

eDeclarer

February 2023

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



At the Monterey Regional Clambake, in a side game at Board 15, Mr. Terrier sat down with his partner Ms. Collie. Since they were a bit early, we had time to chat. They had traveled from Seattle and had been partners for eight years.

After the first hand, Mr. Terrier commented 'you have to show suit preference'. Ms. Collie was quite annoyed and said, 'no, that was attitude'. 'Well, you are wrong' Mr. Terrier replied with annoyance. Back and forth. We had started early but were now late listening to this pointless disagreement.

Well, that was uncomfortable, and we ended up a couple of minutes behind after that round. Terrier and Collie left the table still in that disagreement.

Later, I talked with Mr. and Mrs. Poodle and two other long-time partners about how they managed disagreements. Here is what they said:

--Early in our partnership we shared the disagreements with a competent director. His comments were 'accepted' as the path forward.

--The other two partners said that they also consulted a competent player but agreed that they would respect each other's styles.

Continuous discussions at the table are disruptive and certainly annoying to the other partnership. A short comment is all that is necessary. If longer discussions are needed, 'I'll circle that one' should end the conversation on that topic.

UPCOMING UNIT EVENTS

Unit's Annual Meeting, Sunday, March 5

The Unit's Annual meeting is being held at Rossmoor's Oak Room. This is a Unit sanctioned game with extra points. A complimentary Lunch will be served at 11:15 with the Annual meeting starting about 12:15. Game time is 1pm.

To satisfy Rossmoor's gate security practices, non-Rossmoor residents must register with me, (sam.earnhardt@gmail.com). When you enter, have your driver's license ready for review by the security gate.

Some Covid practices remain in effect. Rossmoor is very serious about Covid compliance. If a player is noncompliant, he/she will be asked to leave. If you are coughing or sneezing – you must wear a mask. Players at your table may request that all players at that table wear a mask. Bring a mask just in case.

Tunnel Tournament, 4/8/23, send a note to Jackie Zayac if you plan on attending.

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

Congratulations to Kathrine Loh. The U499 Board has approved her as a Unit 499 director – New and Improving Player's Ambassador.

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

Sam Earnhardt

...from the Editor

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The new Overtricks by the Bay Club has been thriving. Consider checking it out on Tuesdays at 11 at the Discovery Bay Community Center. Reserve your spot with Mark Marty (thatsafire@gmail.com).

Face to face games are reporting good attendance. Maybe it's time to add some socialization to our lives. I know most of us have missed that. Tournaments are also getting back to pre-Covid numbers. Think about trying the Unit Game on March 5 – extra points and a nice lunch.

Hope to see you at the tables!

Judy Keilin, Editor



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Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

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Deadline for March is February 17



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)

Barbara Yost

New Club Master (20)

Brett Cooper

New Sectional Master (50)

Dennis Snarr

New Bronze Life Master (500—750)

Alan Woodberry

NEW MEMBERS

Don Ernst

Charley Fox

Kathlyn Fox

Christine Johnsonbaugh

Elizabeth Kemsley

Chase Osborne

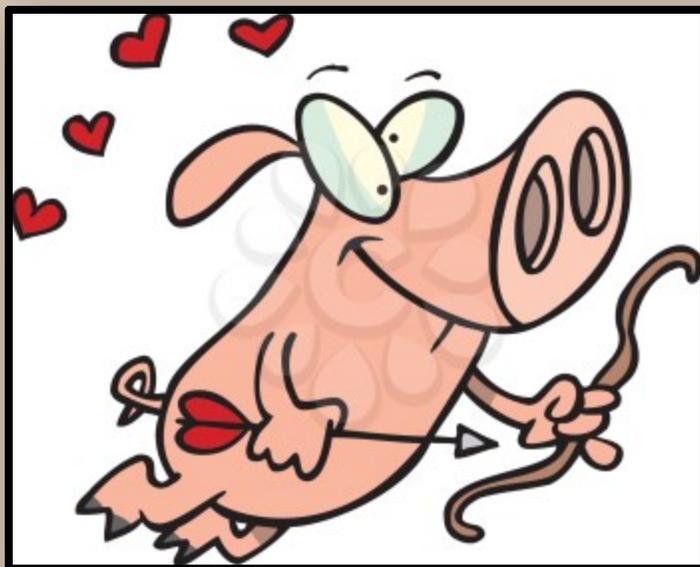
Malak Saffouri

Kriss Tyson

Katherine Yee

Wesley Yee

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



****Save the Date****

The Unit 499/Unit 502

Tunnel Tourney

is being held on

April 8, 2023

at the Orinda Masonic Banquet Hall
9 Altarinda Road, Orinda

Happy New Year!

Jackie Zayac,

Unit 499 Tunnel Tourney Chair

jackiezayac@gmail.com

WHAT'S COOKIN'

February is here, and yes, we've eaten our way through the holidays. As usual, we've made our New Year's Resolutions; like, *losing weight*. Have you kept them? If you answered no, you're not alone. At the end of the Great Depression, about a quarter of American adults formed this as their New Year's resolutions. At the start of the 21st century, about forty percent did. Self Improvement tip-tops the table for the No.1 spot. The University of Scranton research tells us that just eight percent of people achieve their New Year's goals. Yikes!

So don't be so hard on yourself. It can take awhile, but just keep on trying. Losing weight and playing bridge have a lot in common. It takes discipline, time and energy that must be put-forth for success and remember to stay away from the cake-pushers when playing bridge. Our new mantra should say, "Eat less and play more." I like it!

Now that we're back to the table, have you ever had to eat humble pie? Well, I've eaten my share at the bridge table. I don't like losing, and I don't think you do either. Losing gracefully is a misnomer. Others at the table will console you with "We all come in last sometime". "Heck, it's only a game", but when they lose, they become crusty crabs or worse, snapping turtles, and just watch their faces turn beet red. And then there are the grumbler's, like myself, who complain because we just can't get a good hand. I've even said, "I'm bored playing defense". Or, I'm showing my hand, I mean my face, which often reflects the bidding, etc. Yes, I'm Italian, and have a hard time keeping my feelings hidden. I'm now getting a new look; no, not a face lift, but a **poker face**.

Head's UP: On March 5th, we're getting ready for our Annual Meeting at Rossmoor's Oak Room. After the meeting, you can "hit the tables"- at 1pm. Of course, it's after we've had a great lunch. Non-residents \$9. Such a *deal*. There are requirements to follow, so you must register with sam.earnhardt@gmail.com.

Oh, one more note-I wanted to mention the two smart cookies who make this newsletter happen. Awesome girls! Judy Keilin, Editor and Mary Krouse, Publisher, have dedicated time and talents-Just For You!

Count Our Blessings,

Lisa Assoni

"The ShortCut Cook"



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

February, 2023

North

S 432

H AJ652

D 53

C A104

West

S 65

H Q3

D KQJ986

C J87

East

S 87

H K10874

D A2

C Q532

South

S AKQJ109

H 9

D 1074

C K96

2D P 3D 3S

P 4S all pass

West leads the K diamonds, overtaken by the A and the 2 is continued. West wins and plays a 3rd diamond which you know is going to get over trumped by East.

At this point declarer needs to avoid that ruff and the 3rd round loser of a club. Declarer can discard the 4 clubs from dummy (known as a loser on a loser) and the opponents cannot get another trick.

South can draw 2 rounds of trumps and then play A and K clubs and trump the 3rd club in the dummy taking their 10 tricks. Even if the trumps split 3-1 or 4-0 the hand can still be made if the hand with the long trump had started with 4 or more clubs.

This play (loser on a loser) comes up a few times a year and it is worth remembering. There are more variations which I will show in the coming months.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net



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

The above classes continue, however if you are planning ahead here is what I'm offering for Spring:

In Orinda: Diamond course (Play of the Hand) March 28 to May 30 from 10am-noon

Rusty Bridge II also from March 28 to May 30 from 1-3pm

In Lafayette 2/1 from April 6-June 8 (8 weeks only as I will miss 2 weeks) from 10-noon

Rusty Bridge from April 6-June 8 from 1-3 pm

Teachers

- Carol Griffin is a Ruby Life Master, ABTA Master teacher, and certified director with over 20 years of experience. She teaches all levels and runs an all-year-round supervised bridge game. She teaches at the Orinda Community Center 925-253-7716, Lafayette Community Center 925-284-2232 and privately. Visit her **website** for more information at <https://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com>

Carol Griffin



Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

February News

CCBC continues its hybrid schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda and on-line on BBO. ACBL is reinstating the ACBL-wide games and charity games for in-person clubs in 2023, so there will be many opportunities in the coming year for extra MPs. There will also frequently be 1 week per month of special games **on-line** with extra MPs.

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 in February – The week of **February 13-19** will be Educational Foundation Games – both F2F and BBO. Extra MPs will be awarded. Extra \$1. This will be **both on-line and in-person**.

The week of **February 20-26**, we will have club championship games for all in-person games. Lots of extra MPs with no extra charge!

☐ Reminders:

- ☐ 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. We would love to see more players join this game.

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



DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall
Hartz Ave, Danville



The Danville game is starting back up Friday, January 20, 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

In-Person Game Schedule:

Monday, 1pm, 499er stratified pairs and open pairs.

Tuesday, 1pm, 299er stratified pairs and open pairs.

Friday, 9am, 199er pairs.

Saturday, 1pm. stratified open.

Effective January 1 non residents may play together or with a Rossmoor resident the above games.

For entry to Rossmoor for non residents please **EMAIL** Addie Mattox at amattox@earthlink.net. Advanced notice is appreciated.

A Unit game will be held at Rossmoor on Sunday, March 5. Lunch will be served at 11:30am followed by the annual meeting and play.

Proof of vaccination will be required. Table fees will be \$5 for members of the Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club and \$9 for others.

Players should have a mask available to be worn if requested by another player. Please see Unit 499 announcements for any additional details, including advanced registration for entrance into Rossmoor.

Kit Miller



at all of

Overtricks by the Bay

1601 Discovery Bay Blvd.
Discover Bay, CA 94505

Games are on Tuesdays at 11:00

Reservations required. Mark Marty (thatsafire@gmail.com) or (925-487-7832)



Lamorinda Bridge Club



Jerry and Winnie have initiated a new series of Single Topic Seminars beginning on Monday January 9, 1-3 pm. To **support these sessions** we are also going to host LBC games on **Wednesdays from 9:30am to 12 and from 2 to 4:30 pm** which will feature the usage of these seminar topics. Hands focusing on the topic from Monday afternoon will be mixed in with randomly dealt hands. Players who attended Monday's afternoon lesson will be allowed to ask up to three questions per person for guidance from the director during the game. \$10 table fee.

We believe it is to your benefit to have the opportunity to use these concepts soon after learning them.

Activity Schedule: (Started January 9)

Mondays: 9:30-11:30am (class size is limited)

Bidding in the 21st Century (beginner bridge series). This is a 9-week series and the cost is \$200 and includes the textbook. Students who have taken the course from us previously and already own the textbook, may repeat the class for \$100.

Mondays: 1-3pm, Single Topic Sessions; \$20/session.

Mondays 7-9pm: Repeat of Bidding Class (see description above for mornings).

Tuesdays: 2:30-4:45pm, **Supervised Play**; 14-16 boards with Master Points Awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is **Limited 499** game; \$10 table fee.

Tuesdays: 7-9:45pm **Open** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.

Optional Potluck Supper 5:45-6:45pm.

Wednesdays: 9:30am-Noon, **Limited 99** game; \$10 table fee.

Wednesdays: 2-4:30pm, **Limited 499** game; \$10 table fee.

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

As in the past, reservations will be required for all Face-to-Face duplicate games. Wearing masks will be optional. (All games are awarded Master points and have hand records available and posted on the results page.)

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

Saturday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$6

Saturday 10am Open Game \$6

Sunday 9:50am Limited Game (499) \$6

Sunday 10:00am Open Game \$6

SINGLE TOPIC SEMINARS – MONDAYS 1-3pm

The Topics listed below are touched upon in the two ACBL texts:

(1) Commonly Used Conventions - (CUC)

(2) More Commonly Used Conventions - MCUC. With each of the below dates we have referred to the chapter and page of the appropriate text.

- **January 9:** Pre-Emptive Bidding; what partner needs to continue bidding; CUC Chapter 5, page 146.
- **January 16:** Bidding over a pre-empt; both the direct seat and the indirect (pass-out) seat. There is a difference and if you do not have a grasp of what is needed then you are putting your partner at a disadvantage; not addressed in the textbooks.
- **January 23:** Signals on Defense; Count and Attitude. Defense is the toughest part of our game. (FYI: if you play on BBO the robots do NOT use any signals.) MCUC Chapter 7, page 256.
- **January 30:** New Minor Force (NMF). Need for this convention occurs regularly and it is important to recognize when to apply and to understand the succeeding auction; not addressed in the textbooks.
- **February 6:** Takeout Doubles and what you as partner advance. Opener, takeout doubler, responder, and advancer all have a place in the auction. MCUC Chapter 2, page 40.
- **February 13:** Negative Doubles; one of the most important bidding conventions in our game. MCUC Chapter 1, page 3.
- **February 20:** Cue-bid Raises; not covered in the textbooks.
- **February 27:** Reverse Bidding and what partner does; not covered in the textbooks.
- **March 6:** Stayman (advanced); CUC Chapter 1, page 5.
- **March 13:** Jacoby Transfers; CUC Chapter 2, page 36.
- **March 20:** Jacoby 2NT; CUC Chapter 3, page 78
- **March 27:** Support Doubles and Redoubles; MCUC Chapter 2.
- **April 3:** Strong 2C Opener; systems for responding. This session will focus on Standard American responses. CUC Chapter 8, page 260.
- **April 10:** Strong 2C Opener; Control Responses; it is my favorite, and I think the most effective; not covered in the textbooks.
- **April 17:** Interfering over 1NT opening bid; Cappelletti which is very basic and has very little wriggle room in how to implement. In our general area there are other conventions that are quite popular, and, it is to your benefit to become familiar with these other conventions for when they are used against you; no textbook details.
- **April 24:** Interfering over the opponent's 1NT opening; DONT (Disturbing Opponent's Notrump) and TNT (Touching-Not-Touching); no textbook details.
- **May 1:** You are responder and partner opens 1NT and RHO interferes; what are your options; no textbook details.
- **May 8:** Michaels cue-bid; MCUC Chapter 4; page 129.
- **May 15:** Unusual 2NT cue-bid; MCUC Chapter 4; page 129.: Cue-bid Raises; not covered in the textbooks.

Questions:

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