

## President's Message



I chatted with Mr. Great Dane about this first-of-its-kind event Friday, February 8: a duplicate game for novice players. Novice players appear in nearly all of Unit 499 clubs (Rossmoor, Overtricks, CCBC, and Lamorinda) with lots and lots of first-timers playing duplicate bridge (43 novice bridge players). I talked to several novice players: Mr. Afghan Hound, Ms. Akita, Mr. Affenpinscher, and Mrs. Hairless Terrier about their experiences (I had never met them – even Mr. Great Dane didn't know everyone's name). Before the game started, they were clustered here and there sipping coffee or tea and munching on a pastry - big time socializing and getting to know each other. During the game, just like experienced players, there were many 'sorry about that partner' apologies after the bidding or play of the hand.

Wow! There was energy and fun in the air.

Five more games are planned: April 25, May 23, June 20, August 15, and September 19 - all on a Friday.

With this enthusiasm, I thought to myself, the low attendance post-Covid is diminishing (or has diminished). Many of the attendees were younger than the mature crowds at most of the games.

So here is my message. If you know of a novice player, let them know about these events. Encourage them to play. Be a fun and encouraging mentor.

On another note, I hope to see you at the Unit's Annual Membership Meeting, March 8. Register online at [unit499.com](http://unit499.com) (scroll down and select Annual Meeting, indicate the game type and lunch, and pay lunch and/or game fee securely online). Lunch is 11:45 to 12:45, Membership meeting is 12 noon to 1pm, Game time is 1pm.

### **Good for Nothing Awards**

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

Unit Annual Membership meeting March 8

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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Office: 925-946-0905

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## **Unit 499 eDeclarer**

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Mary Krouse, Publisher

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

Be sure to read Sam's President's Message. There is information about some upcoming events that you won't want to miss.

Our Board of Directors is actively trying to promote events for newer players. These people are the future of bridge. Try to encourage them, and maybe think about mentoring them.

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 MASTERS (5)*

William Hickman  
Steven Lazare

### *NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS {50}*

Sheng Doug  
Jane Salzfass

### *NEW NABC MASTERS (200)*

Carol Gurrad  
Duvall Holthaus

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

Jon Bagg

### *NEW SAPPHIRE LIFE MASTER (3500)*

Krishnan Thondikolam  
Pat Zieger



## **NEW MEMBERS**

Susan Talon-Mazer  
Mac Allen Culver

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

# TUNNEL TOURNAMENT

The annual tournament between Unit 499 and Unit 502 is scheduled at East Bay Bridge Center for March 29, 2025, Saturday, 10am to 4:30pm. The location is the East Bay Bridge Center, 9520 Mountain Blvd. Oakland CA .

Last year Unit 499 lost by only one point. Help reclaim the trophy and sign up for the Unit 499 Team.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, space is limited.

**TABLE FEES: \$25 per person for bridge and lunch! Soft drinks: \$1.**

To register Unit 499 members, email [Renvallm@gmail.com](mailto:Renvallm@gmail.com) by March 20, 2025.

(1) Provide both names of Pair, individual MP's and ACBL numbers of both partners

(2) Submit your Hoagie selection: Steak, Pastrami, Chicken or Vegetarian.

(3) If you require a N/S, request it with your reservation.

If you have questions, please contact the Tournament Chair, Marian Renvall [Renvallm@gmail.com](mailto:Renvallm@gmail.com)

# GAME OF MOANS

Feelings can be hurt, egos damaged, and nerves put on edge! Sounds like fun, huh! Well, truth be told, it is. As crazy as it makes you feel, it's so engaging, demanding, challenging, and more, that we just can't get enough. I sometimes feel like a bridge addict. I play on the computer, play on my cell phone, and of course, come to the Bridge Center and play. It's a self-serve event that can fill your plate with a bountiful of emotions. So what's really behind this little game called Bridge?



## History of Bridge

The origin of playing cards was in China, where paper was invented, and dates back to around the year 1120. Originally, cards were used for fortune telling and gambling. Cards were introduced into Italy and Spain around 1370, probably coming from Egypt. Tarot cards, used for fortune telling, were introduced in Italy in 1440.

In 1432, Saint Bernardo warned the "Faithful" that cards were invented by the Devil, later picked up by the English Puritans -- often regarded a "The Devil's Picture Book". By 1495, Henry VII issued a Decree forbidding his servants from playing cards except during the Christmas Holiday.

Later, Elizabeth the First levied a tax on the manufacture of playing cards, which generated significant revenues for the Crown. By the era of Queen Anne, card playing was in full swing. Men preferred Piquet, women loved Ombre, while the Clergy and Country Squires played Whist. Have you ever wondered why the Ace of Spades looks so distinctive? Well, it was the official stamp of certification to indicate that the proper English tax was paid on that deck of cards (the Stamp Office kept the only stock of pre-stamped Aces of Spades) -- the card manufacturers were forbidden to produce that Ace. This tax was imposed all the way through 1960.

And we continue to play on and on. I love it, don't you?

Lisa Assoni/The ShortCut Cook™

# Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

March, 2025

North

S AK93

H 865

D A84

C 1076

West

S QJ10764

H 73

D Q52

C Q2

East

S -----

H 102

D K10963

C AJ9854



South

S 852

H AKQJ94

D J7

C K3

2S P P 3H

P 4H P P

P

This hand is from one of Bobby Wolf's last newspaper articles. He states that it is one of the most fascinating hands he had ever seen:

Although the theme of ducking aces to keep them from being ruffed away does not occur all

that often in real life it is meat and drink to the constructors of puzzles.

This variation on that theme only came up once, which makes it ideal for a memorable deal. The first time it was documented, Tim Seres of Australia deserved huge credit for solving it at the table.

You can predict the sequence of events if declarer were a normal mortal. West leads the spade Q and it is covered and ruffed. East shifts to a diamond and in due course collects a slow diamond trick and the club A. Now the normal declarer has nowhere to discard that third -round spade loser. Seres, however, having been warned by the auction of the spade ruff, decided to thwart destiny by ducking the first trick!

West could do no better than to continue a top spade, covered and ruffed by East. Now, on the diamond shift, Seres won, drew trumps and then finessed the spade to find a home for his diamond loser, claiming 10 tricks.

By ducking the first trick, Seres had gained a tempo in his attempt to establish a home for his slow diamond loser; however, it was with the aid of a maneuver that would be unlikely to recur again in any lifetime.

In my opinion, this shows how fantastic this game can be.

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

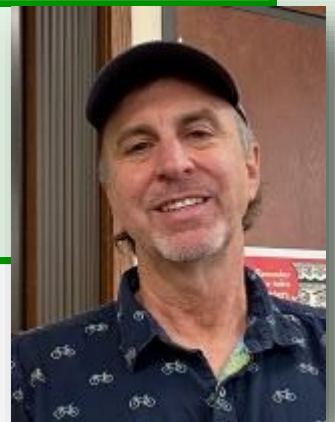
Lilah Newton

## 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

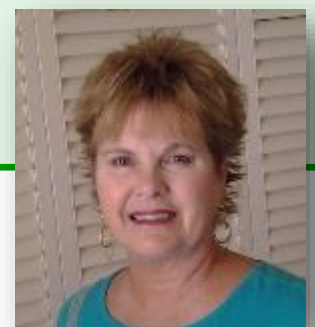
### ROSSMOOR NEWS

A Unit Game is scheduled to be held at Rossmoor on March 8. See the Unit website to sign up.

March 17-22 is Club Championship Week.

March 22 is a Swiss Team game. Please register in advance when a sign-up sheet is out in the Oak Room or notify Michael Gosnell directly at [michaelgosnell@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelgosnell@hotmail.com).

Kit Miller



# Contra Costa Bridge Center

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

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

## March News

CCBC continues its efforts in 2025 to provide the maximum number of games offering extra MPs to our players. We are providing 2 more weeks of special games in March, and 2 other special games. Chances to win extra MPs.

**March 10 (Monday)** – ACBL-wide Silver Senior pairs. To be eligible to win MPs, you must be age 60+. Overall finishers at the Unit or National level win silver MPs. This is an ACBL-wide game, so all games across the country that participate will be using the same hands. Extra MPs, Extra \$1

**Week of March 17** - Club championships, extra MPs but no extra charge

**Week of March 24** – Grass Roots FUNd games. Extra MPs, extra \$1. The monies from these games are returned to the Districts, to fund their NAP and GNT participants.

**March 30 (Sun)** – Pro-Am (Unit Game). Registration information will be coming soon. Extra MPs.

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)

Reminder of Schedule Changes for Tuesdays:

## 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**

**March 15, 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 next two series of Bridge Classes will be 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.

**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  
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**

