

## President's Message



Wow! Such a fantastic Annual Unit Membership Meeting.

Some new people who had not been to a F2F game in three and a half years attended. There were some good questions and concerns raised in the meeting. Here is recap of the discussion and also a glimpse of some of the upcoming events:

First of all, there have been some abusive phone calls to current bridge players. That has led to the Online Directory being disabled and a search for ways to increase the security of sensitive info on the U499 Web site. A subcommittee of the Board is reviewing some software to enhance our website and to increase the security. More on this to come.

Secondly, there was discussion about the Board gifting to charities. The Board recognizes the value of gifting to the local community. Our Bylaws (available on the U499 Web Site) specifically state the purpose of the Board is to 'Promote and expand bridge membership and activities'. The Directors have a duty and obligation to follow the Bylaws. The Bylaws can be changed and/or amended (see the Bylaws for the process).

Here are some of the Board's efforts going forward:

- Upgrading the website
- A Non Life Master Sectional (NLM) or event with focused emphasis on beginner play (0-20, 49er, and 99er)
- Advertising for the various classes in U499
- Encouraging better-attended bridge classes
- Encouraging beginners to play at club games
- The Board is reviewing ways to work with clubs to make gifting to charities, clubs may have the flexibility for gifting
- Seminars from reputable bridge experts.

Finally, I welcome bridge players who want to contribute to the U499 bridge community to check with me about how they can participate to make the clubs better.

Remember our Unit's upcoming events.

- Tunnel Tournament, 4/8/23 (My understanding is that the event is full and there is a waiting list. Check with Jackie Zayac)
- 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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Progress is being made towards opening club games for face-to-face play. Keep in mind that there are costs involved with in-person games, and without support from players, they might not be sustainable. Try playing at a club. It's really nice to connect with old friends and catch up on the last three years. Our newest club, Overtricks by the Bay, is struggling at its current location in Discovery Bay, and hopes to be relocating to Brentwood in the near future. Watch for announcements and start thinking about supporting this new venture.

Hope to see you soon!

Judy Keilin  
Editor



## Unit 499 eDeclarer

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**Deadline for May is April 20th**



Mary Krouse, Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at [jkeilin@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc)

# Milestones and New Members

## **MILESTONES**

### *NEW CLUB MASTER (20)*

Craig Lewis

### *NEW NABC MASTER (200)*

Bob LaPointe

### *NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTERS (300)*

Christie Noble  
Yilmaz Ozturhan

### *NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER (1000)*

Kathy Fernbacher

### *NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER (3500)*

Kathryn Von Dohre

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Jackie Bateman  
Deanne Gilbert  
Chen Peng  
Mark Strovink  
Edward Reynolds

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](mailto:jackiezayac@gmail.com) by April 1, 2023

To register for Unit 502, email [grantvance1@gmail.com](mailto: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

# NEW CLASS

We have a new Introduction to Bridge course starting on April 10th in a beautiful Creekside setting. This course is open to new players who have never played before and those who haven't played for a while and are looking for a refresher. Whether you want to just play socially or play with groups at the Bridge

Club, this class will help you understand and get maximum enjoyment out of the game using a hands-on learning approach developed by top teachers and players. Meet other bridge players and make new friends in a friendly and engaging learning environment. Instructor is a Silver Life Master, an ABTA Accredited Bridge Teacher, a Club Director and a Director of Bridge Programs onboard cruise ships. Accompanying text book available for purchase.

Introduction to Bridge

Date: April 10th – June 5th (8 Sessions)

Day and Time: Monday Mornings 10am-12pm (No class on Memorial Day, May 29th)

Location: Creekside Commons – 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Instructor: Deb Rechnitz

Cost: \$135

Feel free to email or call with any questions,

Deb Rechnitz

[drechnitz@comcast.net](mailto:drechnitz@comcast.net)

(925) 360-1330





Bee Sturmer, Lilah Newton and Sharon Tarpinian are visiting me in Palm Desert. Joel and Susie White are staying nearby so we have fun with our Danville group. Christa Krick and Lene Bankert also are here and join the fun.

Margy Evans

# BRIDGE THE GAP

This column is dedicated to encouraging us, as well as others, to play this brain game. Most younger people just think it's for old folks. But in reality, other countries have youngsters mandatorily enrolled in classes. India is one of the countries that believes Bridge helps the students hone in on becoming smarter adults.

Studies show cognitive benefits to playing card games by teaching children new strategies for using mathematical information, categorizing patterns, sequencing and sorting.

So, share the good news with your children and grandchildren. If they are willing to patronize you for fifteen minutes, SUPER. I did that with my granddaughter, took her to classes taught by Bruce, and she still likes to engage in bridge. This card game differently moves the mind into a mode of consecration that other card games don't.

When sharing with your neighbors, friends, whomever will listen, ask them to come and play. Truth be told, there are side effects. It's demanding, competitive, and comes with some regrets. However, the icing on the cake, is winning, and that's why we keep coming back for seconds, thirds, and always wanting more.

Maybe as we age, it's more important to find value in playing, and winning. Whatever emotions are provoked, it's best to keep them under wraps, and scream when you get home. Yes, the socialization is vital, so we need to keep our cool, be kind, and press the right button. By conveying a positive message to others, we may just attract others to join in.

Lisa Assoni

The ShortCut Cook TM



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

April, 2023

North

S 42

H KJ432

D Q962

C 95

West

S A8765

H 1086

D KJ108

C 2

East

S J1093

H 95

D 53

C KQJ64

South

S KQ

H AQ7

D A74

C A10873



1C 1S X 2S

4H all pass

I was North on this deal and my partner visualized a dummy that would have fitting cards after I made a negative double of the 1S overall and that it would play better in hearts than NT. I was glad I had an extra heart because I didn't have any extra high cards. Most players are afraid of playing a 3-4 fit so I was quite impressed.

The opening lead was the 2C which went to the J and was won with the A.

The trumps were drawn in 3 rounds and declarer recognized that the club spots were very strong so she led the 3C to the 9 forcing East to win the Q. East naturally led a spade which West won and continued and now declarer led one of those club spots throwing a diamond from dummy ( a loser on a loser) and could win any return and discard the two losing diamonds on the 2 good clubs making 4 for + 620 which was worth 86%.

Note here, East needed to return a diamond after winning their first club, but their partner did overcall 1S so it is very difficult to fault them for leading the spade.

Notice how important it is to see the club spots and appreciate their value.

Jerry Weitzner

[jweitzner@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](http://Diablovalleybridge.com)

## Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

Blackhawk Country Club

Contact Lilah Newton at

[lilahnewton@yahoo.com](mailto:lilahnewton@yahoo.com)

Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge will have another special game on Wednesday, April 26. It will be a Unit Game and we are inviting our gentlemen friends to join us. We will assemble in the main dining room at 9:30 where pastries/muffins will be served. We will play our bridge game until 12 when lunch will be served. A choice of three entrees will be offered. After lunch we will resume our game and be finished around 2:30. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to join us please make a reservation with one of the following:

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)



## Carol Griffin

Come join Carol for Rusty Bridge from 1-3 or 2/1 from 10am-noon on Thursdays at Lafayette Community center (925 284-2232) starting April 6

or the Diamond Course/Play of the Hand from 10am-noon or Rusty Bridge from 1-3pm on Tuesdays at the Orinda Community Center (925 250-8415) starting March 28

We also have social/supervised bridge all year round at the Lafayette Community Center every Wednesday which includes a mini-lesson before each game with help from either Carol Griffin or Debbie Rechnitz

Carol T Griffin

400 Beacon Ridge Lane

Walnut Creek, CA 94597

Tel 925 933 3535

Email: [nobidd45@gmail.com](mailto:nobidd45@gmail.com)

Web Site: [carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com](http://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com)

If this is an emergency please call as I do not necessarily look at my email every day. Please consider the en-



## 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

On April 8 there will be an IMP scoring game.

April 10-15 will be a Charity Club Championship week. All games will be an extra dollar.

There will be no games April 28 and 29. Rossmoor is holding the annual Flea Market in the Oak Room.

If you come to a game at Rossmoor, please bring a mask to put on if requested. Also, club policy requests no perfumed products as some have allergies to them.

Have fun and play nicely!



## 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](mailto:thatsafire@gmail.com)) or (925-487-7832)

# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

## April News

**Special games in April** – lots of them – see below.

**Monday, April 3** will be a unit game. Extra MPs and food. \$1 extra.

**Thurs, April 6** will be a unit game. Extra MPs and food. \$1 extra

Week of **April 10-16** – Charity Club championship games – F2F and BBO (Charity Foundation week) \$1 Extra

The week of **April 24-28**, we will have club championship games for all in-person games. Lots of extra MPs with no extra charge! And Silver Linings Week on BBO - (1.5x MPs and all silver)

CCBC continues its hybrid schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda and on-line on BBO. **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 was changed to a 299'er game.** This change allows more players the opportunity to play in person, while continuing CCBC's efforts to appeal to the area's newest players.

The game has 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.

### CCBC Game Schedule

Tuesday's 749'er online game has been cancelled.

#### Full Schedule

Monday 11:15 Open in person \$9

Tuesday 10:00 299er in person \$8

Wednesday 10:00 Open Online \$5

Thursday 10:30 999er In Person \$9

Friday 10:00 Open Online \$5



# Lamorinda Bridge Club

Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

We will be holding a Unit Game on Friday April 21 at 10am. Light lunch will be served following the game. Please make a reservation.



All April 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)

The Play of the Hand class continues for 9 weeks ending in early May (it started on March 20). 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.)

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, \$5.

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: Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century** (beginner bridge series) began March 1. 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.)

Due to a decrease in participation we will not be continuing the Saturday and Sunday morning Bridge Base Online games after the end of March.

## 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.

• **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](mailto:winnie@wjasper.com).

Lamorinda Bridge Club

183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

Please leave the equivalent of three parking spaces open in front of the house directly across the street from us. Thank you!xs

