

eDeclarer

December 2022

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



In 1957, Eisenhower was president and Gene Autry and Roy Rogers were TV stars; I was eight and had a way-cool fort and club. There were four of us in the club (all boys), Red, Dawg, Bull (for Bullwinkle), and Scout. The fort was underground with a main meeting room and several offshoot tunnels. We strategized and solved major problems in the main meeting room. Totally Awesome!!!

One day, a new boy showed up at the fort's entrance, he said 'Hi, how ya doin?'. We looked at each other and said 'Who are you?' 'I moved in across the street.' 'My name is Rocky'.

So here's the crux, we decided to let him join the club. (We could have said 'well, so what'—'move along this is our club.')

He turned out to be a great friend and clubmate over the next couple of years.

So here I am, 2022, with several clubs that I love. I met a 'new' pair a couple weeks ago. Praised their playing and chatted with them. They are 'graduates' of Wayne and Debbie's classes. They were 'recruited' by Grant Robinson.

When you meet new players, welcome them, encourage them, and help them understand the intricacies of 'black, silver, red, and gold'; what a club is and what the district and unit are; how to use google groups partnership; and so on.

Unit Events.

The Tunnel Tournament was fun and successful. Next year the TT will be held in our Unit. Time and place TBD. Watch for announcements. Jackie Zayac is the point of contact.

The next 'sectional' is being planned. Maybe an NLM (non-life-master) and also probably a regular Sectional. Stay tuned, Anne Hollingsworth is working this.

Google Groups: in an effort to minimize 'e-mail stealing', communications will now hide the e-mail addresses for the sendees. The sender's e-mail will still be visible. As a side note, if a note is being sent to a community of individuals, use BCC for the sendees, that way their e-mail address will not appear. Thank you, Judy Keilin.

Congratulate Chuck Silva, new board member. He comes with an internet and a financial background.

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

Sam Earnhardt

...from the Editor

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Unit 499 has a new club! Overtricks by the Bay will have its Grand Opening on January 10 at the Discovery Bay Community Center. Mark Marty will direct, and hopes to see lots of you. Watch for more info in eDeclarer and via Google Groups. Reservations are required with Mark.

This issue includes the final lesson from Mel Chaplin, and is one of my favorite conventions - Spiral.

Thanks to Mel for his many contributions. There will be a big void in eDeclarer. Sharing your expertise is a gift, and we thank you, Mel. We wish you well, and will look for you in the online games.

Happy Holidays, everyone! Be kind to your partners and your opponents!

Judy Keilin
Editor



Unit 499 eDeclarer

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

Volume 136

December 2022

Deadline for January is December 19



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 Junior Masters (5)

Rosalie Devin

Betty Starr

Hassan Yatim

Lily Zhou

New Club Master (20)

Jane Sacknowitz

NEW MEMBERS

Lynn Irely

Jeri Ram

Bob Mehaffey

Let's welcome these new members when you meet them online or at the table.



So you're saying you're absolutely sure
you can't play bridge with me tonight?

2022 Tunnel Tourney Results

The annual Tunnel Tournament between Diablo Valley Unit 499 and East Bay Unit 502 Unit was held on Sunday, October 23, 2022, after a two year hiatus due to the virus that shall not be named. The results are in:

In the overalls of the Open game:

Flight A: (1) *Neal Mazaroff and Matt Quint*, (2) *Ed Seputis and John Eiding*, (3) *Jessica Lai and Grant Vance*

Flight B: (1) *Don Levine and Richard Springer*, (2) *Sarah Simmerman and Betty Kael*, (3) *Bob Barnes and Furqan Naeem*

In the overalls of the limited 399er game:

Marian Renvall and Catherine Brazelton, (2) *Jeff Johnson and Sheila Wong*, (3/4) *Jeff Fountain and Karen Aldridge tied with David Gin and Joyce Jacobson*

This year East Bay Unit 502 beat Diablo Valley Unit 499 by a score of 36 to 10, so they keep the trophy.

Everyone who attended had a good time. There were sandwiches with a cookie from Subway, along with chips, sodas and *Loretta Dimitruck's* (an East Bay Unit member) world renowned brownies and cupcakes for dessert.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all who played in the Tunnel Tourney. The East Bay Unit especially loved seeing all their dear friends and some new faces from the other side of the tunnel. I know that our Unit 499 players felt the same way.

Stay tuned for our opportunity to win the plaque back in 2023!

We will host the Tunnel Tourney in 2023 and look forward to seeing you all there to represent Diablo Valley Unit 499. Please note that the Tunnel Tourney may be held in the spring since the East Bay Unit has had possession of the plaque since before the virus that shall not be named began.

Jackie Zayac



GRAND OPENING!



OVERTRICKS

by the Bay



Join us at Unit 499's newest club,
opening January 10, 2023 at 11am

at

Discovery Bay Community Center

1601 Discovery Bay Blvd.

Discovery Bay, CA 94505

The game will be directed by Mark Marty. There will be snacks. Players are asked to bring their own beverages in spill-proof covered containers. Initially, reservations will be required.

Contact Mark at thatsafire@gmail.com or 925-487-7832.

What Are You Hiding?

It may be the gift-giving time, as we are near the season of buying presents. Some hide them under a tree, others celebrate for days, or mail them, and some just don't care.

Not everyone celebrates Christmas, but if you do, December is upon us and winter is near, so clean out your closets and bring out the cheer. Santas, pandas and all the cute toys, put up a tree and have some tea-- if you've got the energy. How about a Hot Toddy! Remember when lots of us celebrated the holiday season with this special drink? It seemed to warm your heart and give us comfort, all in one cup. Hum, I'm getting thirsty; it must be five o'clock somewhere!

So, what should you be hiding? It's your bridge hand. If you don't cover your cards, and you don't think folks won't take a peak, you're not cookin' on all four burners.

I've done it, not intentionally, but I try to swiftly turn away, and tell the opponents to hide their cards. (*most of the time*). I've really only seen one pair cheat, pretty blatantly, and they were dismissed from the bridge center. Of course, then there were the two European pairs competing for a world championship. After winning, it was revealed by video cameras that one pair was cheating. It showed a minimal separation of their fingers, indicating what card should be returned. Of course the title was taken away.

So, it's imperative to be cautious at the bridge table, and don't assume someone can't see your cards OR overhear the bidding and outcome of the game. Even when I groan, make a face, roll my eyes, or take a deep breath, all expressions are give-aways. Poker face is what we need, so you don't reveal what you're hiding.

Saving the best for last! Beginning January 1st, Jacki Zayac will be the Region 12 Director, representing District 20 and our own District 21 which includes 44 units on the ACBL Board of Directors. This is a new position with a term of four years. Jackie is looking forward to representing us on the ACBL Board of Directors. Congratulations Jackie, we're proud of you.

Wishing you all, a Happy, Healthful Holiday.

Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

December, 2022

North

S 9743

H KQJ8

D AK96

C A

West

S K106

H 1052

D J1083

C KJ2

East

S QJ8

H 43

D Q742

C Q1085

South

S A52

H A976

D 5

C 97643

P P 1D P

1H P 4H P

P P



Several players have asked my opinion on opening 1NT with a singleton and I reply that I would rather not.

This deal occurred recently and some players did open 1N with the North hand and some partners did use Stayman finding their heart fit and got a good result. One player opened 1N, played it there, and made 2 for +120 and received a zero.

The play at my table began with the J diamonds lead, I won in dummy and decided to duck a spade which was won by West who continued a diamond. I won in dummy, discarding a spade, cashed the A clubs and cross ruffed the rest making 6.

Should West have seen a cross ruff coming? I think so but it is not easy.

Making 6 was 100%, making 5 was 75% (somebody led 1 trump), making 4 was 60%.

Looking at the North hand should tell you that it wants to play in a suit contract, lots of controls.

A few days later I picked up Q, Q762, AKQ109, K83 and did open 1N for the first time ever thinking that if I open 1 diamond and partner responds 1 spade, I would have to bid 2 hearts, a reverse, and my hand just isn't good enough for that. We got to 3N making 4 and it convinced me that it is OK to open 1N with a singleton honor.

I think if you compare the two hands you would agree that the first hand is better for a suit and the second is better for NT.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



SPIRAL RAISES

By Mel Chaplin

melchaplin@comcast.net

Spiral Raises revolve around questions about how many cards Opener holds in Responder's major suit. Only Responder can initiate a Spiral Raise.

The Bidding Looks Like This:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1m	P	1M	P
2M	P	2NT!	P
???			

m = minor suit.

M= major suit.

2NT! = Forcing.

Spiral Raises were first known as the Rodwell Game Try Convention, introduced by Eric Rodwell. Many variations of the convention have been developed over the years. A popular, easy-to-remember version follows:

Opener starts with a minor suit & his Partner replies in a major suit at the 1-level. Opener then supports Responder's major at the 2-level. Now Responder needs to know whether Opener's support is three or four cards & whether Opener's HCP are minimum (12-14 HCP) or maximum (15+ HCP). To investigate Responder bids 2NT!

In this bidding sequence Opener's 2M bid usually shows four trumps in Responder's suit. But sometime circumstances demand that Opener support Responder's major suit holding only three trumps. Responder now needs to know if Opener's trump support is three or four cards & whether Opener's hand is minimum (12-14 HCP) or maximum (15-19 HCP). To investigate these unknown factors Responder bids an artificial 2NT!

Opener's Answers to Responder's 2NT!

- 3C! Three trumps & a minimum opening hand (12-14 HCP).
- 3D! Three trumps & a maximum opening hand (15+ HCP).
- 3H! Four trumps & minimum values.
- 3S! Four trump & maximum values.

OPENER SHOULD MEET TWO REQUIREMENTS BEFORE RAISING RESPONDER'S MAJOR SUIT HOLDING ONLY THREE TRUMPS.

Opener should hold reliable 3-card trump support (nothing like 5-3-2).

Opener should have ruffing values in his hand, such as a worthless doubleton.

A very common bidding sequence occurs when Opener starts with 1C or 1D & his Partner responds 1H or 1S.

Opener's Hand: ♠K10 ♥QJxx ♦QJxx ♣AJx (14 HCP).

Responder's Hand: xx xxx AKxxx Kxx (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Meaning</u>
1C	1H	Shows 4+ Hearts & 6+ HCP.
2H		Shows 3 or 4 Hearts & 12-19 HCP.
	2NT!	How good is your hand & What is Your Shape?
3H!		Four Hearts & a minimum opening hand.

In many cases Opener will re-bid 1NT holding this minimum hand & not knowing if Responder holds three or four Hearts in his major suit. Evidence to the contrary shows that most Opening bidders re-bid 1NT. An early developer of Spiral Raises advocated a) having ruffing values if using the 3-card raise option & b) a reasonably reliable holding in Responder's suit.

WHEN SHOULD OPENER RAISE RESPONDER HOLDING ONLY 3-CARD SUPPORT FOR RESPONDER'S MAJOR SUIT?

Opener does this when he believes raising with Responder's three trumps is a "least worse" bid than other options under the circumstances. For example, Opener has ♠KJx ♥xx ♦AQx ♣Kxxxx (13 HCP).

The shape of Opener's hand & the location of Opener's values are important considerations. Raising Responder's suit, re-bidding your own suit or bidding 1NT all send a very different message to Responder.

Opener's re-bid is not so easy if Responder bids 1S. Opener has three bidding choices now: 1NT, 2C or 2S. None are very appealing. Opener lacks a Heart stopper so he should not bid 1NT. Re-bidding the weak 5-card Club suit has little appeal. Then there is 2S even though Opener holds only three Spades. Many experts state that 2S is often the proper bid & is often the "least worst" bid available.

And when Opener's hand is ♠KJx ♥AQxxx ♥Kxxx 10 (13 HCP) & the bidding proceeds 1H-P-1S-P what other bid is available for Opener beyond 2S? Opener's hand is worth only 13 HCP. 1NT should not be bid holding a singleton Club. So that leaves 2S.

In the current problem Opener has a nice 5-card Heart suit & only one small Club; the singleton Club is no good for No Trump. Opener also believes it will be more difficult to compete in Hearts if Opener immediately bids 2S directly. If Partner wins the bid my Clubs will provide extra tricks. Often one of the reasons Partner will aggressively try for game is because they think they have a double fit.

NEVER JUMP RAISE YOUR PARTNER HOLDING ONLY 3-CARD SUPORT. FIND ANOTHER BID.

OPENER SHOULD MEET TWO REQUIREMENTS BEFORE RAISING RESPONDER'S MAJOR SUIT HOLDING ONLY THREE TRUMPS

Opener should have decent values in his 3-card major (A-J-2 as opposed to 5-3-2).
Opener should have ruffing values in his hand

A very common bidding sequence:

Example 1: Responder's Hand: Q10xx Kxx Jx Axxx (10 HCP).

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

???Opener's reply is 3H! showing four Spades & a minimum hand (12-14 HCP). Responder is no longer interested in game so he signs-off in 3S.

Example 2: Responder's Hand: ♠Q10xx ♥xx ♦AJxxx ♣Kx (10 HCP).

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

???Opener's reply is 3C! showing three trumps & minimum values (12-14 HCP). Responder is no longer interested in pursuing game but he is willing to play in 3D.

Example 3: Responder's Hand: ♠Q10xx ♥xx ♦Kx ♣AJxxx (10 HCP).

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

???Opener's 3C! bid shows three trumps & minimum opening values (12-14 HCP). No longer interested in game Responder chooses to pass Opener's Club stopper.

FURTHER READING

Val Covalciuc. "Play Bridge". The Bridge Bulletin, pg 39, September 2007.

Mel Colchamiro. "Don't Let the Tail Wag the Dog". The Bridge Bulletin, pg 23. November 2020.

Neil Timm. "3344 Convention & Spiral Raises".

Billy Miller. "Spiral Raises" The Bridge Bulletin, pg 65, January 2021.

P.S. I'm very sorry to say that this will be my last column for eDeclarer. My health has been in major decline for several weeks now & I don't have the energy to continue this endeavor. I do hope some of you have gotten some benefits from these columns. I very much enjoyed putting them together. Mel.

Publisher's note, Mel, thank you for all your efforts in putting together these columns. Not only did you expertly and clearly explain the conventions, but you put a lot of effort into formatting the column in an easy to follow fashion. My best wishes to you. Mary Krouse

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



Drop-in is an all-year-round event and is alive and healthy.

If you want a friendly and helpful atmosphere in which to play bridge, don't forget the Lafayette Community Center where one can join a group of people who enjoy the game. There is a short lesson prior to the games we play. No partner is needed and when one needs help for a bid or a lead we have supervisors to help, both Carol Griffin and Debbie Rechnitz! We meet every Wednesday from 10-noon.

Classes given by Carol Griffin are starting the second week in Jan 2023

1-At Orinda Community Center for ten Tuesdays 10-noon Rusty Bridge I and II (a complete bidding review with lots of practice hands)

and from 1-3 Diamond supervised course (A chance to practice all the theories one learned in the Play of the Hand/ Diamond course with lots of hands to demonstrate all the techniques such as finesses, trick development, trump management, entries, etc.)

2- At Lafayette Parks and Recreation for ten Thursdays from 10-noon An Introduction to the 10 most useful Conventions and from 1-3 an Introduction to 2/1 Bidding

Carol Griffin

Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

December News

A couple of schedule changes took effective in mid-November and are reflected in the paragraphs below.

CCBC is now hosting games on Mondays (open at 11:15), Tuesdays (99er at 10:00) and Thursdays (999er at 10:30) at the Orinda Masonic Hall, 9 Altarinda Road. Games continue on BBO on Tuesday (749er at 10:00), Wednesday (open at 10:00) and Friday (open at 10:00).

Special games – **December 5-8** all in-person games will be **Royal STaC** (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) games. These pay a lot of extra MPs with ¼ each gold, silver, red and black. A chance to get those special MPs at your local club. \$1 extra.

We would really like to see you at the club to finish off 2022!

☐ **Schedule changes:**

- ☐ In November, we lowered the MP limit for the Tuesday in-person game to 99 to attract newer players. We hope that players in this 0-99 MP range will join us for a welcoming way to start competitive bridge. This game welcomes all players with fewer than 100 MPs to participate – you can even come without a partner and ask questions about bidding during the game.
- ☐ We also added a 749er game on BBO at 10:00 on Tuesdays (in place of the Friday 749er game).
- ☐ Note that there are 2 time changes since we started in Orinda. The Monday game now starts at 11:15 (to get players out a little earlier), and the Thursday game starts at 10:30 (to avoid the morning traffic).

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

CCBC Game Schedule

Monday 11:15 Open In person \$9

Tuesday 10:00 99er In person \$8

Tuesday 10:00 749er Online \$5

Wednesday 10:00 Open Online \$5

Thursday 10:30 999er In person \$9

Friday 10:00 Open Online \$5



Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

Blackhawk Country Club

Contact Lilah Newton at

lilahnewton@yahoo.com



The Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge Group will be having our annual Holiday Party on December 7. We will be inviting our gentlemen friends to join us for this STAC game. We will gather at 9:30am in the main dining room for coffee, tea, and pastry/muffins. We will play our entire bridge game and then have our lunch consisting of a cup of soup and an entree salad followed by dessert. Reservations are required. If you would like to play please contact:

Lilah Newton or Sharon Tarpinian

925-963-0452 925-200-9758

lilahnewton@yahoo.com enchantment-s@comcast.net

DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall

Hartz Ave, Danville



The Danville game is starting back up Friday, September 23, at 9:30am, 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

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Clubhouse, Rossmoor

ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club will hold its Holiday Luncheon and Annual Meeting on Monday, December 12. This is a MEMBER ONLY event. If a non-resident guest is playing in the game that day, they should not arrive until 1pm.

Kit Miller



Overtricks by the Bay

1601 Discovery Bay Blvd.

Discover Bay, CA 94505

Grand Opening January 10 at 11am.

Reservations required. Mark Marty (thatsafire@gmail.com) or

(925-487-7832)



Lamorinda Bridge Club



ALERT: LBC will be closed for all Face-to-Face December 1-11.

As in the past, reservations will be required for all Face-to-Face duplicate games. Wearing masks will be optional.

Tuesdays:

NEW STARTING TIME:

2:30pm - 4:45pm: Supervised Play; 14-16 boards with Master Points Awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is **Limited 499** master points. \$8/ person table fee.

POTLUCK SUPPER: 5:45pm – 6:45pm

7:00pm - 9:45pm: Open Game; \$10/person table fee (18-21 boards)

Fridays:

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

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

As a Holiday THANK YOU to the Bridge Community, all BBO games will be \$3 and Robots are accepted as partners.

Saturday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$3

Saturday 10am Open Game \$3

Sunday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$3

Sunday 10:00am Open Game \$3

We are hoping to reopen our Face-to-Face Open Games on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at 10am if there is sufficient interest in 2023.

Bridge Lessons:

Mondays:

Ongoing Beginning Bridge Classes 10am-12noon

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

Fridays:

Ongoing Beginning Bridge Classes 2pm-4pm [ACBL Textbook: Bidding in the 21st Century].

NEW IN JANUARY 2023:

Mondays*Beginning Bidding will start again on January 9, 2023 at the new time of 9:30-11:30am.**

Wednesdays 2:00 – 4:30 pm Sanctioned game focusing on hands from Monday Afternoon's Lesson, Limited 999 Game, 8/person table fee.

Questions:

Please contact Winnie at 925-683-1908 or winnie@wjasper.com.