

# eDeclarer

June/July 2022

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

## President's Message



Last week, as part of my 'get to know bridge players' routine, I chatted with Mr. Frog and Ms. Rabbit, both beginner players who recently 'graduated' from Wayne and Debbie Rechnitz's bridge classes and had just been to a 299er game.

Excited to put their classroom knowledge to the test, they ended up a bit hesitant after the game to put their egos at risk a second time. They said that they knew they would be playing against some 'top dogs', but had not realized how confusing some of the situations could be. Playing against Mr. Bulldog and Ms. Poodle in a 6H contract, after the first 7 or 8 tricks, Ms. Poodle showed her remaining cards for about 3 seconds and then collected her 13 cards and put them back into the board. Later they discovered that they had the right to request Ms. Poodle to play out the hand.

As we encounter newer players, be considerate of their understanding of the game. If claiming, be sure to gain approval from the opponents before collecting the cards. When explaining an alert, describe the alert, i.e. 4+card support and 10-12 points, as opposed to calling out the name, i.e. Jordan 2NT.

With limited games available today, new players may be trying Open games. Welcome and encourage them.

The bridge environment is inching forward:

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ Annual U499 Membership meeting, Sunday, 7/10, 10am. Zoom meeting info in a Google Groups announcement. If you don't receive Google Group announcements, drop me a note at [sam.earnhardt@gmail.com](mailto:sam.earnhardt@gmail.com). The first twenty attendees will receive a free-play pass.
- ◆ U499 Fall Sectional, Sat/Sun, 9/24-25. Watch for news from Anne Hollingsworth.
- ◆ Tunnel Tournament, 10/23.

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

Sam Earnhardt

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**Deadline for August is July 21**

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

Mary Krouse, Publisher

# ...from the Editor

We lost two of our Unit 499 Grand Dames recently. Eldonna Dayton and Marilyn Horan will sorely be missed. Please send tributes which will be published in the August issue.

Changes are happening! In mid-August, CCBC games will be played in Orinda. Hopefully this will be more cost-effective for the club in light of the reduced attendance at face-to-face games. Covid is still with us and we need to be vigilant. I recently tested positive for Covid, most likely from a visit to Safeway. My household is observing isolation and mask-wearing once again

Stay healthy!

Judy Keilin  
Editor



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)*

Joann Bloom  
Gray Cardiff  
Linda Cardiff  
Bill Clark  
Susan Haggerty  
Laurie Howard  
Gary Macknin

### *New Club Master (20)*

George Wang

### *New Sectional Masters (50)*

Claire Humphrey  
Michiyo Laing

### *New Regional Master (100)*

Gloria Marchick

### *New NABC Masters (200)*

Jean Ferrin  
David Freimuth

### *New Life Master (300/500)*

Tosh Kuritsubo

### *New Bronze Life Masters (500/750)*

Tosh Kuritsubo  
Mary Schelling

### *New Silver Life Master (1000)*

Liz Rutter

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Ramona Cresci  
Pauline Fernandez  
Debra Hachen  
Benjamin Ho  
Nathaniel Marek  
Sally Mehaffey  
Robert Lee  
Elaine Nevin  
Jasmine Shu

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

# We're Movin' On

June passed us quickly. We had lots of good news after being back at the bridge table.

By the time you read this, you're most likely getting ready for the Fourth of July. This celebrated holiday happened because the Declaration of Independence was signed on July 4, 1776 by the Continental Congress which consisted of 13 Colonies.

I hope this column finds you all holding strong. Not with just your bridge hands, but with your spirit! Even during tumultuous times. I think we'd all agree that we've found a game that lasts a lifetime. Yes, we have a big change coming, so please log onto DVBC and find out what's cooking.

Jackie Zayac shared exciting news about the upcoming Tunnel Tourney--Jackie says "Save The Date." So hit the road Jack, and join us on October 23rd. We're playing Unit 502, held at the East Bay Community Bridge Center, 9050 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. It's East meets West time.

Also sharing an important matter is our Board member, Marian Renvall. Individual clubs identified the lack of directors as a major barrier to re-opening face-to-face bridge. Trainees will be mentored by Mike Kruley. There are no set ACBL guidelines to becoming a director, except for taking a proctored examination. Resources for education include a web-based program and books. The final exam is open-book. In addition, Mike Kruley will be available to mentor the new applicants during bridge play. After three sessions of independently directing a sanctioned game, reimbursement for your time and education materials will be made from the Unit.

Congratulations to Mark Marty, who successfully participated in the program and is directing the Thursday morning game at Contra Costa Bridge Center. Mark is offering a 15-minute lesson prior to the game, and a review of two interesting hands post game. The game is limited to 999 points and starts at 10am.

If you are interested or want to learn more about this program, contact the unit's President, Sam Earnhardt at 925.395.6426 or e-mail at [sam.earnhardt@gmail.com](mailto:sam.earnhardt@gmail.com). The new director is limited to the first five candidates.

I'm singing "See You In Orinda". Find out why. Please check the website for the latest info from the three wise men.

Ciao Bella,

Lisa Assoni

The ShortCut Cook



**\*\*Save the Date\*\***

The Unit 499/unit 502 **Tunnel**

**Tourney**

is being held on

**October 23, 2022**

at the East Bay Community

Bridge Center

9520 Mountain Blvd., Oakland

More details and a flyer are coming soon!

Contact Jackie Zayac, your Unit 499 Tunnel  
Tourney Chair at [jackiezayac@gmail.com](mailto:jackiezayac@gmail.com)



Jane Malcuit, Kit King, Margy Evans celebrating Tosh Kuritsubo's victory at the Lafayette Park Hotel. He's worked hard at getting those last few points to become a Life Master.

Congratulations Tosh!

# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

June, 2022

North

S QJ2

H 1083

D 2

C K107642

West

S 108765

H 72

D K965

C 83

East

S K93

H 95

D QJ3

C AQJ95

South

S A4

H AKQJ64

D A10874

C \_\_\_\_\_

P P 1C X

P 1S P 4H

This deal occurred recently and was played by my friend Mark Humphrey. I opened 1C in 3<sup>rd</sup> seat and Mark got himself to 4H which is where almost everybody played.

My partner led the 8C and this was ruffed by Mark. He evaluated the hand and liked the heart spots in dummy so he played the Ace of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in dummy. He then led the Q of spades and let it go, followed by a spade to his A and ruffed another diamond. He then ruffed a club and ruffed another diamond with the 10 hearts and ruffed a spade, then drew trumps and his diamonds were good making 7.

Mark got 89% for this so I looked at what the other players did and was slightly surprised to see that a lot of declarers drew trump before ruffing diamonds. Even the one that made 6 got 62%.

Mark played this hand carefully and got rewarded nicely for his effort!!!

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net



	North	
	S Q105	
	H 985	
	D Q84	
	C Q865	
West		East
S AK93		S 2
H K43		H AJ1076
D KJ		D A10965
C J1094		C 72
	South	
	S J8764	
	H Q2	
	D 732	
	C AK3	



P P 1S 1N

2S P P P

This deal was played by my partner Darrell Fung at a club game in Quebec City.

Somehow we bought the contract for 2S. Our opponents were quite timid, but I am writing this to demonstrate a card combination that doesn't occur very often.

The opening lead was the J of clubs which Darrell won in his hand and then led a spade towards the dummy winning the 10. Darrell then returned to his hand with his high club and led another spade to the dummy. The West player played the A and K of spades and led a heart to their partners A and then East played the A of diamonds and a diamond to West's K and then a 3<sup>rd</sup> club, which was won by the Q in dummy. Darrell trumped a heart to his hand and drew the last spade and claimed the rest.

The lesson here is how the spades were managed to lose only 2 tricks by leading towards the dummy twice. Notice what happens if he had led a big spade from the dummy. Seeing this is what a good player does.

Of course this result was excellent because the opponents can make game in Hearts, Diamonds and NT.

Jerry Weitzner

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# BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



## JACOBY 2NT & SPLINTER RAISES

By Mel Chaplin

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Two very useful conventions available to Responder when she holds a good hand opposite her Partner's opening bid are the Jacoby 2NT & a Splinter Raise. Both bids are characterized by Responder holding (a) 4+ cards in Opener's suit, (b) 12+ Total Points (HCP & distribution) & (c) a game-going hand. An important difference between Jacoby 2NT & a Splinter Raise is the fact that a Splinter Raise is generally limited to 15/16 HCP whereas there is no upper limit in HCP for the Jacoby 2NT! Both bids are alertable.

### JACOBY 2NT!

"OFF" by a passed hand.

"OFF" with interference by Opener's LHO. If RHO makes a bid, Jacoby 2NT! is still "ON" (a bidding sequence such as: 1H-P-2NT!-3C).

Responder's Hand: ♠Kxx ♥AJxx ♦Qx ♣QJxx (13 HCP).

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

Responder's 2NT! shows (a) 4+ Hearts, (b) 12+ Total Points & (c) a game-going hand.

Responder's Hand: ♠Kxx ♥AQxx ♦AQJx ♣Kx (19 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1H	P	???

???Responder should bid Jacoby 2NT! showing (a) 4+ Hearts, (b) 12+ Total Points & (c) a game-forcing hand.

### OPENER'S CONTINUATIONS

The continuations by Opener following Responder's 2NT! bid are very important. Opener must memorize these five responses:

Jumping to four of the agreed major suit shows a minimum opening hand & no shortness (not forcing).

Bidding a new suit at the 3-level (!) shows a singleton/void (forcing).

Bidding 3NT to show 15/16 HCP, no shortness & a semi-balanced hand (not forcing).

Bidding the agreed suit at the 3-level (!) to show a better than minimum opening hand, a 6+ card suit & no shortness (forcing).

Jumping to the 4-level (!) of a second suit to show a powerful two-suited hand (forcing). The second suit should have five cards led by two of the top five honors.

1) Opener's Hand: ♠KJ10xx ♥Kxx ♦AQxx ♣x (13 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1S	P	2NT!	P
3C!			

Opener's 3C! bid shows a Club singleton/void.

Opener's Hand: ♠Kxx ♥KQJ10x ♦AJx ♣xx (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1H	P	2NT!	P
4H			

Opener's 4H bid shows a minimum opening hand & no shortness. Opener's 4H bid is NOT a close-out bid. Responder can take further action if she holds a strong hand. The HCP strength associated with a Jacoby 2NT! response is unlimited & can be as much as 19 HCP.

Opener's Hand: ♠KJ10xx ♥KQJ ♦AJx ♣xx (15 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1S	P	2NT!	P
3NT			

Opener's 3NT shows better than a minimum opening values, five Spades & no shortness. 3NT is NOT a close-out bid. Responder can take further action if she has a powerful hand.

Opener's Hand: ♠KQx ♥KJ10xxx ♦Kx ♣Ax (16 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1H	P	2NT!	P
3H			

Opener's 3H bid shows better than minimum opening hand values, 6+ Hearts & no shortness (forcing).

Opener's Hand: ♠Kx ♥AKJ10x ♦x ♣AQxxx (17 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1H	P	2NT!	P
4C!			

Opener's jump to 4C! shows a second 5-card suit consisting of two of the top five honors & a powerful hand (forcing). Showing a second 5-card suit takes preference over showing shortness.

## RESPONDER'S RE-BIDS

After a 3-level re-bid by Opener, Responder can bid any suit (other than the trump suit) to show first (Ace or void) or second (King or singleton) round control of that suit (Italian-style control bidding).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1S	2NT!	Jacoby 2NT!
3D!		Shortness.
	4D	1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> round Diamond control.
4H		1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> round Heart control.
	4S	No Club controls.

## SPLINTER RAISE

Max Hardy stated more than two decades ago that a Splinter Raise was the most powerful tool for hand evaluation. A Splinter Raise shows a fit for Partner's major suit & also reveals shortness. Partner now knows that his high cards facing Partner's shortness will be wasted values for suit play but might be stoppers for No Trump. By definition, a Splinter Raise is a double jump into a short suit (singleton/void) in response to Opener's bid. A Splinter Raise can be used by Responder or Opener.

## SPLINTER RAISE BY RESPONDER

When Opener starts the bidding 1H/1S & Responder calls a Splinter Raise, Opener's best holding would be small cards such as 3, 4, & 5 in Responder's suit. The value of Opener's hand is elevated because the honors he does hold are working well with Responder's hand.

## RESPONDER'S REQUIREMENTS

- 4+ card support for Opener's suit.
- A singleton or void. Re-bidding a "splinter suit" guarantees a void in that suit.
- A game-forcing hand (12-15 HCP).

Responder's Hand: ♠10 ♥KJxx ♦KQx ♣Kxxxx (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1H	P	???

???Responder should bid 3S! a Splinter Raise showing 4+ Hearts, Spade shortness & 12-15 Total Points.

## SPLINTER RAISE BY OPENER

Opener requires 18+ Total Points, 4+ card support for Responder's suit & shortness to call a Splinter Raise. Opener needs 18+ Total Points when Responder has replied at the 1-level because Responder may have had as little as four small cards & 6 Total Points for his call.

Opener's Hand: ♠x ♥AKxx ♦KQxx ♣KQ10x (17 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1C	P	1H	P
???			

???Opener should bid 3S!, a Splinter Raise showing 4+ Hearts, a Spade singleton/void & a game-forcing hand.

Opener's Hand: ♠Axxxx ♥xxxxx ♦\_\_\_\_\_ ♣AKJ (12 HCP).

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

???Opener should bid 4D!, a Splinter Raise showing 4+ Hearts, a Diamond singleton/void & a game-forcing hand. Since Responder's 2H bid is game-forcing Opener can call a Splinter Raise holding fewer than 18+ Total Points.

Responder's Hand: ♠AQxx ♥AKxx ♦x ♣AQxx (19 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1S	P	???

???Responder's hand is too strong to use a Splinter Raise. Instead, Responder should call the Jacoby 2NT! promising (a) 4+Spades & 12+ Total Points. The Jacoby 2NT! bid has no upper limit in HCP whereas the Splinter Raise should be limited to 15/16 Total Points.

#### OPENER'S FOLLOW-UP BIDS

Opener's Hand: A KQxxxx xxxx Ax (13 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1H ???	P	4D!

???Opener should bid 4NT, RKC 1430. Opener knows Responder has 4+ Hearts, a Diamond singleton/void & 12-15 Total Points so she is the one who must decide to investigate slam. Opener's holding in Diamonds means that her HCP are fitting well with Responder's HCP.

Opener's Hand: ♠KQ10xx ♥QJ10x ♦AQ ♣xx (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1S 4S	P	4H!	P

Responder's 4H! bid is a Splinter Raise showing 4+ Spades, a Heart singleton/void & 12-15 HCP. Opener's three Heart honors now have no value for Opener.

#### DEFENSE AGAINST A SPLINTER RAISE

Doubling a Splinter Raise to show strength in the opponent's "splinter suit" is seldom of value since there is little to be gained from the opening lead of that suit. In fact, it can sometimes be devastating. Suppose an opponent's Splinter Raise is a void, Advancer calls a lead-directing double, Intervener leads the Ace of the "splinter suit" & Responder is void but declarer has the KQx of that suit. Overtricks!

#### FURTHER READING

Max Hardy: "Advanced Bridge Bidding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, pp 139-140, 2002.  
bridgebum.com "Jacoby 2NT".

Max Hardy: "Advanced Bridge Bidding for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, pp 13-115, 2002.  
advinbridge.com. "Splinter Raise by Opener".  
advinbridge.com. "Splinter Raise by Responder".

**Next Time: Roman Key Card Blackwood**

# 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.

[Diablovalleybridge.com](http://Diablovalleybridge.com)

## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Clubhouse, Rossmoor



The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club has opened all of its in-person games to non-resident guests who play with a club member. Only the Friday and Saturday games are open to two non residents playing together.

The current in-person game schedule is:

**Monday – 1pm. - Section A: Stratified Open Pairs**

**Section B: Stratified 499er**

**Tuesday – 1pm. - Section A: Stratified Open Pairs**

**Section B: Stratified 299er Pairs**

**Friday – 9am. - One section 0-199 points**

**Saturday – 1pm. - One section, Stratified Open Pairs**

All games are held in the Oak Room at the Gateway Center in Rossmoor.

**MASKS are highly recommended but not required.**

**Kit Miller**

# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

## July News

Many CCBC games in July will be awarding extra Master Points, including all in person games and selected BBO games.

As announced, **beginning August 15, CCBC will be hosting games on Mondays and Thursdays at the Orinda Masonic Hall.** Until that time, CCBC will continue hosting F2F games in Concord at the First Christian Church and on-line (BBO). So, please follow our regular schedule for games in July.

### □ **Schedule changes:**

- **Friday afternoon 749er game – limit restored.** For July, we will increase the MP limit of the BBO 12:30 game on Friday back to 749.

- **North American Pairs (NAP) qualifying games.** 2x regular club points, 50% red, 50% black. Extra \$1 for BBO games only – the club will absorb the cost for in person games. The following games will be NAP qualifying games in July – Monday (open, all flights) July 11 and 25, Wednesday (open, all flights) July 6 and 27, Friday (open all flights) July 8 and 29, Saturday (499er, flight C) July 9 and 30.

*Thank you for your support of CCBC!*

# Lamorinda Bridge Club



We have reopened Face-to-Face lessons and games:

## **Mondays:**

Ongoing Beginning Bridge Classes 10am-12noon [ACBL Textbooks Bidding in the 21st Century and Play of the Hand]

Ongoing Intermediate Bridge Class 1pm-3pm [ACBL Textbooks]

**Opportunities to play: (As in the past, reservations will be required for all duplicate games.)** We are set up to hold day games outside when the weather permits. The Tuesday night game will be held inside. Wearing masks will be optional.

## **Tuesdays:**

**3pm - 5:15pm: Supervised Play;** 14-16 boards with Master Points Awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is **Limited 499** master points. \$8/ person table fee.

**7:00pm - 9:45pm: Open Game;** \$8/person table fee (18-21 boards)

## **Wednesdays:**

10am - 1:30pm: **Open Game;** \$10/person table fee.

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

10am - 1:15pm: **Limited 499 Game;** \$10/person table fee.

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

10am-1:30pm: **Strata-Flighted Open Swiss Team Game;** \$10/person table fee.

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

10am - 1:30pm: **Open Game;** \$10/person table fee.

In July we will continue offering the following **Virtual Games**

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

Saturday 10am Open Game \$5

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

Sunday 10:00am Open Game \$5

Saturday

Winnie & Jerry

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

winnie@wjasper.com; jerry @wjasper.com