

# eDeclarer

April 2022

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

## President's Message



NABC Reno started March 10 and ended March 20. The number of players the first two days were down from what I remember in past years, but as the week progressed the number of players increased tremendously. In the pairs venue, yesterday, the start time was delayed by twenty minutes so that two extra sections could be added. I'm excited to see so many players participating. Seeing old friends, one from Billings, Montana and one from Austin, TX was very fun; not to mention the friends from Unit 499.

On an operational note, players were required to validate vaccination and show vaccination wrist bands to gain access to the bridge venues. Masks were not required at the table, they were optional with maybe ten percent of the players opting to wear masks. Players at a table could request all players at that table to wear a mask – I don't recall that happening at any table.

A security note: a man was ejected, personally witnessed, from the playing area. Evidently, he illegally obtained a wrist band and was confronted and asked to leave. Yes, there are shady people out there. I'm thankful that NABC managers and directors are vigilant and will take action as required.

From a more local perspective, some Unit 499 clubs are re-opening. Check your e-mails for communications from the directors and club managers and also check this bulletin for those details.

There have been many areas impacted by Covid, not just attendance - available directors and new players have also been impacted. The Unit 499 Board will be working with the clubs to address these areas. These are challenging areas but need to be addressed. If you are interested in working to rebuild programs for new players and/or directors, give me a shout.

In closing, NABC Reno was a bright light for bridge re-opening.

Have fun, play nice, bid and make all your 7NTs.

Sam Earnhardt

# ...from the Editor

There's a Letter to the Editor this month. Check it out and see if you can help Barbara in her quest for weekend classes.

Last month I suggested that some of you might like to share memories of Judy Lowe, and I received a lovely tribute from a reader.

Bob Barnes shared a beautiful 28-point hand from the Reno NABC, with a commentary on how to bid it. Partnership agreements are key.

Games are opening up. Maybe I'll see you sometime soon!

Judy Keilin  
Editor



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<a href="#">President's Message</a> .....	1
<a href="#">From The Editor</a> .....	2
<a href="#">Letters to the Editor</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Unit 499 Milestones</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Contributions</a> .....	6
<a href="#">Lessons</a> .....	8
<a href="#">Club News</a> .....	12

## **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to [jkeilin@gmail.com](mailto:jkeilin@gmail.com)

Volume 129

April 2022

**Deadline for May is April 20**

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)

# Letters to the Editor

## Tribute to Judy Lowe



I was so sad to read of Judy's passing.

I remember her, Bob and her Thursday games so well. I always associate them with great food and especially a cake. Judy always insisted on a cake!!

While I cannot say that we were close friends, I still thought of her as someone special: a great ambassador of the game - especially for newer players like my husband and me - just starting out in duplicate bridge. And Thursdays were always our favorite game.

## LOOKING FOR CLASSES

I am still working, and am seeking Saturdays and after work hours Classes and games. I need a refresher as I have not played during the pandemic.

I have spoken to a local teacher who is interested in Saturday classes if I can find enough folks. It seems to me that making Bridge more accessible to the people still working will help ensure the on-going success of the game!

Please let me know your thoughts. Thank you so much!

Barbara Elliott ([barbaraelliott99@gmail.com](mailto:barbaraelliott99@gmail.com))

Martinez, CA

# Milestones and New Members

## **MILESTONES**

### *NEW JUNIOR MASTER (5)*

Craig Lewis

### *NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)*

John Kobzina

Karen Lapin

### *NEW SECTIONAL MASTER (50)*

Pamela McGrath

### *NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)*

David Cottam

Gary Hargrove

Thomas Hester

Neil Librock

Tom Phillips

### *NEW LIFE MASTER (300/500)*

Nancy Voils

### *NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER (1000)*

Debby Rechnitz

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Jenny Lancaster

Betty Starr

Ellen Beaudet

Rashmi Beman

Patricia Bullard

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



# APRIL POWERS

Okay, tap into your brainpower; take a look at the spring flowers,

and pray for the April showers. You all know that if we don't put the time in to get educated on how intricate this game really is, all the smarts you have won't enable you to play well. Yes, we have partnership agreements, and then your partner switches gears thinking he or she is playing with another cohort, Yikes; and so the momentum shifts. Friendships can be broken, harsh words can be spoken, but HEY, it's just a game!

Now that we're face to face, let the combat subside, and our cheerfulness arise. Mind-blowing blossoms are exploding, but I love April's birthstone even better. Yep, it's the beautiful Diamond. Way back in history, the Diamond comes from the early Greek word Adarnas, meaning untamable, and related to our word adamant. The book of Exodus references to the sparkly Diamond (jahalom in the book of Hebrews) is mentioned as one of the twelve engraved precious stones set in the breastplate of the high priest.

Diamonds are a girl's best friend, and even better is achieving the card-carrying status of the big Diamond.

So what's your status? Are you working toward Life Master, and greater?

Just remember it's a life-long learning experience. How many of you played online and still continue to do so? I understand how we can stay at home in comfy pajamas, cup of java, licks from our dog or cat, have snacks, and take a nap (not while were playing). But, we need people!

Members in our 499 unit, please e-mail if you would like me to add some juicy tidbits to our bridge table. Love to hear from you.

Eat well, stay well.

Lisa Assoni

The ShortCut CookTM

Lisacooks12@gmail.com



# Partnership Agreement:

This article focuses on partnership agreements or different options for a specific bid.

I was dealt this hand at the recent Reno tournament.

Dir: N		9
Vul: E-W	♠ J 10 9 8 6 4	
	♥ 4 3	
2	♦ 5 4	
6 4	♣ J 9 3	
28		
♠ 7	♠ 5 3 2	
♥ K J 10	♥ 9 8 7 6 5	
♦ 10 9 8 3	♦ K J 6	
♣ Q 10 6 4 2	♣ 8 7	
	♠ AKQ	
	♥ AQ2	
	♦ AQ72	
	♣ AK5	
<u>Double Dummy Makes</u>		
NS: 3♣ 3♦ 1/2♥ 6♠ 3NT		
EW: 4♣ 4♦ 3♥ 5/4♠ 1NT4		
<u>Par Score</u>		
+980 6♠ -NS		

My partner was North, and I was South.

The bidding went:

N: pass, E: pass, S: 2C, W: pass, N: 2D, E: pass, S: 3NT; all pass

We made 3NT for a score of 400.

I am assuming that most players understand these auction patterns:

Option 1 – Standard American NT bids (also in Audrey Grant's Bridge At A Glance pamphlet)

1NT (15-17); 2NT (20-21); 3NT (25+)

Option 2 – 2C strong opener (also in Audrey Grant's Bridge At A Glance pamphlet)

2C (22+, or <5 losers), 2D (waiting – 0+); 2NT (22-24); 3NT (25-27); 4NT (28-30)

After the game my partner and I had a discussion of the bids. The discussion focused on the 3NT bid possibilities. The first difficulty was that I do not remember if I ever had a 28 HCP hand and as a result, I was not sure of the appropriate opening bid but thought that the 2C option would be most flexible.

Our bid sequence was: 2C, 2D, 3NT

My bids were based on these premises: 2C (standard 22+, forcing), 2D (waiting 0+, forcing), 3NT (25+, no limit, non-forcing), system on).

Partner bids were based on these premises: bids 1/2 same as mine, 3NT (25-27, game contract: pass).

Our agreement is "systems on" after the 2C/2NT bids. We had never discussed the other NT bids.

My assumption is "systems on" after these NT bids: opener bids 1/2/3/4NT opening bids; 2C/2NT/3NT/4NT etc.; opener bids NT, opponent bids, systems on for partner; similar sequence for 2C bids. I assumed the American Standard NT bids were all fixed ranges. The 2C bids were all open ended except for 2NT (22-24) and 3C (<6).

Our discussion focused on the meaning of the 3NT – was it a fixed 25-27 or 25+ HCP. I had assumed that the 3NT was limited and 2C/3NT was open ended. It probably does not matter as the bid sequence in either case should be open (unless you consider 4NT).

With the hand, my partner should have transferred me to spades (2 HCP but 6 spades) and we would have played and made 6 spades, With very thoughtful play via the finesses .

The point of this article is: ensure that you and your partner have agreements on the various bids (forcing/non-forcing, systems on/off, point count ranges (weak/standard NT), minor suit opener (short C, convenient/better minor), etc.

Sample agreement: all NT openers have specific ranges. non-forcing, systems on; all 2C bids are open ranges, except 2C/2NT, 2C/2D.

Bob Barnes

# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

April, 2022

North

S Q105

H KQ942

D QJ6

C K3

West

S KJ94

H 5

D K1087

C Q542

East

S 872

H J10876

D 3

C J1097

South

S A63

H A3

D A9542

C A86



The bidding started with South opening 1N and North transferring to hearts and South playing in 3N.

West led the 4 of spades and declarer played the 10 in dummy which held. This hand looks easy to make like you are going to take 4 tricks in the black suits and 8 or 9 in the red suits so making 6 is possible.

At this point you want to play on diamonds and since you don't want to come to your hand, you lead the Q of diamonds and it loses to the K. At my table West made the disastrous return of a diamond which went around to the 9 and now declarer is on the way to taking the rest of the tricks because you can begin to visualize that West having length in spades and diamonds makes it very unlikely that hearts will split 3-3 but you don't care because you are about to claim on a double squeeze. You know that West must guard the spades and you know that East must guard the hearts, therefore nobody can guard clubs. So, cash the 3 top hearts and sure enough West shows out of hearts on the second round and your visualization is about to become true.

It would be a good idea for a lot of you to print out this page and cross off the cards as they are played so you can practice setting up the squeeze.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> high heart you throw away a small spade and now cash the J diamonds and come to your hand with the A spades and play another diamond. At this point the dummy is the Q of spades, the 4 of hearts and the K3 of clubs. You lead your last diamond and West must save the K spades so he discards his second club. When he does that, you discard the Q spades from dummy and E must keep a heart so he discards his second club and now you take the K clubs and the A clubs and the last club in your hand is good, you have just executed a double squeeze making 6 for 100% in a field of over 200 pairs.

What started out as a routine 3N ended in a double squeeze which developed after West erred in the diamond suit. By the way, making 5 was 89%.

This shows that extra tricks are sometimes available if you get help from the opponents.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

# BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



## BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & BRIDGE GADGETS

### INTRODUCTION TO LEBENSOHL.....IT'S USE OVER THE OPPONENT'S PREEMPTIVE TWO-BID

By Mel Chaplin

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

Lebensohl over the opponent's preemptive two-bid is part of a system used to respond to Partner's Take-Out Double, in either the DIRECT or BALANCING seat, of Opener's preemptive two-bid. Advancer knows that Intervener has a good hand (12+ HCP) but the bidding is already at the 2-level. Advancer may have a very weak hand but she cannot pass (unless Responder bids), even if she holds zero HCP. Other times Advancer may have a weak hand but with favorable distribution or she may have an invitational or game-going hand. By using Lebensohl it is possible to distinguish Advancer's hand between a weak, "sign-off" hand, an invitational hand & a game-forcing hand. Lebensohl is initiated by Advancer bidding an artificial 2NT! puppet bid asking Intervener to bid an artificial 3C!

The Bidding Looks Like This:

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

Advancer's 2NT! (Lebensohl) can be used when Advancer has a wide variety of hands. Intervener will usually bid 3C! so Advancer can better describe her hand. Lebensohl is useful because it provides bidding sequences that more accurately describe Advancer's hand after intervener's Take-Out Double of Opener's preemptive two-bid.

Suppose Advancer holds: ♠xx ♥AKxx ♦Axxx ♣Qxx (13 HCP).

And suppose the bidding has proceeded:

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

Should Intervener raise to game? With Advancer's hand 4H would be a very reasonable contract if Intervener also holds four Hearts. But what if Advancer holds: ♠Jx ♥Qxxx ♦xxx ♣xxxx (3 HCP).

Advancer must bid even if she holds zero HCP. If Advancer bids 3H & Intervener raises to 4H the contract will go down. The big problem here is that Advancer's HCP range is just too broad to accurately describe her hand. Use of Lebensohl minimizes these problems.

ADVANCER HAS A WEAK HAND (0-7 TP<sup>1</sup>).

1) Advancer's objective is to "get out" of the bidding as cheaply as possible. Bidding a new suit at the 2-level shows 0-7 TP & is a sign-off.

Advancer's Hand: ♠QJxx ♥xxx ♦10xx ♣Jxx (4 HCP).

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

Advancer is obliged to bid since her Diamonds are not strong enough & she doesn't have the overall hand strength to convert Intervener's Take-Out Double to a Penalty Double. So, holding only 4 HCP Advancer's objective is to "get out" of the bidding as cheaply as possible. Advancer's 2S bid is a sign-off.

Now, if Advancer has a weak hand (0-7 TP) but she can't bid her suit at the 2-level Advancer can bid 2NT! (Lebensohl) asking Intervener to bid an artificial 3C! After Intervener's 3C! bid Advancer can now pass if Clubs is her suit or she can correct to her long suit.

1) Advancer's Hand: ♠Jx ♥Jxxxx ♦Jxx ♣Jxx (4 HCP).

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

<sup>1</sup>TP = Total Points = HCP + distribution.

ADVANCER HAS AN INVITATIONAL HAND (7-11 TP).

LEBENSOHL can also be used to show an invitational hand. This is done by Advancer by-passing a 2-level sign-off bid to bid 2NT! (Lebensohl). After Intervener bids the expected artificial 3C! Advancer can bid her suit at the 3-level.

1) Advancer's Hand: ♠AKxx ♥Jxx ♦xxx ♣Qxx (10 HCP).

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

Holding a 4-card Spade suit & 10 HCP Advancer wants to make an invitational bid. Advancer can do this by FIRST bidding the 2NT! artificial puppet bid asking her Partner to bid an artificial 3C! After Intervener bids 3C! Advancer can now bid 3S showing 4+ Spades & 10-12 TP, invitational.

2) Advancer's Hand: ♠xx ♥KQJxx ♦Kxx ♣Qxx (11 HCP).

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

When Advancer holds 4+ cards in a higher-ranking suit than the opponent's preemptive two-bid suit & 8-10 HCP Advancer can bid 2NT! (Lebensohl) to accurately describe her hand strength & biddable suit. After Intervener bids the expected artificial 3C! Advancer's 3H bid shows 4+ Hearts & 7-11 total points, invitational.

ADVANCER HAS A GAME-GOING HAND (12+ TP).

1) Advancer's Hand: ♠Jx ♥AKxxx ♦xx ♣KQxx (13 HCP).

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

Advancer's 3H bid shows 4+ Hearts & 12+ TP & is natural & game-forcing.

2) Advancer's Hand: ♠Ax ♥Qx ♦xxxx ♣AQJ10x (13 HCP).

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

Advancer's 3C! bid shows 5+ Clubs & 12+ TP & is natural & game-forcing. By skipping 2NT! & bidding 3C DIRECTLY Advancer is showing a good Club suit & game-forcing values.

3) Advancer's Hand: ♠xx ♥KJx ♦KJxx ♣AK10x (15 HCP).

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

Advancer's 3NT bid shows 12+ HCP & a balanced hand but DENIES a Spade stopper. Remember that a DIRECT 3NT bid in response to Intervener's Take-Out Double DENIES a stopper in the opponent's suit. If Intervener doesn't have a stopper either the partnership will have to find a place to stop at the 4-level.

#### FURTHER READING

Max Hardy. "Advanced Bidding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century", pp 234-240, 2002.

Karen Walker. "Lebensohl over Weak 2-Bid". kwbridge.com.

Marc Smith. "Lebensohl over Weak Two Openings". bridgebum.com.

Next Time: INTRODUCTION TO LEBENSOHL.....IT'S USE AFTER OPENER'S REVERSE

# 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://blovalleybridge.com)

## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor



### ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE

The Rossmoor club is back to in-person play as well as continuing some games online. The current schedule is:

Monday - Open & 499er, 1pm, Live, Members Only

Tuesday - Open & 299er, 1pm, Live, Members can invite a guest

Wednesday - ONLINE - 0-5500, 1pm

Thursday - ONLINE 0-5500, 1pm

Friday - 0-200, 9am, Live, Members may invite a guest

Saturday - Open, 1pm, Live, Members may invite a guest

Proof of full vaccinations are required to play in person at this time.

Have fun and enjoy the game!

Kit Miller

# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

## Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

### April News

In-person games, charity games, even **Gold** masterpoints. There's a lot happening in April!

**In-Person Games.** The following games are taking place in person at CCBC in Concord:

Monday mornings at CCBC, 10:00, Open, \$9 or ticket.

Thursday mornings at CCBC, 10:00, 999er, \$9 or ticket.

Saturday mornings at CCBC, 10:00, 299er (\$8) and Open (\$9 or ticket).

Please note the new Open game on Saturday mornings. Online games on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays have been suspended. CCBC continues to hold online games on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. See the full schedule below.

Masks are optional per county health guidelines, but *COVID-19 vaccination and booster will be required.*

**Charity Month (in-person games only).** All in-person games in April will be rated as Charity Championships awarding 2–3 times regular masterpoints. Even better, there is no extra charge! CCBC will donate \$1 to the ACBL Charity Foundation every time you play.

**Charity Week (online games only), April 4–10.** Virtual club games will award twice the regular masterpoints with no extra charge. Charity Week games support the ACBL Charity Foundation.

**Club Championships (in-person games only).** All regular in-person games will be rated as Club Championships awarding 2–3 times regular masterpoints. No extra charge.

**Stardust Week, April 25–30 (online games only).** Virtual club games will award twice the regular masterpoints, of which 25% will be **Gold**.

*Thank you for your support of CCBC!*



Grant Robinson

Club Manager

## Game Schedule

### Effective March 21, 2022

<b>Monday</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>In person</b>	<b>\$9</b>
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
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>999er</b>	<b>In person</b>	<b>\$9</b>
Friday	10:00	Open	Online	\$5
Friday	12:30	749er	Online	\$5
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>299er</b>	<b>In person</b>	<b>\$8</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10:00</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>In person</b>	<b>\$9</b>

# Lamorinda Bridge Club



In April we will continue offering the following Virtual Games:

## **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

Beginning April 4 we plan to reopen Face-to-Face lessons and games:

### **Mondays:**

Beginning Bridge Classes 10am-12noon and 7pm-9pm

Intermediate Bridge Class 1pm-3pm

Class sizes are limited, so signing up in advance is necessary.

Opportunities to play: As in the past, reservations will be required for all duplicate games.)

### **Tuesdays:**

Supervised Play 3pm - 5:15pm; 16 boards with Master Points Awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is limited to players with less than 499 master points. \$8/ person table fee.

**(New)** Open Game 7:00pm - 9:30pm; \$8/person table fee (18-21 boards)

### **Wednesdays:**

Open Game 10am - 1:15pm; \$10/person table fee

**Fridays:** (2nd & 4th weeks of the month)

Limited (499) Game 10am - 1pm; \$10/person table fee

**Saturdays:** (3rd week of the month);

Strati-Flighted Team Game 10am-1:15pm; \$10/person table fee

**Sundays (New):** (one week each month date TBD)

Open Game 10am - 1:15pm; \$10/person table fee

Winnie Jasper and Jerry Chamberlain

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

winnie@wjasper.com; jerry @wjasper.com