

eDeclarer

November 2021

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Hello Unit 499!

We are still in fall season, my favorite. I love the colors of the leaves changing from a vibrant green to the robust outdoor colors of fall - yellows, oranges, slight red. The turning color is particularly representative of the season and quite welcome.

October saw the Pro-Am game at CCBC. Thanks so much to Mark Humphrey for organizing and Mike Kruley for directing. There were a total of fifteen tables, thirty Pros and thirty Ams. The atmosphere was light and fun and everyone seemed to have their "kind" game faces on. I enjoyed the play and camaraderie! The Pro-Am is such a good event; newer players are paired with a Pro. Discussion as to playing options is done before the actual game, and with the game in progress, points and levels of play are sketched out. If you haven't tried it, you don't know what you are missing. The Pros offer insight and constructive criticism as to the play of the hand. It is a good exercise to have these discussions after play and the discussion provides insight into one's game and where one needs to issue improvement. If you haven't played in a Pro-Am in the past, I suggest you keep your ears to the ground for the announcement of the next date.

Face-to-face bridge is still a long ways off, so continue playing on your favorite website and enjoy the journey! Bid those slams, and make them!

Lyn Sacco

...from the Editor

FROM THE EDITOR

In this issue is an obituary for Georgia Lambert. I didn't know her well, but she was a lovely person and left us much too soon.

Face-to-face bridge is slowly returning with some Rossmoor games beginning November 2. I believe that those of us who don't play online really miss their games and want to play. I also believe that most of the online players would like to continue on BBO. It will be interesting to see how this plays out, given that both online and in-person games have minimums.

Whatever your preference, keep on playing and earning those points!

Happy Thanksgiving to all!



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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 Master (5)

Steve Nico

New Club Master (20)

June Bechtel

New NABC Master (200)

Cal Lutrin

New Advanced NABC Master (300)

Suresh Gadad

NEW MEMBERS

Perry Serafin

Lily Zhou

Richard Jacobs

Marilynn Schuyler

Jane Waldron

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

A Piece of Trivia

On October 15th, I was played North in the 1:10 (4:10 ET) game on BBO-ACBL and had this experience.

I had three hands where I had zero points – some with tens and nines.

Hand distribution was 3-4-3-3, 3-4-2-4, 4-3-5-1 (S, H, D, C sequence).

Partner opened 1NT, 1C, 1NT in those hands.

Hand results were 7.8%, 77.7%, 31.9% - same order as prior comments.

I had never experienced that many 0-point hands in a single game. I wonder what the frequency of this pattern would be.

Bob Barnes

IN MEMORIAM

September 25, 1948 - September 24, 2021 Resident of Brentwood, CA

Georgia Lynn Lambert, too loved for words, passed away as she lived, surrounded by loved ones. Brain cancer stole her from us all too soon on September 24th at her home in Brentwood.

Born in Ventura, California, to the late Harry and Myrtle Imhoof, Georgia was the loving wife of James Lambert, who passed away six years ago. She graduated with multiple honors from Ventura High School in 1966. In 1973, she graduated in the top 10% of her class from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. A competitive bridge player, accomplished writer, avid tennis player and generous hostess, Georgia grew up in the Ojai Valley and traveled the world before starting her family in London and settling down in Danville with Jim to raise their four children.

Growing up, Georgia's little brother Tommy could not pronounce "Georgia" and called her "Jojo" instead, shortened to "Jo" by her family and friends. Her legendary love for children led to her favorite names: Auntie Jo, Grandma Jo, and with the birth of her younger grandchildren, she became our beloved "Jojo."

Georgia penned the popular weekly column "Around Blackhawk" (later, "Around Danville") for the San Ramon Valley Times and worked for both the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Deloitte Haskins & Sells. She also volunteered with the Girl Scouts and the motherdaughter organization, National Charity League. Over the years, she traveled the world, and her treasured collections are deeply sentimental reminders of her zest for life and spirit of adventure. Georgia hosted countless family gatherings and vacations, and nothing delighted her more than sharing something she loved—a card game, a Disneyland ride, or a favorite wine—with the people she loved.



A beloved wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, auntie, cousin, and friend, she is survived by her children Lacy Scott (Brian), Harry Lambert (Ashley), Christian Lambert and Jason Lambert (Susie); eight grandchildren: James (Ally), Hunter, and Sophie Lambert; Michelle, Jamie, and Jackson Scott; and Aria and Riley Lambert; great-grandson Jameson Lambert; sisters Janice and Gloria (John) Gritz; brother Tommy Imhoof; dozens of nieces and nephews (including Tessa Jo who was named after her); and many friends and family members who loved her and will miss her for the rest of their lives.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the Bay Area on Wednesday, October 20th; the funeral will be held on Monday, October 25th at Ivy Lawn Cemetery in Ventura, followed by a reception. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Georgia's name to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Grateful

FOR another successful Pro-Am brought to you by Mark and Lynne Humphrey. I'm always amazed at the dedication those two have in helping us with the privilege of playing online with a Pro. Katherine Loh and I got a percentage of black. Not complaining.

My usual self is now in step for Thanksgiving. I eat turkey year-round, and I've played like a turkey even online. When folks try to gobble-you-up with their aggressive bidding, don't get your feathers up. For everyone who plays bridge, this game is quite a learning experience. I often make the same mistakes more than once, always trying to remember not to repeat them, and feeling like such a turkey when I do. I heard turkeys are not too bright, but actually their little brains are quite intelligent. The next time you play like a turkey and get the stuffing knocked out of you, just remember what happens to most turkeys at Thanksgiving. Keep your heads about ya!

Truly, this holiday can be a reflection of your life experiences, trying to be grateful for something. So many expectations surround this season,

and we should try to reflect on something positive, even a few blessings will do. Just a few good thoughts, can change your attitude. When we win at bridge, aren't we happy? So, if you can muster up the courage to have a grateful heart, you may have a change of heart for the holidays.

I have a lot to be thankful for. I've been busy taking a long BREAK!

Literally. I took a fall from just three steps from the landing and somehow I was on the floor. Looking down I could see my ankles were bulging out. The cause was my gall-bladder, which collapsed and lodged a stone in the pancreas. Lesson learned: if you ever are told you have gall stones, DON'T GET STONED, take action and see your doctor.

Ciao, Lisa Assoni

The ShortCut Cook

Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

November, 2021

North

S 732

H AJ94

D K98

C KQJ

West

S AQ10654

H Q85

D QJ76

C _____

East

S 8

H K1073

D 5432

C A872

South

S KJ9

H 62

D A10

C 1096543



This deal occurred in a speedball tournament on BBO in late September. The bidding went 1C by North, P, 2C by South, 2S by West, 3C by North, P, 3N by South, all pass.

The opening lead was the 6 Spades, hoping that their partner could get in and then they could run the suit, but when it was won by declarers 9 West realized that that wouldn't happen.

Declarer played a club to the J while West pitched a low spade. East won the A clubs and led a low Diamond. Declarer won the Diamond K and took two more high Clubs, then led a Diamond to their A, and ran 3 more Clubs then cashed the A Hearts for a total of 9 tricks (1S, 1H, 2D and 5C) and then conceded the rest of the tricks for a score of 94%,

I am reporting on what happened at my table, this was not a play problem, it is actually a defensive problem. Can you figure out where E-W went wrong? Did you see that East should have ducked the first Club lead, and then the second Club lead and then the third Club lead. Try making this hand after that defense. Declarer has only one entry to his hand and if the clubs aren't good he can only take 1S, 1H, 2D, and 3C, for down 2.

It should be fairly easy to recognize this when East has the exact count in the Club suit and then we would get a fairly decent score on this hand.

By the way, I do not understand the bidding by South, I think he didn't want the lead to go thru his Spades, but he didn't have nearly enough points as well as I do not subscribe to the 3C bid by North even if they say this is a bidder's game.

Jerry Weitzner

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BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



PREEMPTIVE BIDDING AT THE THREE- & FOUR-LEVELS

By Mel Chaplin
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Hand types suitable for an opening bid at the three- or four-level occasionally occur so it's wise to learn how to handle these situations. Preemptive bids at the three- & four-levels should show a one-suited hand that have little to offer outside the trump suit & usually have very little defensive strength. But don't wait for the classic three- or four-level preemptive hand to show up. Instead, look for opportunities to preempt that may be a bit "outside the box". Once it's decided to call a preemptive bid the preemptor should not bid again unless forced to do so by his partner.

PREEMPTIVE BIDDING AT THE THREE-LEVEL.

An opening preemptive bid at the three-level is often a destructive action & is meant to cause bidding problems for the opponents. Preemptor often hopes she doesn't end up playing the hand. General requirements to open any suit at the 3-level are:

A good 7-card trump suit containing no more than two losers in the trump suit opposite a singleton in Partner's hand. Sometimes a solid 6-card suit will suffice.

Seven winning tricks when VUL¹, six when NV.

No more than 10 HCP in the hand. Most of the HCP should be in the trump suit & no more than one Ace or one King should be located outside the trump suit.

In general, it is best if the hand does not contain a 4-card major suit or a void.

¹ Abbreviations used in this article: VUL = vulnerable; NV = non-vulnerable.

Three-level preemptive hands "on the bubble" do not preclude entering the auction later. Many hands not meeting the minimum requirements for an initial three-level preemptive bid may be sound preemptive overcalls after Partner has had an opportunity to bid.

#1) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥KQJ10xxx ♦Kxx ♣xx (9 HCP).

We VUL/They NV. This classic preemptive hand should be opened 3H in first or second seat even with unfavorable VUL. The 7-card Heart suit is excellent & the overall hand values most likely will produce seven tricks opposite a worthless dummy.

#2) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥KQxxxxx ♦Q10x ♣QJ (10 HCP).

We VUL/They NV. This hand should NOT be opened 3H in first or second seat because of the relatively anemic 7-card Heart suit & the lack of overall hand strength. Half of the HCP are located in the short minor suits & therefore are of dubious value. Queens & Jacks in short side suit minors have little value when preempting in a major suit so the overall value of this hand should be downgraded.

#3) Opener's Hand: ♠A10xxxxx ♥Qxxx ♦x ♣A (10 HCP).

Both VUL. This hand should NOT be opened 3S in first or second seat. Partner could have four Hearts & a better contract may be in Hearts. A better bid here would be 1S. The hand meets the Rule of 20.

#4) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥10x ♦QJ109xx ♣Jxxx (4 HCP).

We NV/They VUL. Open this hand 3D in THIRD seat. A super-aggressive preemptive bid is acceptable in third seat when NV. The excellent intermediate Diamonds are very important.

#5) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥xx ♦KJxx ♣KQJ10xx (10 HCP).

We VUL/They NV. Open 3C in THIRD seat. Choosing to preempt holding only six Clubs often will depend on the quality of the Club suit & the VUL. Holding excellent distribution will often support a 3C preemptive bid holding only six Clubs.

#6) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥10xxxx ♦x ♣Kxxxxx (3 HCP).

We NV/They VUL. Should this hand be opened 3C in third seat? Remember what Bergen would say: WARIB! One doesn't get a "freak" hand like this very often. Holding eleven cards in two suits one should try very hard to play the hand regardless of the hand's HCP strength. Opening 3C will not likely deter the opponents from bidding but they might not reach their optimal contract because the preemptive bid has taken away a lot of their bidding space.

#7) Opener's Hand: ♠xx ♥____ ♦10xxxxx ♣KQxxx (5 HCP).

Billy Miller (Bridge Bulletin, February 2015) would NOT open this hand 2D in first or second seat regardless of the VUL. He points out that the side suit has much better quality than the 6-card Diamond suit. Miller would initially pass this hand, hoping to show something in the minor suits later in the bidding.

Preemptor should always evaluate the defensive values of her hand before making a preemptive bid. Preemptor should not intentionally bid for a minus score when her hand contains some defensive attributes. The reasoning: when preemptor has some defensive values the opponents often will not be able to score a game so a minus score in a doubled contract for preemptor would not be a good result. But when preemptor has few defensive values, suggesting the opponents can make game, preemptor should preempt aggressively.

#8) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥KQJ10xxx ♦xx ♣xxx (6 HCP).

Both VUL. This hand may not have even one defensive trick. Chances are excellent the opponents will make game. Opener should make six Heart tricks in a 3H contract. Her Heart suit is excellent & her hand distribution is favorable. If Partner can contribute one trick to the 3H contract, as predicted by the Rule of 2-3-4, then preemptor can win seven tricks. Even if doubled, VUL, down two tricks is only -500 points which a better result than letting the opponent's make a VUL game for -620 or -630 points. Bottom Line: When preemptor's hand has little defensive value it is best to preempt aggressively.

#9) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥Axxxxxx ♦KQx ♣xx (9 HCP).

Both VUL. Preemptor's hand likely has at least two defensive tricks, one Heart & one Diamond. Perhaps she can win two Diamond tricks. The opponents often will not make game in this situation. But if preemptor calls the preemptive bid of 3H & the opponent's double, the 3H contract could go -3 for -800 points & a poor result. Bottom Line: When preemptor's hand has defensive values & it looks like the opponents may not be able to make game usually it is best to be conservative & decline making the preemptive bid at the 3-level.

#10) Opener's Hand: ♠QJ109xxx ♥x ♦xx ♣J10x (4 HCP).

We NV/They VUL. An aggressive bid here in first seat would be 4S. The opponent's are likely to make anything they bid so Opener should try to get in the way of their bidding. A 4S contract will win more often than it loses & when it loses the cost will usually be low because this hand has no defensive values.

TAKE-AWAY: When preemptor's hand has little or no defensive value preempt aggressively. The cost of being wrong is usually low. But when preemptor's hand has some defensive values preempt conservatively. The cost of being wrong can be high.

RESPONDING TO OPENER'S PREEMPTIVE MAJOR SUIT BID AT THE THREE-LEVEL.

In most cases Responder should pass Opener's three-level preemptive bid even holding as many as 15 HCP. Always remember that Opener has already over-bid. Think in terms of tricks than can be won for Partner rather than HCP. And always consider the VUL.

But if Responder has hand values she should try very hard to play in Opener's preemptive suit. Responder may:

Raise to game holding game-going values.
Jump to the 5-level in Opener's suit as a slam try.
A game bid in a new suit, or 3NT, are sign-offs bids.

RESPONDING TO OPENER'S PREEMPTIVE MINOR SUIT BID AT THE THREE-LEVEL.

A single raise is defensive, not invitational.
A raise to game may be either preemptive or made holding game-going hand values not suitable for 3NT.
Bidding a new 5+ card suit is natural (forcing). Opener can raise Responder's suit with honor-doubleton or xxx.
A game bid in a new suit, or 3NT, are sign-off bids.

OPENER'S MAJOR SUIT PREEMPTIVE BID AT THE FOUR-LEVEL.

Two reasons for opening a major suit at the four-level are: (a) to describe a good one-suited hand with excellent playing strength & an exceptional trump suit & (b) to take away the opponent's bidding space if the hand belongs to them. But four-level preemptive bids in a major suit are generally considered to be constructive bids rather than obstructive bids. Preemptor intends to make his bid.

The general requirements to open 4H or 4S are similar to the requirements for opening a three-level preemptive bid. The only differences are the quality of the trump suit & the overall playing strength of the hand. An 8-card trump suit is usually expected for a four-level preemptive bid along with eight playing tricks when VUL, seven if NV, opposite a singleton trump in Partner's hand. Preemptor's hand should contain approximately 10 HCP.

#1) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥AQJ10xxxx ♦x ♣QJ10 (10 HCP).

This is a typical hand type to open 4H in first or second seat regardless of the VUL. Most of the HCP are in the trump suit & the distribution is favorable. Even opposite a worthless dummy Opener should score at least seven Heart tricks & one Club trick.

#2) Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥AQJ10xxxx ♦A ♣QJ10 (14 HCP).

This hand is too strong to bid 4H. A better opening bid would be 1H.

RESPONDING TO A FOUR-LEVEL MAJOR SUIT PREEMPTIVE BID.

Responder should assume Opener's suit to be trump unless Responder bids No Trump or jumps directly to slam in a new suit. All other responses are used to explore slam in Opener's suit. Possible replies by Responder include:

A raise to the 5-level in Opener's suit is a slam try asking about the quality of Opener's suit. Opener should bid slam if he has no more than one trump loser.
4S over 4H is a control bid as are bids of 5C & 5D.
4NT is RKC 1430.
5NT is Grand Slam Force.

FURTHER READING

Max Hardy. "Standard Bidding for the 21st Century". pp 170-173. 2000.
Robert Hamman. "Opening Preempts". "Championship Bridge Series". No. 24. 2001.
Jim Marsh Sternberg. Bridge Bulletin, January-May 2022.
Billy Miller. Bridge Bulletin. February 2015.

Next Time: Equal Level Conversion Double/Lead-Directing Double.

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.



November News

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. [Click here](#) for the schedule.

The Unit Final game scheduled for Sunday, November 7, has been canceled by the unit.

Charity Week, November 15–21. Every time you play this week, CCBC will donate \$1.50 to the SHARE Food Pantry. There will be no extra charge for these games. We hope you'll play often and help us make a **BIG** donation!

NO GAME on Thanksgiving Day, November 25.

Monday Morning Limit Raised. Participation in the 99er game on Monday mornings has dwindled. The limit is raised to 200 masterpoints to broaden interest. Game at 9:50. \$5.

Friday Afternoon Limit Raised. Participation in the 499er game on Friday afternoons has dwindled. The limit is raised to 750 masterpoints to broaden interest. Game at 12:30. \$5.

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

Game Schedule

Monday	9:50	199er	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	749er	Online	\$5
Saturday	10:00	299er	Online	\$5



Grant Robinson
Club Manager

Lamorinda Bridge Club



We are embarking on a new approach, which may not be really practical in the dead of a cold and rainy winter, but if it turns out to be a mild winter into spring, we are preparing to offer some bridge out in the back garden. Currently we have assembled a smaller metal roof gazebo on an outdoor deck and we are taking delivery at the end of October on a larger version to be assembled on the concrete patio. We will wait until California shows much more improvement before reopening any Face-to-Face games indoors, but we might consider experimenting with outside games when the time comes, and we will continue with our virtual games on the weekends.

We are scheduled to run sectional tournaments on three Princess back-to-back Cruises beginning Feb 10 which will likely be our first F2F bridge in 2022. There will be a fourth Cruise to Alaska in September.

If you are interested in learning about the cruises please call or email and we can share the information with you.

Continuing through November, 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.

Winnie Jasper and Jerry Chamberlain

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