

President's Message



Hello Unit 499!

Longer brighter days, looking forward to what the future brings. Wow, has it been a month! Lots going on and nothing going on—it is all about the same each day. Days take on the extra burden of what to do, other than the necessary obligations. I have been playing a lot of bridge on bridgebase.com, reading quite a bit, and walking each day to get the body moving. The time feels nice to have; I am missing people and being outside with others. That is when that glorious walk comes into action. Freedom to be out and moving, what a wonderful feeling!

Playing bridge on BBO has been an interesting and challenging endeavor. Playing bridge on BBO was disconcerting at first. I was “disassociating” because of loss of stimuli of opponents’ physical presence. This lasted about one month, after which it calmed down and now permits me to play with the same analysis as when the opponents are present. I like playing, I think it keeps my mental acuity sharp and helps me focus and prioritize daily. I don’t know what will happen when this quarantine is lifted—what type of “new normal” will there be and will bridge be one of them. For now, the support of our club that BBO offers is wonderful!

Bid those slams and make them! Good luck!

Lyn Sacco

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To submit a letter to the editor, send it to
Judy Keilin at jkeilin@gmail.com

Mary Krouse, Publisher

...from the Editor

The upcoming changes to the Covid19 mask and distancing restrictions might allow some of our face-to-face games to return. Are we ready for that? Those of us who play two or three games a day on BBO might not be happy. The women will be dusting off their makeup kits, and checking to see if their "go out" clothes still fit. Guys will have to put away the sweat pants and also check their other clothes for fit.

Another consideration is whether non- vaccinated players will be welcome. How do you feel about that?

Then, again, it will be nice to see everyone, especially those who didn't play online.

I trust the club owners/managers will address all the issues and come up with a smooth transition. ACBL is also working on it, and their policy will affect the decision regarding our local games.

Watch for changes, and make your feelings known.

Judy Keilin
Editor



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)

Richard Nusser
Gary Tolentino

NEW CLUB MASTERS (20)

Kathy Cook
Karen Siefert
Peter Wickens

NEW SECTIONAL MASTER (50)

Brian King

NEW NABC MASTER (200)

Robin Bollinger

NEW LIFE MASTERS (300/500)

Sanda Henry
Susan Puccini

NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTER (500/750)

Sanda Henry

NEW MEMBERS

Craig Labadie
Mary McGrath
Michael McGrath
Alfred Stansbury
George Karl

Be sure to welcome these folks when you meet them at the virtual tables.

In Memoriam

Teresa Szymczak

Teresa Szymczak, 92 years old, died peacefully on Thursday morning, April 29, 2021 in Los Angeles, California from complications of Alzheimer's disease.

Teresa was born in Warsaw, Poland and immigrated with husband daughter to the United States in 1967.

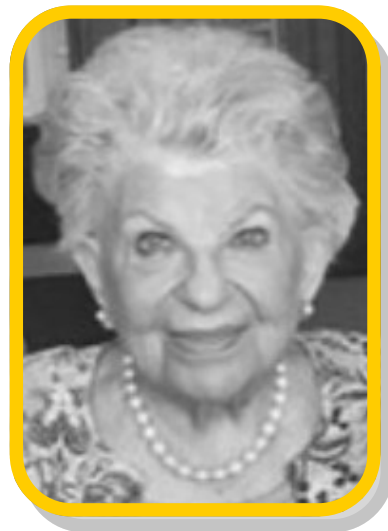
Teresa lived life to the fullest with determination, persistence and passion. She had both a most tragic life during her years in Poland at the time of the Second World War and a most interesting life residing on four continents: Europe, Africa, North America and Asia.

Teresa was a quintessential working woman and mother. Educated as a chemist, she loved her career and worked extensively in both Warsaw and the San Francisco Bay Area until she retired. Teresa was a 27 year resident of Rossmore where she moved to following the death in 1994 of her husband, Zenon, civil engineer.

Travel was also an essential component of Teresa's life initially with her husband and later with her friends. Teresa enjoyed fashion, jewelry and getting impeccably dressed and coordinated in her signature style, always with a touch of blue which gave her much pleasure. She loved her collections from all over the globe of carpets, porcelain and paintings.

Above all, however, Teresa adored cards! She was particularly fond of "Bridge Cruises" as the game of duplicate contract bridge became her reason for living and her true passion in her later years. She became a Gold Life Master in 2012 and this made her most proud! She loved to play and competed nationally. Teresa hated to lose, often ruminating for days about a mistake she made and how she should have strategized.

Teresa is survived by her only daughter, Eva Peterson, son-in-law, Jeff Peterson, and three grandchildren: Ashley Siegler and her husband, Matt Siegler; Chris Peterson and his wife, Hailey; Nick Peterson; and her two great grandchildren, Eleanor and Abraham Siegler.



Heart Burn

It's a hard game to digest, Bridge that is; and it's a lot like starting out as a baby. We nibble at numbers, learn to count cards, shuffle, and tackle a hand or two. We take lessons, and in a few years, we're ready to Chow Down.

I've been playing for over a decade, but I find it just as challenging as when I began. Ignorance was Bliss. When I first took my first bite, mistakes were made often, and I coughed it up to being a novice. I made obvious errors, and my ignorance sometimes was brilliant. It confused the beejebs out of the opponents. OK, now it's even more of a challenge. Online Bridge isn't so simple. We've been shuffled into unknown territory, must learn how to compete online, how to bid, and be polite. Quite a task, but we are all still learning, practicing and sometimes winning a few points.

So what is a seasoned player? Is it the years played, is it the skill of a highly intelligent person? Maybe it's just a gift handed down from your family. Whatever the cause, there is an effect.

Some folks love to gobble up Masterpoints. They can't get their fill, and keep on devouring these sought-after Black, Red, Silver, Bronze, Gold, Ruby's, and Diamonds. In this addition, I'll try and decipher just what makes Bridge players continue this life-long journey into the game that just keeps on giving. It fills my spare time with good company, some good food, but most important, it's a Brain Train into old age. It's like riding a life-long roller coaster. Yes, It can be bumpy, scary, and nerve-wracking, but the thrill of winning, far outweighs the agony of defeat. Agreed?

We all know it's a Life Sentence. Once you start, it's very difficult to stop. Sayings like "I'll do better next time". OR "last week I came in first, and this week—Yikes last". A game of chance perhaps, but it's really a game that lasts. So keep on truckin', keep a positive attitude, and above all, while playing the game, please don't tout your praises to your partner. It's very rude and condescending to your opponents. In other words, No Bragging!

Lisa Assoni/TheShortCut Cook



Play a Hand with Me

Play A Hand With Me

June, 2021

North

S AQJ84

H K2

D AK75

C AQ

West

S 632

H Q7

D 1093

C K10875

East

S 5

H J98653

D QJ42

C J3

South

S K1097

H A104

D 86

C 9642

2C P 2S P

3S P 4S P

6S all pass

An explanation of the bidding, Souths 2S response showed an A and a K and since he didn't have anything else, he just raised to game. North knows that 7 is on a black suit finesse so we just bid 6S.

The opening lead was the 10 diamonds. When you see the dummy, you are quite happy that you are not in NT because you can only take 11 tricks if the club finesse works.

The first thing you do after winning the diamond is to start to draw the trumps so you play the 4 of spades to your hand and at this point all of your spades are high. If you take 2 rounds of trump and the club finesse fails and East has a 3rd trump and leads it you will end up with not being able to trump both the losing clubs and the losing heart so you should now take the club finesse and when that wins you can draw one more round of trumps and then cash the A of clubs, both high hearts and the other high diamond and cross-ruff the rest for plus 1460. This score gets you 78%.

I saw one declarer draw 3 rounds of trump and then they could only make 6, 1430. That score gets you 39%.

This shows how important it is to count your tricks and play accordingly.

Jerry Weitzner

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BRIDGE CONVENTIONS & GADGETS



SUPPORT DOUBLE & RE-DOUBLE

By Mel Chaplin

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SUPPORT DOUBLE

A Support Double can be made only by the Opener & it can only be the fifth bid of a hand. The purpose of the Support Double is to differentiate Opener having 3- or 4-card support for Responder's suit.

Anytime The Auction Begins:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1-of-a-suit Dbl	Pass/1-of-a-Suit	1-of-a-suit	1(or 2)-of-a suit or 1NT

Opener's Double is a Support Double showing exactly three cards in Responder's suit. If Opener had four cards in Responder's suit & had started the bidding with a minimum hand Opener would simply raise Responder's suit to the 2-level. Opener's Support Double says nothing about Opener's hand strength beyond the fact that she has at least a minimum opening hand. In fact, there is no HCP maximum when calling a Support Double. It doesn't matter what Intervener does in the bidding but Advancer MUST bid a new suit at the 1- or 2-level or 1NT. The Support Double no longer requires an alert.

Larry Cohen states that the Support Double is the most forgotten of conventions. Opener either forgets to initiate a Support Double or Responder doesn't recognize that Opener has used the convention. But this bid should be easy to remember because only the Opener can call a Support Double & it always has to be the fifth bid of a hand. So just remember opening a fifth of Jack Daniels. Easy to remember!

The Support Double is usually played through 2H. So in the auction:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D Dbl	P	1S	2H

Opener's Double is a Support Double & shows exactly three Spades.

EXAMPLE

#1) Opener's Hand: ♠Kx ♥AJx ♦Kxx ♣Qxxxx (13 HCP).
Responder's Hand: ♠xxx ♥KQxxx ♦Axx ♣Kx (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1C Dbl	P 2S	1H 4H	1S All Pass

Responder's 1H reply promises only four Hearts & 6+ total points. Opener's Support Double shows exactly three Hearts & at least a minimum opening hand. Now Responder recognizes that an 8-card Heart fit has been discovered so she should now bid 4H because she holds 12 HCP opposite her partner's opening bid values.

Now let's examine how the bidding might have proceeded if the Support Double were NOT in the Opener/Responder toolbox.

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1C	P	1H	1S
???			

???Opener's options are limited. A 2H bid should show 4 Hearts*. So Opener would likely re-bid 1NT. Now Responder is stuck. She would like to search for 3-card Heart support but there is no way to do so. She doesn't want to re-bid her 5-card Heart suit because that would lead Opener to believe she holds 6 Hearts. But Responder wants to reach game so she guesses to bid 3NT. 3NT is bound to fail when the opponents knock out the Spade King & regain the lead with the Club Ace to run their Spades.

*The Spiral Convention can work here, but that discussion is for another day.

RESPONDER'S RE-BIDS AFTER OPENER'S SUPPORT DOUBLE - A CLOSER LOOK

After Opener calls a Support Double & Intervener passes, Responder is forced to bid. Responder should now further describe the shape & strength of her hand.

HOLDING A MINIMUM HAND (6-9 total points).

#1) Responder's Hand: ♠AQxx ♥xxx ♦Qxxx ♣xx (8 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1C	P	1S	2D
Dbl	P	2S	

Opener's Double is a Support Double & shows exactly three Spades & at least a minimum opening hand. Responder's 2S shows 6-9 total points (non-forcing). Responder can make this minimum bid holding only four Spades if no other bid is available.

#2) Responder's Hand: ♠xx ♥Qxxx ♦Jx ♣KJ10xx (7 HCP),

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1H	1S
Dbl	P	2C	

Opener's Support Double shows exactly three Hearts & at least a minimum opening bid. Responder's 2C bid shows a minimum hand, 5+ Clubs & denies 5 Hearts.

HOLDING AN INTERMEDIATE HAND (10/11 total points).

#1) Responder's Hand: ♠Kxxx ♥x ♦Kx ♣KJ10xxx (10 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1S	2H
Dbl	P	3C	

Opener's Support Double shows exactly three Spades & at least a minimum opening bid. Responder's 3C bid is above the 2-level of her first-bid suit (Spades) so it shows 10/11 total points & 5+ Clubs (invitational).

#2) Responder's Hand: ♠AQJxx ♥Kxx ♦xx ♣Qxx (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1S	2H
Dbl	P	3S	

Opener's Support Double shows exactly three Spades & at least a minimum opening bid. Responder's jump to 3S shows 5+ Spades & 10/11 total points (invitational).

#3) Responder's Hand: ♠AQJx ♥KQxx ♦xx ♣xxx (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1S	2H
Dbl	P	2NT	

Opener's Support Double shows exactly three Spades & at least a minimum opening bid. Responder's 2NT bid shows four Spades, a balanced/semi-balanced hand, 11/12 HCP & a solid Heart stopper.

HOLDING A GAME-GOING HAND (12+ total points).

#1) Responder's Hand: ♠AKxx ♥KQx ♦Qxxx ♣xx (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1S	2H
Dbl	P	3NT	

Opener's Support Double shows exactly three Spades & at least a minimum opening bid. Holding 15 HCP, 4=3=4=2 distribution & at least one solid Heart stopper Responder should bid 3NT.

#2) Responder's Hand: ♠AKxx ♥KQxx ♦KJx ♣Kx (19 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1C	P	1S	2H
Dbl	P	3H	

Opener's Support Double shows exactly three Spades & at least a minimum opening bid. Responder's 3H bid is a CUE BID (forcing) & shows slam interest.

SUPPORT RE-DOUBLE

A Support Re-Double can be made only by the Opener & it can only be the fifth bid of a hand. Another Jack Daniels!

EXAMPLE:

Opener's Hand: ♠Kxx ♥xx ♦AKJ10xx ♣Jx (12 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1D	P	1S	Dbl
Re-Dbl			

Opener's Re-Dbl shows exactly three Spades but says nothing about her hand strength except that she has at least a minimum opening hand. It is more important for Opener to show her three-card support for Responder's suit than for her to re-bid her really nice 6-card Diamond suit.

- #1) Responder has to bid a new suit at the 1-level, not NT, for a Support Double or Support Re-Double to be in effect.
- #2) Calling a Support Double or a Support Re-Double is usually Opener's first priority if she has exactly three-card support for Responder's suit. It's more important than Opener re-bidding NT, re-bidding her own 6-card suit or bidding a new suit. But there are always exceptions.

Opener's Hand: ♠xxx ♥AKJ10x ♦KQJxx ♣_____ (14 HCP).

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Intervener</u>	<u>Responder</u>	<u>Advancer</u>
1H	P	1S	2C
???			

???Opener's hand qualifies for a Support Double but showing her Diamond suit is a better choice. Consider that Responder's Spades could be xxxx.

FURTHER READING:

Max Hardy. "Advanced Bridge Bidding for the 21st Century". pp 245-246. 2002.

Larry Cohen. www.larryco.com. "Support Doubles". March 2015.

Robert Todd. www.advinbridge.com. "Responder's Rebids after Opener's Support Double". (Lesson 364).

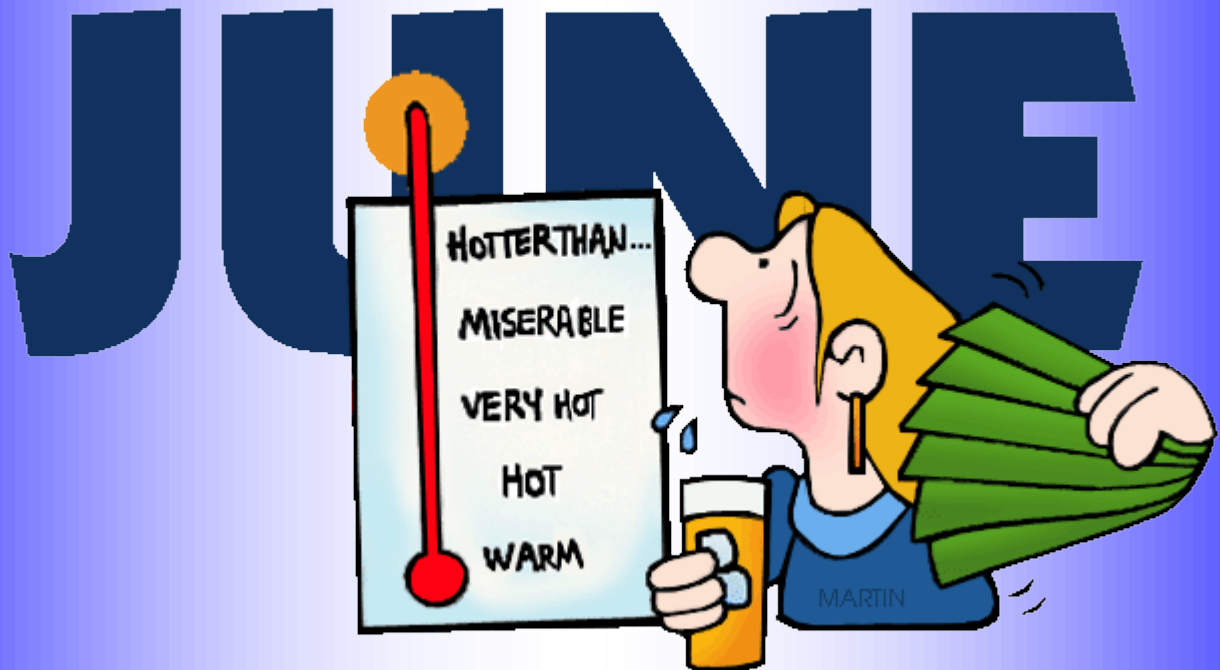
Next Time: The Responsive Double.

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. Dial-blovalleybridge.com

Until further notice all bridge clubs in Unit 499 are closed due to the coronavirus. Stay home, stay safe! Visit our website for information.

Also visit ACBL.org to find information about on line classes and places to play.



Contra Costa Bridge Center

ccbridgecenter@gmail.com • diablovalleybridge.com/ccbc

News

Third Virtual Pro-Am, Sunday, June 13, 1:30. Register by June 8 with Mark Humphrey, markhumphrey@comcast.net.

The Longest Day 199er Pairs Online, Saturday, June 19, 10:00, \$6. Benefits the Alzheimer's Association.

North American Pairs (NAP) Qualifying Games, June 7–11 and June 21–25, Open games only, qualifying for all flights, \$6.

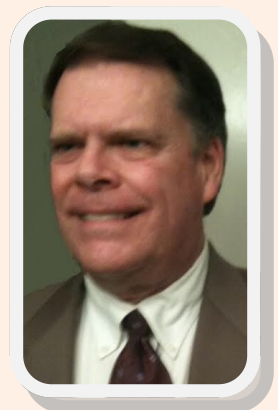
0–20 Newcomer Game Online, Wednesday afternoons, 2:00, \$4, 12 boards, guaranteed partner, gentle pace, lifelines.

No Sunday games are planned for June other than the Pro-Am.

Thank you for your support of CCBC!

Online Game Schedule

Monday	9:50	99er	\$5
Monday	10:00	Open	\$5
Tuesday	10:00	749er	\$5
Wednesday	9:50	299er	\$5
Wednesday	10:00	Open	\$5
Wednesday	2:00	0–20	\$4
Thursday	10:00	999er	\$5
Friday	10:00	Open	\$5
Friday	12:30	499er	\$5
Saturday	10:00	199er	\$5
Sunday (as scheduled)	1:00	Open	\$5



Grant Robinson

Club Manager

May 19, 2021

Hello! Hope that this note finds you and your loved ones well. With the progress on vaccinations and the decline in Covid cases, you are probably as pleased as we are that our lives are beginning to feel more normal again.

It has now been more than 14 months since our last in-person bridge game at our Concord club. At long last, we can begin to think about returning.

We are very grateful to Grant Robinson for getting our Virtual CCBC game started on April 1, 2020 (less than 3 weeks after our in-person bridge was suspended) – and then developing a very popular variety of game offerings. We are also very appreciative of Ravi Bhalla, Michael Kruley, Wayne Rechnitz and Deb Rechnitz (and Grant) – our online game directors / teachers.

And, we thank all of you who have played in our Virtual CCBC games. Participation has exceeded all expectations. Our non-profit organization (CCBC) is as financially strong now as it was in early 2020.

But, we miss seeing our friends – in person! We miss all of the social aspects of bridge. We even miss playing the game with actual cards!

Recently, we met with Grant to begin planning for a return to in-person bridge. There are still unknowns. We are anxious to receive more definitive guidance from the state and from Contra Costa County. We expect to know a lot more by mid-June. By that time, we should have also received communications from ACBL about their intentions regarding future sponsorship of Virtual Club games.

In all of our CCBC Board discussions, our number 1 topic has been the health and safety of our bridge players. We are developing the protocols that we believe will create a comfortable and inviting environment.

At this stage, we are envisioning a phased return to in-person bridge – beginning this Summer. By “phased” we mean that we plan to start by shifting a small number of our weekly virtual games to in-person ones. We would continue to adjust as appropriate, with the ultimate goal of ramping up to a broad offering of in-person games later in the year.

You will be hearing much more as our plans firm up. In the meantime, please continue to join us online.

Thanks for your ongoing support.

Mike Bandler

Bruce Johnsonbaugh

Mark Humphrey

Lamorinda Bridge Club



Online Game Schedule:

Tuesday 7pm Open Game \$5

Wednesday 10am Open Game \$5

Saturday 10am Open Game \$5

Sunday 10am Limited Game (299) \$5

Sunday 10:15am Open Game \$5

You are welcome to partner with a Robot in any of our games.

Occasionally ACBL/BBO offers special games awarding higher levels and/or different color Master Points. For these games the Table Fee may be increased to \$6 per person.

Please feel free to inquire about our Supervised play on Tuesdays and Virtual lessons.

We have had many inquiries as to when we will reopen our Face-to-Face games and lessons.

We plan to continue with the Virtual Platform for games and lessons at least for the next several months.

Currently Jerry is participating in the regular zoom sessions with ACBL to monitor the plans and recommendations for implementing reopening clubs, however, we plan to be very conservative as Lamorinda Bridge Club. The primary reason is that Winnie's experience with Covid in March of 2020 was severe enough that it has taken over a full year to recover, and we do not want to take any chances that opening our home once again as a bridge club would expose anyone of our players to a similar experience.

We are fully vaccinated and have been strict about wearing masks and social distancing, but we are also very aware that any of us can still contract Covid and pass it on to someone else. It is just that we might get very sick, but probably not die because we are vaccinated.

Our plan is to observe the outcomes of other clubs across the country operating in person bridge to see if there will be spikes in the virus causing possible closures.

We are planning to eventually offer a hybrid program of games and lessons, some in person, but others virtual.

Winnie Jasper and Jerry Chamberlain

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