

President's Message

Revisiting a topic covered before: building the bridge program. Key is increasing the number of F2F new players.

There are lots of players in beginner classes. These classes also include rusty bridge players who want to return the game. By my calculation, based upon conversations with the various bridge instructors, there are about 60+ students in these classes.

The board is working on plans to encourage these new players to try F2F games. Not only encourage them to try F2F, but for them to fully embrace the social side of bridge and form strong connections to the bridge community.

Here's how everyone can help. When new faces show up (new bridge players and returning bridge players), welcome them, encourage them, remember their names, and be patient if they are slow at the table.

Watch for more news on this next month, in e-Declarer, and Google Groups communications.

Unit events:

Tunnel Tournament, 4/8/23. This was fully attended. And, Wow, U499 beat the cross-tunnel competitors. Looking forward to the next competition in 2024. Congrats to Jackie Zayac, U499 coordinator, and to Grant Vance, U502 coordinator for a well-managed event. A shout-out to the director, Greg Vance, for directing.

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



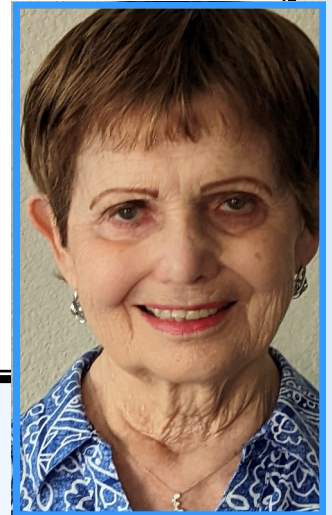
...from the Editor

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Great news! OVERTRICKS BY THE BAY is officially starting on May 2 at its new location at the Brentwood Senior Center at 9am on Tuesdays. Table fees will be \$5 to start and \$4 after a short period. This location is more accessible than the Discovery Bay location, and we hope to see more players at the games. I'll be there, and I hope you will, too.

Bridge is returning to clubs.
Let's give our support!

Judy Keilin
Editor



Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

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May 2023

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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)

Jeff Johnson
Elizabeth Johnston
Chen Peng

New Club Masters (20)

Perry Serafin
Kriss Tyson

New Sectional Master (50)

Sherry Ditirro

New Regional Master (100)

Janice Adragna

New Advanced NABC Master (300)

Ed Lichtig

New Bronze Life Master (500/750)

Harry Fish

NEW MEMBERS

Jeff Johnson
Sugie Kazuo
Amal Moulik
David Hsieh

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



Unit 499 Wins Back the Tunnel Tourney Plaque

Unit 499 and Unit 502 met on Saturday, April 8 to compete for possession of the Tunnel Tourney Plaque for 2023. Sixty-eight (68) members played two sessions of 18 boards each session to determine this year's winning unit.

It was Unit 499's turn to host the annual event which resumed in 2022 after a two year hiatus due to the virus that shall not be named. The players were treated to Morucci's sandwiches, chips and a cookie for lunch between the two sessions.

Unit 499 won the event with a final score of 40-33. The following members of Unit 499 earned the points needed to bring the plaque back to this side of the Caldecott Tunnel.

Dan and Linda Friedman – 10 points – FIRST OVERALL Flight A

Manfred Michlmayr and Barbara McKay – 5 points – Flight A

David Geary and Sue Eltringham – 4 points – Flight B

Anne Hollingsworth and Jackie Zayac – 3 points – Flight B

Patty Perry and Frank Concepcion – 6 points – 1st in Flight C

Wayne and Debbie Rechnitz – 4 points – Flight C

Bob Barnes and Furqan Naeem – 1 point – Flight C

Dave Freimuth and Tina Foley – 4 points – 1st in 799ers

Gary and Trudy Moore – 3 points – 799ers

Thank you to everyone who participated in this event. Even though this is a competitive event, there was a great sense of bridge community in the Orinda Masonic Hall. It was truly a great day of bridge and it was a lot of fun visiting with friends on both sides of the tunnel.

Enjoy the Tunnel Tourney Plaque in 2023!

Jackie Zayac

2023 Unit 499 Tunnel Tourney Chair

WHO KNEW?

Feelings can be hurt, egos damaged, and nerves put on edge! Sounds like fun huh! Well, truth be told, it is. As crazy as it makes you feel, it's so engaging, demanding, challenging, and more; that we just can't get enough. I sometimes feel like a bridge addict. I play on the computer, play on my cell phone, and of course, come to the Bridge Center and play. It's a self-serve event that can fill your plate with a bountiful of emotions. So what's really behind this little game called Bridge?

History of Bridge - The origin of playing cards was in China, where paper was invented, dates back to around the year 1120. Originally, cards were used for fortune telling and gambling. Cards were introduced into Italy and Spain around 1370, probably coming from Egypt. Tarot cards, used for fortune telling, were introduced in Italy in 1440.

In 1432, Saint Bernardo warned the "Faithful" that cards were invented by the Devil, later picked up by the English Puritans -- often regarded "The Devil's Picture Book". By 1495, Henry VII issued a Decree forbidding his servants from playing cards except during the Christmas Holiday.

Later, Elizabeth the First levied a tax on the manufacture of playing cards, which generated significant revenues for the Crown. By the era of Queen Anne, card playing was in full swing. Men preferred Piquet, women loved Ombre, while the Clergy and Country Squires played Whist. Have you ever wondered why the Ace of Spades looks so distinctive? Well, it was the official stamp of certification to indicate that the proper English tax was paid on that deck of cards (the Stamp Office kept the only stock of pre-stamped Aces of Spades) -- the card manufacturers were forbidden to produce that Ace. This tax was imposed all the way thru 1960.

And we continue to play on and on. I love it, don't you!

Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

May, 2023

North

S Q964

H AJ1092

D 64

C 74

West

S A85

H 83

D J532

C J962

East

S K32

H Q654

D 97

C Q1083

South

S J107

H K7

D AKQ108

C AK5



P P P 2N

P 3C P 3D

P 4C P 4S

all pass

This deal came up in a recent on-line matchpoint event.

I was North and my partner opened 2N and I wanted to play in a major suit so I bid 3C (Puppet Stayman) asking for a 5 card major and my partner said he didn't have one but he did have at least one 4 card major.

Hearing that, I said 4C which says I have both majors but I like Hearts better than Spades. My partner said 4S and I passed thinking we were playing in our 4-4 fit. It turns out that my partner forgot we were playing Puppet, so he denied any 4 card major and then he thought my 4C was Gerber so he showed 2 Aces.

The funniest thing about this deal is that we landed in our best contract and there really is no way to know how to get there logically. 3N with a club lead is the best we can do but 4S always makes. At the table we got a Diamond lead and actually made 5. Plus 450 was worth 90%, plus 430 was worth 80% , plus 420 was worth 65% and plus 400 was worth 56%.

My friend Mike Bandler, not my partner on this hand, says you never have to apologize for a good result but I did feel sorry for our opponents but I enjoyed the humor in our result.

You can see that even good players forget their system and make mistakes but the nice thing about this bunch of mistakes is that we were on the right side.

Oh, yes the opponents might have held us to 4 with a Diamond ruff but they didn't try for it after the opening lead.

As far as the play went, partner drew the trumps as quickly as he could and took the rest.

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

Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge

Blackhawk Country Club

Contact Lilah Newton at

925-648-3154

lilahnewton@yahoo.com

Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge game plays on the 1st and 4th Wednesdays at 9:30 at Blackhawk Country Club. It is open to all women, however, reservations are required. If interested in playing, please contact Lilah Newton.

Lilah Newton



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) 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)

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

Web Site: carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com

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



DANVILLE DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB



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

In-Person Special Games:

May 1-6 will be Spring Flight STAC Week. All games will be an extra dollar and extra points will be awarded.

May 22-27 will be a Grass Roots Fund Charity Week. All games will be an extra dollar and extra points will be awarded.

Online Special Games:

May 8-14 will be the Grass Roots Fund Week. Twice the regular club points will be awarded. All points will be black.

Kit Miller



Overtricks by the Bay

193 Griffith Lane

Brentwood

OVERTRICKS BY THE BAY is officially starting on May 2 at its new location at the Brentwood Senior Center at 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)



Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

May News

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

Week of **May 1-7** Royal STaC (F2F games only, so Mon, Tues & Thurs)
Extra MPs, including ¼ each black, silver, red and gold! \$1 extra.

Week of **May 8-14** – Grass Root Fund Games - both F2F and BBO
Extra MPs. \$1 extra

Week of **May 22-26** – Club championships – we will have club championship games for all in-person games. Lots of extra MPs with no extra charge!

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.

Mike Kruley

Full Schedule

Monday 11:15 Open in person \$9

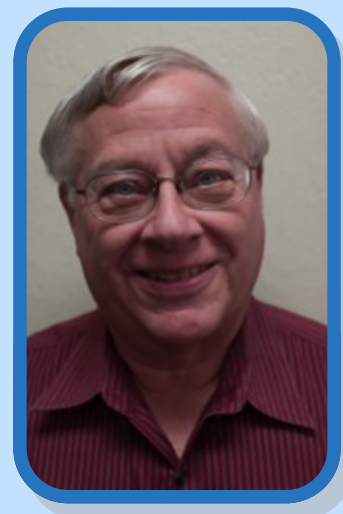
Tuesday 10:00 299er in person \$8

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!



Lamorinda Bridge Club

Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

Our face to face games the week of May 1 will all be STaC games awarding extra points that will be a mixture of colors.

Please note: The current schedule of classes on Mondays during the day and Wednesday evenings will be concluding during the second week of May. New class sessions will begin August 7 as follows:

Mondays:

9:30am - 11:30am	Defense
1pm-3pm	Single Topic Seminars
7pm – 9pm	Bidding in the 21 st Century

Wednesdays:

7pm – 9pm	Play of the Hand
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Game Schedule (May through July):

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.

Fridays: 10am - 1:15pm, **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.)

For May 8 – July 24

Please make your Game Reservations with Melinda Matson Hall:

Cell Phone: (925) 330-2435

Email: melindamatsonhall@gmail.com

Melinda will be our Director for Club Games during this period of time.

SINGLE TOPIC SEMINARS – MONDAYS 1-3pm, \$20 (Last one until August)

- **May 1:** Losing Trick Count (Summary Handout will be provided)

Questions:

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

Lamorinda Bridge Club, 183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

Or

Melinda Matson Hall

Cell Phone: (925) 330-2435; Email: melindamatsonhall@gmail.com

Questions:

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

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