

## President's Message



OK, here is a thought or message that might not be totally 'Bridge'. Last week, I was chatting with a very good friend, Mrs. Yorkshire Terrier (she likes to be called Shire) over dinner and a nice glass of wine (Cabernet Sauvignon to be specific). We were discussing the 'golden years' and how important connections were, social connections to be specific.

In particular, our personal connections and personal adventures begin to decrease as we mature. Shire said that we (that is you and I) need to work on our mental capabilities (Bridge), our physical fitness (gym and walks) and our social interactions (friends). Wow, that took several glasses of wine!!

So here is the Bridge connection. Play with a new partner, experience a tournament (stay overnight and go to dinner with friends), encourage a friend to try Duplicate Bridge. I know that I don't do enough of these things; I look forward to times that I do.

Check in with past friends (not old friends but past and mature friends), get to know someone you have seen but never really known, encourage the 'youth' to try the duplicate bridge game.

Here's my promotion for a great game: Free game for beginner ACBL players (less than 99 points) and a chance for 'social' players to join in:

Game date: Friday, September 13

- There will be a raffle:
  - o Some excellent Convention books by Barbara Seagram
  - o Mentoring game with Excellent Intermediate players
- Comfortable atmosphere – all beginner players and two ‘consultations with experts’

### **Good for Nothing Awards.**

Anne Hollingsworth	Bruce Johnsonbaugh	Judy Keilin
Lisa Assoni	Mark Humphrey	
Mr Mutipoo	Chuck Silva	

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**

- 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, PMP  
[sam.earnhardt@gmail.com](mailto:sam.earnhardt@gmail.com)  
Cell: 925-395-6426  
Office: 925-946-0905

TABLE OF CONTENTS

[President's Message](#) ..... 1  
[From The Editor](#) ..... 3  
  
[Unit 499 Milestones](#) ..... 4  
[Lisa's Article](#) ..... 5  
[Jerry's Hand](#) ..... 6  
[Lessons](#) ..... 7  
[Club News](#) ..... 9

**Unit 499 eDeclarer**

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to [jkeilin@gmail.com](mailto:jkeilin@gmail.com)

Volume 156

August 2024

***Deadline for September is August 19***

## ...from the Editor

The latest strain of Covid is running rampant. Be careful playing bridge and maybe consider wearing a mask.

I was approached by someone recently who finds eDeclarer difficult to read because of the font size currently in use. We are trying to remedy that, and hope that the current issue is easier to read.

I just learned that one of our former contributors to eDeclarer, Mel Chaplin, has passed away. Mel's lessons were timely, detailed and thorough, and a great resource for those of us wanting to learn new conventions. Condolences to Mel's wife, Marilyn. We will miss you, Mel!

See you at the tables!

Judy Keilin

Editor



Mary Krouse, Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at [jkeilin@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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

# Milestones and New Members

## **MILESTONES**

### *NEW JUNIOR MASTERS (5)*

Jan Hoover  
Mark Strovink  
Carol Lee Tessler  
Nancy Vasko

### *NEW CLUB MASTER (20)*

Gretchen Bartzten

### *NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)*

Perry Serafin  
Kriss Tyson

### *NEW REGIONAL MASTERS (100)*

Maddy Klein  
Elizabeth Majchrzak  
Norman Price

### *NEW NABC MASTER (200)*

Donna Derry

### *NEW LIFE MASTERS (200/500)*

Max Hinkle  
Jeff Speer

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

Linda Ingham

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Bobby Herrington  
Jean Berringer  
Thomas Berringer  
Zhuangdi Xu

Please welcome these players when you meet them online or at the tables.

# BRIDGE THE GAP

This column is dedicated to encouraging us, as well as others, to play this brain game. Most younger people just think it's for old folks. But in reality, other countries have youngsters mandatorily enrolled in classes. India is one of the countries that believe Bridge helps the students hone in on becoming smarter adults.

Studies show cognitive benefits to playing card games by teaching children new strategies for using mathematical information, categorizing patterns, sequencing and sorting.

So, share the good news with your children and grandchildren. If they are willing to patronize you for fifteen minutes, SUPER. I did that with my granddaughter - took her to classes taught by Bruce Johnsonbaugh, and she still likes to engage in bridge. This card game differently moves the mind into a mode of consecration that other card games don't.

When sharing with your neighbors, friends, whomever will listen, ask them to come and play. Truth be told, there are side effects. It's demanding, competitive, and comes with some regrets. However, the icing on the cake is winning, and that's why we keep coming back for seconds, thirds, and always wanting more.

Maybe as we age, it's more important to find value in playing, and winning. Whatever emotions are provoked, it's best to keep them under wraps, and scream when you get home. Yes, the socialization is vital, so we need to keep our cool, be kind, and press the right button. By conveying a positive message to others, we may just attract others to join in.

Lisa Assoni  
The ShortCut Cook TM



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

August, 2024

North

S 10

H J1074

D K53

C A10942

West

S AQJ7653

H 53

D Q

C KQ8

East

S 9842

H A

D J10976

C J75



South

S K

H KQ9862

D A842

C 63

1S P 2S 3H

P 4H P P

P

This deal came up in a recent speedball event. Both vulnerable, West opened 1S and it went pass, 2S, 3H, pass 4H , all pass.

This is more of a bidding hand than a play hand. I suspect that most Easts would have offered some type of limit raise because of the 4 spades and the singleton heart. Over 3 spades it is difficult for my hand to bid 4 hearts but easy over 2 spades. I also think that most Wests would have just bid 4 spades instead of pass over both a single raise or a limit raise. Please let me know how you think the bidding should go.

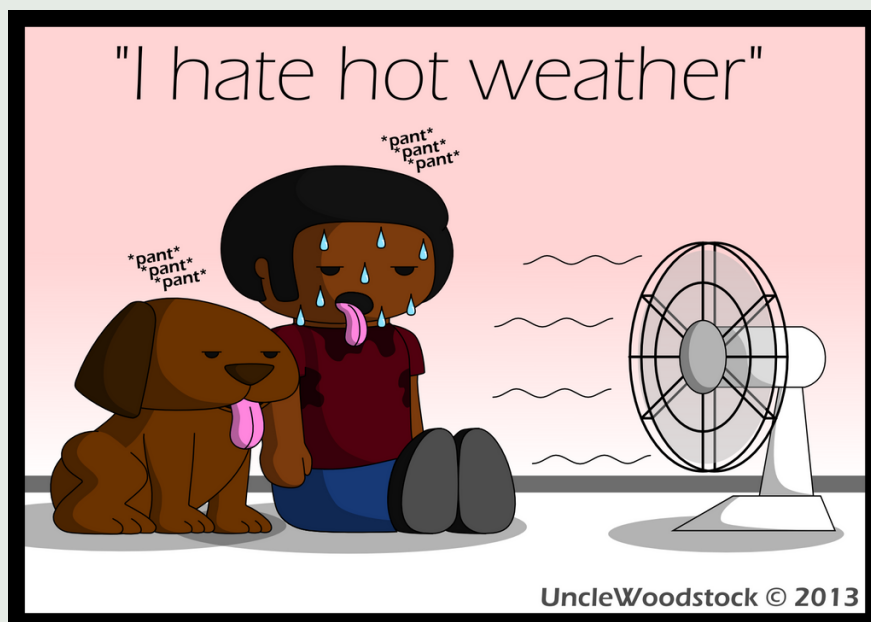
The opening lead was the Q diamonds and you can bet that when they bid and raise a suit, a lead in another suit is shortness (if you have a singleton, lead it).

Given that likelihood, it is right to win the diamond in my hand and start with trumps. East wins the A and leads a diamond and I play low from my hand while West trumps it, I follow low in dummy, a loser I had any way. Notice that if I won the K diamonds in dummy, when East leads a high diamond forcing my A, I would lose another diamond later on. The result of this is that you lose a trick in each suit for down 1, -100. It is clear that they are making 5 spades for 650 so down 1 or 2 would be a good board. As it turns out, -100 is 71%, -200 is 58%, -500 is 51% and -650 is 38%.

Since overall bidding has gotten so aggressive it was quite a surprise to buy the hand in 4 hearts with hardly any opposition.

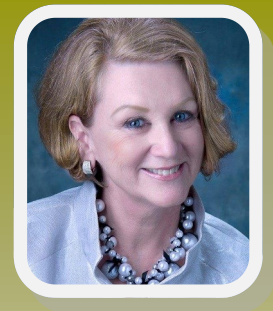
Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net





# Carol Griffin Bridge



## BRIDGE CLASSES with CAROL

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

### **Rusty Bridge Part II**

**Thursdays, August 8-August 29**

**10am-Noon**

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.

### **Cue Bidding**

**Thursdays, August 8-August 29**

**1-3pm**

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.

### **The Club Series**

**Tuesdays, September 3-October 29 10am-Noon**

This course is the official ACBL beginner's bridge course on the basics of bidding and play and is also useful for rusty players to update their game. It's an eight to ten-week course that 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.

### **2/1 Two Over One**

**Tuesdays, September 3-October 29 1-3pm**

This course is a popular variation of the Standard American bidding system. This system helps the players to get to the best game contract or explore Slam possibilities at a lower level. I also introduce the response of 1NT as a forcing bidding to improve the partscore contracts. There will be lots of practice hands.

### **Rusty Bridge Part I**

**Tuesdays, November 5-December 10 - 10am-Noon**

**This course** is specially designed for those who want to update their bidding skills, improve their communication with their partners, and/or revive their "college days" playing skills. It begins with a thorough basic bidding review, followed by an introduction to preemptive and slam bidding, the Stayman convention, leads against NT vs. Suit Contracts, bidding in the "balancing seat", and the distinction between forcing and non-forcing bids. Each session will consist of 1/2 hour lecture and 1 1/2 hours of supervised play with pre-dealt hands that illustrate the subject of the day. A workbook is available from the instructor at a cost of \$15.



**Conventions** **Tuesdays, November 5-December 10** - 1-3pm

This course covers a selection of bidding conventions including Stayman, Jacoby Transfers, Michaels Cue- Bid, Unusual NT bids, Negative Doubles, New Minor Forcing, Fourth Suit Forcing, 1NT Forcing, plus others. Balancing, third and fourth seat bidding, and other confusing issues, like “reverse” bids, can also be addressed.

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

**Slam Bidding** **Wednesdays, August 7-August 24** 1-3pm

This 4-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.

**Rusty Bridge Part I** **Thursdays, September 5-October 24** 10am-Noon

**This course** is specially designed for those who want to update their bidding skills, improve their communication with their partners, and/or revive their “college days” playing skills. It begins with a thorough basic bidding review, followed by an introduction to preemptive and slam bidding, the Stayman convention, leads against NT vs. Suit Contracts, bidding in the “balancing seat”, and the distinction between forcing and non-forcing bids. Each session will consist of 1/2 hour lecture and 1 1/2 hours of supervised play with pre-dealt hands that illustrate the subject of the day. A workbook is available from the instructor at a cost of \$15.

**The Diamond Series** **Thurs., September 5-October 24** 1-3pm

This course is designed to provide reinforcement of one’s bridge skills. Each week 8 pre-dealt hands are played while Carol is available for advice on bidding, declarer’s plan, or defensive strategy. Time permitting, there will also be randomly dealt hands for further exploration and fun. All hands will be discussed.

**Rusty Bridge Part II** **Thursdays, October 31-December 19** 10am-Noon

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.

**Diamond Supervised** **Thursdays, October 31-December 19** 1-3pm

This course is designed to provide reinforcement of one’s bridge skills. Each week 8 pre-dealt hands are played while Carol is available for advice on bidding, declarer’s plan, or defensive strategy. Time permitting, there will also be randomly dealt hands for further exploration and fun. All hands will be discussed.

**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.**

# 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)

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



# ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

Special games:

August 5, 6 and 10 will be NAP Qualifier Games. \$1 extra for all and extra points awarded.

August 19-24 will be Summer Fun STaC Week. \$1 extra for all and extra points awarded.

## COVID

Covid is still with us and players in both sections have been infected with it recently. Masks are not required at our games, but the risk is present as everywhere else.

## ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY



The RDBC has players ranging from new to the game to experienced. Please be considerate of players at all levels.

Kit Miller



## Danville Duplicate Bridge Club

Veteran's Hall  
Hartz Ave, Danville

Our 2499er game is held at the Veteran's Hall and starts at 9:30 on Fridays.

The cost is \$9 for Danville residents and \$10 for non-residents.

I hope to see you there.

Michael Gosnell

Diablo Bridge  
Diablo Country Club  
1 Country Club Drive  
Diablo

The Diablo Bridge game has returned to Diablo Country Club. Everyone enjoyed the new atmosphere and delicious lunch at the June game.

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

Contra Costa Bridge Center  
[ccbridgecenter@gmail.com](mailto:ccbridgecenter@gmail.com)  
[unit499.com/contra-costa-bridge-center](http://unit499.com/contra-costa-bridge-center)

August News

Hope that everybody is surviving the hot summer so far.

CCBC continues its efforts in 2024 to provide the maximum number of games offering extra MPs to our players. We are providing 3 weeks of special games in August. Chances to win extra MPs and red points to boot!

Weeks of **Aug 5 & August 12** - NAP qualifying games – Extra MPs and 50% **red** points, extra dollar. On **Monday and Wednesday only**. The MP limit for the Thursday game does not work for NAP. The strats for these games are A – unlimited, B under 2500, C under 500/non LM. Last chance to qualify at the club level for the District finals, which will be during the Monterey Regional in January.

Week of **August 19** - STaC games. All of our games will be STaC games that week. Extra MPs – silver points and extra \$.

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*

## 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** began on Monday June 17. 9:30-11:30am and will continue on Mondays through August 19. After a short break we will once again teach the first series, **Bidding in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

- 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- (1 <sup>st</sup> of 2 sessions- \$40 for the two sessions)
Nov 11-	2/1 game force convention- (2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 Jerry and Winnie 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.

We plan to continue offering Swiss Team Games on the third Saturday of each month:



## Swiss Teams 10am – 1:15pm

**August 17**

**September 21**

**October 19**

**November 16**

**December 21**

These games will be Strati- Flighted whenever possible. If you wish to participate please either organize a team of 4 players and register with Winnie ASAP, or if you wish to play but do not have a complete team please let Winnie know and she can suggest several possibilities to forming a team. Game time is at 10am, so please arrive 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](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**