

eDeclarer

February 2022

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Earlier this month, the Monterey Clambake Regional was held at the Hyatt in Monterey. Apprehension and a bit of anxiety were apparent with Omicron potentially infecting players, hotel staff and directors. To the credit of the planning committee, there were no reported covid infections.

Protocols were appropriate and adequate. Upon entering the venues, vaccination status (two shots) was recorded. Temperature was taken. If proper documentation and temperature were in order, a yellow wrist-band was attached to the individual. Proper masking (nose and mouth) was monitored and enforced by fellow bridge players, directors, and tournament coordinators. The yellow wrist-band was needed for access to the bridge venues (and, yes, access during the week was well-monitored).

Attendance looked to be excellent, based upon Hyatt Hotel reservations. With the unexpected Omicron variant, last-minute cancellations impacted the attendance. Needless to say, the virus environment is dynamic.

All in all, a good success. Congrats to the coordination committee, volunteers, players, and directors for all contributing to this success. Kudos, especially, to Anne Hollingsworth.

Going forward, everyone, bridge players, workers, families, etc, will need to take stock about how to best meet any new challenges in our daily life, hobbies, passions, socializing, vacations, etc. New formats will probably be needed. For some of us, a very cautious approach will be needed. Others may opt for a more flexible approach. But, everyone will need to grapple with his approach in a pandemic or endemic environment.

As bridge venues (virtual and in-person) continue to evolve; each of us will need to develop our own risk appetite.

I hope to see to see all participating, virtually, and hopefully, in the F2F bridge games

Sam Earnhardt

...from the Editor

Another month of status quo at the bridge clubs. In the meantime, we can always try to improve our game by reading the eDeclarer columns generously provided each month by Jerry Weitzner and Mel Chaplin. Many thanks to Jerry and Mel for giving their time for our benefit.

I'll see you on BBO!

Judy Keilin

Editor



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Unit 499 eDeclarer

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

Volume 127

February 2022

Deadline for March is February 18

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 Sectional Master (50)

Ray Spears

New Sapphire Life Master (3500)

Gish Lichtblau

NEW MEMBERS

Christine Lasala

Anthony Lee

Michael Goldstein

John Pesek

Susan Wolfe

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



Thanks to Margy Evans for the photo of Lene Bankert,, Dan and Bobbi Monahan, Art and Margy Evans, and Christa Krick, getting together in Palm Springs.

IN MEMORIAM

Carol Sun Warner

December 25, 1929 – December 14, 2021 Carol Sun Warner, age 91, a resident of Lone Tree, CO, passed away peacefully of natural causes. Her husband, Frederick Warner, preceded her in death on March 2, 1996. She is survived by two sons, Larry Warner (Janet) of Littleton, CO and Mark Warner (Erica Wilder) of Pottstown, PA; five grandchildren, Dustin Warner (deceased), Jamie Warner (Travis Pitt), Kevin Warner, Alexis Warner and Rachel Warner and two great-granddaughters, Ayla and Mayley Pitt.

Carol was born and raised in Shanghai, China and was the third of six children. At 18, she came to the United States to attend college at Morningside College in Iowa, transferring the next year to Syracuse University where she graduated in 1952 with a degree in Social Work. It was there that she met Fred, her husband of 43 years.

They married in 1953 and lived in Connecticut before moving to Chester County, PA in 1965. In 2004, Carol moved to Rossmoor to enjoy a milder climate and be closer to her siblings. At 89, Carol moved to Lone Tree, CO in April, 2019 to be closer to her son Larry and his family.

Carol was naturally confident, fiercely independent, endlessly opinionated, and infinitely curious. Of course, these qualities led to some consternation, many good stories, and lots of laughter. She was a great wife and mother, and family was always her priority. While her sons were growing up she had little interest in sports, but she delighted in beating most everyone at ping pong, including her sons' friends and anyone else who dared to challenge her. Carol's 50 year passion for duplicate bridge served her competitive nature and she quickly became an accomplished Life Master. Over the years, she was a regular at duplicate bridge games in Southeastern PA, Naples Bridge Club, Rossmoor Bridge Club and the Lone Tree Bridge Club in CO. In her later years she became a fan of the Golden State Warriors, although she really didn't understand the rules of basketball. Carol always had a heart for young children, and during the last months of her life the many visits with her great-granddaughters Ayla and Mayley were a highlight of her days.

In addition to her children and their families, she is survived by sisters Emily (Frank) Chu of Walnut Creek, CA, Vivian Yang of Irvine, CA and brother Fred (Flora) Sun of Walnut Creek, CA.

Carol requested that no memorial service be held. In lieu of flowers, donations in Carol's memory may be made to a favorite charity.



BRIDGE ON THE LINE

Our Board members joined together for our first meeting in January. We have been blessed with such an enthusiastic group. Every effort is being made to improve your bridge experience. We are always seeking new board members who want to serve others. You'll work hard for no money, but the reward is in knowing you're helping others to "Stay on-top of their game." On this site is a list of all our Board Members.

Did you know that the early calendar months each had twenty-eight days? But that didn't sit well with Numa Pompilius, second of the seven kings who ruled Rome. Even numbers were considered bad luck at the time. So, he added a day onto January, giving the year an odd-numbered three hundred fifty-eight days. No one knows why February was left with twenty-eight, and remained an unlucky month. Superstition played a big role in determining how many days to give this unpopular month. Weather had a big influence on their decision, as cold winters prevailed, crops were dormant, and people were cranky. Turn the tables around and this could be your lucky month.

You're on the line especially when playing badly and I just blame the computer, saying "I can't believe this computer hit 3NT instead of 4 spades". So take a positive prospective and turn your negative thinking around. Remember this game is a lot like tough meat, so give yourself time to marinate. I hate losing, really, but after taking a long popcorn break from the game, I needed a rebooting or a good kick in the pants. So if you can relate, now is the time to embrace all the blessing you have and hit that bridge-on-line with a smile and repeat. "I'm going to do well today. I am, I am and I am" while clicking your red slippers together. Anyway do your best and please don't get upset. And, if I hear one more time, "this is just a game", I'll lose my Italian temper and say "Sel Pazzo!" Which means "Are You Crazy"? while trying to retain my composure. Deep breathing helps too. I pray a lot. I can imagine God's saying, "Take a lesson, and pay attention."

Do any of you have a rabbit's foot? Yikes, you're dating yourself if you recall this good-luck piece. Well, recover it, and hold it tight. Who knows, it just might make you exceptionally bright!

Ciao Bella,

The ShortCut Cook

Lisa Assoni



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

February, 2022

North

S J7

H AK873

D A42

C A83

West

S AKQ10942

H 94

D 9

C KQ5

East

S 8653

H 62

D J863

C J62

South

S ____

H QJ105

D KQ1075

C 10974



This deal came up recently at CCBC and I found it interesting not only for the play, but for the bidding decisions.

At my table West opened 4S and I doubled. It went pass and South said 5H where she played it.

The opening lead was a high spade and South ruffed it and cashed a high heart in her hand and led another heart overtaking in the dummy followed by ruffing the other spade in her hand.

She then led a high diamond in her hand and a low diamond to the A finding the 1-4 split so she finessed the diamond back to her hand and threw away the losing clubs on the 2 remaining diamonds, making 7 for 90%.

My thoughts on the bidding start with saying I would not open 4S with the West hand, too strong. Just open 1S and then bid 4S.

I also thought about the South hand because I found it difficult to bid 5H when the diamonds were better but I gave the hand to several experts and the consensus was that 5H was better because it pays more and most of the time the North hand will have good heart support. By the way, 5D making was 70%.

My questions to you are:

Would you open 4S?

Would you double 4S and does your partnership play it for penalty or takeout?

Would you bid 5H or 5D with the South hand?

Did you play the diamonds in the correct way that my partner did?

Jerry Weitzner

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BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS NEW MINOR FORCING AND ITS COUSINS

By Mel Chaplin

melchaplin@comcast.net

NEW MINOR FORCING

NEW MINOR FORCING is an artificial conventional bid used only by Responder after Opener starts the bidding 1-of-a-minor (usually), Responder answers 1-of-a-major & Opener re-bids 1NT. NEW MINOR FORCING necessarily is a conventional forcing bid because normally a new suit bid by an unpassed hand is NOT forcing after Opener has bid 1NT. Responder promises 10+ HCP when she uses NEW MINOR FORCING.

Max Hardy pointed out that for many years before NEW MINOR FORCING became available as a bidding tool Responder was severely limited in bidding options when he had an invitational hand. His only bid was usually 2NT. This created a problem when Responder's major suit contained five cards because the contract of 2NT was often inferior to a 5-3 major suit fit if Opener had three cards in Responder's major suit. Responder would like to show her 5-card major suit but she should have six cards to do so. NEW MINOR FORCING is a mechanism whereby Responder can ask Opener if she has three cards in Responder's major suit.

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1S	P
1NT	P	2C!	

Responder's 2C! bid is NEW MINOR FORCING. It requires an ALERT. Responder often will use NEW MINOR FORCING holding a 5-card major suit (or four cards in both majors.....we'll get to that later) & an invitational hand (9-11 HCP).

NEW MINOR FORCING can also be used after Opener starts the bidding 1H, Responder bid 1S & Opener re-bids 1NT. Either minor suit can be used as the NEW MINOR FORCING bid but generally the most natural suit is used.

Responder's Hand: ♠AKJxx ♥xx ♦KQ10 ♣xxx (13 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1H	P	1S	P
1NT	P	2D!	

New Minor Forcing is "OFF" if the opponents bid.

New Minor Forcing Is "ON" by a passed hand.

Opener's 1NT re-bid typically shows 12-14 HCP. Responder often has 10-12 HCP. Responder may hold a 5-card major & wants to learn if Opener has 3-card support for her major. Alternatively, Responder may hold 4-4 in the major suits & wants to uncover a possible 4-4 major suit fit in the "other" major. Holding three cards in Opener's major & four cards in the "other" major Opener's first priority usually is to bid Opener's major (requires partnership agreement). Responder is then in a better position to decide if the hand should be played in a major suit or No Trump.

Lynn Berg states that once a partnership has agreed to use NEW MINOR FORCING the failure to use the convention in a bidding sequence is an excellent way to limit the value of one's hand. This negative inference is a key to properly using NEW MINOR FORCING. A weaker hand can be bid more easily.

♠KJxxx ♥Qxxxx ♦x ♣xx (6 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1C	P	1S	P
1NT	P	2H	

Responder did NOT use NEW MINOR FORCING so her 2H bid shows a weak hand with Hearts & Spades. Partner can now pass 2H or show preference for Responder's Spades.

RESPONDER'S REQUIREMENTS TO USE NEW MINOR FORCING.

A 5-card major OR two 4-card majors.
10+ HCP.

OPENER'S RE-BIDS.

Show 3-card support for Opener's major (partnership agreement).
Show 4-card support for the "other" major (partnership agreement).
Re-bid her minor suit at the 2-level holding a minimum hand.
Re-bid 2NT holding a maximum hand.
Re-bid 3D holding five Diamonds & a maximum hand. Denies three Spades, denies four Hearts.
Stop bidding if Responder bids the "other" minor suit at the 3-level.

RESPONDER'S CONTINUATIONS.

If Opener shows a minimum hand any 2-level bid can be passed.
If Opener shows a maximum hand game must be found in some strain.

Opener's Hand: ♠AQx ♥Jx ♦K10xx ♣Qxxx (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1H	P
1NT	P	2C!	P
2NT!			

Opener's 2NT! denies three Hearts & five Diamonds & shows a minimum hand with a Spade stopper.

Opener's Hand: ♠10xx ♥Qx ♦KJ10xx ♣AQx (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1H	P
1NT	P	2C!	P
2D			

Opener's 2D promises 5+ Diamonds but denies three Hearts & four Spades.

Responder's Hand: ♠KQ10xx ♥QJxx ♦AJ ♣Kx (16 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1S	P
1NT	P	2C!	P
2H			

When Responder holds five Spades & four Hearts it's best if a 4-4 Heart fit can be found as the trump suit. The reasoning is that with the 4-4 fit a ruff in either hand will produce an extra trick whereas with a 5-3 fit an extra trick can be made only in the hand with the 3-card holding. On the other hand, a 5-3 fit can be used to discard a loser from another suit, a benefit which cannot be obtained with a 4-4 fit.

Therefore, when Responder first bids 1S, Opener re-bids 1NT & Responder now bids NEW MINOR FORCING Opener has a different order of priority. Opener should first show a 4-card Heart suit if she has one rather than show 3-card support for Responder's Spade suit.

Opener's Hand: ♠Axx ♥Q10xx ♦xx ♣KQJx (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1C	P	1S	P
1NT	P	2D!	P
2H			

Holding four Hearts & three Spades Opener should first show her 4-card Heart suit. This takes precedence over showing her three Spade support for Responder's Spade suit.

Now if Responder had initially bid Spades & Responder used NEW MINOR FORCING but Opener had no interest in Hearts Responder can now bid 2S holding only five Spades when she also holds invitational values.

Responder's Hand: ♠AK10xx ♥xx ♦KQJ ♣Kxx (16 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1C	P	1S	P
1NT	P	2D!	P
2H	P	2S	

WHEN NEW MINOR FORCING SHOULD NOT BE USED

Certain hand types should not be considered candidates for using NEW MINOR FORCING.

Responder's Hand: ♠KQ10xxx ♥A ♦xxx ♣AKJ (17 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1S	P
1NT	P	3S	

Responder's 3S re-bid shows 6+ Spades with invitational values. Responder does not use NEW MINOR FORCING.

TWO-WAY NEW MINOR FORCING

We've seen that NEW MINOR FORCING usually does an adequate job when Responder needs a forcing bid after Opener's 1NT re-bid. But a limitation of NEW MINOR FORCING is that it does not have a game-forcing bid & therefore a "maybe" bidding situation sometimes ensues. A better bidding sequence exists. It's called TWO-WAY NEW MINOR FORCING which has advantages in sign-off, invitational & forcing sequences.

TWO-WAY NEW MINOR FORCING is "OFF" if the opponents bid.

TWO-WAY NEW MINOR FORCING is "OFF" by a passed hand.

TWO-WAY NEW MINOR FORCING is characterized by three important factors.

Responder's 2C! bid is an invitational puppet bid & forces Opener to bid 2D! This relay bid is unconditional.

Responder's 2D! bid is artificial & game-forcing.

Responder's JUMP RE-BID in Opener's hand, his own suit or any lower-ranking suit (except 3C) is game-forcing.

CONTINUATIONS AFTER RESPONDER BIDS 2C!

Responder's Hand: ♠x ♥xx ♦Q10xxxx ♣QJxx (5 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1C	1H
1NT	2C!
2D!	???

Responder can sign-off in 2D by first bidding the invitational 2C! & when Opener bids the forced 2D! Responder can pass. Responder could have bid 1D immediately after Opener's 1C bid but the 1D bid would be forcing & Opener would have to bid again. The final contract may then become too high.

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	
1C	1S	
1NT	2C!	
2D!	???	
	2H	5 Spades & 4 Hearts, 6-10 HCP.
	2S	5+ Spades, 6-10 HCP.
	2NT	Invitational.
	3C	5+ Clubs, 6-10 HCP.
	3D	6+ Diamonds, 6-10 HCP.
	3H	5 Spades & 5 Hearts, invitational.
	3S	6 Spades, invitational.
	3NT	Choice of games (5-3-3-2).

Note that most of Responder's bids are invitational because she first bid 2C!

CONTINUATIONS AFTER RESPONDER BIDS 2D!

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1D	1S
1NT	2D!

Responder's 2D! bid is game-forcing (12+ HCP). Bidding proceeds as if the partnership were in a 2/1 game-forcing auction.

OPENER'S PRIORITIES FOR REPLYING

- Show 3-card support for Responder's suit (partnership agreement).
- Show 4 cards in the "other" major (partnership agreement).
- Show a 5-card minor.
- Bid No Trump with nothing else to say.

EXTENDED NEW MINOR FORCING

EXTENDED NEW MINOR FORCING is a conventional tool used by Responder when Opener has re-bid her suit at the 2-level. It's an alertable game-forcing bid asking Opener to further describe her hand beyond the fact she has a 6+ card suit.

Opener's Hand: ♠AKx ♥Kx ♦QJ10xxx ♣xx (13 HCP).
Responder's Hand: ♠Qxxx ♥AQxx ♦xx ♣KQ10 (13 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1D	1S	Shows 4+ Spades & 6+ Total Points (FORCING).
2D		Shows 6+ Diamonds & 12-14 HCP (NOT FORCING).
	3C!	EXTENDED NEW MINOR FORCING (GAME-FORCING).

Responder's 3C! bid asks Opener to further describe her hand beyond the fact she has six Diamonds.

FURTHER READING

- Max Hardy. "Standard Bidding for the 21st Century", pp 105-114, 2000.
- Lynn Berg. "Responding with 5-5 (and 5-4) Hands". Bridge Bulletin, July 2019.
- Max Hardy. "Advanced Bidding for the 21st Century", pp 82-86, 2002.
- Robert Todd. "2-Way New Minor Forcing" www.advinbridge.com.

Next Time: LEBENSOHL OVER OPPONENTS INTERFERENCE OF OUR 1NT.

♥ happy ♥
Valentine's
♥ day ♥

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

Until further notice all bridge clubs in Unit 499 are closed due to the coronavirus. Stay home, stay safe! Visit our website for information.

Also visit ACBL.org to find information about on line classes and places to play.

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor



As of this publication the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club does not have a date for in-person games to resume. Online games continue with the schedule listed below:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday -- 1:00 p.m. -- 0-5500 points

Thursday -- 1:00 pm -- 0-750 points

Friday -- 10:00 am -- 0-200 points

If a player wants to partner with someone who has not played in an online Rossmoor game, he/she needs to send their partner's BBO screen name to michaelgosnell@hotmail.com or rossmoorbridge@gmail.com.

Kit Miller

Message from the Board

The Board of Contra Costa Bridge Center has decided to extend the suspension of in-person bridge through at least February 27. Given that Contra Costa County has continued to experience high rates of Omicron infections and hospitalizations, it seems prudent to retain all bridge online during this period. The Board will continue to provide you with periodic updates on the status of CCBC's in-person bridge.

February News

Valentine's Weekend, February 12–13. All CCBC online games will award twice the regular club masterpoints, half Red. No extra cost.

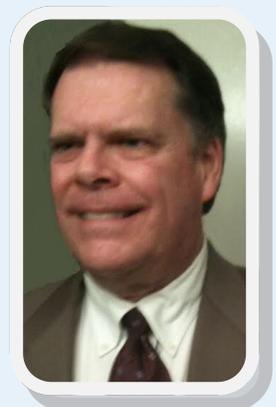
Educational Foundation Week, February 21–27. All CCBC online games will award twice the regular club masterpoints. Extra \$1 fee to help cover the higher sanction fee.

499er and Open Stratified Swiss Teams, Saturday, February 26, 12:30. BBO now stratifies Swiss Team events. Separate 499er event if sufficient interest. Twice regular club masterpoints. \$5. No need to pre-register.

*Thank you for your support of CCBC!
Grant Robinson*

Game Schedule

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 still only offering virtual bridge games online until it appears to be a safer environment. We anticipate the month of April to be a reasonable target time to reopen Lamorinda Bridge Club to Face-to-Face games.

ACBL has announced a series of special events online with BBO where extra points will be awarded:

February 12 - 13 **Valentine's Weekend** double regular club points, 50% red, 50% black, no extra charge.

February 21 - 27 **Educational Foundation Week** double regular club points, 100% black, extra \$1/player.

Continuing through March, 2022:

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.

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.

Winnie Jasper and Jerry Chamberlain

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