

## President's Message



There was a commotion at a table in a recent club game, Mr. Cocker Spaniel (West) and Mr. Cavapoo (South) both had their hands on the new boards and there appeared to be a tussle for the boards. This could be classified as a minor altercation. Alarming.

This thought has been in a previous message. This is important, so here it is again.

Basic and universal etiquette at the card table is for South (typically) to manage the new and old boards. If East and West want to support the 'changing of the boards', etiquette says to ask, i.e. 'OK to help with the boards?' or 'OK to move the boards?'

This is especially true at tournament play or if the club players have not been introduced.

If there is an altercation, then many clubs have zero tolerance for such behavior.

Two thoughts if there is any conflict at the table:

- Call the director, the director will remind everyone of the 'board management' protocol. If there are ruffled feathers, the minute or two it takes the director to respond is like counting to ten to calm the situation.
- Politely ask West (or East) to allow South (or North) to manage the board movement.

**Good for Nothing** award recipients:

Anne Hollingsworth    Bruce Johnsonbaugh    Judy Keilin    Lisa Assoni    Mark Humphrey    Mr. Multipoo

Recall that the 'Good for Nothing' award is not for someone who does nothing, but for someone who does tasks without expectation of award or recognition.

Future events.

- Tunnel Tournament Saturday, April 27, 2024 at the Oakland Bridge Club, lunch, two sessions of eighteen boards. Must register with Marian Renvall. Nearly full – check with Marian if you want a seat.
- Vance Seminar. April 13, 2024. Topic 'Hand Evaluation.' A flyer will be available at most games this February. Thirty-two registrants, 8  
Eight slots are left, send Sam Earnhardt a note to register.
- Diablo Sectional: Nov. 9 & 10.

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

Sam Earnhardt

# ...from the Editor

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There are two District 21 Sectionals coming up in April: Modesto April 6-7 and Palo Alto April 26-28. Get a partner, form a carpool, and you'll be good to go!

See you at the tables and online.

Judy Keilin  
Editor



## Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Submit articles to [Jkeilin@pacbell.net](mailto:Jkeilin@pacbell.net)

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**Deadline for May is April 19**



Mary Krouse, Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at [Jkeilin@pacbell.net](mailto:Jkeilin@pacbell.net)

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 SECTIONAL MASTER (50)*

Karen Siefert

### *NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)*

Cecilia Muaddi  
Melanie Pereira

### *NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS (500/750)*

Ed Lichtig  
Stephen Walker

### *NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER (1500)*

Byron Barclay

### *NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER (2500)*

David Geary

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Joani Carpenter  
Helen Davis  
Mary Parenti  
Trudy Tuan

Let's welcome these folks when you meet them at the tables.



**Tenth Annual Pairs Invitational**  
**Tunnel Tourney**  
**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024**

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: East Bay Bridge Center 9520 Mountain Blvd., Oakland 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

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

To register for Unit 499, email [Renvallm@gmail.com](mailto:Renvallm@gmail.com) by April 1, 2024

To register for Unit 502, email [grantvance1@gmail.com](mailto:grantvance1@gmail.com) by April 1, 2024

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.  
**Marian Renvall** – Unit 499                      Grant Vance – Unit 502

# ANNUAL MEETING and MORE

April is a lovely month for playing bridge. The origin of April stems from the Latin word Aprilis. On the first of April, the ancient Romans had a festival honoring Venus Verticordia, goddess of love, and the changer of hearts. Love is an emotion that evokes kindness and caring. As we come to the on-line format this month, let's show sensitivity to our opponents and partners. I personally was harassed by a player, and called the Director. Should this happen to you, don't hesitate to call for assistance. Help will be on the way.

My favorite stone, diamonds, are the birthstone for April. Who doesn't love a diamond, especially when you reach the milestone for becoming a Big D player? Diamonds are the hardest natural precious stone. We should be a lot like the diamond. Tough to beat, and a resilient player.

What's cookin'?

Did you attend our annual Unit meeting at Rossmoor? Lucky if you did. What a venue. Hosted by our President, Sam Earnhardt, awards were given out to numerous players. "The good for nothing award" went to Anne Hollingsworth. She was a single winner, so- easy to acknowledge. There were lots of awards given out, too numerous to mention, like the Mini-McKinney and Ace of Clubs winners, recognizing achievement at the club level. Congratulations to All!

I love good food. I wasn't disappointed. The food was outstandingly delicious. Sheila Wong put it all together. We played a tough game of bridge. Great players against "wannabes". I think everyone enjoyed the beautiful day. Check out the photos below. Keep on truckin'. If you remember that expression, you're Old!

Lisa Assoni  
The ShortCut Cook™



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

April, 2024

North

S A10

H Q109832

D K9

C 632

West

S KQJ987543

H K

D QJ5

C ----

East

S 62

H AJ764

D 32

C QJ104

South

S -----

H 5

D A108764

C AK9875

4S P P 4N

P 5H X 6C

P P X P

P P



Most bridge deals are run of the mill and most systems cover them. Then there are rare hands like this one that no system covers.

When I picked up this hand I thought that with a little fit in one of my minors we could have a slam even if I only have 11 High Card Points.

When the bidding came to me at 4S I said 4N which normally shows a two suited hand (this clearly is one) and my partner is supposed to respond with his longest minor and if I held the other minor and hearts I would bid 5D showing diamonds and hearts if he had bid 5C or if I held hearts and clubs and he bid diamonds then I would bid 5 hearts. We were not on the same page here and when they doubled 5H I bid 6C and partner passed and East doubled because he was enjoying what was happening.

At my table the opening lead was the K spades and I discarded my heart on the Ace. I then led the 2 clubs and East played one of his honors which I won in my hand and I led a diamond to dummy's King and led the 3 clubs, East again played an honor and I won and played the A diamonds and trumped a diamond with the 6 clubs. East could over ruff it but now I am taking the rest making 6 with 20 High Card Points.

There are several questions here. Would you have led the K spades or the K hearts? Would you have doubled 6C? Would you have split your club honors when I led the 2 from dummy? If East didn't split his club honors, would I have played a spot card higher? Did y'all appreciate the strength of my club spots? Did you also notice the importance of leading the 2<sup>nd</sup> club from dummy forcing East to split his honors again?

It's hands like these that have fun and interesting stories and will probably never come up again.

Jerry Weitzner

[jweitzner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jweitzner@sbcglobal.net)

# CLASSES

## CLASSES WITH CAROL

### Current and Spring

At the Orinda Community Center: 925 254-2445

**Bridge conventions** will be offered from 10am-noon starting March 5-April 30. This course will offer the most popular conventions with hands to play that demonstrate their usefulness.

**Rusty Bridge-part II** starts at 1pm-3pm from March 5 to April 30. This class was developed by Carol to give the students the chance to thoroughly review good clear bidding while putting to practice what they have learned with lots of hands to play. **Weak Two bids, 2 club opening and responses, preemptive bids**, defining what is and is not a **Forcing bid** and bidding in the **Balancing seat** will be discussed and practiced with hands to play.

At the Lafayette Community Center: 925 284-2232

**The Heart course (Defense) Part I** starts at 10am to noon from March 14-May 9.

This course covers, Opening Leads against NT versus Suit Contracts, Second and Third hand plays, and Defensive Signals.

**Rusty Bridge** Part I is being offered from 10-noon. This class was developed by Carol to give the students the chance to thoroughly review bidding while putting to practice what they have learned with lots of hands to play. We start with a complete review of good basic solid bidding.

If one has any questions, please call the community centers for more info and if still not satisfied please don't hesitate to visit Carol's website at <https://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com>

or call her at 925 933 3535

And don't forget all year round she runs a **Drop-in Bridge** every Wednesday from 10-noon at Lafayette Community Center to play social bridge, meet new people, practice what you've learned in a class or just get help whenever you need it while you are playing by asking Carol or Debbie. There is always a mini lesson before the game.

## Debbie's Classes

Bridge for Beginners

3/21/24 - 5/09/24 (8 Sessions)

Thursday Mornings 10am-12pm

Civic Park Community Center Social Hall

\$135

Defense

4/15/24 - 6/03/24 (8 Sessions)

Monday Mornings 10am-12pm

Creekside Commons, Lafayette

\$135

Continuing Conventions

4/15/24 - 6/03/24 (8 Sessions)

Monday Afternoons 1pm - 3pm

Creekside Commons, Lafayette

\$135

Deb Rechnitz

(925) 360-1330

[drechnitz@comcast.net](mailto:drechnitz@comcast.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](http://Diablovalleybridge.com)

## Overtricks by the Bay

193 Griffith Lane  
Brentwood

Overtricks is thriving at its new location at the Brentwood Senior Center. Table fees have been reduced to \$4, and there is a mini-lesson before every game.

Mark Marty ([thatsafire@gmail.com](mailto:thatsafire@gmail.com)) or  
925-487-7832)



## Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

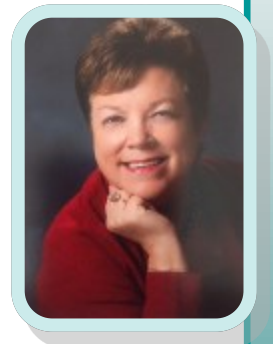
Blackhawk Country Club  
Contact Lilah Newton at  
925-648-3154  
[lilahnewton@yahoo.com](mailto:lilahnewton@yahoo.com)

The Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge game is held on the first and fourth Wednesdays of the month at Blackhawk Country Club. Game time is 9:30, reservations are required.

Lilah Newton  
925-648-3154  
[lilahnewton@yahoo.com](mailto:lilahnewton@yahoo.com)

Sharon Tarpinian  
925-736-2461  
[enchantment-s@comcast.net](mailto:enchantment-s@comcast.net)

Lilah Newton



# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

## April News

CCBC continues its efforts in 2024 to provide the maximum number of games offering extra MPs to our players.

**Week of April 8** - Club championships, extra MPs, no extra cost!

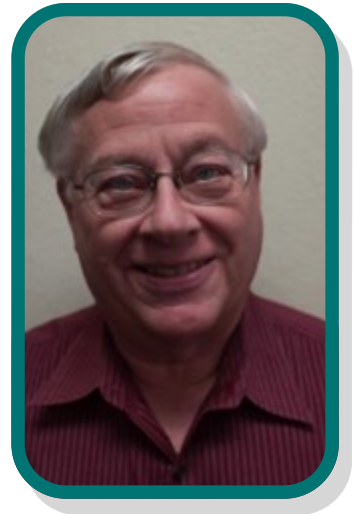
**Week of April 15** – Charity Club championship games, [extra MPs](#), [extra \\$1](#)

**Week of April 22** – Stardust Split Week (1/4 gold points), including Friday, April 26, extra \$1.

The Stardust games are a new program from ACBL this year, awarding gold points for a club game! The MP awards include ¼ gold points. The regular Monday & Thursday games that week will be Stardust Games, as well as a special game on Friday, April 26 at 11:00 AM. ACBL does not include the Wednesday game in this “Stardust split week.”

And, mark your calendars for the first STaC week in 2024 - **May 6–12**. A chance to win silver points at the club. All our games will participate.

CCBC continues its schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda. **CCBC is now hosting games on Mondays & Wednesdays (open at 11:00), and Thursdays (999er at 10:30) at the Orinda Masonic 9 Altarinda Road.**



Michael Kruley

Hall,

*Thank you for your support of CCBC!*

## DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall  
Hartz Ave, Danville



The Danville game is held every Friday at 9:30am, excluding 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



Special games in April are as follows:

Saturday, April 6, will be IMP Pairs scoring

Monday-Saturday, April 8-13 will be a Charity Club Championship Week

The charity will be the Rossmoor Fund.

Friday, April 26, there will be NO GAME due to the Flea Market.

Saturday, April 27, there will be NO GAME due to the Flea Market.

Kit Miller

# Lamorinda Bridge Club



Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

We use the ACBL textbooks to teach bridge from beginning to intermediate and advanced. All Series are nine weeks long and meet once per week for two hours. The Cost is \$200 which includes the Textbook. Any student wishing to repeat a series can do so for \$100. Attending single sessions for a specific chapter is \$20 per session cost.

We are currently teaching **Play of the Hand on Mondays, 9:30-11:30am**. This is the second in the series.

The third series on **Defense** will be taught June 17 – August 12. After a short break we will once again teach the first series, **Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**, meeting from September 9 – November 4.

Please sign up in advance for any classes with Winnie by phone or email or text (see contact information at the end).

On Mondays from 1pm - 3pm we are presenting **Single Topic Seminars**.

These seminar sessions often require some sort of special bid other than a real suit in competition. It is to your benefit to understand the requirements and also what is given up.

**List of special topics and expected dates** (slight changes in scheduled presentation may made at the request of our students). \$20 per session, reservations recommended.

April 1- Michaels Cuebids and the Unusual 2NT

April 8- NMF New Minor Force

April 15- Bergen Raises

April 22- Losing Trick count (numbers of players love this concept- assists partnerships in deciding whether to open the bid- and how high to advance the auction

April 29- Rule of 20 and Pierson points to determine opening bids. One noted author has a book titled "points smoints".

May 6-Inverted Minors

May 13- Drury Convention

May 20- no session

May 27- no session Memorial Day holiday

Please note that we focus in the beginning on lower-level conventions which occur often. The higher the level of bidding the less often these actually occur at the table so it is to your competitive benefit to learn and UNDERSTAND all of these conventions and treatments over time for when they are used against you during the bidding process.

To assist in your learning process Lamorinda Bridge Club is prepared to host a Sanctioned Wednesday afternoon game that will feature a selection of hands from the Monday afternoon topic mixed in with other randomly dealt hands. This is important as often

when one learns something new it may be several bridge games before you encounter it at the bridge table, and you may not even recognize it unless you practice it right away to understand it better.

Jerry will entertain special requests of topics and will reserve the right to alter the above schedule accordingly. We will send out updates on the schedule in coming months to announce possible changes.

#### GAME SCHEDULE:

- Tuesdays: 3:00-5:30pm, Supervised Play; 14-18+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 699** Game; \$10 table fee.
- Tuesdays: 7-9:45pm **Open** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.  
Optional Potluck Supper 5:45-6:45pm, \$5.
- Fridays: 10am - 1:15pm, **Limited 699** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.

If there is sufficient interest, we will offer an additional limited game:

- Wednesdays: 3-5:30pm: Supervised Play; 14-16+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 699** Game; \$10 table fee. This game will include a selection of hands from the Monday Afternoon Special Topic Seminars mixed in with other randomly dealt hands.

Due to the success of our Swiss Team Game in February, we plan to continue offering Team Games on one Saturday of each month:

**Swiss Teams 10am – 1:15pm**

**April 13**

**May 18**

**June 15**

These will be Strati- Flighted whenever possible. If you wish to play please organize a team of 4 players and register with Winnie ASAP. If you wish to play but do not have a complete team please let Winnie know and hopefully she can cobble together a team. Game time 10 AM so please come earlier. Table Fee: \$10/person.

**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 Pair Games have hand records available and posted on the results page at [www.https://my.acbl.org/club-results/271973.](https://my.acbl.org/club-results/271973))

Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain

Lamorinda Bridge Club

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

(Home) 925-376-1125

Winnie: (Cell) 925-683-1908; [winnie@wjasper.com](mailto:winnie@wjasper.com)

Jerry: (Cell) 925-766-5228; [jerry@wjasper.com](mailto:jerry@wjasper.com)

**Please make your Class and Game Reservations with Winnie**