

## President's Message



The Unit 499 hosted its Annual Membership meeting Saturday, March 8 – a good chance for feedback from members.

Ms. Cotralian, along with several other players at the meeting, said that the Unit should host the lunch. Serving pizza would be good. Many others said that more of the Unit's funds should be spent.

So here is my request for input. Where does the unit membership want the funds spent? Some ideas:

- More Unit-hosted Unit games with a free catered lunch.
- More events for beginners.
- An increase in Unit games lunch reimbursement (today it is \$15/table).
- Seminar for advancing intermediates.
- Paper directory (expensive, about \$1500).
- Something else?

### Good for Nothing Awards.

Anne Hollingsworth  
Lisa Assoni  
Mr. Multipoo

Bruce Johnsonbaugh  
Mark Humphrey  
Chuck Silva

Judy Keilin  
Kit Miller  
Lynne Humphrey

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 March 29

ProAm March 30

Diablo Sectional August 2 & 3

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

Sam Earnhardt, PMP

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<a href="#">President's Message</a>	1
<a href="#">From The Editor</a>	3
<a href="#">Unit 499 Milestones</a>	4
<a href="#">Letters to the Editor</a>	5
<a href="#">Bridge Etiquette</a>	7
<a href="#">Lisa's Article</a>	10
<a href="#">Jerry's Hand</a>	11
<a href="#">Club News</a>	13

## **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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Mary Krouse, Publisher

## ***...from the Editor***

Our President, Sam Earnhardt, is looking for opinions as to how our unit's money should best be spent. Sure, a free lunch at Unit Games is nice, but maybe we should try to attract new players to the game. Without these folks there won't be bridge in the future. That's my opinion. Let Sam know what you think. (Read the President's Message at the top of this issue.)

Also in this issue are not one, but two Letters to the Editor – both worth a read. Thanks to Joel White and Marian Renvall for sharing.

Take time to read the article on bridge etiquette. There are things in it you might not know, and a refresher for the things you already knew can't hurt.

See you at the tables.

Judy Keilin

Editor



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 MASTER (5)*

Nancy Hines

### *NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)*

Debra Hachen

Mark Strovink

Charles Wolff

### *NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS (50)*

Jeff Johnson

Craig Shibata

Nancy Shibata

### *NEW REGIONAL MASTER (100)*

Sheng Doug

### *NEW ADVANCED NABC MASTER (300)*

Mark Kogan

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

Pat Rolandelli

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

Pat Rolandelli

Jackie Thomas

### *NEW GOLD LIFE MASTER (2500)*

Jerry Chamberlain

## **NEW MEMBERS**

David Cohen

Judith Colton

James Dow

Monique Hill

Jean Jones

James Massie

Philippa Erlank

David Massie

Karla Massie

Lily Zhou

Diana Kewell

Diana Lowell

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

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Please be kind and considerate.

There are many forms of kindness at the bridge table. One that seems to be ignored more often these days is the kindness not to expose your fellow bridge players to your illness. It is especially important to understand that the immune system weakens as we age; the many octogenarians such as ourselves who play in our unit are more susceptible to severe illness and even death from what otherwise might be a case of the flu or bad cold in a younger person. For those not familiar with the statistics, flu kills more than twice as many people (mostly seniors) as Covid each year.

My wife and I were very disappointed to cancel our participation in the Unit 499 annual meeting, lunch, and unit game on Saturday, March 9. But we did so out of consideration to our fellow bridge players.

Approximately two weeks or so prior to March 9, we played in a game where one individual, for the entire four-board twenty-minute exposure, coughed continuously. She claimed to be asthmatic and took little to no effort to block the spray of her cough around the table. Within twenty-four hours I started to not feel well, and at about thirty-six hours exhibited sniffing, cough, fatigue, muscle aches and fever. Having already had Covid four times in spite of vaccines, I was tested. I was negative for Covid but positive for Influenza type 2. Fortunately, the combination of prior vaccination and the timely administration of Tamiflu prevented me from developing a more serious, potentially lethal, episode. Susan came down with it four days later. Though no longer infectious (theoretically) by the time of the March 9 event, we felt it was inconsiderate and disruptive to sit at the bridge table continuously coughing up sputum.

We would just like to make a plea: if you are coughing and or sneezing, even if you have allergies, sudden worsening or continual symptoms often herald the onset of a communicable respiratory infection even if you don't yet feel bad. If you really must play bridge at least have the courtesy to wear a mask, but preferably take a day or two off until the situation becomes clear.

Respectfully requested,  
Joel E White, MD (retired)



# Visit Unit 499 Website

Wow! The Unit 499 website is a wealth of information, listing individual clubs' weekly schedules, special events in the Bay Area, as well as the scores from previous games.

My morning routine now includes reading a daily bridge problem posted on the website. It is listed under 'More' on the home page. There are multiple links to improve your game, daily hand problems to solve, and lessons on conventions for both beginning and intermediate players.

Unit 499 includes nine individual bridge clubs. Our website is a great way to learn about local bridge happenings.

Visit [www.Unit499.com](http://www.Unit499.com)

Marian Renvall



# BRIDGE ETIQUETTE and PROTOCOL

Above all, avoid any behavior that would make anyone (especially beginners) feel uncomfortable.

ACBL has a Zero Tolerance policy:

## Law 74 A. Proper Attitude

A player should maintain a courteous attitude at all times.

A player should carefully avoid any remark or action that might cause annoyance or embarrassment to another player or might interfere with the enjoyment of the game.

## TABLE MANNERS

### General

Before you look at your cards, count your hand and ensure that you have exactly thirteen cards.

Do greet your opponents at the table and treat them with respect and courtesy.

Do not indulge in post-mortems with your partner directly after a hand is finished.

Do not criticize partner.

Do compliment your opponents for fine bidding or play.

Do say 'Director Please' in a pleasant tone. Keep your hand up so that the Director can quickly determine who called.

Do support your partner at all times. She/he is the only player in the room that is on your side!

The auction Bidding boxes are designed to reduce the possibility of information being communicated between partner by voice intonation or other mannerisms such as eye contact.

- When using a bidding box, decide what your bid is going to be before reaching for or touching cards in the bidding box. An extreme example of this impropriety is when you touch a 2H card and then pull out a pass card.

Deciding when to alert partner's bid can be complicated. A simple rule to get it right most of the time is to alert any bid below 3NT that is not natural. To alert, never say "I think I might need to alert that". Simply pull out your alert card, tap it on

the table and say “alert”. Do NOTHING else unless the opponent whose turn it is to bid asks you what the bid means. Then describe the bid and avoid just telling them the convention name.

Do not ask for information from your opponents unless it is your turn to bid.

### Play of the hand

Do say ‘Thank you’ to your partner when he/she puts the Dummy on the table. (Even though you are thinking to yourself ‘where the heck is the hand my partner was bidding?’)

When you are on opening lead, detach a card from your hand and lay it face down on the table.

- This prevents irregularities...such as leading when it is not your turn to do so, and allows questions about the auction and any alerts to be answered.
- All players, except dummy, may now request a review of the auction and an explanation of any alerted calls. You, as the opening leader, may ask for any review of the bidding too before you make your first lead. Other players may also ask for a review of the auction at their first opportunity to play.

Do not SNAP your cards down on the table. Do not throw your cards on the table.

Do not detach a card from the hand before it is your turn to play.

Do not pull up a card, push it back into your hand, and then pull up another card.

Nor should you detach a card and then replace it to play another card.

Also do not detach your card before it is your turn to play and never rearrange your hand when you are out of a suit.

All of these maneuvers provide additional valuable information to the declarer. (and your partner)

You have the right to inspect the cards that have been played on the current trick as long as your card remains face up.

Once all cards have been turned over (face down), no one can ask to see the cards that were played.

At the end of a hand ensure that you do not mix up your cards until the result is agreed with the opponents.

Do not look at your opponent's or partner's cards after the hand has been played without their permission.

If you have completed your hands at the table and if you are to move to another table, thank your opponents, wish them good luck and then get up regardless of whether your new chair is occupied or empty. Someone else may be waiting to sit in your



current chair. If the table you are to move to is still playing, no hovering, stay away until they finish.

### Dummy's Responsibilities

You may not call declarer's attention to anything except that he is about to lead from the wrong hand or to ask if he is out of the suit being played.

Only dummy can touch dummy's cards. If they are poorly displayed, declarer or defender may request them to be arranged better

As dummy you may not play or touch any card in dummy (even a singleton) until declarer calls the card.

If declarer designates a suit, but not the rank, he is deemed to have called for the lowest card of the suit indicated.

If declarer designates a rank but not a suit, he is deemed to be continuing the suit in which dummy won the last trick.

Otherwise, be silent during the play. Dummy is not allowed to call the Director, unless someone else at the table has identified a laws violation.

### Slow Play

Failure to finish on time can do a great deal to chase players away from the game and is extremely distressing to waiting players. Bridge is a timed event. If a pair takes more than their share of the allotted time for each round, they are inconveniencing their fellow competitors as well as gaining an unfair advantage over them.

When a pair has fallen behind it is incumbent on them to make up the time lost as quickly as possible whether at fault or not. The actively ethical player makes a concerted effort to catch up when they have fallen behind, regardless of the reason for their lateness. All players are expected to develop this good habit.

Thanks to Unit 501 for the above article.

# PASS IT ALONG

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 believes 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, and she still likes to engage in bridge. This card game lasts for a lifetime.

When sharing with your neighbors, friends, whomever will listen, ask them to come and play. Truth be told, there's 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 attract more players to join in.

Lisa Assoni/ShortCut Cook™



# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

April, 2025



North

S A73

H A86

D KQJ53

C 65

West

S KQ952

H 1097

D A1042

C Q

East

S J1086

H \_\_\_\_\_

D 976

C AKJ942

South

S 4

H KQJ5432

D 8

C 10873

P 1D 3C 4H

P P P

I am starting this with a question. Which card do you think will win trick 13?

If I told you it was either the 7 or the 3 of spades would you believe me?

I watched my partner play this hand and saw how it happened. I opened 1 diamond. It went 3 clubs and she bid 4 hearts.

The opening lead was the Q clubs, overtaken by the king, then the A clubs followed by a little club which West trumped with the 9 hearts and my partner over trumped with the Ace and drew 2 more rounds. Then she led a diamond towards the dummy and West ducked. She won in dummy and trumped a diamond back to her hand and continued leading all her hearts. At this point her hand was the 4 spades and the 10 clubs. She knows East must keep the high club and 1 spade and West must keep the A diamonds and 1 spade so the dummy was K diamonds and the A spades and a little spade. She discarded the K diamonds at trick 11 and at trick 12 she led her spade, winning the Ace and then whichever spade she had kept in dummy.

This is a classic double squeeze that worked because West ducked his A diamonds even though he knew my partner had 7 hearts, 1 diamond and at least 3 clubs. By the way, making 5 was worth 91% while making 4 was 71%.

If you have trouble visualizing squeezes, find a sheet of paper, write out this deal and play it trick by trick to see how it works. It really will help you to the next level

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

## Blackhawk Duplicate Bridge Blackhawk Country Club



Blackhawk Ladies Bridge is held the 1st and 4th Wednesdays at the Blackhawk Country club. Starting time is at 9:30. For reservations contact:

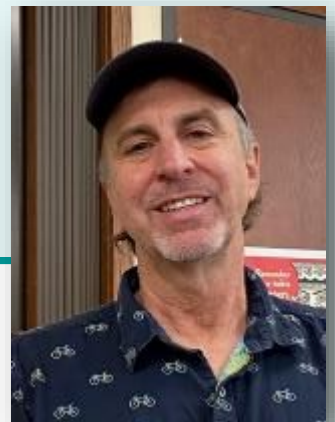
Lilah Newton  
lilahnewton@yahoo.com  
925 963-0452

## Danville Duplicate Bridge Club

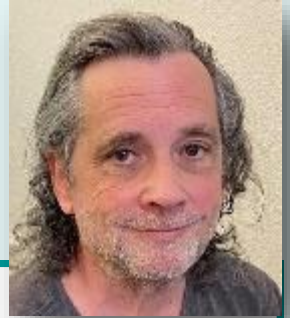
Veteran's Hall  
Hartz Ave, Danville

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



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 is held at Diablo Country Club on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The game 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

## ROSSMOOR DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB

Gateway Club, Rossmoor

### ROSSMOOR NEWS

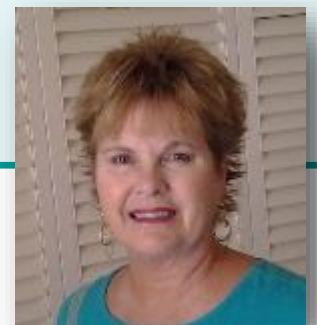
#### Special games in April:

April 7-12 - Charity Club Championship Week - extra \$1

April 19 - POP-UP Game

April 25 & 26 - NO GAMES - Flea Market

Kit Miller





# Contra Costa Bridge Center

[ccbridgecenter@gmail.com](mailto:ccbridgecenter@gmail.com)

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

## April News

CCBC continues its efforts in 2025 to provide the maximum number of games offering extra MPs to our players. We are providing 4 more weeks of special games in April, plus a one-time ACBL-wide game and a one-time special game for newcomers. Lots of chances to win extra MPs.

ACBL has very recently added "glitter" point games, which award red, silver and/or gold MPs at the club. These are referred to as "Go Local" games. CCBC has therefore changed its planned schedule to take advantage of these games for our players. They do not pay extra MPs, but do pay these "glitter" points. No extra charge for these games.

**March 31 & April 2** — Go Local/Silver Linings (100% Silver)

**Thursday, April 3** - Go Local/Red Hot Challenge (50% red)

**Week of April 7** - Charity Club championships – extra MPs, extra \$

**Monday April 14** – Go Local/ (25% silver)

**Wed April 16** – ACBL-wide charity game – extra MPs, extra \$1 (results will be delayed until late afternoon). Open to all.

**Thurs April 17** - Go Local/Silver Slivers (25% silver)

**Week of April 21** - Club championship games – extra MPs, no extra charge

**Friday, April 25, 11AM** – Special Under 20MP game for newer players. Mentors will be available to help with logistics and bidding questions. The game is open to ACBL members with fewer than 20 MPs and non-ACBL members. A chance to try duplicate bridge in a relaxed atmosphere with players having similar experience. Pre-registration is required. You may sign up with your favorite partner or as a single, and we will match you with a partner. Cost is \$5. CCBC plans to have another 4 of these games on Fridays for newer players. The next one is scheduled for May 23.

CCBC continues its schedule with bridge games in person in Orinda. **CCBC is 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)

## GAME SCHEDULE:

### · Tuesdays:

**Game:** 2:00-4:40pm, Supervised Play; 16-20+ boards with Master Points awarded; three

questions allowed per player. This is a **Limited 699** Game; \$10 table fee

**Optional Potluck Supper:** 5:00-5:45pm, \$5

**Game:** 6-8:45pm **Open** Game; 18-21 boards; \$10 table fee.

· **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

**April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15, December 20.**

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.

Our current schedule of Bridge Classes on Mondays from 9:30 – 11:30am:

**Play of the Hand (March 3 through April 29, 9weeks)**

**Defense (May 5, 12, 19; June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; July 7, 9 weeks)**

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. It is possible to attend a class specifically for review of a specific chapter. If you would like the topic for a specific concept, please request information from Winnie.

Please sign up in advance for any future classes with Winnie by phone or email or text (see

contact information at the end).

Please Check our Website at [Unit 499.com](http://Unit499.com) for listings of Monday afternoon single session seminars from 1pm to 3pm at a cost of \$20 per session which we will begin soon after a short break.

**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).)

Winnie Jasper & Jerry Chamberlain  
Lamorinda Bridge Club  
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Jerry: (Cell) 925-766-5228; [jerry@wjasper.com](mailto:jerry@wjasper.com)

**Please make your Class and Game Reservations with Winnie**