

President's Message



The Sacramento Regional was OK. Good space for the tables. As they continue the construction, the on-site restaurant was minimal, but adequate. The rooms were brand new and excellent. Yes, a lot of businesses took the covid time to rebuild.

I did have the chance to reconnect with a good friend (opponent) for a nice Cab at the end of the day: Mr. Aussiedoodle (yes, he is from Australia).

We got around to talking about pet peeves at the table. So here is his pet peeve, as he stated it, 'after the opponent approves the board's results some players place the bridgemate in a convenient location for North – others seem to find a place inconvenient for North.' So, make the extra effort to place the bridgemate conveniently.

There are lots of considerations at the table: drinks and food on the floor or side table, extra papers on a side table or floor, and prompt leads. But that was his pet peeve. So interesting are the views of other players.

A shout-out to Bruce Johnsonbaugh. The Board's President, that would be me, has instituted the 'Good for Nothing Award'. That could mean you are worthless, or, you do good things without the thought of being compensated or praised (wrap your head around that phrase). Well Bruce is the latter. Bruce has worked to secure bridge venues consistently and thoughtfully without any thought of being recognized. When you see Bruce, be sure to congratulate him. Thank you Bruce. You are truly 'Good for Nothing'.

Upcoming Unit events:

- September 14 Team Play Seminar in Lafayette
- September 28 & 29 Diablo Sectional Rossmoor Gateway Clubhouse

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

Sam Earnhardt

...from the Editor

TABLE OF CONTENTS

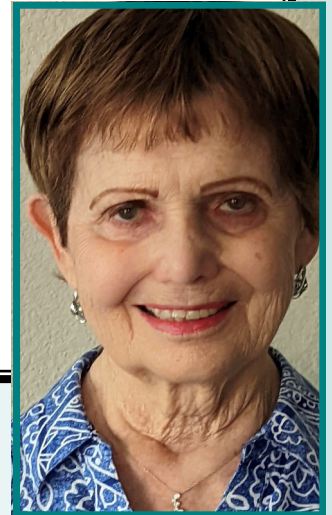
President's Message	1
From The Editor	2
Unit 499 Milestones	3
What's Happening	4
Contributions	5
Club News	7

Finally did it! Played one day at the Firecracker Sectional in Palo Alto. It was great fun to be in a tournament environment and see old friends. I'll be doing more of that, and hope that you will, too.

I even agreed to go on a 21-day cruise through Scandinavia and the Baltic! Life has always been uncertain. It's time to venture out and see new things.

Hope to see you at the tables. Come to our newest club -Overtricks by the Bay in Brentwood. It's doing well and welcomes more players. No partner? Come anyway and we'll provide one.

Judy Keilin
Editor



Unit 499 eDeclarer

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to Jkeilin@pacbell.net

Volume 144

August 2023

Deadline for September is August 21st



Mary Krouse, Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at 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

Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)

Linda Zercher

NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Joan Billeci
Susan Haggerty

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER (50)

Kathy Cook

NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)

Catherine Brazelton
Bari Mantel
Terri Rowe

NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER (2500)

Barbara McKay

NEW MEMBERS

Mary del Santo
Clayton Kaneko
Diane Cohen

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



It's so hot in the shade,
I decided to stay in the sun.

NEW LESSONS

Declarer Play

This is an eight-week course that focuses on the play of the hand and improves your ability to make your contracts. This class assumes introductory-level bridge skills. Accompanying book available for purchase.

Date: September 11- October 30 (8 Sessions)
Day and time: Monday Mornings (10am-12pm)
Location: Creekside Commons - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz
Cost: \$135

Commonly Used Conventions

This eight-session course takes a more in-depth look into Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Weak Two-bids and Strong Two Club Openings. It will also explore rebids and how to handle competitive interference. Accompanying book available for purchase.

Date: September 11- October 30 (8 Sessions)
Day and time: Monday Afternoons (1pm-3pm)
Location: Creekside Commons - 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz
Cost: \$135

Introduction to Bridge

This course is open to new players who have never played before and those who haven't played for awhile 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. Accompanying book available for purchase.

Date: September 7th - November 2nd (8 Sessions)
(No class October 5th)
Day and time: Thursday Mornings (10am-12pm)
Location: Walnut Creek Rec Center - 1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz
Cost: \$135

POKER FACE

August is here to stay, and can you believe Christmas is just five months away!!!

Joy can be heard throughout the bridge room, when some players scratch and count their match points.

OR, some players complain because they were intimidated by their opponents. Snarls can be seen on their faces, with no accepted graces.

I try not to grimace, but my facial expressions are dead giveaways. Keeping your face expressionless is a tough call, especially for Italians.

Okay, It's just a game. That is often said by the opponents who've had a great day, and you know you have not. It's a game of skill, determination, playing often and remembering what you've learned.

I got a late start- Discovering bridge at sixty-two years old, was a tough lesson to absorb. Best to start when you're young. That can be accomplished by enrolling your kids, nine and up, in a children's class.

Bruce Johnsonbaugh teaches "bridge for kids". I did enroll my granddaughter, and she loved it! Classes are held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Contact Bruce--eckhoffhoppe@hotmail.com.

Our bridge website is here to keep you updated on the latest information about our Unit.
Search: Diablovalleybridge.com.

A shout-out to our Board members who go unnoticed, but work behind the scenes to keep you all updated. Yes, I'm a Board member, and we all work tirelessly to aid and assist our Unit 499. As I said before, please check our website often, so you too can be an informed member.

Take care, stay cool,

Ciao Bella,

Lisa

The ShortCut Cook



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

August, 2023

North

S A654

H KQ1072

D _____

C AJ87

West

S 32

H J854

D AKQ

C 10963

East

S 1087

H 3

D J108652

C K42

South

S KQJ9

H A96

D 9743

C Q5

P 1H P 1S

P 3S P 4S

My partner opened 1H and with my values concentrated in the majors I want to make a 3 card limit raise so I responded 1S intending to bid 3H next when my partner jump raised my spades so I decided to bid 4S knowing we were in a 4-4 fit.

The opening lead was a high diamond which I trumped in dummy. The analysis at this point is that in hearts, you should get 4 spades, 5 hearts and 2 clubs for sure for 11 tricks. However in spades you should get 4 spades, 5 hearts, those same 2 clubs and a diamond ruff for 12 tricks.

I decided that it looks too complicated to get 2 diamond ruffs so I led a spade to my hand and took the club finesse. When it lost a spade came back so I won the A and led a spade back to my hand and then a heart to the K in dummy followed by a heart back to my A and when East showed out I got all 5 hearts, 4 natural spades, 1 diamond ruff and 2 clubs making 6 for 81%.

Some pairs did bid 6 and those that made it got 98% and some pairs got 59% for making only 5. There were some that went down in 6, mostly in hearts.

This deal shows why the 4-4 fit plays better than the 5-3 fit.

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. [Dia-blovalleybridge.com](#)

Overtricks by the Bay

193 Griffith Lane
Brentwood

OVERTRICKS BY THE BAY has officially started at its new location at the Brentwood Senior Center. Game time is 9am on Tuesdays. Table fees will be \$5 to start and \$4 after a short period.

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



Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

Blackhawk Country Club
Contact Lilah Newton at
925-648-3154
lilahnewton@yahoo.com

The Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge group is having a special game August 23. It is a STAC game and we are inviting our gentlemen friends. Everyone is welcome but you must make a reservation. Game time is 9:30 in the main dining room of the country club. We will break for lunch at noon (a choice of three entrees will be offered) and we will finish our bridge around 2:30. If you would like to play please contact

Lilah Newton
925-648-3154
lilahnewton@yahoo.com

Sharon Tarpinian
925-736-2461
enchantment-s@comcast.net

Lilah Newton



DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Veteran's Hall



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

Monday-Saturday, August 21-26, will be the Summer Fun STaC Week. An extra dollar will be charged.

For entrance for non-residents to the Rossmoor games please **EMAIL** Addie Mattox in advance at Amattox@earthlink.net. Have your driver's license handy when you drive through the gate in case it is requested.

No fragrances please. A mask should be available in case another player requests you wear one.

Kit Miller



Carol Griffin

As always **Drop-In** bridge continues all year round at the Lafayette Community Center every Wednesday from 10-noon. This is a relaxed place to come and play bridge with help from either Carol or Debbie and place to make friends and possibly discover new bridge partners! No reservations nor partners required.

During the Summer, Carol is offering two 6-week classes on Thursdays at the Lafayette Community Center: **Slam Bidding** and **Cue Bidding** from July 20 to Aug 24. Please call them for more details: Lafayette Community Center 925 284-2232

Also at the Lafayette Community Center 925 284-2232-Thrusdays

Rusty Bridge from Sept 7 - Nov 9 from 10am-noon

The Diamond Series (Play of the Hand) from Sept 7 – Nov 9 from 1-3pm

At the Orinda Community Center 925-284-2232 -Tuesdays she is also offering two other 10-week courses:

The Heart Series (Defense Part I) from Sept 5-Nov 14 from 10 am-noon

Rusty Bridge Part II (a little more advanced bidding review) from 1-3pm

Please call the community centers for more details.

Carol Griffin



Contra Costa Bridge Center

cbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

August News

Special games in August – lots of them – see below.

Aug 2 & Aug 4 - NAP qualifying games on BBO (Wed/Fri)

August 7 - NAP qualifying game Monday F2F only

August 9 & 11 (Wed/Fri), and special bonus open game on Sunday Aug 13 – Silver Linings Week BBO only (silver points)

August 14-17 – Upgraded Club championships – F2F only in honor of CCBC's 1-year anniversary in Orinda. Lots of extra MPs. (Mon, Tues & Thurs)

August 21-24 STaC (silver points) – F2F only (all 3 games in Orinda)

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).

Reminder: Tuesday's 10 AM bridge game in Orinda is a 299'er game, with the following features:

- 1) A mini-lesson will precede each game, with a review of a hand from the prior week.
- 2) 18 or more boards will typically be played.
- 3) Each player will have the opportunity to ask limited number of 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.

Full Schedule

Monday 11:15 Open **in person** \$9

Tuesday 10:00 299er **in person** \$8

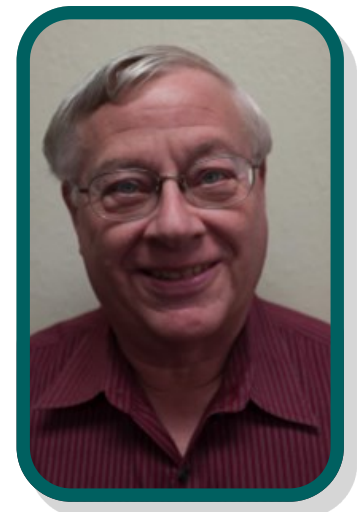
Wednesday 10:00 Open **Online** \$5

Thursday 10:30 999er **In Person** \$9

Friday 10:00 Open **Online** \$5

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

Michael Kruley



Lamorinda Bridge Club



Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

Please note: New class sessions will begin August 7 as follows:

Mondays:

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| 9:30am - 11:30am | Class on Defense |
| 1pm-3pm | Single Topic Seminars ***(see below) |
| 7pm – 9pm | Class on Bidding in the 21st Century |

Wednesdays:

- | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 7pm – 9pm | Class on Play of the Hand |
|-----------|----------------------------------|

All classes run once per week for 9 weeks. The cost is \$200 per class which includes the textbook. Please sign up in advance to reserve a seat. Our former students repeating a class will receive a discount. Please be sure to ask about it.

Game Schedule beginning August 1:

- Tuesdays: 3:00-5:30pm, Supervised Play; 14-16+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **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: 2:00-4:45pm, **Limited 999 Game**; \$10 table fee.
- Fridays: 10am - 1:15pm, **Limited 599 Game**; \$10 table fee.

Once there is sufficient interest, we will resume offering supervised games on Wednesdays at 9:30am for our newest players at a low limit for a \$10 table fee, three questions allowed per player.

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 at www.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

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

Please make your Class and Game Reservations with Winnie

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

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

August 7	Opening bids: SA points, Rule of 20, Pierson Points; helpful ideas on when to open hands.
August 14	Overcalling and the subsequent auction.
August 21	Takeout Doubles and Advancer Responses.
August 28	Negative Doubles and Opening Rebids.
September 4	No Session (Labor Day).
September 11	Cue Bid Raises.
September 18	Stayman and subsequent auction.
September 25	Jacoby Transfers and the subsequent auction.
October 2	Interfering with the opponents one no-trump opening bid; Cappelletti, DONT, TNT.
October 9	New Minor Force by responder. What is promised by responder.
October 16	Signals: how to use your spot cards (the number of the card itself communicate); standard; odd/even; UDCA (upside down count and attitude); Lavinthal.
October 23	Blackwood and key card auctions.
October 30	Limit Raises: Standard American and Bergen.
November 6	No Lesson.
November 13	No Lesson (Lamorinda Bridge Club week in Nuevo Vallarta, Mexico).
November 20	No Lesson (Thanksgiving Week).
November 27	Drury Convention (Reverse and two-way).
December 4	Michaels Cue Bids and Unusual 2NT.
December 11	2/1 (two over one game force) with is popular in this area. [No Classes the rest of December]
January 8	Fourth Suit Forcing.
January 15	Inverted Minor Convention and subsequent auction.
January 22	Competing/Sacrificing; tools to help you judge when and when not to do so (vulnerability).
January 29	Bidding Reverses.
February 5	Two Club opening bids and responses: step, 2D Waiting, Controls.
February 12	Minorwood Slam Bidding

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 hosts a 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.

Winnie Moran Jasper
winnie@wjasper.com
183 Corliss Drive
Moraga CA 94556
925-376-1125 (H)
925-683-1908 (W Cell)
925-766-5228 (J Cell)