

President's Message



Embrace Bridge. There is more out there – check it out.

This past week, 10/09 to 10/14, I went to the Tabletop Mountain Regional tournament, twenty miles east of Madera (twenty miles NE of Fresno) - a magnificent casino and/or Bridge venue with well-equipped rooms, excellent restaurants (Asian, Steakhouse, and basic coffee shop). The food was tremendous (prices were even better). The restrooms were enormous and well-maintained. For me, I was super impressed with the security – very visible and lots of uniforms. Even though this was a three-hour plus car ride, the drive was well worth it. For those who golf, there is a golf course next door.

Check out and participate in the various bridge activities – both our own and those activities at other venues.

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

Noteworthy: Mark Humphrey has been given the 'Good for Nothing' award. 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. Of note, Mark immediately acknowledged the support and work effort of his wife, Lynne.

Good for Nothing award recipients:

Bruce Johnsonbaugh Judy Keilin Lisa Assoni Mark Humphrey

Future events

- January 1 to January 7; Monterey Clambake Regional Tournament.
- Tunnel Tournament Saturday, March 24, 2024, in Orinda.
- Early April 2024; Vance Seminar. More on this next time.

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

Sam Earnhardt

...from the Editor

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After a long hiatus, I attended the Pro-Am game on October 21st. It was my first time playing at the new location in Orinda, and I was singularly impressed with the brightness, cleanliness, great parking, and convenient location.

It was great to see so many familiar faces, and to meet many of our newer players. Thanks to Mark and Unit 499 for enabling this event. Check out Lisa's article and related photos.

See you at the tables or online!

Judy Keilin

Editor



Unit 499 eDeclarer

Published monthly

Editor: Judy Keilin

Publisher: Mary Krouse

Submit articles to Jkeilin@pacbell.net

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November 2023

Deadline for December is November 20th



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)

Gretchen Bartzen
Robin Minor

NEW CLUB MASTER (20)

Gary Macknin

NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)

Sandy Donatoni
Carol Gray
Sharon Hyde
Paula Krauss
Craig Lewis
Mary Niessen

NEW NABC MASTERS (200)

Richard Lutz
David Niver
Judy Niver

NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER (300)

Jackie Thomas

NEW LIFE MASTERS (300/500)

Barbara Bottomley
Ed Lichtig
Gary Moore
Christie Noble
John Schelling

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER

(500 /750)

John Schelling

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS (1000)

Sam Earnhardt
Patti Keenan

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER (1500)

Mark Humphrey

NEW MEMBERS

Julie Athayde
Phyllis Jacob
Anca Kustu
Janet O'Leary
Tony Thomas
Eppie Ying

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

A FULL HOUSE

No, this wasn't a poker hand, but the Pro/Am game. We folks filled the club-- to the brim! October brought out the great players--from experience to "Help me please". My partner was Addie Mattox. I was a lucky girl, and learned a lot. All the Pros were gracious and much appreciated.

We started the morning with a treat—food: fruit, cheese, salami and of course, delicious donuts. Lynne made our day!

Mark Humphrey greeted the gang with encouraging words, and welcomed all who attended. Mark gave a shout-out to Chris Pisarra, Mark Marty, Lynne and more.

I talked with Mark about putting this unique event together. Mark spends weeks matching all who signed up.. Hours upon hours, weeks and weeks, leading to a perfect event. .

Mark and Lynne make this day a top priority! If you missed this opportunity,, we'll have another special game next year.

Check out the photos on the following page!

Halloween is almost here. Are you prepared for another year?

Do you open the door, or not

It's up to you to say "Yea or Nay" without fear

Some of us keep the house dark, and hope there's not a fight.

Or, just want to see the kids, so they put the lights on bright.

Whatever you decide, keep your eyes opened wide,

And pour your favorite drink, and keep it by your side.

Cheers,

Lisa Assoni

The ShortCut Cook



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Just a shout-out to Mark and Lynne Humphrey for a great job with the Pro-Am game. They are like a Timex watch with class. They keep on ticking and providing a great event year after year.

Also, not to forget Chris Pissarra, who patiently answered all the "lead out of turn" director calls, and the five options available to the Declarer. It was a fun day, and hopefully, the Ams learned useful tips on bidding and hand play.

Jack Meng



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

November, 2023

North

S KJ76

H 9763

D 872

C QJ

West

S 108

H K

D AQ1096543

C 43

East

S Q9532

H J1082

D -----

C 10952

South

S A4

H AQ54

D KJ

C AK876

1C 3D P P

3N P P P

I opened 1C and West bid 3D and when it came to me I decided to say 3N largely because I didn't want the lead going through my hand.

The lead was the Q diamonds and East showed out discarding a small spade. I was glad we missed our 4-4 heart fit when I saw it. I counted my winners and saw 2 spades, 1 heart, 1 diamond and 5 clubs. I could see that even if the spade finesse lost East couldn't return a diamond and that I might be able to develop more than 1 heart winner. I also thought that I didn't need to take the heart finesse because if East had the K I could lead towards the Q after unblocking clubs but that was rather awkward so I cashed the A hearts and the K came down, Hallelujah!! Now I can see and endplay East, so I played to the clubs in dummy and came back to my A spades, ran 3 more clubs and cashed the Q hearts and exited with a heart to East who took 2 hearts before leading a spade into dummy making 5. Some hands are quite fun when you can play them double dummy.

Making 5N was worth 96%. Making 4 hearts was worth 78%.

Jerry Weitzner

jweitzner@sbcglobal.net



NEW CLASSES

DECLARER PLAY

This course will improve your ability to make your contracts. Learn how to take extra tricks as a Declarer. We will spend some time delving deeper into Major and Minor Suit openings and responses. We will also take a look at preempting bids with long suits.

Day and Time: Monday Mornings 10:00am - 12:00pm
Dates: January 15 – March 4 ((8 Sessions)
Location: Creekside Commons – 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
Cost: \$135
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz drechnitz@comcast.net

MORE COMMONLY USED CONVENTIONS

This course will explore Preemptive bidding, Strong 2-Club Openings, Negative Doubles, and Other doubles as well as Blackwood and Gerber.

Day and Time: Monday Afternoons 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Dates: January 15 – March 4 ((8 Sessions)
Location: Creekside Commons – 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette
Cost: \$135
Instructor: Deb Rechnitz drechnitz@comcast.net

SUPERVISED PLAY

On-going, drop-in play. We start with a short lesson followed by playing lots of hands. Meet lots of other bridge players in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Questions encouraged; no partner needed.

Day and Time: Wednesday Mornings 10:00am - 12:00pm
Dates: Ongoing
Location: Lafayette Recreation Center – 500 St. Mary's Road
Instructors: Carol Griffin nobidd45@gmail.com -and-
Deb Rechnitz drechnitz@comcast.net

Debby Rechnitz

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.

The Blackhawk Ladies' Bridge has a change in the date of our December Holiday Party. This year we are having our party the 2nd Wednesday, December 13, in the main dining room and we are inviting our gentleman friends. Our game will start at 9:30 and end around 2:30. We will have a delicious salad entree lunch and cup of soup, followed by passed Belgian chocolates. Everyone is welcome but you must make a reservation. If you would like to play please contact:

Lilah Newton
925-648-3154

lilahnewton@yahoo.com

Lilah Newton

Sharon Tarpinian
925-736-2461

enchantment-s@comcast.net



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

Cancelled Games:

There are no games at Rossmoor on November 3 and 4 because there is an annual bazaar being held in the Oak Room.

New Class:

The Rossmoor Duplicate Bridge Club (RDBC) is offering a class in playing hands. This class is for bridge players who are new to the game and it will include declarer play and techniques. The text will be "Play of the Hand" by Audrey Grant. Kathrine Loh will be the instructor.

There will be eight classes held on Tuesdays from 10am to noon in the Oak Room at Gateway between November 14 and January 16, skipping two Tuesdays during the holidays. The cost is \$50 for RDBC members, \$60 for non member residents of Rossmoor (which includes 2024 club membership) and \$100 for non-residents. Checks should be made payable to the RDBC and can be brought to the first class.

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

Kit Miller





Carol Griffin



At the Orinda Community Center:

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

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

At the Lafayette Community Center:925 284-2232

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

This class was developed to give the students much more practice with the lessons learned having taken the Diamond (Play of the Hand) course.

Eight hands are played each class.

Rusty Bridge I is at 1-3pm from January 11-February 29

This class was developed to help the newer student who has taken the Club course or has played back in their college years and needs a refresher course of the guidelines in bidding and basic play.

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

And don't forget all year round there is 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

Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

November News

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

Week of **October 30 – Nov 3** – club championships – F2F only

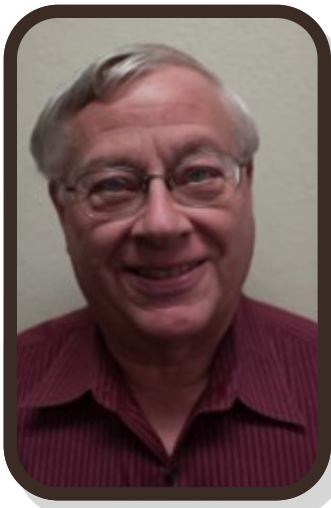
Week of **November 6-10** – Club championships – F2F only

Nov 23 (Thurs) – No game – Thanksgiving

Nov 24 (Friday) – No game on BBO

Nov 27 – Dec 1 – Upgraded club championships – F2F only

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

Michael Kruley

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

Best wishes to Michael Kruley on his recovery from back surgery.



Lamorinda Bridge Club



Lamorinda Bridge Club (LBC)

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

Mondays: Beginning Bidding 9:30-11:30 am; Play of the Hand 7-9pm

Wednesdays: Defense 7-9pm

Classes: 9 weeks, \$200 includes ACBL Textbook: (LBC Students may repeat a class for \$100 per course.)

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.

November 6 Michaels Cuebids and Unusual 2NT.

November 13 No session (Lamorinda Bridge week in Puerto Vallarta).

November 20 No session Thanksgiving week.

November 27 Drury Convention (Reverse).

December 4 No Session.

December 11 4th Suit Forcing (FSF).

December 18 Inverted Minor Convention and the subsequent auction

No classes for the rest of December.

For the 2024 year:

January 8 Two club opening bids and responder: step, 2D waiting, controls.

January 15 Reverse bidding.

January 22 Competing/sacrificing; Tools to help you judge when and when NOT. Vulnerability helps

January 29 Jacoby 2NT.

February 5 Blackwood.

February 12 Key Card Slam Auctions.

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 will host 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 599** 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.

Beginning January 10:

- Wednesdays: 3-5:30pm, Supervised Play; 14-16+ boards with Master Points awarded; three questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 599** 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.

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.)

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!

