

President's Message



The Tunnel Tournament, March 19, was at the Oakland club. This is a competitive day of bridge between Unit 502 (Oakland) and our Unit 499 (Diablo Valley). It's very competitive each year. Unit 502 beat our Unit 499 by seven points this year.

The Tunnel Tournament is one of my favorite bridge days. I was able to catch up with Mr. Beagle and his charming wife Ms. Poodle. I met them on a bridge cruise ship about six years ago and teamed up with them several times each year at the various regionals. They are great friends now. We share stories about our kids and life's adventures.

So here is the message this month, perhaps repeated a little from a previous month. When your kids are in school, their friends' families become friends and memories are formed. There are also friends from college and friends from work. Cherish those friends for as long as you can. In the retirement years, for those of us in that mature bridge setting, there are new friends. We trade stories of our youth and past experiences. Nurture your relationships with new bridge friends. Find tournaments to compete in and enjoy dinner out.

Bridge is not only about the cards, auctions, and play of the hands, but more about new and wonderful friends. Reach out and give your partner (and occasionally your opponents) a hug.

Good for Nothing Awards.

Anne Hollingsworth

Bruce Johnsonbaugh

Judy Keilin

Lisa Assoni

Mark Humphrey

Mr. Multipoo

Chuck Silva

Lynne Humphrey

Kit Miller

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

Diablo Sectional - August 2 & 3

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

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...from the Editor

Lots of news this month! We have a Mini-McKenney winner, we failed to win the Tunnel Tourney, we had a very successful Pro-Am game, and we lost a player. Check this issue for more information on these events, complete with photos. Thanks to Mike Schneider and Marian Renvall for contributions.

See you at the tables.

Judy Keilin

Editor

Unit 499 eDeclarer

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Submit articles to jkeilin@gmail.com

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Mary Krouse, Publisher

To submit a letter to the editor, send it to Judy Keilin at 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)

Yvonne Wu

NEW CLUB MASTER (20)

Anthony Lee

NEW REGIONAL MASTER (100)

Dolores Parr

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500/750)

Max Hinkle

NEW SILVER LIFE MASTER (1000)

Daisy Lennon

NEW RUBY LIFE MASTER (1500)

Sue Eltringham

NEW MEMBERS

Robert Lasala

Judy Levin

David Little

Jane Wadell

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

A Manfred Michlmayr Memory

Manfred Michlmayr, who passed in February of this year, was a very fine bridge player and a longtime member of Unit 499 who cut his serious bridge-playing teeth as an employee in Chevron's San Francisco lunchroom.

Having retained his connection to his native Austria, he remained fluent in both German and English, and likely other languages as well. My late wife Andrea had passed in April 2011. A couple of months later Manfred telephoned to tell me that I needed to get out of the house to play bridge and be his partner. I don't remember who sat where, but our first-round opponents at the following week's Berkeley – Richmond Sectional Pair Game were Mike Bandler and Chris Pisarra. We knew each other well and all of us were frequently Manfred's partner and opponent at the bridge table.

I was vulnerable in fourth seat holding a decent 14 HCP count and had opened the bidding one of I forget which suit.

Manfred responded 1NT which ended the auction. To my disappointment, Mike and Chris captured seven tricks and we ended up minus 100 on the deal. Did you have the ten of hearts, I asked, trying to figure out what had happened. "Nine" replied Manfred, grinning back at me. Chris Pisarra piped in: "That is the correct answer in both languages", he said. We all laughed.

Mike Schneider

TUNNEL TOURNEY

The Tunnel Tournament has been an eleven year tradition with Unit 499 and reaches across the Caldecott Tunnel to challenge Unit 502 (East Bay Bridge) for a day of bridge.

Unit 499 rocked in the morning. Dan and Linda Friedman had a huge game scoring 70% and won top spot for ten points, finishing third.

A Strat: Unit 499 = 10, Unit 502 = 19

Unit 499 crushed the B Strat. Mike Kruley/Andrew Fine won for eight points, with Malcomb Mendleson/Barbara McKay second for six points.

Irwin Lichtblau/Furqan Naeem, and David Geary/Sue Ellington were third and fourth respectively, for four and three points.

B Strat: Unit 499 = 21, Unit 502 = zip

At this point, Unit 499 seemed in control, but wait, Unit 502 C Strat and 799ers played a steady game. Winners from Unit 499 for the C strat were Don Levine/Tom Pajak and Barry Mantel/David Terris.

The afternoon session was tough. Maybe Unit 499 players were N/S and not standing up. The final tally for the day was East Bay scoring forty Tunnel points and Unit 499 scoring thirty-three tunnel points.

Tunnel points are weighted for placing first within the your strat.

Contact Marian Renvall for a copy of the details for scoring the Tunnel points. Scoring rules were developed by Anne Hollingsworth and Bill LaMaire, representing Unit 499, and Larry Bowerman and David Snyder for Unit 502.

Full results are posted on the ACL Live website.

Our own Shelia Wong, Hospitality Chair and Secretary for the Unit, found a small business owner for unique hoagie sandwiches. Shelia provided homemade breakfast muffins and salads for lunch - a healthy choice.

We are grateful to the forty members who played, and we did our best. The trophy remains at East Bay. Better luck next year!

Marian Renvall

MINI-MCKENNEY WINNER

Congratulations to Dave Tong of Brentwood who won the 2024 Mini-McKenney Award for the 20-50 point category with 391.25 masterpoints.



MAY MEDLEY

Spring is the time of year when the flowers bloom and we try to sing to an upbeat tune. Let's keep our brains on the bullet train. These organs need to be exercised, too. Play often, and keep your minds sharp.

Thank you.

We've been blessed once again by Mark and Lynne Humphrey. The Pro-Am game was another hit, thanks to this dynamic duo. We just eat, and sit down to play. Prior to the game, the Humphreys spend months gathering names, organizing sign-ups and pairing partners. Then there's the food. Yikes! And shopping, and feeding a very hungry crowd. What could be better!!!

I had a great partner, Anne Hollingsworth. Thanks Anne and all the other Pros who shared their time and attention to help others. See photos below.

We have lots of opportunities to play. Check out our website - Unit499.com. As we age (**who me?**), socialization is most important. There are many benefits to playing bridge, like training your brain, winning (feels good!), and losing (makes you keep on trying).

So bring in Spring with a positive attitude, and remember to count your blessings.

Ciao Bella,

Lisa Assoni

ShortCut cook TM





Mark Humphrey and Linda Bandler



Mike Bandler



Lynne and Mark Humphrey

Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

May, 2025



North

S J62

H AK104

D AQ2

C AJ5

West

S Q109843

H 8

D K10975

C 8

East

S 75

H Q92

D 64

C Q76432

South

S AK

H J7653

D J83

C K109

P 1H 3S 5H

P 5S P 6C

P 6H P P

P

Last month's deal was an easy double squeeze. This month's deal involves a squeeze with some variations.

This deal was part of a local team game with some very good players. Although my hand is "light" I think it is important to open 1H. If you pass and they open and raise spades this hand is not good enough to overcall hearts so that is why you should open it.

My partner bid 5H over the 3S preempt which asks me to bid 6 if I have second round control of spades or better and since I had very good controls I cue bid spades and my partner then showed his club control saying he was interested in 7 and I said "no way" and signed off in 6H.

The opening lead was the 8C which I liked and won in my hand and I cashed two high hearts and came back to my hand with a spade and cashed the other spade noting East had 2 of them. I cashed the other 2 clubs noting that West had a singleton therefore he had 5 diamonds. I put East in with his trump and he led the 6D which I played the 8 and West covered with the 9, my Q winning in dummy. I came back to my hand with a trump. At that point dummy had the JS, and the A2 diamonds. My hand was a high trump and the JD and the 3D. I then led the last trump and West was forced to save the QS so he discarded a diamond and I discarded the JS from dummy and took the last two tricks with good diamonds.

Knowing all that, I could have taken the diamond finesse earlier and cashed the AD before putting East in with his trump and he would have been down to all clubs, giving me a sluff and ruff.

Of course a squeeze or end-play is more fun than a finesse, this hand plays easily when West shows 6-5 in spades and diamonds after showing up with singletons in both hearts and clubs.

Jerry Weitzner

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:

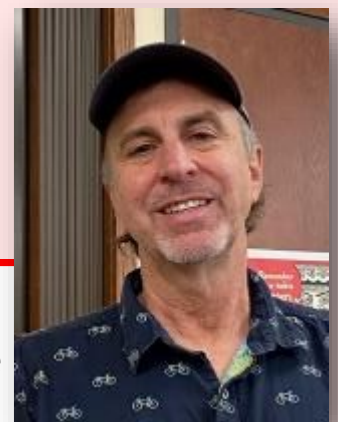
Lilah Newton
lilahnewton@yahoo.com
925 963-0452

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 by the Bay meets on Tuesdays at 9am at the Brentwood Senior Center.

Table fees are \$4, and there is a mini-lesson before each game. Partnerships are guaranteed. For more information, contact Mark Marty (thatsafire@gmail.com) or 925-487-7832

Diablo Bridge
Diablo Country Club
1 Country Club Drive
Diablo



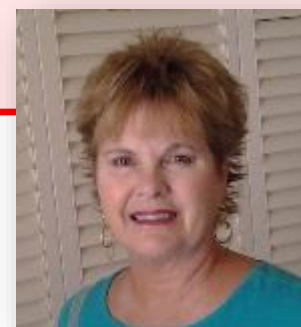
The Diablo Bridge game is held at Diablo Country Club on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The game begins at 9:30 and runs until about 2:30. Lunch is included.

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:

May 5-10 - Stardust Week, \$1 extra charge

May 19-24 - Club Championship Week

May 24 - Imp Pairs

May 26-31 - Grass Roots Fund Charity Week

May 31 - UNIT GAME, 299er and Open

Kit Miller

Contra Costa Bridge Center
ccbridgecenter@gmail.com
<https://www.unit499.com/clubs/ccbc>

May 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 May, plus a one-time special game for newcomers. Lots of chances to win extra MPs.

ACBL 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 added these games to our schedule to take advantage of them for our players. They do not pay extra MPs, but do pay these "glitter" points. No extra charge for these games.

Week of May 5 Stardust week – **25% gold** MPs, extra \$

Week of May 12 – Club Championships – extra MPs, no extra charge

Week of May 19 – **Royal** STaC (1/4 each black, red, gold and silver MPs), extra MPs, extra \$

Friday, May 23, 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 via Unit 499 website – unit499.com. You may sign up with your favorite partner or as a single, and we will match you with a partner. Cost is \$5. It will be a club championship, paying extra MPs. CCBC plans to have another 3 of these games on Fridays for newer players. The next one is scheduled for June 20.

Week of May 26 – Mon/Wed - Grass Roots FUNd game, extra MPs, extra \$

May 29 – Go Local/Stardust (**25% gold**)

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: 2:00-4:45pm, 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

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:

The last Play of the Hand class will be on May 5 on Chapter 9.

The Class on Defense will commence on Monday, June 2, and run for 9 sessions at a cost of \$200/person and includes the textbook. Class dates: June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30; July 7 (no 14), 21, and 28; August 4.

We use the ACBL textbooks to teach bridge from beginning to intermediate and advanced. All Series 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.

Our Monday Afternoon Seminars will be from 1-3pm at a cost of \$20/session.

These seminars will be will be **deep dives** into **Doubles, Negative and Takeout.**

Bridge is a partnership game and both partners need to be on the same page in their understandings. This is not to say that you as an individual won't do well sometimes, but rather, that your success rate will improve.

4 bidding positions: 1) opener; 2) over-caller; 3) responder; 4) advancer

We are going to take a deep dive into doubles: This is a very fluid situation and how you proceed depends on your hand and distribution: Trust your partner-not the opponents (If you don't trust your bridge playing partner then there are two options 1- find another partner; 2- live with it and accept the results- divorce ACBL style can be tough)

May 5- Takeout doubles (what you promise partner in points and distribution). Using TOX Takeout doubles when you have a big hand/suit and how your partner has to pivot in their expectations. Takeout doubles when you have a big no-trump hand. Are Stayman and Jacoby transfers still in applicable?

May 12 - I have opened and LHO makes a TOX. Responder. (my partner) makes a bid- What now?

May 19- I have opened and LHO makes a TOX. Responder passes. What does advancer do?

May 26 no session

June 2- I have opened and RHO makes a TOX. Responder makes a bid and now what does advancer bid with some values?

June 9- Negative doubles. When and why? What are the parameters?

June 16- Advancer's bidding after RHO makes a negative double.

June 23- I open the bidding and an overcall is made by my LHO. Partner (responder) makes a negative double. Back to me as opener. What now?

Please sign up in advance for any future classes with Winnie by phone or email or text (see contact information at the end).

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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(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