

eDeclarer

June 2024

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Mr. Bulldog stopped by my table one spring morning to chat. I have played against Mr. Bulldog many times, he is an experienced, long-time player. Today, he was quite chatty. We talked about pride. More pointedly, pride in our club and pride in our Unit (that would be Unit 499).

As an accomplished Senior (very senior) club member, he was proud of the pride that many younger players took in their bridge ethics and pride in their club. Yes, I agreed; there has been a lot of effort over the years that bridge players have put into the club to make it better. Three of the newest board members have helped the club to move forward and develop new club attributes (this month look for the start-up of the new Unit 499 website).

As a segway from Mr Bulldog's pride message, the annual Tunnel Tournament was held April 27 at the Berkeley Club. Unit 502 won by one point. Very close. Watch for the announcements for next year's TT from Marian Renvall. The TT will be held in a Unit 499 location; make plans to support our Club with your play.

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 that does nothing but for someone that does tasks without expectation of award or recognition.

Future events

- Tunnel Tournament Saturday, April 27, 2024. At the Oakland Bridge Club, lunch, 2 sessions of 18 boards. Unit 502 won a hard-fought competition by one point.
- Unit 499 special game for beginners on Friday, September 13. More to come on this; watch for the flyer.
- Diablo Sectional: November 9&10. Watch for the flyer.

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

Sam Earnhardt
sam.earnhardt@gmail.com
Cell: 925-395-6426

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Unit 499 eDeclarer

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To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at jkeilin@gmail.com

Mary Krouse, Publisher

...from the Editor

Check out the future events mentioned in this issue, as well as the opportunities for lessons to improve your game.

Thanks to Lisa for sending some photos from the Thursday game at CCBC. You might want to send some from other club games. I promise to include them.

See you at the tables.

Judy Keilin

Editor



Be sure to visit the unit website for more information on our clubs and events, as well as archives of our newsletters.

<https://www.unit499.com/>

Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)

Tessie Forsberg
Anthony Lee
Roy Replogle
William Rick's
Bonnie Sanders

NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Sid Greenbaum
Craig Shibata
Jolene Silverfoote
Dave Tong
Lynne Walter
Eppie Ying
Barbara Yost

NEW REGIONAL MASTER (100)

Art Evans

NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER (3500)

Nancy Munson

NEW MEMBERS

Anil Dhussa
Robert Eidus
Ruth Evans
Simon Lowes
Elizabeth Sanders
Barbara Lanier
C. Stoltzfus

Please welcome Marc when you meet him online or at the tables.



Smiles are Contagious

It's June, and a fine time to tune-up our game. It's considered the top sunshine month, so share your bright smiles and your guiding light. The more experienced players, if asked, can shed a bit of glow to help others. Remember, unsolicited negative advice is never well-received. I've even done it myself. I hate that. It's hard to keep quiet when you see something so blatantly wrong. *I know, I'm Italian* and I call this game "*Shoulda, Coulda, Woulda.*"

Also, bridge table manners are quite a well kept secret, but all of us know, when the prickly pair comes to your table, or you travel to theirs, it becomes quite a dicey game. Just keep smiling.

Bragging rights usually go to very-well paired partners. Remember you can always check scores on our website at diablovalleybridge.com.

I usually play on Thursday morning, AND WHAT A CROWD. IT'S THE 999 GAME, and I compete with some super players. Some have partnered for years, and their bidding system is usually excellent. I enjoy competition, and occasional scratching- to my delight. NOPE, I DON'T LIKE PLACING LAST.

So keep on truckin'. This brain game is more about keeping your mind sharp, and engaging many of our senses. ENJOY.

Photos from a Thursday mornings game below.

CIAO BELLA:

Lisa Assoni

The ShortCut Cook (R)



Tunnel Tournament 2024

Team Diablo fielded eighteen pairs to challenge Unit 502 for the annual Tunnel Tournament.

After two sessions, eighteen boards each, there was only a one point difference. Winner was Unit 502.

Pairs from Unit 499 placed first in each section, Linda and Dan Friedman for Section A, Marj Russell and Carroll Brooks for Section B , and Shelia Wong and Jeff Johnson for Section C. Congratulations to the top-placing teams.

The final scoring has the top four pairs awarded tunnel points based on the strata and place (1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th) . Unit 502 received thirty-seven and Unit 499 received thirty-six.

It was a fun day and great bridge. In 2025 Unit 499 will be hosting. I look forward to planning the event and fielding a strong Team Diablo.

Marian Renvall

North American Pairs Qualifying Games

Clubs are allowed to hold qualifying games for the grass-roots North American Pairs event starting in June.

You first play at your local clubs, and can qualify for the next level by getting a score of 50% or better. Or, you can qualify by scoring in the top half of your strat.

The strats are: Open (flight A)/2500 (flight B)/under 500/non LM (flight C). Note that if a field has two or fewer pairs, both pairs will qualify.

MP awards will be 50% red and 50% black. Earning a qualification in any club level NAP game in any District qualifies a player for his/her own District NAP finals. No “short game” using fewer than eighteen boards will be considered for NAP qualification.

Check the schedule for the clubs in Unit 499 to see whether they are holding these games and when. The NAP qualifying games can also be held on BBO. Club qualifying games continue from June-August.

Michael Kruley

Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

June, 2024

North

S KJ743

H AK8643

D 7

C 7

West

S 9

H Q10

D K108654

C K1062

East

S AQ2

H J

D Q932

C AJ843

South

S 10865

H 9752

D AJ

C Q95

2D 3D 3H 3S

P 4S P P

West opened 2D, my partner bid 3D , Michaels showing the majors, East bid 3H and alerted that it was an undefined bid in their partnership. I said 3S and my partner raised to 4S.

The opening lead was the 6 of diamonds and I played the 7 from dummy and won East's Q with my Ace. At this point I realized that the heart bid was some kind of shortness and that I needed to cut the opponents transportation so I led the J of diamonds and when West covered with the K of diamonds I discarded the 7 of clubs. This play is called a scissors coup because it eliminates them from being able to put their partner on lead. West now led a heart, I won in dummy and played the K of spades losing to East's Ace, and he led back a club, I trumped in dummy and led a low spade, East won the Queen and led another club which I trumped in dummy and drew the outstanding spade and claimed the balance.

Note that an original heart lead would allow the opponents to get their heart ruff because I wouldn't be able to stop East from putting West on lead. If I led the A and J diamonds, West could play the King and then lead another heart.

Note also that 4H does not make from my side because West can get a spade ruff

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net



LAMORINDA BRIDGE CLUB

WINTER GETAWAY

Nuevo Vallarta

aka Nuevo Nayarit

Mexico

November 17-24, 2024



Golf Norman Course 18H
Nicklaus Course 18H
Par 3 Lake Course 10H
Pitch & Put, lighted
for Night Play

Bridge ACBL Sanctioned
Duplicate Pair
Games. Master
Points Awarded.

Water On the Ocean with
full Beach Amenities
and Multiple Pools
with Activity and
Support Staff.
Float around on the
Endless River.

Dining Over 30 Restaurants,
Bars, and Snack Cafes
on the resort
property and dozens
of good eateries a
short cab ride off
property. A 30 -
minute cab ride to
Old Town Puerto
Vallarta for
restaurants, shopping
and culture.

More Tennis Courts, Spa,
and Exercise Facility.

\$1399/person Double
Occupancy

\$2199/person Single
Occupancy

Jerry Chamberlain
& Winnie Jasper

Invite you to join us at the

Grand Residence Club,
Vidanta Resort, Nuevo
Vallarta

(Overflow in luxury Spa
Building Units)

www.vidanta.com/web/nuevo-vallarta/grand-luxxe

INCLUDES

Two Rounds of Golf
(Additional Rounds Available
for a nominal fee.)

Bridge Table Fees for daily
Duplicate Games

Room (Private Elevator to the
shared Condo of your Room)

Open Bar in Jerry & Winnie's
Unit Daily

Transfers from Puerto Vallarta
Airport to Resort

See Reverse Side for Details

Each of 3 Grand Residence Units
has 4 ensuite bedrooms (2 with king
beds and 2 with two double beds)
with shared common areas
including Great Room with
Kitchen, Dining, Living Areas
and outdoor Deck with dipping
pool, lounge and dining seating
and laundry.

Singles may pair up to share a room
or may be accommodated in the Spa
Building nextdoor (3 ensuite
bedroom condos).

The resort is very handicapped
user friendly and shuttles are
continuously available within the
resort.

All parties are responsible for their own airfare and transportation to and from SFO.

Arrangements will be made with the Vidanta Resort for ground transportation from the Puerto Vallarta Airport to the Resort. We will need your flight information to do this.

To Reserve a place in the Group making this trip:

A deposit of \$700 per person (to reserve rooms) must be made no later than May 15, 2024. This amount will be refundable until August 31, 2024. After that date there will be a \$150 cancellation fee. (Winnie and I had to front the entire cost of the resort units when we made the reservation.)

Confirmation will be made subject to availability as space will be limited.

The balance of \$699 per person (\$1499 for single occupancy) will be due by August 31, 2024. Cancellations of the deposits made will be accepted only until this date. If at all possible, cancellations may be filled from the waiting list.

Checks may be written to the order of Jerry Chamberlain or payment by Venmo or Zelle can be made to Jerry Chamberlain by referencing his cell phone 925-766-5228.

Information necessary for initiating arrangements:

Name(s):

Street Address:

City:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone(s):

Email address(es):

Information necessary before departure (email to Winnie):

Airline

Flight Number

Arrival Time

If you are a single, are you willing to share a room (upon approval by both individuals)? For more information: Jerry Chamberlain: 925-766-5228 (Cell); jerry@wjasper.com Winnie Jasper: 925-683-1908 (Cell); 925-376-1125 (home); winnie@wjasper.com 183 Corliss Drive, Moraga, CA 94556

BRIDGE CLASSES with CAROL

At the Orinda Community Center: 925.254.2445 (26 Orinda Way)

The Club Course for Beginners Tuesday, May 7-June 25 10am-noon

This course includes hand evaluation, opening 1NT, opening bids and responses, rebids by opener and responder, overcalls, takeout doubles and responses, and basic play concepts. There will be lots of practice hands.

The Diamond Course Tuesday, May 7-June 25 1-3pm

This course focuses on **Play of the Hand**. It includes developing a plan by declarer, counting winners or losers, developing tricks, finessing, eliminating losers, managing the trump suit, considering entries, and avoiding the "dangerous" opponent. There will be lots of practice hands.

At the Lafayette Community Center: 925.284.2232 (500 St. Mary's Road)

Rusty Bridge Part II Thurs., May 16-June 20 1-3pm

This course includes weak two bids, 2 club openings and responses, preemptive bids, defining what is and is not a forcing bid, and bidding in the balancing seat. There will be lots of practice hands.

Competitive Bidding Wed., May 29-June 19 1-3pm

This 4-week course covers how to compete using overcalls, takeout doubles or even passing. We will also cover the responses to those competitive bids, and finally, how to respond/handle the competition. Each class will have a one-hour lesson with exercises followed by 4 hands that demonstrate the lesson of the day.

Cue Bidding Wed., July 10-July 3 11-3pm

This 4-week course will cover the many ways in which we can use Cue bidding to help us better describe our hand: Limit Raise Cue bids, Overcall Cue bids, Western Cue bids, Cue bids showing Controls, and time permitting, we will try to cover "Pick the Suit" Cue bids and Splinter bids.

Slam Bidding Wednesday, August 7-August 24 1-3pm

This four-week course covers the many ways to investigate slam contracts using special conventions such as quantitative bidding, Roman Keycard Blackwood/Gerber, Cue bidding controls, Jacoby 2NT, and Splinter bids. We will also define what are the indicators for making slam contracts.

**If there are any questions, please call the community centers for more information.
If you need more info, please don't hesitate to visit Carol's website or call her.
<https://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com> or 925.933.3535.**

All year-round there is **Drop-In Bridge** which runs every **Wednesday from 10am-noon** at the **Lafayette Community Center**. It's a social bridge game to meet new people, practice what you have 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 playing hands.

Carol Griffin

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. <https://www.unit499.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 minilesson before every game. Mark Marty (thatsafire@gmail.com) or 925-487-7832)

Diablo Bridge
Diablo Country Club
1 Country Club Drive
Diablo

The Diablo Bridge game will resume at Diablo Country Club in June. The game is held on the third Tuesday of each month. It begins at 9:30 and runs until about 2:30. Lunch is included.

The game is open to all, but reservations are required.

Mary Krouse
(925) 984-3846
diablokr@gmail.com

Blackhawk Duplicate
Bridge Blackhawk Country Club

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

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



Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc (as of June 8_ – unit499.com/contra-costa-bridge-center

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

Weeks of **June 3** and **24** – NAP qualifying games. The open games on Monday & Wednesday will participate. We will not have NAP games on Thursday due to the MP limit not fitting the strats. Strats are A – unlimited, B – under 2500, C – non LM/under 500. Extra MPs – 50% red points, extra \$1.

Thursday, June 20 – Longest Day Alzheimer's game – Raises \$ for Alzheimer's. Extra MPs, extra \$1

Friday, June 28 - Pop-up game. Regular MPs but 50% red points.

CCBC **will not** have a game on Thursday, July 4

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 Hall, 9 Altarinda Road.**

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

Michael Kruley

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 Club, Rossmoor

Special games during June:

June 3-8 will be a Club Championship Week

June 8 will be a Swiss Team Game

June 10-15 will be NAP Qualifier Games

June 17, 18 and 22 will be NAP Qualifier Games

June 22 will be a UNIT Game, 299er and Open games, with lunch,
\$6 all players



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.

The third series on **Defense** will be taught Mondays June 17 – August 19. 9:30-11:30am. After a short break we will once again teach the first series, **Bidding in the 21st Century**, meeting from September 9 – November 11.

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. These sessions are \$20 per person. As usual we use our large screen monitor (75 inch) to show examples. We work through the subject matter and then segue into example hands for you get to actually hold cards in your hand. These hands are specifically designed to support the lesson. With most of our seminars we actually have a library of subjects with professionally diagnosed descriptions. Most often 18 different hands with written explanations. We are able to send to any class attendee who wishes via an attachment.

List of special topics and expected dates (slight changes in scheduled presentation may made at the request of our students). Reservations are recommended.

June 17- Preemptive Bidding- expectations and what partner does with the information

June 24- Stayman

July 1- Jacoby Transfer

July 8- No Session

July 15- Using Jacoby transfer convention to relay to a minor.

July 22- Jacoby 2NT

July 29- Takeout Doubles- expectations and how does partner respond.

Aug 5- Strong 2C opener with several options for partner's conventional responses.

Aug 12- Limit Raises - both majors and minors

Aug 19- Leads and signals

Aug 26- No Session

Sept 2- Labor Day weekend No Session

Sept 9- 2 suited overcalls; Michaels and Unusual 2 Notrump

Sept 16- Blackwood slam convention; regular and how to respond when having a void

Sept 23- Keycard slam convention
Sept 30- Negative Doubles
Oct 7- New minor force
Oct 14- Fourth suit forcing
Oct 21- Cue bidding at the two level
Oct 28- Cue bidding at the three level and 4 level
Nov 4/11- 2/1 game force convention- (1st of 2 sessions- \$40 for the two sessions)
Nov 11- 2/1 game force convention- (2nd of 2 sessions- \$40 for the two sessions)
Nov 18- No Session
Nov 25- 3 level responder bids after your partner opens 1NT. i.e. 1NT-P-3C,3D,3H,3S?

There will be no further afternoon seminar sessions until March 3 as Winnie and I are hosting an ACBL Sectional at Sea aboard the Coral Princess departing January 25 out of San Francisco through the Panama Canal (16 days with 9 sea days) and then returning to Los Angeles (16 days) also through the Panama Canal with different ports of call each direction (only 1 duplicate). This is an excellent way to earn silver points. See attached 2024 Panama Canal Cruise Flyer for details.

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.

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.

Due to the interest in team games of our Swiss Team Game in February, we plan to continue offering Swiss Team Games on the third Saturday of each month:

Swiss Teams 10am – 1:15pm

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 16

December 21

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))

November 17-24 we are having our Lamorinda Bridge Week getaway in Nuevo Vallarta. We have multiple 8000+ sq ft condos reserved with 4 master suites in each unit. The private elevator opens into the condo. Daily morning Bridge games are held on the rooftop overlooking the Bay of Banderas. Afternoons are open to pursue whatever other interests you have. There are 3 golf courses on property- one is the home of the PGA Mexico open which attracts players of John Rahm's caliber. The short par 3 course is lighted for night time play. We have a limited number of complimentary rounds of golf, but, subsequent rounds are billed at \$35. Normal green fees are about \$300/. There are 30+ restaurants on property, and the units have full kitchens if anyone wants to prepare their own meals.

There are numerous ocean-front pools and relaxing sandy beach areas, walking paths, Spa facilities and shopping. See attached 2024 November Flyer for details.

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