

eDeclarer

September 2022

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Partnership comportment is on display every time you and your partner sit down at the table. Recently, at a club game, my partner, Mr. Cocker Spaniel and I sat down to play against Ms. Collie and Mr. Doberman.

On the first board, the contract ended up in an un-makable 3NT contract. After setting our opponents (the only gift that day), Mr. Doberman started abrading Ms. Collie. For me, unnecessary to conduct a sharp discussion at the table (this was not even a discussion – a one-way abrading).

After the second board, Mr. Doberman continued with his observations on hand #one. Quite annoying. Even after I said 'please let's move on', he continued with his corrosive comments. Leaving the table after the third hand, I noticed that Mr. Doberman was at it again.

I remembered what Mr. Robinson's advice was before each session (he has since moved to Texas) 'Play nice.'

Mr. Doberman would be well-advised to incorporate Mr. Robinson's advice.

As both a bridge player and the Unit President, I am concerned about the playing atmosphere. The director, a Mr. Great Dane, was alerted.

Please be attentive to players who disrespect the advice 'Play nice', and report to the director or me. This type of unfriendly behavior is unacceptable. When observed, this type of behavior needs to be addressed first by the club and in some cases referred to the Unit board.

Now, for lots of fun, F2F at your favorite club.

Remember our Unit's upcoming events.

U499 Fall Sectional, Sat/Sun, 9/24-25. Watch for news from Anne Hollingsworth.

Tunnel Tournament, 10/23, more news from Jackie Zayac.

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

Sam Earnhardt

...from the Editor

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There's going to be a Tunnel Tourney this year! Check out the flyer in this issue. Great opportunity for a day of bridge with a nice lunch.

Michael Gosnell's Danville Game is reopening F2F on Fridays at a new time. Check out Club News for information on that and our other club games.

Life is slowly returning to normal. Hooray for that!

Judy Keilin



Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Mary Krouse, Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at jkeilin@gmail.com

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 Regional Master (100)

Joanne Thorne

New NABC Master (200)

Anne Hetland

New Life Master (300/500)

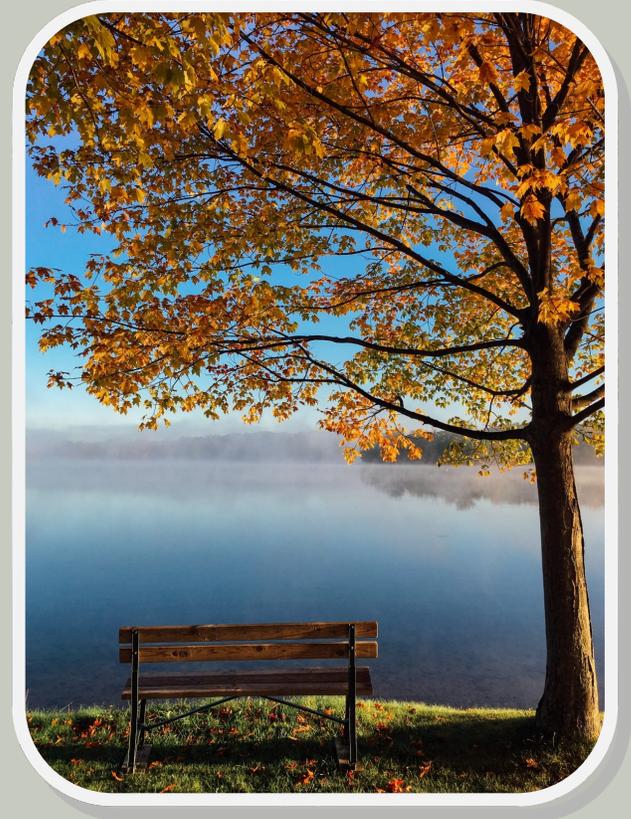
Jeanette Bartz

New Ruby Life Master (1500)

Jackie Zayac

New Emerald Life Master (7500)

Manfred Michlmayr



NEW MEMBER

Henry Clyde

Please welcome Henry when you meet him online or at the tables.

IN MEMORIAM



We recently lost another member of our bridge community. Below is an article from the East Bay Club, where she often played, and following that is Liz Rutter's tribute to her friend.

From the EBCBC Newsletter

On a sad note—I learned today from [Lois Flock](#) that her good friend, [Vernita Davidson](#), passed away recently. You may remember Vernita as a skillful player who came to EBCBC prior to the pandemic and walloped the field with her bridge-playing ability. She'd been suffering with cancer for quite some time and, sadly, it overcame her and she'll be with many of our departed friends fighting it out in heaven on the bridge tables in the hereafter. God rest, Vernita...we'll miss you.

Vernita Davidson (1940-2022) died peacefully on August 7, 2022. Vernita was born in San Mateo into a family settled in California for many generations. She attended UC Davis and spent summers at the family home near Yosemite.

She worked for OSHA as a research manager retiring after forty years in 2001. Her passion was bridge, bridge and more bridge. She went to every tournament she could get to. Even after a cancer diagnosis, she jumped off the table and caught a flight to the San Diego Regional to play with Liz, Lois and Valerie.

She was a fixture at the Bridge Center, serving on the board for many years. Her favorite educational activity was playing bridge with Gene Simpson and learning to be an advanced player under his tutelage. She was a quiet, calm accepting presence at the bridge table, playing with many partners and winning regularly, attaining her Silver Life Master. When she was still a novice she organized bridge study groups in her home to pursue her skills. She was active in local senior center groups and enjoyed meals and trips with them. She enjoyed having dogs and told stories of her many adventures and misadventures with her beloved Beagle, Biscuit.

She leaves two sons, and many beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, as well as a large network of cousins and relatives.

Liz Rutter

In-Person Brentwood Game

My latest challenge is to reestablish at least one of two former Brentwood games and the Discovery Bay game.

With the help of Mark Marty and Susan Huber, we are preparing an email list of players who have played these games prior to Covid, and those who might consider playing.

You may be contacted more than once, so please bear with that as we build our roster. You can also email me now with your feelings, and if you show no interest, can be removed from the mailing list.

At this time, we're looking at a Tuesday or Friday game.

With the Concord games relocated to Orinda, a Brentwood game is well-placed for our players.

Think about it! With enough interest, we'll start looking for a venue.

Judy Keilin (jkeilin@pacbell.net)

P.S. After the games, you can pick up some corn and peaches before going home! Win win!

8th Annual Pairs Invitational

Tunnel Tourney

DIABLO VALLEY UNIT 499 (<http://diablovalleybridge.com>)

VERSUS

EAST BAY UNIT 502 (<http://www.eastbayunit-502.com>)

LOCATION: East Bay Community Bridge Center
3520 Mountain Boulevard, Oakland, CA.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022

10:30 AM & TBA - TWO SESSION EVENT –

18 Boards per Session

Game Director: Greg Vance

Open (0-500/500-2000/2000+)

299er (0-50/50-100/100-300)

PAIRS MUST PLAY BOTH SESSIONS: PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

TABLE FEES: \$20.00 for bridge, sandwich and chips! Soft drinks: \$1.00

To register for Unit 499, email jackiezayac@gmail.com by Oct. 16, 2022

To register for Unit 502, email grantvance1@gmail.com

(Space is limited to 21 tables)

Provide names and ACBL numbers of both partners, individual MP's,

and sandwich choice: turkey, veggie or cold cuts

- If you need a NS, please request it with your reservation
- You will receive a confirming reservation e-mail
- Pairs must be from the same unit and must be members of either Unit 499 or Unit 502

LABOR OF LOVE

This month is the table-topper for good weather. Also, when we think of September, it's often associated with Labor Day. The first Labor Day was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882 in New York City. It spread with the growth of labor organizations, and in 1885 Labor Day was in full bloom, as many industrial centers in the country had parades and parties.

Labor, has many different meanings. My first reaction is childbirth. Yikes.

Labor is intense and painful, but the reward is so sweet! Hard labor stems from physical work. Bridge can also bring on a little labor too. When we have a difficult hand to bid, we labor over what, and how to respond. You may even get a tummy ache, with much less intensity of course. It can make you sweat, and create some anxiety too. *Gee, what a fun game!*

Seriously, our addiction to bridge is actually extremely healthy for the mind. I'll bet everyone reading this column is also grateful for this wonderful, zealous, headache-pounding game. All you smart cookies can relate.

I write for several publications, but my favorite is Bridge. There's so much to talk about. Like *how to sneeze* without sharing. When in play, so much goes on at each table. And personally, I don't want to hear it either. Okay, call me crumby, but lots of noise is distracting for most players.

Oh, AND the big game-killer is the coughs and sneezes. Yikes, turn your hand and blow in your neighbor's face. I love sharing, but not with the Big Corona Virus; so cough or sneeze in your sleeve. We all know that we'd do anything to play, so let's learn how to sneeze from my Granddaughter, Isabella. "Nonie" she says, "Bend both arms and put your elbows together and Ah-chew in there." I've been sneezing for over fifty years, and she's going to tell me how? Yikes! However, Izzy's right. So let's all try it, and all will appreciate it. *So remember-- to sneeze or cough, if you please, but keep it in your sleeve.*

And that's my two cents for this month. --HOWEVER--

Side Note: I played at the Orinda Club and it was very pleasant.. Nice, clean room, great kitchen, and the bathrooms are "over the top". If you haven't tried it, I guarantee you'll like it.

Ciao Bella,

Lisa Assoni/The ShortCutCook



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

September, 2022

North

S AK75

H A

D J7532

C AJ4

West

S 42

H QJ10762

D K84

C Q9

East

S Q9

H K4

D Q1096

C K8765

South

S J10863

H 9853

D A

C 1032



2H X 3H 3S

P 4S all pass

West starts off with a weak 2H and you arrive at 4S. The opening lead is the QH.

I found this deal very interesting due to the fact that there are at least three lines of play to consider.

The first one is to play the A and K of spades, then cross ruff hearts and diamonds losing 2 clubs and a heart making 4.

The second is to immediately start the cross ruff by leading a diamond to your A, ruffing a heart low, then ruffing a diamond and ruffing a heart with a high spade, ruffing another diamond, ruffing your last heart with the other high spade, cash the A clubs and losing the last 3 tricks again making 4.

The third line is to win the A hearts, cross to the A diamonds, go back to the dummy with the A spades, ruff a diamond, back to the dummy with the K spades, ruff a diamond, then ruff a heart and ruff a diamond and lead a club to the J which loses to the K but now when East who is down to all clubs leads back a low club, you play low and the Q forces the A and your diamonds and the 10 clubs are good making 6.

The third line is obviously the best. When this was played no one made 6, some made 5, some made 4 and even some went down in 4.

Congratulations to those of you that made 6, using your trumps as transportation instead of cross ruffing.

Another example of what makes this game so much fun.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



PUPPET STAYMAN

By Mel Chaplin
melchaplin@comcast.net

Puppet Stayman is an enhanced version of the Stayman Convention that partnerships who routinely open 1NT/2NT holding a 5-card major suit find useful. Once Opener bids 1NT/2NT holding a 5-or 4-card major it is usually desirable to determine if Opener & her Partner have a 5-3 or 4-4 fit in Opener's major suit. The objective of Puppet Stayman is to locate such a major suit fit. The name "Puppet Stayman" derives from Opener's 2D re-bid as a relay ("puppet") bid that denies a 5-card major suit. Puppet Stayman, as well as Regular Stayman, should NOT be used holding 4-3-3-3 distribution. Play in 3NT instead. Puppet Stayman is NEVER used holding 4-4 in the major suits. Use Regular Stayman instead. Regular Stayman is NEVER used holding a 5-card major suit. Responder should simply transfer Opener to her 5-card major suit.

PUPPET STAYMAN AFTER PARTNER'S 1NT OPENING BID

Many partnerships use the following strategy for using Regular Stayman & Puppet Stayman.

Holding invitational hand values Responder's reply to Opener's 1NT is 2C, Regular Stayman. Opener can show a 5-or 4-card major by bidding that major at the 2-level. If Opener does not have a 5- or 4-card major her bid should be 2D! An additional advantage of delegating 2C to a hand holding invitational values only is that Garbage Stayman & Creeping Stayman are still available when Responder holds a very weak hand with the right distribution.

Holding game-going values Responder's reply to Opener's 1NT should be 3C!, Puppet Stayman. Responder needs at least one 3-card major suit or at least one 4-card major to bid Puppet Stayman. After Partner's 1NT Opening, Puppet Stayman Bidding Looks Like This:

<u>Partner</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
1NT	P	3C!

Holding game-going values Responder's reply to Opener's 1NT should be 3C!, Puppet Stayman. Responder needs 10+ HCP, one or two 3-card majors or one or two 4-card majors to use Puppet Stayman.

<u>Partner</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1NT	P	3C!	P
4D!	P	4H!	

Opener's 4D! bid denies a 5-card major but shows at least one 4-card major. Your 4H bid shows four Spades.

PUPPET STAYMAN AFTER PARTNER'S 2NT OPENING

Responder can use Puppet Stayman after Partner's 2NT opening bid. The Puppet Stayman bid is 3C! & Responder is asking Opener if she has a 5- or a 4-card major suit. Responder needs at least one 3-card major suit & 5+ HCP, or at least 4-card major to use Puppet Stayman.

Partner's Hand: ♠Kxx ♥Kxx ♦xxxxx ♣Kx (9 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
2NT	P	3C!	P
3H!	P	4H	

Holding three Spades, three Hearts & 9 HCP Responder's bid is 3C!, Puppet Stayman, asking Opener if she has a 5-card major. Opener should bid 3H!

OPENER'S RESPONSES TO RESPONDER'S 3C! PUPPET STAYMAN BID

3H! shows 5 Hearts

3S! shows 5 Spades.

3D! denies a 5-card major but shows at least one 4-card major.

3NT! is to play & denies a 4-card or 5-card major.

RESPONDER'S FOLLOW-UP BIDS AFTER 2NT-3C!-3D!

3H! shows four Spades (Smolen-Like). Partner will now bid 4S if she holds four Spades; if not she will bid 3NT.

3S! shows four Hearts (Smolen-Like). Partner will now bid 4H if she holds four Hearts; if not she will bid 3NT.

3NT! is to play & denies a 5-card or a 4-card major suit.

Responder can bid 3C!, Puppet Stayman (game-forcing) asking Partner to bid 3H or 3S if she has five cards in one of the majors. Otherwise, Opener should bid 3D!, denying five Hearts & five Spades but showing at least one 4-card major.

Partner's Hand: ♠QJxx ♥KQx ♦Kxx ♣Axx (15 HCP).

Your Hand: ♠Kxx ♥Axx ♦10xxxx ♣Kx (10 HCP).

<u>Partner</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1NT	P	3C!	P
3D!	P	3NT	

Responder holds 10 HCP, enough to directly bid 3NT. But her Kx of Clubs is bothersome since Opener could have two or three small Clubs for her 1NT bid. Responder also has 3-card Heart & Spade suits so she bids 3C! to determine if her Partner may have five Hearts or five Spades. Opener does not have a 5-card major but she has four Spades so her correct bid is 3D! telling her Partner that she holds at least one 4-card major. Responder is not interested in playing game in a 4-3 major suit fit so she bids 3NT.

FURTHER READING

"Puppet (5-card) Stayman". improvebridge.com

web2.acbl.org. "The Bidding Toolkit".

Max Hardy. "Puppet Stayman". *Advanced Bidding for the 21st Century*, pp 102-111, 2002.

acblunit360.org. "1NT-3C as Puppet Stayman".

bridgebum.com. "Puppet Stayman over 2NT".

Next Time: Bridge Gadgets for Defending.

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

Carol Griffin

Classes offered by Carol T. Griffin starting the first week in Sept for ten weeks:

Orinda Community Center:

The Club Series(Beginners) 10-noon on Tuesdays

The Diamond Series (Play of the Hand) 1-3 on Tuesdays

Lafayette Community Center:

The Diamond Series (Play of the Hand) 10-noon on Thursdays

The Heart Series (Defense) starting with Signals (the second half) 1pm - 3pm on Thursdays.

I also have an ongoing Drop-in class which runs all year round for newer players to play under my supervision along with Deb Rechnitz every Wednesday at Lafayette Community Center from 10-noon.

Please call to discover the very flexible sign-up procedure. This is a class for newer players who would like to practice the new ideas they have collected from their Club, Rusty and Diamond classes and would like to meet other like-minded students with whom to play.

Carol Griffin



Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

September News

September News CCBC is now hosting games on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Orinda Masonic Hall, 9 Altarinda Road. The Tuesday game is new to our schedule, and we welcome all players with fewer than 500 MPs to participate. It is a fully-sanctioned ACBL game with a minimum of 18 boards. Games continue on BBO on Wednesday, Friday and now Saturday (10:00 499er). Special games – In person games the week of September 26 will be International Fund Games (extra MPs with extra \$1 to support ACBL international competition) Schedule changes: – Monday, Sept 5 – the game will be online due to Labor Day holiday and Regional Tournament in Santa Clara – Saturday, Sept 24 - no game due to Unit 499 Sectional at Rossmoor Thank you for your support of CCBC!

Michael Kurley



CCBC Game Schedule

Monday 11:30 Open In person \$9

Tuesday 10:00 499er In person \$8 (online on 9/5 only)

Wednesday 10:00 Open Online \$5

Thursday 10:00 999er In person \$9

Friday 10:00 Open Online \$5

Friday 12:30 749er Online \$5

Saturday 10:00 499er Online \$5 (no game 9/3)

Diablo Bridge Club

Diablo County Club

1700 Country Club Road, Diablo

Mary Krouse

diablokr@gmail.com, 925 984-3846



Diablo Country Club will be closing for renovation in October. The September game will be held on the Septmeber 20 at 9:30. The cost is \$32 and includes lunch. The game is open to all, but reservations are required. Please contact Mary Krouse by the Thursday prior to the game if you would like to play.

I am still investigating possibilities for the future, and will have more information next month.

Mary Krouse

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Clubhouse, Rossmoor



Below is the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club current in-person game schedule:

Monday: 1pm. - Section A: Stratified open pairs; Section B: Stratified 499er game

Tuesday: 1pm. - Section A: " " " Section B: " 199er game

Friday: 9am. - 199er game (players can come without a partner to this game)

Saturday: 1pm. - One section, Stratified open pairs

Non-residents may play WITH A RESIDENT on Monday and Tuesday.

Non-residents can play together on Friday and Saturday.

There are online games on Wednesday (5500 point max) and Thursday (open).

Kit Miller

DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall

Hartz Ave, Danville



The Danville game is starting back up Friday, September 23, at 9am, and will continue at that time slot every week minus holidays.

The game is limited to players with less than 2500 points, and meets at the Veterans Hall in Danville. Entrance to game is on Prospect Avenue.

Michael Gosnell

Lamorinda Bridge Club

Regular 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.

Weekly Games:

Tuesdays:

3pm - 5:15pm: Supervised Play; 14-16 boards with Master Points Awarded 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:

10am - 1:30pm: **Limited 499 Game;** \$10/person table fee.

Saturdays: the following games will be offered subject to interest

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

If there are sufficient sign-ups we may have tables both inside and outside

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

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

Weekly Bridge Lessons:

Mondays:

Ongoing Beginning Bridge Classes 10am-12noon [ACBL Textbook: [Play of the Hand](#)]

Ongoing Intermediate Bridge Class 1pm-3pm [ACBL Textbooks] Topics available upon request. \$20/class.

Fridays:

Beginning Friday, September 23, 2022 we will offer a new class on [Bidding in the 21st Century](#). The Cost for the series of lesson to cover the 9 chapters in the book will be \$200, which includes the cost of the textbook. Please contact Winnie at 925-683-1908 or winnie@wjasper.com. To reserve a spot in the class.

Winnie & Jerry

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

winnie@wjasper.com; jerry@wjasper.com



ed; three questions al-