

eDeclarer

May 2024

ACBL UNIT 499 NEWSLETTER

President's Message



Mr. Terrier was enjoying his morning coffee and reading the newspaper. His daughter, Terri, was curled up on the sofa with her iPhone.

'Hey Dad, checkout the Facebook item on our family and the Instagram.'

'I don't do Facebook and what is Instagram?'

Today there is a gap between the Unit's communication platforms and many of the younger bridge players. Is there anyone that wants to support the bridge community and understands the new ways to communicate? The Unit 499 Board of Directors would welcome an individual that can help with board communications via social media. Hey, there is even a title: Social Media Manager and Director.

If interested in joining the BoD please contact Sam (sam.earnhardt@gmail.com).

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 who does nothing but for someone who 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. Must register with Marian Renvall. Nearly full – check with Marian if you want a seat.
- Vance Seminar. April 13, 2024. Topic 'Hand Evaluation.' Well attended (39 participants). Lots of energy and good interactions.
- Diablo Sectional: November 9&10

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

Sam Earnhardt, PMP
sam.earnhardt@gmail.com
Cell: 925-395-6426
Office: 925-946-0905

...from the Editor

I hope you're all back to playing club games where you played before Covid. It's so easy to stay home and play online, but doing that, you miss the socialization and opportunity to make new friends.

Some of the clubs guarantee a partner, which would be an enticement for those without regular partners. Either the club has a player who shows up willing to play with the odd single, or the director offers to play. For those clubs not guaranteeing a partner, think about it! You might increase your table count.

See you all at the tables!

Judy Keilin
Editor



TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

Unit 499 eDeclarer

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

Volume 153

May 2024

Deadline for June is May 20

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

Mary Krouse, Publisher



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

unit499.com

Milestones and New Members

MILESTONES

NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)

Soon Hwang
Gerri Joyce
Edgar Mcginnis

NEW CLUB MASTER (20)

Sue Cannon

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER (1000)

Bob Barnes

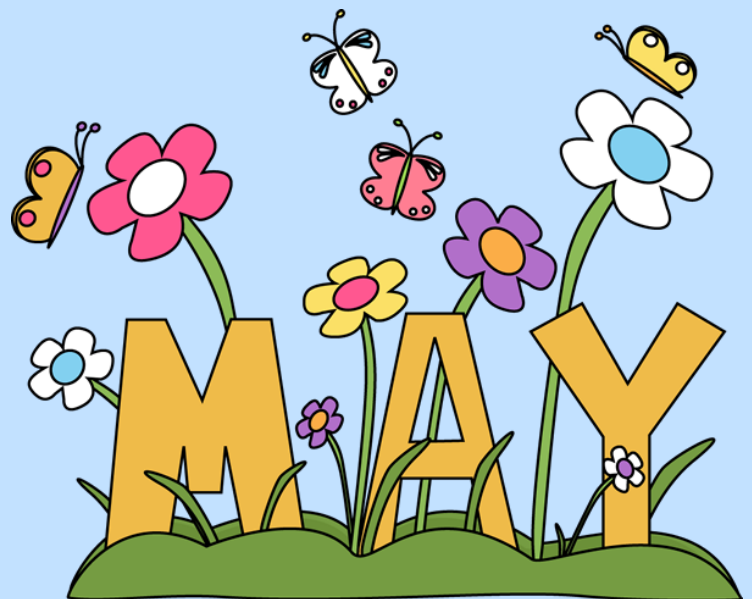
NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTER (5000)

Tom Trachuk

NEW MEMBER

Marc Dinkin

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



Spring Forward



May is the fifth month of the year in the northern hemisphere and is considered the last month of spring. So spring forward, and enjoy the beauty and sunshine. Let's all help to pass it around. If you're playing North/South or East/West, it's time to turn the tables in everyone's favor. Lighten up the day with your bright smile, and let the sunshine in. Remember, it's a great day in the neighborhood!

At the Orinda site, there's been lots to smile about. We have a large Unit 499 and all clubs are abounding with lots of opportunities to gain extra master points. Rossmoor was host to The Ace of Clubs, Mini-McKinney awards, and many others were acknowledged. The meeting took place just prior to the Unit Game.

Pro-Am game hosted by Mark and Lynne Humphrey, who have helped our club immensely. Winners coming in first were Joyce Goodman and Linda Walker and Dianne Lavin and Julie Burnet, who played like champs.

Congratulations to all. Mark, you're amazing. Thanks Mark and Lynne.

Don't forget ---Check out our website at diablovalleybridge.com for the latest, greatest updates. And remember. It's a lifetime of learning.

Ciao Bella,

Lisa Assoni

Shortcut cook ®

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

Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

May, 2024

North

S A7

H KQJ964

D KJ108

C J

West

S J1083

H 532

D Q75

C K105

East

S Q942

H 107

D 964

C 9432

South

S K65

H A8

D A32

C AQ876

1C P 1H P

2N P 3D P

3N P 6N P

P P

South upgraded his hand because of the 5 clubs and this pair got to the nice 6N contract. The opening lead of the J spades was won in dummy with the Ace.

Analyzing this deal, you can see 12 sure tricks if either the club finesse or the diamond finesse loses. Which one would you take?

If you take the club finesse and the J is covered you still need the diamond finesse to make 7. If you take the diamond finesse by leading the Ace and then to the 10 and repeat it to the J if necessary you make 7 if it wins and you still make 6 if it loses so it is clearly best to just take the diamond finesse. Several players took the club finesse and only made 6, while several players took only the diamond finesse and made 7. Being in NT made quite a difference over those in hearts.

Making 1020 was worth 91 % and making 1010 was 70 %, making 990 was 50% and making 980 was 36 %.

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. 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

May News

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

[Week of May 6 – Royal STaC – extra MPs, extra \\$1 – MPs are ¼ each black, red, silver and gold \(rare chance to win these colored points at a club!\)](#)

Week of May 13 – Grass Root FUNd Games – extra MPs, extra \$1 (money comes back to our unit to fund NAP and GNT games)

Week of May 20 – Club Championships – extra MPs, no extra charge (we can now have 2 weeks of these games per quarter)

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!

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

Lamorinda Bridge Club



Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

STaC Week will be May 6 -12. We plan to join the STaC Games :

May 7 at 3pm, Limited 699; 7pm, Open

May 8 at 3pm, Limited 699

May10 at 10am, Limited 699

May 11 at 10am, Open.

Please sign up in advance as usual.

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 June 17 – August 12. After a short break we will once again teach the first series, **Bidding in the 21st Century**, meeting from September 9 – November 4.

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.

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

May 6-Inverted Minors

May 13- Drury Convention

May 20- no session

May 27- no session Memorial Day holiday

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.

If there is sufficient interest, we will offer an additional limited game:

- Wednesdays: 3-5:30pm: Supervised Play; 14-16+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 699** Game; \$10 table fee. This game will include a selection of hands from the Monday Afternoon Special Topic Seminars mixed in with other randomly dealt hands.

Due to the success of our Swiss Team Game in February, we plan to continue offering Team Games on one Saturday of each month:

Swiss Teams 10am – 1:15pm

May 18

June 15

July 20

August 17

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.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