

President's Message



Our Unit will be hosting a Team Play Seminar Thursday, September 14.

The Seminar will feature

1. Scoring
2. IMP – what they are and how they work
3. Definition of different kind of team events
4. Dos and Donts
6. Difference between IMPS and match points
7. Hand records
8. Hand analyses and recommended bidding
9. RKC structure

Location: Creekside Commons, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette, CA 94549

10am to 2pm, Seminar Leader: Kathrine Loh

Fee: \$20 covers lunch sandwich and seminar

Registration Required, email Sam at sam.earnhardt@gmail.com

Include the following information:

- Contact email
- Approximate number of masterpoints
- Luncheon sandwich choice (Italian, Vegetarian, or Turkey)
- Will you need a partner?

Flyers can be found at weekly team games at Overtricks by the Bay, Rossmoor, and CCB

IMPORTANT DATES

- September 14 Team Play Seminar in Lafayette
- September 23 & 24, Sat & Sun, Diablo Sectional at Rossmoor Gateway Clubhouse

NOTEWORTHY

Judy Keilin 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

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

Sam Earnhardt

...from the Editor

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First of all, thanks to Sam Earnhardt for bestowing on me the Good for Nothing Award. My family and friends will be so proud! I have always loved the game of bridge, and have tried to encourage others to try it. Helping Mark Marty to secure a venue for a game in Brentwood was rewarded with the addition of Overtricks by the Bay at the Brentwood Senior Center on Tuesday mornings. Next goal is to increase the number of tables. Join us sometime!

Sad to learn of Doug Handler's passing. Condolences to his family. Be sure to read Sandi Davis' heartfelt tribute in this issue.

See you at the tables!

Judy Keilin

Editor



Unit 499 eDeclarer

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to Jkeilin@pacbell.net

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September 2023

Deadline for October is September 18th



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)

Heather Houston
Barbara Samuel's

NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Lydia Reoult
Mack Riddle
Jane Salzfass

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)

Sydney Dodds
Jane Sacknowitz

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500/750)

Lew Voils

NEW MEMBERS

Louis Feinberg
Elizabeth Fisher
Tessie Forsberg
Bonnie Sanders
William Weidinger
Leonor Frankel
Michael Wilson

Let's welcome them when we meet
them at the tables.



IN MEMORIAM

It came to my attention recently that one of our veteran Tournament Directors and Club Owner, Doug Handler, passed away. I will remember him as a crusty, but likable guy who always wore an oversized button with a photo of his daughter, Kelly, of whom he was extremely proud, and also for his very, very, very old car.

Below is an article that appeared in the East Bay Community Bridge Center Weekly Newsletter

A tribute to Doug by Sandi Davis

I was sad to hear of the passing of Doug Handler yesterday morning. His contributions to the game changed the face of bridge in our Oakland/Piedmont community.

I have known Doug for over 40 years. That was when he started his games at Piedmont Veterans Building and I had just finished taking beginning bridge lessons at OBC(Oakland Bridge Club). Before he started his games our only playing option was in the Open at OBC - this was back when the players smoked at the tables, ran down to the bar below the club to freshen their drink, and were as mean as possible to beginners with few exceptions. This was before dealing machines and Bridgemates so we had travelers stuck in the boards for scoring and at the end of the game the director would tally the results by hand to find the winners.

Doug talked to us on the last day of our class about his New Piedmont game which would hold a game for players with under 100 mp (something unheard of in those days) and he would love to have us come play. I was there on his opening day and every Friday night for over 20 years. From the first time I played at his new club, Doug called me "Sandish " and his nickname for me has stuck with me to this day

Doug's club was where I met so many of my closest friends, strangers who became friends and sometimes partners. He offered classes to beginners and mentored us, raising our comfort levels as we played in his games. His Wednesday night game, the barometer, became the premiere game in the bay area and drew top players from far and wide by offering a highly competitive event. His Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening games were always popular with those of us who were still working.

It was at the club that Doug met his future wife, Diana, who gave him his greatest gift – his daughter Kelly. Anyone who played at his club watched Kelly grow up through pictures Doug proudly placed on the stage before each game.

I last saw Doug at Joyce Hart's memorial service and I was stunned at how thin and frail he was. This was after his major health issues in 2015 when we almost lost him and just after his serious bout with COVID

His behavior over the years became more erratic but I will remember him for changing the face of bridge and will truly miss him... and his piece of shit car that always identified his presence at any event. He did so much for bridge in our community and nurtured us until we were ready to play with the big kids at the game. His vision of bridge served us well in developing more and better bridge in Oakland. I hope people understand and appreciate what he contributed to our bridge community.

KEEPING YOUR COOL

Baby! It's been hot out here. I can't believe we've been pounded for weeks with temps well over ninety degrees. Yikes!

Labor day is nearly here, and this special day has lots of meanings. First, please don't labor over bridge. Yes, it's quite a competitive game, but when you take the bad day home with you, it can be laborious and not worth it.

Labor can be very intense when it comes to delivering a baby. Just ask any Mom! OMG, many mothers will attest to the fact that labor is extremely painful. But the reward at the end fills us with joy. (*That's until they're teenagers*)

Hey, we're thriving at the Contra Costa Bridge Center. Attendance has been like a fine wine: smooth, mature, and ageless. When playing, we try to stay present and in the moment, but sometimes knocking our heads and saying, "I should have had a V-8. I mean, I should of bid 5NT."

This game of reformulating contracts, bids and more, is a lot like making dinner. If you like to cook, you experiment, try new recipes and reap the benefits of eating good, healthy food. And so it goes for bridge. The more we learn, the better players we become. We devour every morsel of a point, and relish every play of the hand.

Our Board works hard to make your play easy to digest, fun, and happy. We take pride in keeping you up to date on the latest tournaments and more.

Ciao Bella,

Lisa

The ShortCut Cook



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

September, 2023

North

S J7

H A6432

D J102

C 983

West

S 985

H J

D Q8753

C QJ104

East

S Q432

H Q8

D K964

C A62

South

S AK106

H K10975

D A

C K75

P 1H P 2H

P 4H P P

P

As South, I opened 1H and bid game when my partner raised me. The opening was the Queen of Clubs and I played low from dummy, East played the 6 and I won the King.

I was quite glad to see the start of this hand go this way. Now if hearts split I am sure to make 5 so I led the K Hearts and a heart to the A and then it occurred to me that if I led the J Spades from the dummy, East might cover and I could discard a losing club on the 10 Spades. I had no intention of letting the J Spades ride if East didn't cover because if the spade loses they could cash 2 Club tricks and I would be back where I started but East did cover and I won my A Spades followed by my K Spades and now the 10 Spades and for all of you that watch the spots, my 6 Spades was good and I made 7. Even if you weren't sure the 6 Spades was good, you might as well discard a club on it because you would still lose a Club.

Making 5 was worth 60%, making 6 was worth 81% and making 7 was worth 98%.

I am not sure East should cover the J Spades, I will leave that to those experts that claim to know the percentages better than I do. I would add that I do not see any reason for East to have ducked the opening lead. I will just say that sometimes you can give yourself a chance of making an extra trick or two if you know how to look for it.

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

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 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

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

A Club Championship Week will be held from September 18-22.

September 23 and 24: a Sectional will be held at Rossmoor. Details are available from the Unit.

Bridge Basics Three Class

The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club (RDBC) is offering the Bridge Basics Three class starting September 12 and continuing for eight weeks. The class will be held on Tuesdays in the Oak Room at Gateway from 10am to noon. Kathrine Loh will be the instructor.

This class is appropriate for intermediate players or those who have completed Bridge Basics One and Two. The text will be "Bridge Basics Three" by Audrey Grant. The subject of this class will be popular conventions.

The cost for this class is \$50 for club members with an additional \$10 membership fee for nonmember residents. The nonresident cost is \$100. Checks should be payable to the RDBC and should be brought to the first class.

To register: text Bob LaPointe at 1-925-683-7301.

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

CarolGriffinsbridge.wordpress.com



September News

We are making the following changes to our weekly schedule - beginning on September 1:

The Tuesday (299'er) game will be dropped from our schedule. We will continue to seek opportunities for newer players - including supporting various class offerings.

The Wednesday (open) game will be changed from online to in-person in Orinda starting at 11:00AM (Monday game will also start at 11:00).

CCBC's revised schedule (effective September 1) is shown below.

Special games in September – see below.

No Game on Monday, Sept 4 Labor Day and Santa Clara Regional.

Week of Sept 11-17 – Intl Fund Games – both F2F and BBO (extra \$1)

Week of September 25-29 – Club championships – F2F only (no extra cost)

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)

We will not be holding Bridge Classes on Monday, September 4, the Labor Day Holiday.

Please note: New class sessions began in August as follows:

Mondays:

9:30am - 11:30am **Class on Defense**

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.

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.

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 to communicate); we will address standard; odd/even; UDCA- (upside down count and attitude); Lavinthal

October 23 Blackwood and Keycard slam auctions

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

November 27 Drury Convention Reverse

December 4 Introduction to 2/1 Convention (This is popular in this area)

December 11 2/1 Convention Continued

December 18 Michaels Cuebids and Unusual 2NT

No classes for the rest of December.

New Calendar Year 2024:

January 8	FSF; fourth suit forcing
January 15	Inverted Minor Convention and the subsequent auction
January 22	Competing/sacrificing; Tools to help you judge when and when NOT. (Vul/non-Vul).
January 29	Reverse bidding.
February 5	Two club opening bids and responder: 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.

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.
- Wednesdays: 2:00-4:45pm, **Limited 999 Game**; \$10 table fee. (Will be held if there are sufficient sign-ups)
- 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](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!