

President's Message



Recently I had a chance to chat with two accomplished pairs: a Mr. and Mrs. Great Dane and Mr. Dalmatian and Mrs. Maltese (tall and lanky and cute as a button, respectively). The topic was good bridge table manners (or pet peeves at the table).

All four agreed that bridge table real estate is at a premium. Beverage containers (open or closed) can be put on the floor along food items. OK for bridge records to be on the table. A while ago, I remember a player, at a past Regional, who kept a newspaper on the table (dummy cards were placed on top). Definitely not endearing to the other players.

The other item identified was 'time wasted' before the opening lead. Some players take their time to record the contract and other items before reviewing their hand and leading. The four accomplished players, mentioned above, felt that this was inconsiderate and wasted the other three players' time. Lead first and then record contract and other information.

Upcoming Unit Events

Unit's Annual Meeting, Sunday, 03/05

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.

Card fees, \$12 for non Rossmoor players and \$8 for Rossmoor players, will be collected at the door. A lunch/game coupon will be given at the door.

To satisfy Rossmoor's gate security practices, Rossmoor non--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 potential Covid and flu transmission. 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.

Remember our Unit's upcoming events.

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.

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

Sam Earnhardt

...from the Editor

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Watch for news from Overtricks by the Bay. There's a plan to relocate the game to a location closer to the majority of our players. Perhaps by the time you read this, we'll know. I hope to see lots of you wherever the game is. It's time to get back to in-person bridge games, and support our clubs.

See you at the tables!

Judy Keilin
Editor



Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

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Deadline for April is March 20



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)

Linda He'll an
Kriss Tyson

NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Elizabeth Chang
Susan Margolis
Sally Thorpe

NEW NABC MASTER (200)

Marilyn Schaeffer

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS (2500)

Tim Benoit
AL Petersen

NEW MEMBERS

Heather Houston
Jean Purcell
Ted Purcell
William Rick's
Linda Zercher

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



9th Annual Pairs Invitational
Tunnel Tourney
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023

Sanction No. L2304499E

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

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

10:00 AM & TBA – Two Session (18 Boards per session) Event

LOCATION: Orinda Masonic Center, 9 Altarinda Rd., Orinda, CA

Game Director: Greg Vance

Open (0-500/500-2500/2500+)

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

PAIRS MUST PLAY BOTH 18 BOARD SESSIONS
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

*****Proof of Vaccination Required at the Door*****

TABLE FEES: \$20.00 for bridge and lunch! Soft drinks: \$1.00

To register for Unit 499, email jackiezayac@gmail.com by April 1, 2023

To register for Unit 502, email grantvance1@gmail.com by April 1, 2023
(Space is limited to 16 tables)

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

Submit your sandwich selection: Turkey, Veggie, or Italian Sub

If you require a N/S, request it with your reservation

Pairs must be from the same unit and must be members of either Unit 499 or Unit 502

QUESTIONS? Contact your Unit Tunnel Tourney Chair.

Jackie Zayac – Unit 499

Grant Vance – Unit 502

March Madness



Spring is almost here, and it's a wonderful time of the year to come out of hibernation.

Oh baby, it's been extremely cold outside, but now it's time to fling into spring and where better to shed a sweater, then your local bridge center.

The first day of spring is March 20th. It is also called the spring equinox, as it's one of the four temperate seasons. That being said, I could feel my partner's temperature rising. I opened two diamonds and she responded correctly. However, I pulled the wrong bidding card. It was supposed be two hearts.

As she laid down her hand, I could have burst a blood vessel!

With only six diamonds between us, and two face cards; how embarrassing was that?

End result, I went down five. She did a super job of hiding her disappointment. There may be a glimmer of hope to help us, by not repeating serious mistakes. Right???

Yes, it can be March Madness each time we play the game. We're hoping to remove the mad from madness, and replace it with gladness-displaying our "Cool-as-a Cucumber" attitude.

When you know you have your opponents over a barrel, graciously accept the win. For some folks, this is the only social outlet they have, and correcting new players when they've made a mistake and gloating about it, is downright distasteful. If the other team asks for your opinion, so be it; but unauthorized criticism is best kept to yourself. And yes, I've given my share of unsolicited advice. Mum's the word!

I hope you've registered for our Annual Meeting. If you haven't signed up, please connect with Sam Earnhardt, President. If there's room try it, you'll love it! Hey, it comes with a great lunch, a full day of bridge, and what can be better than Food and Bridge. Notice how I put food first?

For the latest information, log onto our website Diablovalleybridge.com. There's so much cookin' with different bridge groups, from Oakland to Oakley.

Mangia Bene'

Lisa Assoni



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

March, 2023

North

S K84

H Q108543

D K4

C 82

West

S J3

H 62

D QJ753

C AQJ10

East

S 109652

H -----

D 962

C 96543

South

S AQ7

H AKJ97

D A108

C K2



2C X 2S P

2N P 3D P

3H P 4H P

6H all pass

This bidding can be explained by the fact that my partner and I play a response to a 2C opening bid is as follows: 2D = 0 or 1 control with a hand that has less than 5 points, 2H = 0 or 1 control and values for game (6+), 2S = 2 controls and 2N = 3 controls, etc. Controls are counted as a K = 1 and an A = 2. My 3D was a transfer and when I raised to 4H I was making a slam invitation and of course my partner wanted to be in slam so she bid it.

The opening lead was the Q of diamonds and she won the K. At this point it appears that the slam would make if the A clubs was onside but the bidding indicated that this was not the case. Assuming the Q diamonds was from the Q and J, she led all of the hearts followed by the 3 top spades coming down to a diamond in dummy along with 2 clubs. She had the A and 10 diamonds in her hand along with the singleton K clubs. West was forced to save the J and 7 diamonds and therefore the singleton A clubs so she led her club and he had to lead into her A and 10 diamonds, making 6. Note here, she needed to watch West's discards very carefully because he could have discarded differently.

I feel that there are times when you do not want to give away information as a defender and on this hand I am sure West wished he hadn't.

As an aside, playing with my other partners I would have responded 2H showing an A or 2 K's and then East would have led a club which would have set us.

Sometimes a system along with luck helps you get a good board.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net

Overtricks by the Bay

Overtricks by the Bay is moving to Brentwood in March! Watch for the announcement of the official starting date.

Our new locale will be the Brentwood Senior Center, 193 Griffith Lane, Brentwood. Below are some driving times, which are about twenty minutes shorter than the Discovery Bay Community Center.

Old CCBC (First Lutheran Church, Concord) - 27 minutes

Oakley - 12 minutes

Livermore - 32 minutes

Pittsburgh Bart - 21 minutes

Walnut Creek Bart - 34 minutes

The location is still in the Brentwood senior center but in the nice big main hall. Much easier to get in and out of as well as giving us plenty of room to grow

Games will start at 9am, with table fees reduced to \$5 for Senior Center members (\$25 per year, available to all), and \$8 for others. Reservations will not be required.

Hope to see you in Brentwood in March!



✿ Happy St. Patrick's Day ✿

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

March News

CCBC is making a change to its **Tuesday** games. See below for more details.

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 (299er at 10:00) and Thursdays (999er at 10:30) at the Orinda Masonic Hall, 9 Altarinda Road. Games continue on BBO on Wednesday (open at 10:00) and Friday (open at 10:00).

Schedule changes: Effective **March 1 - Tuesday's 10 AM bridge game in Orinda will be changed to a 299'er game.** This change will allow more players the opportunity to play in person, while continuing CCBC's efforts to appeal to the area's newest players.

The game will have the following features:

- 1) A mini-lesson will precede each game, with a review of a couple of hands from the prior week.
- 2) 18 boards will typically be played.
- 3) Each player will have the opportunity to ask 2 bidding questions during the game.
- 4) Games will be stratified by Master Point level; so players are competing with others with comparable experience.
- 5) A player may come with a partner or as a single. (Singles can count on being matched with a partner.)
- 6) Mentoring will be encouraged. An experienced player in the 200-299 MP range playing with one in the 0-50 range will play for free.

Tuesday's 749'er online game will be cancelled.

Special games in March – The week of **March 13-19**, we will have club championship games for all in-person games. Lots of extra MPs with no extra charge!

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

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 at all of games.

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

Sunday, March 5 - UNIT GAME at Rossmoor

See Unit emails for information.

March 13-18 - Club Championsip Week

Saturday, March 18 - Swiss Teams

Kit Miller



the above

Overtricks by the Bay

1601 Discovery Bay Blvd.

Discover Bay, CA 94505

Games are on Tuesdays at 11:00 for now.

Beginning in March (date not yet determined), games will be held at the Brentwood Senior Center, 193 Griffith Lane, on Tuesdays at 9am. Table fees will be \$5/\$9, depending on membership in the Senior Center, which is \$25/year and open to all.

Watch for more information.

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



Lamorinda Bridge Club

Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

We will be holding a Unit Game on Tuesday March 14 at 7pm. Light supper optional at 6pm. Please make a reservation.



All March games will be awarded Club championship points.

Please note the series of Single Topic Seminars on Mondays, 1-3 pm.

Activity Schedule: (Started January 9)

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

Finishing Bidding in the 21st Century (beginner bridge series). Followed by Play of the Hand. This will be 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. (See below for list of topics.)

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

Tuesdays: **3:00-5:30pm, 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. Beginning players welcome, three questions allowed per player.

Wednesdays: 2-4:30pm, **Limited 499** game; \$10 table fee. Hands focusing on the topic from Monday afternoon will be mixed in with randomly dealt hands, three questions allowed per player. We believe it is to your benefit to have the opportunity to use these concepts soon after learning them.

Wednesdays 7:15-9:15pm beginning March 1: 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. (Class size is limited.)

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 10:00am Open Game \$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.

- **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.

Questions:

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

Lamorinda Bridge Club

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556