

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Looking for Gold

by Becky Clough
ALACBU President



I haven't been in this position long, but I've already heard from many of you about how hard it is to get the required gold points to become a Life Master. Becoming a Life Master means you have played and succeeded at many levels of competition.

Black points are awarded for club games, silver points are awarded for sectionals and STaCS, red and gold points are awarded for regionals, and platinum points are awarded for NABC events. Winning gold points means you have placed in the overall of a two-session regional event. I know this sometimes seems like a daunting task, but becoming a Life Master should mean that you have become a good player. If it were too easy, it wouldn't mean a thing.

So, how do you get those pesky gold points? The easiest way is to play knockouts because even in the lowest brackets, some percentage of the award is gold.

If playing two-sessions in a single day is difficult for you, most regionals have continuing side games spread out over two or three days. If you do well in two of the sessions of a continuing side game you are qualified for overall awards which are gold.

Lastly, most regional tournaments now offer Gold Rush Pairs – an event just for those of you having no more than 750 points and where all those experts having more than 750 points play in a separate bracket. Gold Rush Pairs is a two-session event.

Our October tournament in the Marina is offering two opportunities to play in the Gold Rush Pairs. So choose your partners and join us for Gold Rush Pairs on Friday, October 15 and Saturday, October 16.

New ACBL CEO

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Last month I solicited all of the Los Angeles bridge clubs to see if any club was interested in hosting Craig Robinson, ACBL president and his wife Elaine during their visit to Los Angeles as part of Craig's 100 Clubs in 100 Days Tour. I did not get as big a response as I had hoped, but a

few clubs did respond.

Craig's stops will include; 1) The Long Beach Bridge Club on September 7, Wednesday afternoon, 2) The Valencia Bridge Studio at the Castaic Sports Complex on September 8, Thursday morning, and 3) The Beverly Hills Bridge Club on Thursday evening, also on September 8. Kathy and I will be accompanying Craig and Elaine as they visit Los Angeles. If you want more information, please contact me at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net or call the bridge clubs.

New ACBL CEO

One of the most important decisions the National Board of Directors made in Toronto was the selection of a new chief executive officer to administer the ACBL when Jay Baum retires next year. Substantial progress was made and the official press release from Peter Rank, ACBL League Counsel is as follows:

One of the most significant actions taken by the board was regarding the search for a new CEO to replace Jay Baum who is retiring. The Board selected

DIRECTOR *continued on page 16*

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Attention New Bridge Players

If you have never ventured to a Bridge tournament before, now is the time! The District 23 Fall Regional is hosting a New Player's Reception at the Marina del Rey Hotel, Tuesday morning, October 11, 2011, at 8:45 a.m.

There will be free coffee, tea and Danish, as well as a short Bridge lesson given by Ellen Kent, our tournament chair. Also included is a special gift prepared especially for **you**.

If you would like to join for an educationally fun time, please make your reservation by calling Penny Barbieri at 909-599-4818, or email her at onecentb@aol.com.

Victor Chernoff 1937 – 2011

by John Jones

Victor Chernoff died Wednesday, August 3, 2011. Victor was unconscious most of his last two days, and had been in significant pain during the last portion of his life. He is survived by his wonderful wife Barbara Chernoff. Victor's requests to be cremated, and that no services be held, were honored.

He was an actuary, educated both at Harvard University and at Bates University. He was a table tennis champion in college. He lived in the Boston area and the Washington DC area before moving to Los Angeles in the mid 1970s.

Victor was an excellent bridge player, having over

10,000 masterpoints, but a feisty, argumentative one. Some of his most frequent partners included Jim Looby, Guy Green, Paul Markarian, and Marshall Miles. Victor yelled at his partners, his teammates, his opponents, the directors, and, occasionally, even himself. Victor routinely gloated. Victor loved bridge very much, but, sadly, bridge brought out the very worst in Vic. Victor was suspended from the ACBL for a year near the end of his life.

Victor won so many regional tournaments that I couldn't begin to list all of them. He won the prestigious Eastern States Goldman Open Pairs. The regional win I find most impressive was the 1976 Bridge Week KO. The Bridge Week KO used to have more than 64 teams enter, so there was a Swiss qualifying to get to the round of 64, followed by six long matches. Victor, partnering with Jim Looby and teaming with Danny Kleinman and Marshall Miles, qualified and then won all six matches against very tough competition. Victor never won a national event. Later in his life Victor tried hard to win a national event. Sadly, he was never able to win to achieve that goal. Winning a national would have automatically made Vic a Grand Life Master because he had the required 10,000 masterpoints. Vic had the skill of most Grand Masters, and even some people who didn't care for Vic were rooting for him.

He was such a character, so good at bridge, but so loud and negative, that all the stories about Victor are situations where Victor did something wrong in bridge, or

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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

The Lancaster Bridge Club has reached a tipping point in deciding its future and major decisions will be made subsequent to the August board meeting which will take place just after the completion of the monthly Unit Game. In the meantime, it seems that the weekly games at Valencia and Castaic are doing really well; they are well managed and well attended. Congratulations to the club owners and to their loyal players. Good job!

Speaking of the Unit Game, the game was won last month by the partnership of Bill Brodek and Brad Ward. The pasta dish Brad served was a big hit and garnered two marriage proposals as well as lots of "atta-boys," so the bar is set high for Marlene and Doris Thompson this month. The always tough Unit Game is Sunday September 21. Lunch at noon, game time at 1.

The Valencia club has seen Hansford Rowe and Adam Ellfeldt rack up two wins along with Rand Pinsky (one playing with partner Basant Shah and one playing with John Langer). Marlene-Warren Gasper and her husband Dave notched a win, as did Ron and Sandy Oest. The partnerships of Elaine Moore and Tom Shudic, as well as Lamonte Johnson and Markle Vandervert, round out the monthly winners.

The Castaic Club saw the partnership of Jerry Burrill and Ruth Baker finally end the amazing string of three wins in a row notched by Hugh Bartlett and Bill Brodek. Wow! To win three weeks in a row is a really tough achievement, big congrats to Hugh and Bill.

Doris Thompson has garnered several wins at the small games in Lancaster. Russ Buker has shown to be a really tough force partnered with Doris as they won a lot this month. Doris also got a win with Marlene Warren-Gasper. Liz Morrin has done well, winning several times not only with her husband Charles, but also with Lea Levitt. George Lewis, Jr. and Hal Underwood stormed into the winners circle along with Mary Stauf and Henry Roediger. Back in great form after her angioplasty, Onarita Pallanti won in her first

visit back to the club, partnered by Erlene Dehaas.

Much news from the administrative front will be reported next month.

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Board of Directors Meeting
11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 10
Unit Game 1:00 p.m. Saturday, September 10
12:15 Buffet Lunch

No column this month. Just a short note to invite you to our Unit game on September 10, a chicken delight with all the accompanying sides, and to let you know of the passing of long-time Regency bridge player and Unit 553 board member Dorothy LaMaie.

Dorothy loved tennis, bridge, road trips to Las Vegas, and martinis (not necessarily in that order). She traveled the world and kept extensive notes of her adventures that she was delighted to share with would-be sojourners. She worked diligently on behalf of the unit, wrote a thoroughly entertaining column for this newsletter (a tough act to follow), and amazed and occasionally frustrated a long list of partners. A fighter to the end, despite hearing and heart problems, Dorothy went gently into the good night. She will be greatly missed. Our heartfelt condolences to her friends and family.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: www.acblunit557.org
club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

August 14 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A:

Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy, 2nd Baum Harris/Steve Skinner, 3rd Kaye Amdon/Eileen Niesen, 4th Fern Dunbar/Linda Stein, 5th John Petrie/Janet Logan, 6th Cayce Blanchard/John Killian. In the B flight overall Keith and Susan Hafen were 3rd, Richard and Robert Bakovic 4th, Anne Harrington/Hanefi Erten 5th, and Sean Lui/Aaron Jones 6th. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games in the club July 16 through August 15: In open games: July 20 Cory Hand/Tom Skidmore had 70.50%, Aug 3 Betty McClellan/Toni Morford had 71.39%, Aug 5 Stanley Snyder/Ron Lien had 76.85%. And in the 99er game Aug 11 Don and Leayn Johnson had 73.33%. Congratulations to you all!

Big Masterpoint Awards: 1st over-all big point awards July 16 through August 15: July 22 Charlotte and Steve Sturm 4.33mp, July 25 Ralph Beazley/Irwin Bender 3.36mp, July 26 Brandon Sheumaker/Ted Gibbs 3.79mp, July 27 Bob Mault/Verna Baccus 3.25mp, July 29 Gary King/Brandon Sheumaker 4.33mp, Aug 7 Bee Kinman/Joan Tschirki 3.50mp, Aug 8 Sankar Reddy/Bruce Horiguchi 5.17mp, Aug 9 Eddie Gruber/Diane Starbuck 6.33mp, Aug 9 eve Betty Williams/Gale Grub 3.00mp, Aug 10 Brandon Sheumaker/Gary King 5.17mp, Aug 10 eve Tariq Latif/Iftikhar Baqai 3.00mp, Aug 11 John Melis/Cayce Blanchard 4.50, Aug 12 Earl VanDerVord/Mike Daley 6.33mp, Aug 13 Earl VanDerVord/Sean Lui 4.17mp, Aug 14 Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy 3.68mp. Big awards for second place: July 22 Suzie and John Hand 3.25mp; July 29 Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein 3.25mp; Aug 8 Jackie Hess/Shirley Carroll 3.88mp; Aug 9 Loren Hilf/Baum Harris 4.75mp; Aug 10 Phyllis Parker/John Petrie 3.88mp; Aug 12 tie for second place: Cecil Cook/Bruce Horiguchi tied with Sam Wang/Xingpin Kang each earning 4.16mp; and on Aug 10 Jerry Cassidy/Aaron Jones won 3.06mp for 3rd overall. Congratulations to all!

Status Changes: Club Master: Rosalie Storc; Sectional Master: Sue Boswell; Regional Masters: George Alemshah, Bob Ballack, Bonny Walsh; NABC Master: Cindy Firnett; Life Master: Pamela Cole; Bronze Life Master: Michael Shaw. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club: August 22-28 Great Western STaC Silver Points, Hand Records, overall awards. Monday Sept 5 Labor Day unit-rated game. Wednesday Sept 14 at 7pm ACBL-wide instant matchpoint game. Monday Sept 19 unit-rated Talk-Like-A-Pirate Day game. September 18 Unit Game at Leisure World (Seal Beach)--lunch 12:30, game at 1pm.

The LBBC will be open on Sept 18th for the regular 1pm Sunday game for those not attending the unit game. Wednesday Sept 21 7pm Inter-Club championship game. And Saturday, Sept 24 through Friday, Sept 30 International Fund Week games—extra points, hand record; fee: \$11.

Condolences to the family and friends of Ardis Weiser, Nick Bailey and George Saffuels who passed away last month.

Get Well Wishes to Doris Drew.

News from Leisure World from Gene Yaffee

Swiss Team Event a Big Success! There were 14 teams entered in the first time event on August 1. Winning team was: Gloria Sedore, Linda Carder, Stan Blitz and Cookie Pham with 4 wins and a score of 56.00. Second was the team of Chie Wickham, Lois Curci, Kay Hyland and Lynne Finley with 4 wins and a score of 51.00 The format was an enthusiastic success with another event being planned for November or December!

Big Scores: Sharon Beran & Joan Tschirki with a 71% game on August 6.

There were two club championship games in July. Winners on 7/18 in Clubhouse #3 were:

- 1st in Strat A, Larry Slutsky & Bill Linskey with a 66.64% game.

- 2nd in Strat A, Gloria Sedore & Betty Jackson.

1st in Strat B, Midge Dunagan & Julie Cunningham

- 2nd in Strat B, Lottie Kostar & Betty Sichel

- Betty Scharf & Bill Robinson swept the field in both Strat A & B on July 29 in Clubhouse #1.

- 2nd in Strat A, Bee Kinman & Joan Tschirki

2nd in Strat B, Sebbie Thompson & Stan Blitz

The Unit 557 Game is Sunday September 18. Lunch & Bridge will be held in Clubhouse #1, beginning at noon for sign-ins. There will be two sections--open and non-life master. A partnership person will be available. Registrations are a must by September 17! Call Ted Wieber at 596-8661 or Ruth Kaller at 430-0316 for further information and/or to register to play.

Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter Via Email: Send me your e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jjyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

by Chuck Cordaro

Art Gulbrandsen is announcing the following September events in his club:

- - Beginners lessons—Two sessions starting on September 15 and September 17
- - Beat-the-house night on Friday, September 23
- - Winners and losers Sunday on September 25

Jan Wickersham asked me to thank John Waken for again sponsoring our sectional at La Salle; she also thanks all those who brought snacks. We welcome back Margery Gould and Miriam Harrington back from their recuperations. I see from Roy Wilson's home page that Margery became nauseous while playing in the San Marino game. There must be something in the air down there. Same thing happened to several of my partners. I was pleased to see an old friend, Bill Farmer return, even if it was in a neck brace. Bill fell and broke his neck in two places about a year ago. He recently fell again and miraculously survived a second broken neck. I credit his good luck to more than two decades of playing prop for the Occidental College alumni rugby team. In rugby, play is restarted with eight of the team's largest players pushing against their opposite number. Much of the pressure is absorbed by the neck and shoulders of the two props in the front row, which made Bill's neck especially strong.

When Bill was playing there was a tournament out on Catalina Island that was popular with teams all over the West Coast. However, rugby players love their beer and, in time things got out of hand. When the ChiChi Club burned down, the Avalon city fathers put their foot down and banished rugby from the island for over 30 years.

When the Chamber of Commerce finally relented, some of Bill's old boys went over to watch. Their first night in town they stopped in for a beer, and the bartender peered over the counter at their now-fleshy faces and said, "Not you a**holes again."

Bill, I have always known you to be a gentleman, even back when we were dangerous. (So long ago that it took us over a year to figure out how we once knew each other.) Welcome back.

Pomona Covina

by Vic Sartor

Unit Game Saturday, September 17, 11:00 a.m.
Lunch Served

Unit attendance suffered the usual summer downturn during August as many players defected to various tourist meccas, inexplicably preferring the scenery of Hawaii or Lake Tahoe to the vistas of our local freeways. However, enough people stayed in the area to give us a few results worth noting.

Local players chalked up some successes at the recent Pasadena Sectional. The team of Lulu Minter, Fred Minter, Bill Papa, and Vic Sartor tied for first in the A bracket of the Swiss Teams. Papa and Sartor also took a third overall in an open pairs. Michael Horn and Georgiana Bierman were part of a winning team in a compact knockout event, while Herman Helber took first in an open pairs. Ron Purkis and Susie Emminger were on a winning team in Bracket B of a knockout, and Tom Lill, Richard Patterson, Clint Lew, and Pat Radamaker finished fourth in the same event. Genise Hasan took third overall in an open pairs (1st in B and C).

In club games, top game of the month was a 73% by Michael Horn and Milt Kalikman. The monthly individual was won by Clint Lew, followed by Luan Schirmer, Steve Mancini, Karen McCarthy, Wendy Wanderman, and Roger Boyar. Other club winners were Walt Otto, Ron Purkis, Joe Unis, Tim Finlay, Eileen Finlay, Charlotte Capelle, Luan Schirmer, Clint Lew, Donald Naf, Hanan Mogharbel, Denise Morgan, Hans Hehnke, Dave Ruoff, Vic Sartor, George Altinus, Roger Boyar, Lulu Minter, Fred Minter, Richard Patterson, Ann McClelland, and Ron Purkis.

Our hand of the month is probably best filed under "It Seemed Like A Good Idea At The Time." Your RHO opens 1♠ and you, vulnerable, are looking at:

♠AQxx ♥JTx ♦QTx ♣KJT

You certainly have spades stopped, and you can upgrade a little for those tens, right? (Everybody is upgrading these days.) This looks like a perfect 1NT overcall, right? On a good day, this might have been a brilliant tactical move. Unfortunately, this is not destined to be a good day. About five seconds after

you make that call, your LHO has the red card on the table. In the good old days before bidding boxes, it is likely his double would have been heard in Anaheim, Azusa, and Cu-u-u-u-u-u-u-ucamonga. (Google "Jack Benny" if you don't get the reference.) It seems he was dealt : ♠-- ♥Kxxxx ♦AJ9xx ♣Axx and he has severe doubts that you can make 1NT. A low diamond lead finds opener with Kx, and the defense takes five tricks in that suit. A heart switch now finds opener with AQx, and they take an additional five tricks in hearts. Finally endplayed, LHO cashes the club ace to complete the carnage. Your teammates are nice folks, but you are apprehensive that they may not comprehend the sound thinking that underlay your bid. Minus 1400 is such a hard number to explain in a team game. Oh, well. 'Til next time....

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Our August Sectional was a huge success and we thank all of those who attended and helped to make this a great event. We welcomed many players from surrounding counties as well as those from Los Angeles. We invite your feedback and suggestions regarding this event and future Sectionals in our area.

Also in the good news column we congratulate Herb Zweig who recently passed the Director's Test with flying colors.

Upcoming Unit Events:

Now we look forward to the next Unit Game on Sunday, October 16, at the Bridge Academy, located at 6733 Variel Ave., Canoga Park. Lunch will be provided at noon and one session of bridge for stratified and intermediate pairs will begin at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$10.00 for current ACBL members and \$11.00 for non-members. As always, reservations are not required but are helpful and can be made by telephone to the Bridge Academy at 818-999-9131 or by using signup sheets at the Bridge Academy and the 750 Club.

Also, remember to mark your calendar for the Sunday, December 4 Holiday Party at the Woodland Hills Marriott. Look for details of this event next month.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for July 2011

750 Bridge Club: Phyllis Seeder 10.33, Ed Berliner 8.33, Ron Malkin 7.30, Larry Gordon 7.10, Paul Endler 6.23, Gloria Malkin 6.10, Mort Nagler 5.25, Samy Antoun 5.21, Dick Berg 5.11, Bunnie Roth 4.86.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game: Emanuel Sirota 6.98, Lamonte Johnson 4.44, John Van Egmond 4.44, Moheb Monsour 3.31, Samy Antoun 3.31, Sylvia Morstein 3.28, Carol Stein 2.90, Yael Sirota 2.46, Gregory Bozin 2.41, David Weinstein 2.40.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Gilbert Stinebaugh 14.41, Gary Frans 13.28, Armand Szulc 12.32, Seymour Zemlyn 12.21, William Carlson, Jr. 8.63, Tom Wylie 7.63, Andrew Vinock 7.57, Sharon David 6.79, Marta Peltz 6.71, Dick Lum 6.52

70% Games for July

July was an exceptionally good month for players achieving 70% games. Congratulations to Susan Sormogyl & Joel Schiff 73.33, Alexander Kolesnik & Jim Munday 71.83, Mike Ellis & Jurelc Zadrozny 70.83, Dick Berg & Ilene Berg 70.14, Dick Wiggins & Paul Fuson 70.09

Column News: Make sure that your news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com by the 10th of the month.

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568>

SBBC website:

<http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club
Club Championship: Tuesday, September 13, 7 p.m.
Club Championship: Thursday, September 22, 7 p.m.
Club Championship: Tuesday, September 27, 11:30
Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening

Club Championships

The North American Pairs qualifier on July 25 was won by Fran Israel/Steve Ramos in Flight A with

Linda and Bill Lama taking Flight B. On August 1 the NAP Qualifier was captured by Gary King/Ted Gibbs in Flight A with Carol King/Beverly Narahara leading Flight B and Diane Maye/Carol Hansen ahead in Flight C. The Club Championship on August 8 was won by Richard Cheng/John Farr in Flight A, followed by Hank Sheehan/Steven Dagele in Flight B and John Soldano/Ralph Vidal in Flight C. The NLM Club Championship on August 11 was led by Nancy Collinge/Betsy Miller in Flight A with Elizabeth Biggins/Lynn Evans taking Flights B and C. On August 12 the Club Championship was taken by Lucy Gellner/Jeff Strutzel in Flight A and David Peim/Luis Gamio in Flight B.

Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games at the South Bay Bridge Club.

- July 12: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Cecil Cook, Mark Raggio
- July 19: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
- July 26: Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Martin Cooper, Charles LaFranchi
- Aug 2: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
- Aug 9: Bo Bogema, John Farr, Dean Kaloudis, John J. McDermott

District 22/23 STaC

Pairs that placed in the overalls in games played at the South Bay Bridge Club during the recent District 22/23 STaC are listed as follows.

- Monday Morning July 11
- 1A Lucy Gellner/Jeff Strutzel
 - 3A Dick Cheng/John Farr
 - 5A 1B Shinko Mauritz/Iyoko Kawamura
 - 6A Gaye Herrington/Carole Mason
 - 2B 1C Kathy Rudolph/Marsha Winer
 - 3B Lise Cote/Adelia Horton
 - 3C David Lyons/Yokuyo Sheehy
- Monday Evening July 11
- 2A Lucy Gellner/Wayne Otsuki
 - 6A 3B Lorna Wallace/Lutrell Long
 - 4B Ron Carlson/Morris Lorber

- 6B 2C David Peim/Neal Kleiner
- Tuesday Morning July 12
- 6B Gerri Carlson/MaryBelle Hoenig
- Wednesday Morning July 13
- 4A 2B Robert Rothman/Cal Waller
- 3C Linda Bernard/Dawn McGill
- Wednesday Evening July 13
- 5B 4C David Peim/Neil Kleiner
- Thursday Morning July 14 NLM Pairs
- 1A 1B Sheila and John Bray
- 2A 2B 1C Elizabeth Voss/David Lyons
- 3A 3B 2C Richard DeSantis/Elaine Godin
- 4A 4B 3C Jamila Malika/Ralph Vidal
- 5A Karen and Mike McKittrick
- 6A 5B 4C Carol Hansen/Loretto Russell
- 6B 5C Freda Main/Madge/London
- Thursday Evening July 14
- 3A Ed Piken/Steve Ramos
- 4A John and Bea Brailliar
- 3B 2C David Peim/Neil Kleiner
- Friday Morning July 15
- 4A Dick Cheng/John Farr
- 6B Cal Waller/Marie Willis
- 5C Mike Welsh/Lorna Wallace
- Friday Evening July 15
- 2A Lucy Gellner/Jeff Strutzel
- 5A Gabriela Jackson/Marie Willis
- 2B Arlene and Stanley Greengard

Milestones

It is with great sadness and regret to report that former unit member Joe Wiley passed away in August. Joe was a good friend to many of us. He and wife JoAnne moved away from the area over 10 years ago and resided in La Quinta. Joe once served as president of District 23 ALACBU back in the 70's. Joe was my partner in the first multi-session regional event I ever won. We will all miss Joe and his great sense of humor.

Don't Tell The State Department, But

Claudia Valerie (CVal) Gamio travelled to Cuba of all places to play in a major Bridge championship there with Miguel Reygadas of Mexico. They finished third overall in the event. She was presented her bronze medal by none other than Fidel Castro's sister. Apparently Fidel's sister is a bridge player of note in Latin America.

GUV Memorial Award

We aren't thru with CVal yet. She and John Jones (JJ) were playing at the Toronto NABC. I think JJ held ♠ AKJx ♥ x ♦ xx ♣ QJTxxx and CVal held ♠ 9x ♥ KQxxxx ♦ xxx ♣ xx. JJ opened 1 ♣ and CVal responded a preemptive 2♥. Her LHO doubled. At this point, before JJ bid, his LHO passed and CVal made a quick pass. The doubler thought he was on opening lead but John brought up the point that he had never bid over the double. A director was called and he ruled that John had a bid coming. Knowing that his LHO was prepared to play 2♥ doubled, he decided on a 2S call. This was doubled. I don't know how the defense went but suffice

it to say it wasn't perfect as JJ wound up making 3 somehow.

My teammates in the Seniors Swiss Nationally rated event in Toronto may have been ready to dump me in Lake Ontario. I may have been ready to sue Apple Computers. I swear I turned off my iPhone even though it is strongly recommended that phones be checked at a desk near the playing area (for \$2.00). Well about a minute before the first qualifying session ended my damned iPhone rang. Our team was penalized 5 Victory Points. I avoided the bath in Lake Ontario when we managed to qualify with a bit to spare in the final match.

Na Zdrowie

West LA
by Robert Shore

Toronto Retrospective

Our district's representatives to the Grand National Teams all acquitted themselves quite well in Toronto. All

November 14-18, 2011
Monday to Friday

Las Vegas
GLITTER GULCH SECTIONAL

Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino
Phone: 800 634-3434

Monday, November 14
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Tuesday, November 15
9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Final Rd
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

*Non-smoking Tournament
with Hospitality Breaks*

Wednesday, November 16
9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Thursday, November 17
9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Final Rd
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Board-A-Match Teams

Friday, November 18
10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Stratified Fast Pairs
(finish by 4:15 p.m.) (This is a 2-session event, but single session entries may be sold at the Director's discretion.)
10:00 a.m. & TBD Stratified Swiss Teams
(2-sessions)
Swiss Teams will finish by 5:30 p.m.

All stratified events are stratified by the average masterpoints of the team or pair.

Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750
I/N: 0-20/50/100/200/300

CARD FEES: \$10.00 per session/per player for dues paying ACBL members
\$11.00 per session/per player for all others

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BALLY'S
LAS VEGAS

four of our teams (each of which featured one or more members of our unit) got through the round robin stage to reach the knockouts. None of the teams managed to bring home all of the glory, but their tournament wasn't over yet. Our Flight B team, including the unit's Bruce Altshuler, Zalman Perelman, and Ryan Wessels, won its bracket of the first Sunday Flight B team. This victory followed a win by Sid Brownstein in the first Saturday Swiss.

Our peerless leader, though, made a much bigger splash. After his team made an earlier-than-desired exit from the Flight A bracket, Howard Einberg signed up for the 0-5000 Mini-Spangold. For the second time in his career, Howard's team won the event in what turned into quite a nailbiter. Congratulations!

Closer to Home

We sometimes overlook how fortunate we are to live in District 23. We have nine different units (each with a sectional tournament) within the confines of a single county, not to mention some easily accessible sectional and regional tournaments just outside our district. Two of those tournaments occurred in the last month. At the Pasadena Sectional, the team including Gary King and your humble scribe survived an early-round scare to bring home the victory in the Saturday Compact Knockout.

We had a few wins at the San Fernando Valley Sectional. Marlene Felix and Susan Coggins were victors in the Friday afternoon 299er pairs game. Alyssa Kennedy and Rick Turner followed up their win at Bridge Week with a win in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs game. Mike Savage's team, well, savaged the field for the victory in the Sunday Swiss.

Our own sectional is scheduled as usual over the Labor Day weekend at the Kayne Eras Center. Look for the ad in this very newsletter. You're competing for a pair of trophies, as well as the usual complement of master points. And on Labor Day, you can see the world's greatest caddy ply his trade. I hope to see you all there.

Ask Not What Your Unit Can Do for You

Ever had that burning urge to spend an extra hour a month in meetings? Can't resist the thought of taking tickets, moving tables, and just generally organizing events for fellow bridge players? Then maybe the

Unit Board is for you. If you're interested in seeking a position on the Unit Board, sign-up sheets are located at both Beverly Hills and Barrington. Put your name down and see what happens.

Perspective

I wanted to talk a bit about one of my favorite hands from the Marshall Miles Swiss in July. I was in 6♥ after LHO made a weak jump overcall in diamonds.

Dummy: ♠K9843 ♥A98 ♦A ♣AQT5

Declarer: ♠A6 ♥KJT76 ♦643 ♣KJ9

The opening lead was the diamond king, and I immediately ran the heart jack, losing to the queen. A heart came back, which I won in my hand (RHO dumping a diamond) in order to ruff a diamond on the board as RHO threw a spade. Then I was faced with a decision: which black suit do I use to return to my hand?

We know that LHO has only three black cards, so RHO has nine, and the only way I can get hurt is if RHO's black suits are divided 6-3. Looking at that dummy, though, I couldn't imagine RHO discarding a spade from 3, 4, or even 5 spades. I could envision him throwing a spade from a 6-card holding, whereas if he had six clubs and three spades, he probably would have had an easy club discard. So I returned to hand safely with a club, drew trump, and claimed. This turned out to be a 17-IMP pickup (more than the difference in the match) when my counterpart tried to get back to his hand with a spade, and had it ruffed.

For another perspective on this hand, read last month's Torrance-South Bay column.

The Injured List

I've heard that Diana Schreiber is recovering from hip surgery hope that she'll be home in time to read this. Diana and her husband Bill would like to send along their thanks for all of the positive thoughts received from the Bridge world.

On a sadder note, word recently reached this reporter that Mort Futterman passed away. I ran into him and his partner, Neil Sherman, from time to time at the table and always remember having a pleasant time.

CHERNOFF *continued from page 2*

was uncharacteristically quiet. In most circumstances I would never put such negative stories in print. However, Victor would be fine with my telling some of the negative stories. He even told them himself. He had the ability to laugh at himself. Thus, in good conscious, I will repeat some of the stories.

Victor won four District 23 Grand National Team championships. In another attempt though, he was given a zero tolerance penalty. Fearful that Victor would incur more penalties, his teammates unanimously voted Victor off the team. He left the playing site relatively quietly, but not before predicting (correctly) they wouldn't win the competition without him.

A story from Victor's Washington DC days was related to me by several sources, but I originally heard it from Victor himself. Victor, known in the DC area as the "Little Guerilla," was playing a 64-board match which was down to the last 16 hands. Victor was fresh and rested and Victor's team captain wanted to put him in for the last quarter, but because of Victor's behavior, he didn't know with whom to pair him. He decided to put Victor with a player whom Victor didn't know very well. However, before the quarter the captain spoke an aside to Victor. "Your partner is a very good player, but he is very temperamental, and is a former Gold Gloves boxing champion. Don't upset him." The match went well, Victor behaved and they won. Victor's partner for the last quarter exclaimed "I don't know what the big deal about Chernoff is. He's such a pussycat."

I frequently partnered with Victor during my younger days. One Sunday morning my girlfriend, Barbara Benton, asked me what I was doing that day. I replied that I was playing in a sectional Swiss. She suggested that she kibitz, and I told her that my partner was not always pleasant. She asked who my partner was, and I told her Vic Chernoff. She asked if that was the same Vic Chernoff who had been in the Washington DC area. I answered yes, whereupon Barbara replied "I'm kibitzing today. He'll be perfectly behaved." Barbara had about 100 masterpoints, and was no match for Vic in playing or analyzing bridge, so I had my doubts. We got to the tournament, and Barbara and Vic saw each other. The conversation went something to the effect of:

Vic: Hello, Barbara.

Barbara: "Hello, Vic" "How are you?"

Vic: "I'm..."

Barbara (interrupts): That's a poor choice of shirts you're wearing. It doesn't go with your coloring at all. You shouldn't button so many of the buttons. You should also part your hair differently.

Or maybe it was too few buttons. All I know is that it looked OK to me, but that in less than 15 seconds, Barbara had criticized Vic three times, and Vic had hardly said a word. Vic was well behaved all day. At one point I thoroughly mangled a declarer play problem, underplaying the hand by at least two tricks. I expected Victor to explode. Victor quietly said "Maybe that wasn't your best line of play." I was shocked, but turned to Barbara and winked. We played pleasantly the rest of the day and finished high in the overalls.

A story from the Los Angeles Cavendish Club involves Dick Ryder. Dick was not a screamer like Vic, but was similar to Victor in that both had big egos and could be grumpy and difficult. Dick and Vic were in the same money rubber bridge game. Dick finished playing a hand and Vic, his opponent, criticized his line of play. Dick was not as good a bridge technician as Vic, but still disliked having his technique disparaged. The argument intensified and Dick wound up punching Victor, breaking his nose. Eli Borok and the other owners of the Cavendish paid \$500 to get that incident settled out of court.

Jeff Goldsmith tells the story of going to Bridge Week looking for a KO team. He found Kyle Larson and then Jim Looby. Close to game time they realized Victor was the only possible fourth. The four of them agreed to play and began discussing how they would line up.

Jeff: I don't want to play with Victor.

Jim: I don't want to play with Victor.

Kyle: I don't want to play with Victor, either.

Jim (to Kyle): Would you like to go play poker"?

Kyle – "Sure".

Off to poker they went, as Victor's reputation had generated one of the shortest KO teams in history.

One time that Victor was surprisingly well behaved without prompting came when I was very young. I had been playing bridge about three years. I was playing with Vic in the LA Sectional KO. The first matches went well, and we faced a team with Lew Mathe and Eddie Taylor in the finals. Eddie was quieter, less famous, and

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Roger Lee, Panel Editor: John Jones

This month's panelists: Leo Bell, Becky Clough, Jeff Goldsmith, Ross Grabel, John Jones, Mr. Mealy-mouth, Marshall Miles, Rick Roeder, David Sacks, and Jon Wittes

The September Problem Solver's Panel is dedicated to the memory of long-time panelist Victor Chernoff.

1

IMPs
no vul

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♥ | 3♣ | 3♦ | 5♣ |
| ? | | | |

You, South, hold: ♠AJT72 ♥AKJ974 ♦-- ♣T4
 If you pass, partner will bid 5♦.
 Instead of passing, what do you do?

Jones: Double. 6-5 is great, but I certainly don't want to hear too much about partner's diamonds without warning him that bidding might be wrong.

Bell: Double, to discourage partner.

Sacks: Double, because I do not want partner to bid 5♦. At least if he bids it over my double, I might have adequate trump support.

Miles: Double. It looks to me to be a bad misfit. Maybe we can make 5♣ or even 5♥, but why guess when we should do well on defense?

Clough: Double, because of the diamond void. I would bid 5♠ over 5♦.

Goldsmith: Pass. It's close between pass and double. Partner probably has a single-suiter in diamonds. He didn't start with a negative double, so he probably doesn't have four spades unless he has seven diamonds. He didn't make a fit jump or show heart support, so he probably does not have three hearts unless he has very good and long diamonds and weak hearts. The opponents appear to have 10 (or maybe 11) clubs, so he appears to have at most one club. If he has no more than three spades, two hearts, and one club, he has

seven or more diamonds. Having a void in his suit is a strong negative and suggests that I double, but I'm not excited about how the defense will go if partner doesn't lead a high diamond, because I can't shift to diamonds. If he does lead one, his suit may well be strong enough to play opposite a void. On offense, all my cards are working. In fact, if partner has either solid diamonds or semi-solid diamonds and a club void, we could easily make a slam, though it is likely partner will bid with that, even if I double. On the other hand, if partner has ♠Kxx ♥xx ♦AQJ10xxx ♣x [Lee: *I think it's quite dangerous to suspect partner has any sort of hand at this point with such little information.*] 5♦ rates to score better than 5♣. But if he's missing the ♦10, we could go minus in 5♦. Or even if he has it and they get a heart ruff. Or if his diamonds are something like KQJ10xxx, then he'll lead one and I can probably blow up dummy's ♦A, in which case we can probably get 500 or more. OK, I've convinced myself that double is best. If we were red vs. white, then the danger of losing 7-8 IMPs for 300 vs. 600 or 620 is enough to convince me to pass.

If I pass, I'll pass 5♦. Passing should be enough encouragement that if partner doesn't bid a slam on his own, we aren't making one. If I double and partner bids 5♦, I'm probably worth a raise, because he is

2

MPs
NS vul

| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| pass | 1♥ | 2♦ | 3♥ |
| dbl | pass | ? | |

You, South, hold: ♠A75 ♥-- ♦AT9652 ♣A943
What call do you make?

Jones: 4♠. This will play well even if partner has only four spades, because I'll be taking ruffs in the short hand. *[Lee: How good can 4♠ be if you bid 4♥, and partner chooses not to bid 4♠? I think 4♥ is much better than 4♠.]*

Bell: 3♠. Oink, oink...only at matchpoints! I hope they don't lead a trump!

Sacks: 4♥, assuming the double of 3♥ was takeout for the blacks. I'm planning on bidding clubs next. I think this hand is worth making at least a modest move toward slam. *[Lee: Opposite a passed hand?]*

Miles: Pass. Jeff Goldsmith claims that all of my doubles are for penalty, and I think this one ought to be.

Clough: 4♣, partner may have bid 3♠ with five spades.

Goldsmith: 4♣. Partner's double is takeout, so I take it out. If the opponents were red, I'd play 3♥ doubled and shoot for 200. After all, I have a Miles trump stack. A typical hand for partner is ♠KJTx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣KQxx. *[Lee: I would pass with that hand.]* It'll take some luck to make 5♣, but ten tricks looks likely. Passing rates to get only 100, but it could be a big winner; sometimes partner has ♠Kxxx ♥Axxx ♦x ♣Kxxx.

Mealymouth: Pass. Responsive doubles (showing the two unbid suits) are a good idea, and Foxglove Doubles (showing the lone unbid major and moderate support for overcaller's suit) are a better idea still, but every pair that plays either kind of conventional double needs to stipulate through what level they apply. In this case, the problem doesn't even say that we're playing this double as conventional, so presumably partner is making a penalty double. He has trumps

and I have aces, so I pass and drool. Whoever taught East to open light and East-West to play Weak Jump Raises can wipe up the drivel.

Roeder: 3♠. We have few quick losers, but it is far from clear we have ten winners. Partner's most likely distribution is 4-4-1-4 or 4-3-1-5. *[Lee: I don't agree. I think you should strain to pass with long hearts and short diamonds.]* 4♠ is reasonable but should be limited to those who eat their red meat raw. 4♥ is reasonable as a choice of games for those who thought that bear markets were outlawed in 2000.

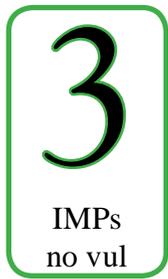
Grabel: 4♥. Very close between 4♥ and 4NT. 4NT is less ambiguous but doesn't cater to partner's having five spades.

Wittes: 4♥. A bit of an overbid, but I think the controls and distribution warrant it. If partner has five spades, 4♠ seems like a good spot, otherwise five of a minor should have a reasonable play.

Jones: There is a significant disagreement among the panel as to the meaning of the double of 3♥. Miles and Mealymouth assume their partner's double is penalty, while the other panelists are getting excited about their offensive prospects after a responsive double showing the unbid suits. Current standard expert practice is to play responsive doubles to a fairly high level (at least 5♦). Responsive doubles are no longer even alertable. I see no compelling reason why double should not be takeout. It is in nearly all expert partnerships. At least nearly all without Marshall!

Want to be added to the
District 23 email mailing list?

Sign up at www.acbldistrict23.org



| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♥ | pass | 1♠ | pass |
| 3♣ | pass | 3♠ | pass |
| 4♣ | pass | ? | |

You, South, hold: ♠QT98432 ♥T ♦J87 ♣53
 What call do you make?

Jones: 4♣. Distasteful, but my hand is worth four tricks in spades and almost nothing otherwise. This is almost enough to make me take up Weak Jump Shifts. Almost.

Bell: 4♠, the only contract where my hand will actually take some tricks.

Sacks: Pass. Partner did not open 2♣ and should not have as much as a singleton spade honor for this sequence. [*Lee: I don't agree, 1-5-2-5 with a stiff spade honor is still in the picture.*] The real problem on this hand may well have been the choice to jump shift to 3♣, as the three-level jump shift after a one-level opener is just about (IMHO) the most commonly abused bids in bridge.

Miles: 4♠. Maybe I will lose nothing but trump tricks. Nothing looks better.

Clough: 4♠. I wish I had passed to begin with. My hand is really not good for anything but spades, but partner's 3♣ is game forcing, so I bid 4♠. Pass is my second choice.

Goldsmith: 4♦, choice of major suit games. I could have a forward-going hand for clubs, but partner will pick a major and with that hand, I'll bid again. [*Lee: In my opinion this makes your club slam auctions pretty untenable, and anyway I think it's standard that 4♦ is forward going for clubs.*] If partner is 0-6-2-5, hearts will very likely be better than spades. With 1-5-2-5, partner will usually pick spades. If he's 1-6-1-5, hearts may well play better unless partner has a stiff ace; for example, if dummy has ♠K ♥AKQxxx ♦K ♣AKxxx, the defense to beat 4♠ is not hard, though it could be a lucky make. 4♥ could be, too.

Mealymouth: 4♠. If we have an eight-card fit, it's in spades. My hand figures to be worthless anywhere but in spades, and even a singleton ♠J opposite will be decent support. Sorry, I won't pass in a forcing auction, despite the misfit, for if my partner sees me do that, the next time he has a strong two-suiter he might just open with a slam bid, fearing my "mastermind" passes of forcing bids. It would be nice if I had been able to make a natural 3♠ preempt in response to my partner's 1♥ opening, but I suppose we are playing that as a splinter raise of hearts, a convention designed to make it easy for fourth seat to double and find a profitable 4♠ save.

Roeder: Pass, before the doubling starts. Since this is a Los Angeles panel, I'll even "Hollywood it up" and feign a look of horror after my pass card hits the table.

Grabel: 4♥, but I would have made a weak jump shift in spades on the first round.

Wittes: Pass! I just broke one of my cardinal rules—never pass a forcing bid by partner. But if ever there were an exception, this is it. By the way, I play weak jump shift responses with most of my partners, and would have bid 2♠ over 1♥.

Lee: I reflexively bid 4♠ at the table but immediately regretted it. Fishing for a nonvulnerable game that probably has three trump losers seems wrong, and for that reason I think pass is better than 4♠. 4♥ is an interesting possibility and would likely lead to +420 opposite partner's ♠x ♥AKQJx ♦Qx ♣AKQxx. Clubs broke 3-3.



| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| pass | pass | 1♠* | 3♣ |
| ? | | | |

You, South, hold: ♠3 ♥QJT52 ♦QJ9832 ♣9
 What call do you make?

* 11-15, five or more spades

Jones: 3♥. I'm a passed hand, and this still overstates my values. But with a six loser 6-5 hand, I must take aggressive action, since most hands with ♥Kxx or better will produce game. [*Lee: We will often lose control after club taps opposite ♥Kxx*]. 3♦ rates to lose the heart suit, and a negative double gives partner a decision I don't want him to face. A passed hand 3♥ will normally only have five hearts (no weak two-bid).

Bell: Double. I really don't like doubling if I have little defense and pass by partner is a possibility. On the other hand, failing to act can cause us to miss a laydown game or slam, so I'm a bidder.

Sacks: Pass. Perhaps something good will happen later, but we don't have enough IMP odds to look for game on a hand where partner rates to have six spades and/or length in clubs.

Miles: Pass. I don't see a reasonable alternative.

Clough: Double.

Goldsmith: Pass. Why tempt partner to pass a negative double? White versus red in 3rd, it would not surprise me unduly that neither of the stated conditions about partner's hand were accurate, though given my hand and the opponents' bidding, they probably are this time.

Mealy-mouth: Pass. If we are playing negative doubles through this level (and perhaps we are not, as the ACBL Yellow Card and some of my partners specify that we play them only through 2♠), I have the requisite offensive values to make one. But partner will expect less shape and more strength, so I dare not double, especially when partner might well have a normal penalty pass without strength to beat 3♣.

Roeder: Pass. If it goes pass, pass to partner, he will likely pass unless he has a good red suit and a good hand. With no guaranteed fit, no quick tricks, and at most 21 HCP between the two hands, a negative double should be reserved for those who get a big charge out of bungee jumping with a frayed rope.

Grabel: Pass. Anything could be right, but if partner passes then he has a black two-suiter. If partner can reopen with a double, I will bid 4♣, and we should get to the right strain. If he reopens with 3♠, then a negative double most assuredly would have got him to bid 4♠.

Wittes: Double. Hopefully, partner won't convert this, but at least I have a stiff spade to lead. I expect partner to bid a three-card red suit with only five spades, but I may be in trouble if partner is something like 6-2-1-4 or even 6-2-2-3. This hand is potentially too powerful an offensive hand to pass if partner fits one of my suits.

District 23
 NAOP Qualifying

August is the last month of club qualifying for the North American Pairs. An updated list of August club qualifying games has been posted at <http://acbldistrict23.org/NAOP/NAPQual2011Aug.htm>.

Note also: the NAP semifinals for District 23 have now been set: October 9 at Canoga Park and October 23 at San Marino

Mike Marcucci is the NAP coordinator for District 23.



| West | North | East | South |
|--------|-------|------|-------|
| pass | pass | 2♣* | dbl |
| pass** | pass | 2♦ | ? |

You, South, hold: ♠AKJ842 ♥J763 ♦A ♣A5
 What call do you make?

*weak with diamonds or any strong hand, **suggestion to play 2♣x

This convention comes with a “Don’t try this at home” label. In ACBL events, 2♣ showing a weak 2♦ bid or any strong hand is only legal in midchart events. Furthermore, most experts don’t think this is a great convention even if legal. It’s easy to defend against; the opponents just assume that the bidder has the weak two bid. They get an extra bid (a direct 2♦), and also a delayed double (which some partnerships play as penalty, giving the partnership both a takeout double and a penalty double). In ACBL events there is an ACBL defense (much like a Multi Defense) available.

Jones: 2♠. I assume that this shows a hand too good to overcall 2♠ directly, but not with game in hand. If so, it’s just about right, as I need approximately two cover cards to make game.

Bell: 2♠. I think I have too many losers to bid more strongly.

Miles: 3♦. I expect partner to bid notrump with a diamond stopper. If we have a double stopper in diamonds, we should make 3NT with partner’s clubs or my spades. If he bids something else, I’ll bid a minimum number of spades. *[Lee: But it will be game forcing.]*

Clough: 3♠.

Goldsmith: 2♠. Logically, this should be forcing. Partner has shown values and I’ve doubled and bid a suit. My original double (assuming I’m using the ACBL defense) showed 13-15 balanced or any big hand, so partner isn’t passing 2♣x with nothing; he has to cater to my holding a 13-count with two small clubs. With nothing but a long string of clubs, partner should have used lebensohl to get out in 3♣. It’s not

exactly hard to foresee that the opponents might not stop in 2♣x. His plan wouldn’t work; I wasn’t bidding 3♣ over 2NT, but he didn’t know that then. *[Lee: I suspect you are on an island of your own with this line of logic. Jones: This disagreement between Goldsmith and Lee is based on the meaning of partner’s second pass. If partner’s second pass, potentially converting 2♣ doubled to penalty, shows values, then Goldsmith’s logic is irrefutable. If partner can have a hand such as ♠xx ♥xx ♦Jxxx ♣K10xx, then Goldsmith is wrong and the force is not on here. Part of the disagreement is the meaning of the double. If double is takeout of diamonds, the doubler will normally have at least three clubs. If the ACBL defense is being used, partner might have two small clubs, making pass less attractive. Whether 2♠ is forcing or not is largely theoretical on this hand; partner will bid with values and we will be well-placed. If my hand were a little stronger with 5-5 in the majors, the point Goldsmith makes would be extremely important.]*

Mealymouth: 2♠. Guessing that partner has interpreted my undefined double as showing an unspecified kind of strong hand, and taking into account that he might have bid with a good hand of his own, I will now content myself with a mere 2♠.

Roeder: Double, seems automatic. The potential follow-ups on the next round (if there is a next round) are not.

Grabel: 2♠ which, after the double, shows extras. 3♠ is a bit of a stretch although if the heart suit had texture and I had the spade 10 instead of the 8, I would bid it.

Wittes: 2♠. This should show a hand too good to

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

a replacement, and details are still pending contract signing with our new CEO. We have been assured that the ACBL website will have full information when it becomes publicly released.

On a personal note, I have met with and spent a good number of hours with Jay's replacement and I am very positive as to the success ACBL will have with him (or her) leading our organization for many years to come.

AARP Convention in LA

From Thursday September 22 through Saturday September 24, the national AARP convention will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Vicki Campbell, director of marketing for the ACBL will be heading up the ACBL booth. The ACBL has participated for many years at this convention and data has shown that there is an increase of bridge activity in the city where the convention is held. Specifically, there is an increase in people wanting to learn how to play bridge and an increase of people who want to learn about duplicate bridge who are presently social bridge players.

We need volunteers to assist Vicki in manning our booth. I would like to have club owners, bridge teachers, unit representatives or anyone wanting to promote bridge to assist Vicki and me during these three days. I specifically need pairs of volunteers to work in four-hour shifts during the convention hours. You will have free admission to the convention, and parking at the convention center will be reimbursed by the ACBL. Please contact me if you are interested or want additional information. I have written an additional article on the convention (page 17).

It's a Different View from Dummy

The best story to come out of the Toronto NABC is about Howard Einberg. It seems that Howard had made plans to play just the first week of the nationals and then return home. He joined a 0-5,000 Mini-Spingold team at the last minute. It is a six-day event but Howard's plane reservations had him returning home to Los Angeles on the third day of the event. Once the team won its second match, the process of changing flights and hotels began.

Each day brought another win and another night to try to add to the hotel stay. Luckily he only needed to change hotels once and for a fee the airlines were happy to change the flight. The two things Howard learned from the Mini-Spingold are

1. Once you reach the point of changing plans you better keep winning because of all the extra work and
2. Winning is way better than coming in second place.

Congratulations to you, Howard. As a side note, this is the second time Howard has been a member of the winning team in this national event.

Next month, more information about our new CEO and a discussion regarding awarding masterpoints in pair games based upon strength of field.

PSP#1 continued from page 11

playing me for diamond shortness and/or club wastage, and given that, my hand is terrific.

Mealy-mouth: 5♠. My opponents are telling me they're afraid we have a slam [*Lee: Why?*], and my hand, along with the club shortness that I can impute to partner from the opponents' preempts, says they're right. Who am I to disagree? Let's find the right strain. Partner should play me for five spades and six hearts for this action. Passing first, and then pulling partner's 5♦ to anything won't be helpful, and I certainly don't expect partner to double 5♣ if I give him the chance.

Roeder: Double, even though it will be revolting to miss a grand slam if partner has ♠KQxx ♥xx ♦AJxxxxx ♣-- or the like. My diamond void makes me not worry about missing a diamond slam. Partner will pull with some hands with a club void.

Grabel: Double. No reason to think we have a fit that we can get to. If partner pulls to 5♥, I'll raise.

Wittes: Double. I would double 5♣ to let partner know I do not have a diamond fit and I have good defense against 5♣. If partner has short clubs and a heart fit, I expect him to bid over 5♣ doubled. If he doesn't, I expect to get at least 500 and possibly as much as 1100 against 5♣ doubled.

National AARP Convention in LA

By Rand Pinsky, District Director

The AARP Convention will be held at the Los Angeles Convention Center (South Halls) 1201 S. Figueroa St., from Thursday September 22 through Saturday September 24.

Vicki Campbell, ACBL Director of Marketing will be manning our ACBL booth. Volunteers are needed to assist Vicki in running the booth.

Due to the size of our booth, we will only be able to accommodate two volunteers helping at the booth at one time. Volunteers will work in shifts of two for the following dates/times:

Thursday – September 22 – 11:00 a.m.-6 p.m.

Friday – September 23 9:00 a.m. through 5 p.m.

Saturday – September 24 – 9:00 a.m. through 4 p.m.

Each volunteer will also get Vicki's cell phone number so that they can call her when they arrive at the Exhibit Hall so that she can meet them with their badge to let them into the Exhibit Hall and escort them to our booth.

Volunteers will have free admission to the convention, and parking at the convention center will be reimbursed by the ACBL (\$12/day).

Expectations for the volunteers:

- Be a "people person"
- Answer questions about the ACBL
- Talk about the fun of playing bridge
- Hand out brochures
- Show visitors how to use the ACBL website
- Be able to stand for long periods of time
- Be comfortable in a fast-paced environment
- Wear comfortable shoes

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact me at: pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net. Vicki will, of course, give all volunteers a quick "crash course" on all of the hand-out materials that will be on hand at the booth.

Please send name, phone number, email address, the date/time you can work, and whether you are a bridge teacher, club owner, or just a player.

UNITS continued from page 9

Our condolences to his family and friends.

Loree Myers passes along her thanks for all those who took the time to say a few words after the passing of her daughter.

Fun with Math

Have you ever tried to discuss every possible auction with your partner? That turns out to be a rather daunting task because there are a lot of auctions. How many? I figured out the number one morning in the shower. It does take a bit of math, but nothing more than is taught in high school. I'll put my answer in this space next month. First person to arrive at the answer independently (rather than looking it up on the Internet) and e-mail it to me gets a mention in this column. One hint: the number is much, much larger than the number of possible bridge deals.

Around the Clubs

Congratulations to Barrington's club championship winners Becky Clough-Janet Cooper and Aram Bedros-Art Zail. Barrington also saw 70% games notched by Robert and Sandy Carroll, Connie Fishbach, Art Zail, Gail Windisch, and Julie Sackman. Beverly Hills club champions were Sydell Aronson (how about that?)-Betty Feliciano, Rhoda and Lew Himmell, Rita Levin-Michael Drayer, and Fuad Khuri-Marshall Wengrow. Ruth Gittleman cracked the 70% barrier twice, with David Segal and Jeri Berger. Fred Mautner and Viktor Anikovich also hit 70%. It's good to see fresh faces in this space — keep up the good work.

Climbing the Ladder

People must be catching their breath after last month's slew of rank changes. Susan Schwab is our unit's newest Junior Master, and Virginia Teller has achieved Club Master status.

James Clarkson is now a Silver Life Master, while Rahim (3NT) Israel and Mario Mory are freshly minted Gold Life Masters. Congratulations to all on these accomplishments!

Got news? Send it to me at Bob78164@yahoo.com.

CHERNOFF *continued from page 10*

far less abrasive than the combative Lew. However, Eddie was every bit as a good of a player as his world-famous partner, and I was in quite a bit over my head. Eddie and Lew gave me a great deal of problems, and I got most of them wrong. Victor knew I was trying even though I was playing poorly and compassionately said almost nothing. The only hand he significantly commented on was when I took a good hand and opened 1♣. Lew overcalled 1♥ and Vic made a negative double. I passed holding ♥AKQx. Victor defended splendidly to give Lew a guess, but Lew got it right and made 1♥ doubled. Vic pointed out that we could make 6♣, but Eddie pointed out that they could make 6♦. Vic commented “Still, it’s best not to leave in negative doubles at the one level.” I’ve never left one in since. I learned things from Victor. It was Victor who taught me how to count declarer’s distribution and high cards as the hand was being played, and then to consider if the hypothetical hand for declarer actually fit both his bidding and his line of play.

Vic was one of Marshall Miles’ favorite partners to the end. Marshall and Vic were scheduled with Mark Bartusek and me in Bridge Week two months ago, but Vic had entered the hospital. He was disliked by many, but I’ll miss him.

I thank the following for their contributions to this article: Frank Nieman, Jeff Goldsmith, Eli Borok, Don Krause, Danny Kleinman, Josh Dunn, and Pete Knee.

District 23 Rank Changes July, 2011

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Rosemary Abrahamson
Gregg Alsdorf, Ilene Berg
Eric Chan, Dru Emm
Jeff Grotenhuis, Marlyse Linder
James Macklin, Nathaniel Marks
Shirley Marshall, Marilyn Moore
Warren Moore, Roz Pinkus
Joseph Ramos, Greg Stewart
Ann Turner, Wendy Wanderman
Stephen Woelfer

Club Master (20 MPs)

Shoshana Blumenfeld
Patricia Campuzano
James Deflon, Joann Deflon
Betty Feliciano, M Kakade
Elliott Mazur, Frank Nordyke
Jane Okimoto, Glenn Silcott
Roberta Swanson

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Edwin Bernstein, Alan Gordy
Wesley Idol, Linda Krause
Dorothy Lank, Yurii Mukhin
Teri Ponchick, Linda Stuart

Regional Master (100 MPs)

George Altinis, Lee Axelrod
Neal Johnson, Kiyo Nagaishi
Eric ChenTeh Tang
Joanna Wallis

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Jack Chang, E. J. (Jim) Lechner
Donald Naf, Marguerite Pinkers
Eva Seri, Robert Svensrud
Ryan Wessels
Renee Wishengrad

Life Master (300 MPs)

Aaron Jones
Zalman Perelman
Lyle Wiedeman

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Aaron Jones, Xingping Kang
Marcia Lauffer-Rosner
Zalman Perelman

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Claude Le Feuvre
Alan Schneider, Sherie Schneider

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overcall 2♠ over 2♣.

Lee: How do we think the diamonds are distributed around the table? It’s uncommon for LHO to offer 2♣x with a doubleton diamond. If I make a second double and partner converts it, how bad can this be? If he pulls, we will still be fine; my plan is to raise spades to game and pull 2♥ to 2♠. One result means nothing, but on the actual hand, double will collect 800 against 2♦ and the spade bidders will get only 140.

* * *

Jones: This month’s moderator is Roger Lee, one of our rising young stars. This is his first time moderating the column. There are a larger than normal number of editorial comments in this month’s panel, because after Roger did 99% of the work he left for Croatia to represent the US in the international junior competition there. I put the finishing touches on his tough set of problems.