

## President's Message



Embrace bridge. People are fun and the game is engaging.

This past weekend, 9/15 & 9/16, I went to the Sacramento Sectional. Sacramento has an outstanding setup for their club – large kitchen, 25-30 tables, a wall with a white board and some very good players.

One of the pairs that we played against – wow, you would never expect. Our opponent to the West was a professional bridge player from Las Vegas (lots of card games in Las Vegas). He said 'I hang out with my daughter and play bridge'. His partner was a recent mega winner on Jeopardy. Neither worked but dedicated their life to bridge. And, I have to mention that my partner, Rajani C, and I, set them for 400. (I was afraid to double them). They made a mistake with one of their conventions!!

Our Unit, clubs and individual bridge players need to reach out and participate with other Units and other Clubs.

The Bridge community is entertaining, cerebral, and fun. Go forward and embrace our community.

Noteworthy: Lisa Assoni has been given the 'Good for Nothing' award. 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.

### **Good for Nothing** award recipients:

Bruce Johnsonbaugh  
Judy Keilin  
Lisa Assoni

- September 14 Team Play Seminar in Lafayette. Successfully completed with 32 players.
- September 23 & 24, Sat & Sun, Diablo Sectional Rossmoor Gateway Clubhouse.

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

Sam Earnhardt

# ...from the Editor

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Greetings from somewhere on the North Sea, on our way to Amsterdam. We've seen quite a bit of Norway and it's all been spectacular, despite rain, clouds and cold. We've experienced delayed flights, cancelled flights, missed flights, lost luggage, a respiratory infection (me), and still we're having a great time. We even met some nice players from MA, and had some good games while cruising. We learned a new way of scoring called Russian Chicago.

Editing eDeclarer has been a bit of a challenge on board ship due to sketchy Wi-Fi, and I apologize for any loss of quality reporting.

Mark tells me the Brentwood game is growing. We're getting players from Clayton, Livermore, Discovery Bay, Concord, as well as the towns closer to Brentwood. Think about joining us. You'll be glad you did.

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 November is October 23rd***



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 JUNIOR MASTERS (5)***

Susan Couch  
Debra Hachen

### ***NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)***

Edward Lee  
Nina Ricks

### ***NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)***

June Bechtel  
Maxine Topper

### ***NEW LIFE MASTER (300/500)***

Regina Hartwig

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

Regina Hartwig

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

Sanda Henry

## ***NEW MEMBERS***

Sandy Belden  
Stanley Birkin  
Linda Carson  
Pamela Crook  
Susan Hewett Chapman  
Jan Hoover  
Soon Hwang  
Jacky Poulsen

Let's greet these folks when you meet them at the tables or online.



# GOOD FOR NOTHING AWARD GOES TO

Our attention was called to order for a board meeting. Well if you don't know already, Bruce Johnsonbaugh, Judy Keilin, and I have received the 'Good For Nothing' Award.

I wasn't sure what in the heck that means? After a pause, Wayne Rechnitz announced that the winners will get a free play. Whoopee. It's better than nothing, and now we have something..Right?

OK--Are you ready for Halloween? As a little kid, I loved Halloween. I would dance, sing and do a jig!

Now that I'm near old and cold, the doorbell lures me to answer the phone.  
*Oops the door.* It's a special night I say, and filled with a little delight!  
I can't believe that I must ponder, should I open the door or keep it tight.  
Should I answer, should I not, I'm too frightened to know what is right!  
They tell us not to open the door to strangers, but on this special occasion,  
I just scream, "Who's there? And open the door, with a prayer.

Some believe that Halloween originated with the Celtic festival "Samhain" That meant "Summers End. It was a time used to prepare for the solstice—darker days, that encompassed combating spirits and evil not to dwell.

Now, it's time to gather some MPs. Playing in-person gives us a better opportunity for gaining prized points. Unlike Halloween, we can dress like we want, and sit without fear. Of course it's best to win, and while trying to make the best bid, I get fearful. The more we play, the better we should get...right! At Orinda you'll find a lovely site, and it may take a few more minutes of driving time to get it right. As usual, our Unit 499 is working diligently to help all of us in getting back in the game. New players have the opportunity to secure a free play.

There have been e-mails sent out to help entice our bridge folks to come on down or up to Orinda. We will try to continue enticing new folks to join in the fun. There's nothing like seeing old friends and welcoming new ones.

Don't forget to check our CCBC site for the latest news. You'll get the latest information about what's "cooking"! Try it, you'll like it.

Ciao Bella,  
The Shortcut Cook

Lisa Assoni



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

October, 2023

North

S 542

H QJ

D AQ108

C A932

West

S -----

H 10943

D J643

C 108765

East

S KQJ7

H A8765

D 75

C J4

South

S A109863

H K2

D K92

C KQ

1C 1H 1S 2H

X P 4S P

P X P P P

North opened 1C and East overcalled 1H, I bid 1S, West raised hearts, my partner doubled, showing 3S and I bid 4S which was doubled by East. This penalty double looks reasonable because East was thinking his partner raised and might be able to provide a trick or two.

I am showing this hand because a player came up to me while I was in CVS and asked if safety plays were used very often and I replied that they should at least be used when contracts are guaranteed as well as when you want to keep one of your opponents from leading through a weak suit.

The opening lead was the 10 hearts to East's A, which I unblocked the K and East led the J clubs. I won the Q, crossed to the Q hearts and led the 2 spades and covered East's 7 with my 8 and when West showed out I claimed making 4 for 590.

I suspect that a lot of declarers, especially if not doubled would have just laid down the A spades because a 0-4 split doesn't occur very often and a lazy player wouldn't even notice the safety play here until they noticed the bad split.

Making 4 doubled was worth 94%, several were doubled and they made it. If you were not doubled and took the safety play you got 70% and if you didn't take the safety play and went down 1 you got 24% but if you were doubled and didn't take the safety play you had some company and received 5%. I think this shows the importance of understanding a safety play.

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)

## 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](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.

Contact:

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





## 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

Special games in October:

**October 2-7** - Club Appreciation Week. Extra points; no extra cost.

**October 16-21** - Club Appreciation Week. Extra points; no extra cost.

Please do not wear any scented products as some people are allergic to them.

Please turn your cell phones off once the game has begun.

Please bring a mask in case another player requests they be worn.

The RDBC has a strong Zero Tolerance policy which is enforced. If a guest has any questions as to what this involves, please ask to see a *Membership Directory* when you attend a game at Rossmoor.

Kit Miller Bob LaPointe at 1-925-683-7301.

Kit Miller



## Carol Griffin

### CLASSES WITH CAROL

女

At the Orinda Community Center: :925-254-2445

The Defense/Heart class-part II at 10am to noon from January 9-February 27

Rusty bridge also starts at 1-3 pm from January 9-February 27



女

At the Lafayette Community Center: 925-284-2232

The Diamond Supervised class at 10am – noon from January 11-February 29

Beginner Bridge (the Club Series) from 1-3pm from January 11-February 29

If you have any questions, please call the community centers for more information info and if still not satisfied, please don't hesitate to visit Carol's website at <https://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com/> or call at 925-933-3535

And don't forget all year round, there's 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.

Carol Griffin

[CarolGriffinsbridge.wordpress.com](https://carolgriffinsbridge.wordpress.com)



## Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

### October News

**Special games in October** – see below. All of the special games below pay extra MasterPoints, at no additional charge to players.

Week of **Oct 9 -12** – Club championships – F2F only

Weeks of **Oct 2-5 & 16-20** – Club Appreciation Games F2F (and BBO on 10/20).

**Oct 21 (Sat)** – Pro-Am (Unit Game). Gather around 10:00; game starts at 10:30AM. Registration required - contact Mark Humphrey at [markhumphrey@comcast.net](mailto:markhumphrey@comcast.net). Deadline for registration is October 15.

CCBC continues its hybrid schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda and on-line on BBO. **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.** Games continue on BBO on Friday (open at 10:00).

### Full Schedule

Monday 11:00 Open **in person** \$9

Wednesday 11:00 Open **in person** \$9

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:** Class Sessions will be finishing up by mid-October.

Mondays:

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 9:30am - 11:30am | <b>Class on Defense</b>                                |
| 7pm – 9pm        | <b>Class on Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b> |

Wednesdays:

- |           |                                  |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 7pm – 9pm | <b>Class on Play of the Hand</b> |
|-----------|----------------------------------|

**The next time we will begin new Sessions of our Classes will be the week of January 8, 2024.**

Also on Mondays from 1pm - 3pm we are presenting Single Topic Seminars:

**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.

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 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 to communicate); we will address standard; odd/even; UDCA- (upside down count and attitude); Lavinthal |
| October 23  | Weak Two Bidding   |
| October 30  | Limit Raises; Standard American and Bergen Limit Raises  |
| November 6  | No Session   |
| November 13 | No session (Lamorinda Bridge week in Puerto Vallarta)  |
| November 20 | No session Thanksgiving week   |

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; 14-16+ 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.
- Fridays: 10am - 1:15pm, **Limited 599** 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 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**

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

