerry Weitzner jweitzner@sbcglobal.net



# BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



## DEFENDING AGAINST A PREEMPTIVE TWO-BID

By Mel Chaplin

[melchaplin@comcast.net](mailto:melchaplin@comcast.net)

Our opponents use a preemptive two-bid to disturb our bidding. We need tools & guidelines to overcome this obstruction. It's usually correct to make an overcall if you hold 17+ HCP & a good 5+ card suit. Overcall actions include a simple overcall, a jump overcall, a 2NT overcall, a cue bid & LEAPING MICHAELS. Most importantly, a general style used by many is centered on the Take-Out Double. We will often be guessing what to do in these situations & mistakes will be made. But it's generally best to be aggressive & try to make a bid.

### INTERVENER'S TAKE-OUT DOUBLE

The requirements for Intervener to call a Take-Out Double after Opener's preemptive two-bid are essentially the same as those needed to call a Take-Out Double after Opener's one-level opening bid. These requirements are (a) at least 3-card support for all three un-bid suits, (b) a near-opening hand & (c) shortness in the opponent's suit OR 18+ HCP. Intervener should try very hard to call a Take-Out Double when she holds a singleton in the opponent's suit.

#1) Intervener's Hand: ♠x ♥AKxx ♦QJxx ♣QJ10x (13 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2S	???

???) Intervener should call a Take-Out Double, a classic hand for doing so.

#2) Intervener's Hand: ♠KQxxx ♥x ♦AJx ♣Kxxx (13 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2S	???

???) Intervener should pass. Perhaps Advancer will call a Take-Out Double which Intervener would pass for penalty. Intervener's hand is not strong enough to overcall 2NT.

#3) Intervener's Hand: ♠x ♥xx ♦AKxxx ♣KQJxx (13 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
2H	DbI	P	4S

Don't deviate from the requirements to call a Take-Out Double. Off-shape Take-Out Doubles are too risky. Never call a Take-Out Double holding a singleton in the "other" major, that is, the major suit the opponents did not bid. Advancer will assume, & rightly so, that Intervener holds at least three cards in the suit & may preempt the auction.

## ADDITIONAL HAND STRUCTURES SUITABLE FOR INTERVENER'S TAKE-OUT DOUBLE

#1) Intervener's Hand: ♠AQJxxx ♥Ax ♦Ax ♣Kxx (18 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
1H	Dbl

Intervener's Spade suit is not quite strong enough to bid 4S opposite a singleton Spade in Advancer's hand but it is strong enough to call the "Big Double". After her Take-Out Double Intervener can now bid her Spade suit showing a hand consisting of a good Spade suit & 18+ HCP.

#2) Intervener's Hand: ♠AQJx ♥AJx ♦KQ10 ♣Q10x (19 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
2H	Dbl	P	3C
P	3NT		

Holding 19 HCP Intervener can first call a Take-Out Double (the "Big Double") holding any distribution then show her hand at her next turn to bid. Holding 19 HCP & a balanced hand Intervener should choose 3NT.

## ADVANCER'S REPLY TO INTERVENER'S TAKE-OUT DOUBLE (not using Lebensohl)

In a Nutshell:

0-7 HCP	Single response at the lowest level.
8-12 HCP	Invitational response.
12+ HCP	Bid game.

Helpful Hints: (a) Add on for shortage. (b) Don't give full values to HCP in the opponent's preemptive suit, except for the Ace. (c) Bid 2NT holding 11-12 HCP & 3NT holding 13+ HCP.

#1) Advancer's Hand: ♠Axxx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣QJ10x (7 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
2H	Dbl	P	???

??? Advancer should bid 2S, her cheapest response.

#2) Advancer's Hand: ♠A10x ♥KQx ♦10x ♣KQ10xx (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
2S	Dbl	P	???

??? Holding a solid Spade stopper Advancer should bid 3NT.

## ADVANCER'S REPLY TO INTERVENER'S TAKE-OUT DOUBLE (using Lebensohl)

Advancer's best approach in replying to Intervener's Take-Out Double is to use Lebensohl. Advancer's 2NT! bid is artificial & asks Intervener to bid 3C! Now Advancer can describe her hand as:

Weak	0-7 HCP
Invitational	8-12 HCP
Game-Forcing	12+ HCP

#1) Advancer's Hand: ♠Kx ♥xxx ♦QJxxxx ♣xx (6 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
2S	DbI	P	2NT!
P	3C!	P	3D!

Holding a minimum hand, Advancer should bid 2NT!, Lebensohl, an artificial bid asking Opener to bid an artificial 3C! If Clubs is Advancer's suit she would simply pass but if her suit is something other than Clubs she would now bid her suit & Intervener would be obliged to pass. By going through the 2NT! Lebensohl bidding scheme Intervener now knows for certain that Advancer has a weak hand with Diamonds. Had Advancer bid 3D directly that bid would have been invitational. Holding a game-going hand Advancer would have Re-Doubled.

### INTERVENER'S OVERCALLS

Other than passing, Intervener can make a simple overcall, a jump overcall, a 2NT overcall, a cue bid or bid LEAPING MICHAELS.

### PASS

Intervener's Hand: xxx KJxxx Axx Ax (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2S	???

???

Intervener should pass. Intervener's Heart suit is too weak to overcall 3H. It's risky for Intervener to overcall at the 3-level holding a mediocre 5-card major suit. Advancer may have a very weak hand with only one or two small Hearts so it's prudent to pass here.

### SIMPLE OVERCALL

A simple overcall can be made at the two- or three-level. These bids essentially require the same features as those required over Opener's one-level bid, that is, a 5+ card major suit or a 6+ card minor suit & hand strength approximating an opening bid.

#1) Intervener's Hand: ♠AK10xx ♥Kx ♦Axxx ♣xx (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2H	???

???

Intervener should bid 2S. The good 5-card Spade suit & 14 HCP justify a 2S bid.

#2) Intervener's Hand: ♠K10x ♥xx ♦AQJxxx ♣Kx (13 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2H	???

???

Intervener should bid 3D holding this excellent 6-card suit.

## ADVANCER'S REPLIES TO INTERVENER'S SIMPLE OVERCALL

Advancer can pass, raise Intervener's suit, bid a new suit, call a cue bid or bid game.

#1) Advancer's Hand: ♠Qxx ♥xx ♦Axxx ♣Q10xx (8 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
2H	2S	P	3S

Advancer's 3S bid shows three or four Spades & 6-10 HCP. Advancer should almost always raise Intervener's overcall to the level supported by the Law of Total Tricks.

#2) Advancer's Hand: ♠Jxxx ♥Ax ♦KQxx ♣xxx (10 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
2H	2S	P	3H

Advancer's 3H bid is a limit raise or better for Spades OR a very good hand (forcing).

## INTERVENER'S JUMP OVERCALL

A jump overcall is a strong hand, roughly 16/17 HCP. Remember, one doesn't preempt after a preempt.

#1) Intervener's Hand: ♠KQJ10xx ♥Axx ♦AKx ♣x (17 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2H	???

Intervener should bid 3S, a jump overcall showing 6+ Spades & 15+ HCP.

## INTERVENER'S NO TRUMP OVERCALL

A No Trump Overcall after Opener's preemptive two-bid is natural & requires a solid stopper in the opponent's suit. Holdings of Ax, Axx & Axxx do not constitute the best solid stoppers. Better stoppers are KQx or QJxx. Intervener would prefer to have the Ace in her long suit, not in the opponent's suit.

#1) Intervener's Hand: ♠AKx ♥Kxx ♦KQx ♣Kxxx (18 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2D	2NT

This 2NT bid shows 15-18 HCP. It is NOT the Unusual 2NT. Advancer's responses to Intervener's 2NT overcall are the same as if the 2NT bid was an opening bid.

#2) Intervener's Hand: ♠xx ♥KJx ♦AKQJxx ♣Ax (18 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2H	3NT

3NT overcalls often have off-shape structures. Intervener may have a running suit & an un-balanced hand. Advancer is discouraged from bidding his own suit unless the suit is very strong & can play opposite a singleton in Intervener's hand.

## INTERVENER'S CUE BID

Holding a strong one-suited hand Intervener can call a Cue Bid asking Partner to bid No Trump if she has a solid stopper in the opponent's suit. This is the Western Cue Bid. Partnership agreement is needed in this situation. If the Western Cue Bid is not in their toolbox Intervener can call the jump raise of 4D.

Intervener's Hand: ♠AK ♥xx ♦AKQJxxx ♣Ax (21 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2H	3H

If Advancer cannot bid 3NT she should bid her cheapest 3-card suit.

## LEAPING MICHAELS

After Openers preemptive 2H or 2S start, Intervener's 4-of-a-minor bid shows 5+ cards in that minor, 5+ cards in the other major & a hand interested in game.

#1) Intervener's Hand: ♠KJ10xx ♥Kx ♦x ♣AKxxx (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>
2H	4C!

Intervener's 4C! bid is LEAPING MICHAELS showing 5+ Clubs, 5+ Spades & a hand interested in game.

## ADVANCER'S TAKE-OUT DOUBLE

If Opener's preemptive two-bid is passed around to you in fourth seat (the balancing seat or Advancer's seat) you should try very hard to compete if you are short in the opponent's suit. As Advancer, you should strain to bid holding about a King less than the hand quality required to call a Take-Out Double in the direct seat. If you hold only about 10 HCP you can "Borrow a King" from Intervener to bolster the strength of your hand.

If you have favorable vulnerability you should really stretch to make a bid in the balancing seat. If you can scrape up sufficient hand values to call a Take-Out Double, Partner may have a stack of Opener's suit & can convert your Take-Out Double to a Penalty Double.

## INTERVENER'S REPLY TO ADVANCER'S TAKE-OUT DOUBLE

When Intervener has passed at her first turn to bid & Advancer has then called a Take-Out Double in the balancing seat Intervener must be aware that Advancer may have "Borrowed a King" from her hand.

Intervener's Hand: ♠AJxx ♥xxx ♦Ax ♣QJxx (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
2H	P	P	DbI
P	???		

???

Intervener passed at her first turn to bid because she did not have three cards in all three un-bid suits. Advancer may have "Borrowed a King" from Intervener's hand to boost her hand to the value needed to call her Take-Out Double. Therefore, Intervener should be cautious here & bid 2S, the lowest level response. Advancer may have as few as 10 HCP.

## FURTHER READING

"Bidding over the Opponent's Preemptive Openings." Karen Walker. kwbridge.com.

"Defence to Weak Two's". bridgewebs.com.

"Bidding after Their Weak Two-Bid." Jeff Goldsmith. jeff-goldsmith.org.

Next Time: Preemptive Bidding at the Three & Four Levels.

# 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-blovalleybridge.com](http://Dial-blovalleybridge.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](http://ACBL.org) to find information about on line classes and places to play.



# Contra Costa Bridge Center

[ccbridgecenter@gmail.com](mailto:ccbridgecenter@gmail.com) • [diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc](http://diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc)

## October News

**Club Appreciation Week**, October 11–17. All online games will award twice the regular masterpoints. No extra charge.

**Fourth Virtual Pro-Am**, Sunday, October 17, 1:00, \$5, BBO. Contact Mark Humphrey ([markhumphrey@comcast.net](mailto:markhumphrey@comcast.net)) to register by October 14.

**CANCELED — North American Pairs (NAP) Unit Final.** District 21 is forgoing the need to qualify in a Unit Final this year. All players who qualified in a club game are eligible to play in the district finals. [Click here](#) to see if you qualified.

The district finals will be held online, on a schedule to be announced.

The Unit Final game scheduled for Sunday, November 2, has been canceled by the unit.

**Saturday Morning Limit Raised.** Participation in the 199er game on Saturday mornings has dwindled. The limit is raised to 300 masterpoints to broaden interest, effective September 25. Come and play!

*Thank you for your support of CCBC!*

## Game Schedule

Monday	9:50	99er	Online	\$5
Monday	10:00	Open	Online	\$5
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	10:00	999er	Online	\$5
Friday	10:00	Open	Online	\$5
Friday	12:30	499er	Online	\$5
Saturday	10:00	<b>299er</b>	Online	\$5



Grant Robinson  
Club Manager

## Lamorinda Bridge Club



When we said two months ago that Lamorinda Bridge Club will slowly transition into a new HYBRID schedule of Bridge Opportunities, we had no premonition it would be this slow. Clearly it will be happening but not as quickly as we would all like. We will wait until California shows much more improvement before reopening any Face-to-Face games.

Continuing through October, 2021:

### **Virtual Online Game Schedule:**

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 the 499er games on Saturday and Sunday mornings both begin promptly at 9:50am. The Open games on Saturday and Sunday will begin on the hour at 10am.**

When the state of California begins to reopen group activities, the first F2F games we plan to hold weekly will on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We will send out notices announcing it when it safe to start.

### **Anticipated Face to Face Schedule (TBA):**

Tuesday 3pm - 5:15pm 299er 18 boards \$10 Participants will be allowed three questions per person during the session for assistance with bidding and playing.

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

Winnie Jasper and Jerry Chamberlain

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