

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Big Bear Tournament

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



Have you ever been to Yuhaviat? That is the Serrano Native American word meaning "Pine Place," and it was the name of the place we know as Big Bear Lake for more than a thousand years.

One of my favorite weekend activities is attending a sectional bridge tournament in a resort area. The Big Bear Tournament, held every June, usually over Father's Day, certainly fits the bill.

Big Bear Lake is no longer called Yuhaviat. In 1845, Benjamin Davis Wilson with a posse of 20 men, rode into the Yuhaviat Valley, chasing Native Americans who had been raiding their ranches in Riverside. As they entered the valley, they were surprised to find the area swarming with bears, which prompted Wilson to rename the area Big Bear Lake. In his own words he wrote,

"...on the evening of the second day, we arrived at the lake. The whole lake and swamp seemed alive with bear. The 22 Californians went out in pairs, and each pair lassoed one bear and brought the result to camp, so that we had at one and the same time eleven bears. That prompted me to give the lake the name it now has..."

The lake as we know it today was not the same in

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Meyers, Young to Goodwill Committee

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Each year as your District Director I get the privilege to nominate two people to the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee. Usually I wait until the end of the year to announce my appointments, but this year as the summer NABC is in Las Vegas, an early

announcement will make it easier for my appointments to attend their first Goodwill Committee reception.

Stephanie Young is my first appointment. Stephanie has been dedicated to bridge for many years. Stephanie is unique in that she wears two distinct hats. First she sits on the West Los Angeles Unit Board but second, she is the President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Bridge Association. Last month, Stephanie and her ABA Chapter hosted a mixer for many of our ALACBU members and their Chapter. This was the second time the two organizations have held a mixer. Later this year the West Los Angeles Unit will be holding a mixer for them.

Jill Meyers is my other appointment. Simply put, Jill is the best women's player in the world. At the Las Vegas Nationals this month she will be inducted into the ACBL Hall of Fame. It is an honor well deserved. Jill has been a speaker for our junior players at our Los Angeles Regionals as well as being a regular contributor to the Bridge Bulletin.

The Goodwill Reception is held between sessions on the Monday of the NABC. It is only open to Goodwill members. I have published a list of all of District 23 appointments elsewhere in this paper. I urge all of our appointment to try to attend this reception.

Following up with additional news regarding Jill, her induction ceremony into the Hall of Fame will take place on July 17 during the Las Vegas tournament. Reservations can be made at the ACBL website and I hope we get a large District 23 turnout to honor Jill.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 12*

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

1881 when Frank Brown, a Redlands citrus farmer, began looking for a reliable source of water to supply the citrus farms. Brown spent the next two years on horseback searching throughout the San Bernadino Mountains for the ideal location for a reservoir. As soon as he saw the Lower Bear Lake and swamp area and the narrow gorge to the west end of Big Bear Valley, he knew his search was over.

After returning to Redlands, Brown obtained an option for \$500 to purchase the lake site. He organized the Bear Valley Land and Water Company and began construction on a rock dam that was completed in 1884. The dam increased the existing lake to ten times its previous size.

Big Bear Lake was also once a gold mining Mecca before it became a popular four-season resort. In 1860, a bear hunter, named William Holcomb, discovered gold flakes in a creek. Though he attempted to keep it a secret, word soon spread and prospectors swarmed the area in search of gold from about 1860 – 1875.

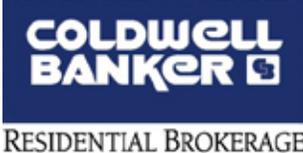
Hollywood also has a history in Big Bear. “The Call of the Wild,” filmed in 1914, was just the first in a long line of motion pictures shot in Big Bear Valley. “Paint Your Wagon,” “The Parent Trap,” “Bonanza,” “Kissin’ Cousins,” “Yukon Gold,” and “Dr. Doolittle” are just a few of the memorable films shot on location in Big Bear Valley.

June is the perfect time for the Big Bear Lake bridge sectional. The weather usually features warm to hot days and cool evenings, but one year it actually snowed. The fine weather makes it perfect for walking and enjoying the charming village. You can easily stroll from the playing site hotel to Pine Knot Avenue, the center of Big Bear Village. There you will find an array of unique stores and boutique shops and a wide assortment of restaurants, outdoor eateries, ice cream parlors and pubs. Other activities might include fishing from the shoreline of Big Bear Lake, hiking, and theatre opportunities. This year Mark Itabashi caught a large trout at 6:00 a.m. Saturday morning.

The tournament itself features the 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. schedule on Saturday and Sunday and the 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. schedule on Friday to allow attendees ample time to drive up easily on Friday morning in time for the afternoon game. The events on Friday and Saturday are all single session pair events including a separate section for 299ers. Sunday features a traditional Swiss. The Big Bear Unit who sponsors the tournament offers many door prizes – enough so that almost everyone wins something.

All together it is a most satisfying weekend. I know it is a year from now, but mark your calendars so you can join us next June in Big Bear.

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**What do
you think?**

Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Bridge Stories

These are short bridge stories from District 23 players who earned a new rank last month, as collected by Rand Pinsky



My husband Dick and I led busy and very full lives. We had three children and were actively involved with their many activities. Dick's career was as an engineer

and he was a dedicated sports official in high school football, softball, and baseball. I was a college professor and participated in several professional organizations. When our youngest child was a junior in high school, Dick suggested we take bridge lessons, something we could enjoy together and Bridge could take the place of the many hours of shared time we had spend in involvement in our children's activities.

We signed up for lessons at the Arcadia Bridge Center and were on our way. It was fun and we enjoyed the game although our progress was slow as we did not attend tournaments in the early days. We enjoyed the camaraderie with fellow bridge players and spent a fair amount of time playing contract social bridge with our new friends.

Slowly we began attending tournaments and enjoyed watching the points add up although we were not what I would call serious bridge players. Our favorite place to go was the Hawaiian Regional, although the allure of the fabulous sea breezes, the beautiful flowers, the long walks, and the wonderful restaurants were as much attraction as the two sessions of bridge we attended each day.

I was asked to become a Board Member of our Unit 559 and when the next vacancy came up, they asked Dick if he would accept a position on the Board as he was already working in whatever needed to be done. We were on the Board for several years including he as President for two years and I as Secretary for several years. By this time we were committed Bridge players and had earned our Life Master status and I also had Bronze. Dick became a Bronze Life Master at one of the Sectionals in which we were in charge.

I lost my beloved husband and favorite bridge

partner in January 2011. Our Bridge friends were wonderful and quickly set up times to play a game or two with me. Although I do enjoy winning, far more important are the warm and lasting friendships I have found in the Bridge world.

Eventually the points added up to the Silver standing. I don't expect to live long enough to reach the Gold level and that's OK, for Bridge is a wonderful fun game at all levels, a great way to spend time and challenge the brain, and provides many memories that are worth savoring.

*Cheryl Loggins
Silver Life Master*



I am pleased to tell you my playing has improved from playing more

*Marilyn Blank
Sectional Master*

Thank you for your encouragement. I am fairly confident that I am one of the best junior players. When it comes to bridge, I do have a lot of stories, which I hope I can share with everyone.

I have played bridge for more than ten years. When I was in China, I played ACBL tournaments on BBO, an online platform that gathers players from all over the world. Irene Bolton, one of my best partners and my very first friend from the United States, paid for my first year ACBL membership. She encouraged me to join the organization and get all the points that may be useful in the future. With her great help, I started to explore the ACBL website. I found the amazing ACBL Online Bulletins and downloaded all of them. I regarded them as the most interesting bridge magazines that I had ever read. I also noticed the ranking requirements. Although I got two hundreds or more master points, I was still a junior master, which somehow upsets me. I asked my friends how can I get to the Club Master level. They told me that I need to play offline club games, sectional games to get my black and silver points, which is impossible for me that time since I was still a Chinese student.

However, I got the opportunity to visit the United

BRIDGE STORIES *continued on next page*

BRIDGE STORIES *continued from previous page*

States as a graduate student in USC. I was excited that I could finally get a higher rank. I started playing club games with Charyl May and Conney Kang, two of my regular partners in Los Angeles. With their help, I achieved great improvement in my bridge skills through practice. At the end of 2013, I was awarded the Gayle Andrews Bridge Scholarship. Moreover, I stood out in the Sportaccord Online Bridge Tournament and won the second place, allowing me to fly back to China and attend the World Mind Game. The link of the event is attached, which is <http://www.worldbridge.org/sportaccord-online-winners-2013.aspx>. I have my photo and my wonderful stories in it.

District 23 has a lot of tournaments and clubs, which propelled me to encounter many strong players. As I played more and more, I became a little famous locally, and got the attention of a professional team. They invited me to play almost all the regional games,

which makes me feel good. I am never worried about getting gold points, since I am always winning with such wonderful teammates in the KO games. I really appreciate that District 23 offers me so many chances and wonderful players. As an example, Charyl May is one of my bestest (the word that she invented) bridge partner. We met online seven years ago and played ACBL games very often. When I got to LA, she picked me up from the airport and took me to In-N-Out Burger as my first American meal. She lend me a great many bridge books for my improvement and play with me whenever I want to. Conney Kang is also a strong player in District 23. We knew each other in Long Beach Bridge Center and played in many tournament. Since she was also from Shanghai, she introduced me to a lot of Chinese players, including Weishu Wu, one of the best players in LA. Therefore in my mind, District 23 is a wonderful area which is super-suitable for junior bridge players.

BRIDGE STORIES *continued on page 18*



ORANGE COUNTY

REGIONAL

September 1-7, 2014

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Tournament Website: OrangeCountyRegional.com

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Five Days of Gold Rush 0-300/300-750 Pairs

Sunday Bracketed 0-2000 Round-Robin Teams

5.00 Self-Parking - District 22 NAP Final on Saturday, Sept. 6

Pairs Games

Charity Pairs Monday.....3:00 p.m. (note early start time)

Morning Side Game Series Tuesday thru Saturday.....10:30 a.m.

Afternoon Side Game Series Tuesday thru Saturday.....3:15 p.m.

Evening Side Game Series Monday thru Friday.....7:30 p.m.

Gold Rush Pairs (0-300/300-750) Tuesday thru Saturday.....10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) Tuesday thru Saturday10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

0-200 Pairs (single sessions) Tuesday thru Saturday.....10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Fast Pairs (2-sessions) Sunday.....10:30 a.m. & TBD

Knockout Teams

Evening Kickoff KO (3-sessions) Mon-Tue-Wed.....7:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Wednesday KO (4 sessions).....10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday KO (4 sessions).....10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Thursday Compact KO (2 sessions).....10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Friday-Saturday KO (4 sessions).....10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Saturday Compact KO (2 sessions).....10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Swiss Teams

Monday Charity Swiss (single session).....3:00 p.m. (note early start time)

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Swiss (single sessions).....3:15 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Saturday Swiss (single session).....3:15 p.m.

Wed/Thursday Evening Swiss (two sessions).....7:30 p.m.

Sunday Flight A/X Swiss 0-5000/5000+ (playthrough).....10:30 a.m.

Sunday Bracketed Round Robin Swiss (0-2000) (playthrough).....10:30 a.m.

Better Bridge Teacher Accreditation Program (TAP)

Monday, September 1 starting at 9:00 a.m. • Register by August 18

Contact Teri Atkinson, teriatak@sbcbglobal.net • 661 664-1678

Card Fees: \$12 for paid ACBL members, \$16 for others

Evening games Wednesday thru Friday cost only **\$2.00 for paid members!! (\$6.00 for others)**

Host Hotel: Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center
17900 Jamboree Road, Irvine CA 92614 • 888 230-4452

Bridge Rate: \$123 (mention ACBL D22 bridge)

Reserve online at: OrangeCountyRegional.com

Tournament Manager: Tom Shulman 702 301-5856 • tomshulman@gmail.com

Co-Chairman: Barbara Dunkley **Caddie Chairman:** Cedric Pang • e-mail: zillas722@netscape.net

Use our online Partnership Desk at OrangeCountyRegional.com to find partners & teammates

- Bridge rate cutoff date: August 11
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Around the Units in District 23

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

July Unit Game, July 11, 2014
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

Time to start thinking about our annual sectional, which will once again be held at the Scottish Rite Temple in Pasadena on August 8, 9, and 10. In addition to our usual contests, we will again have a stratified pairs game on Sunday to coincide with the traditional Swiss event.

The June Unit game was dedicated to the memory of Karen Alpert, a long-time member and past president of the Unit Board, who recently lost a 10-year battle with cancer.

Results of the game were as follows:

N/S	
A1	John Barrow & Karen Arase
A2	John Villalobos & Temo Arjani
A3	Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
A4	Peter Szecsi & Rae Murbach
E/W	
A1	Phil Dessert & Ann McClelland
A2	Bill Papa & Shui-Ming Huang
A3	Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A4	Jack Futrell & Gerry Belcher

Please join us on July 11 for our next Unit Game.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org
Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

May 25 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Kevin Lane/Steve Ramos, 2nd Sean Lui/Yehudi Hasin,

3rd Usha Bansal/Rob Preece, 4th Cathy Bauer/Jodi Petri, 5th Alyssa Kennedy/Robert Shore, 6th Eileen Nelson/Julie Cunningham. In the B flight overall: 2nd Joan Kaye/Renee Alpert, 3rd Anita and Jim Bent, 4th Sharon Biederman/Pamela Cole, 5th Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: In open games May 16 through June 15: In the afternoon game June 1 Kim Wang/Mark Tang had 70.11%, and in the evening game June 13 Eddie Gruber/Diane Starbuck had 72.63%. In the NLM game May 19 Lori Norman/Miriam Bertram had 70.83%. And in the 199er game June 7 Bill Heck/Jim Werner had 71.10%. Congratulations all four pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards May 16 through June 15: May 18 Lois Abramson/Jackie Hess won 3.03mp for 1st. May 19 George Welsh/John Killian won 3.68 for 1st. May 23 Verna Baccus/Al Beebe won 4.25mp for 1st, Lois Abramson/Charlotte Sturm 3.17mp for 2nd. May 24 Mike Wallace/Lorna Welsh won 3.03 for 1st. In the unit game May 25 Kevin Lane/Steve Ramos won 5.24mp for 1st, Sean Lui/Yehudi Hasin 2.93mp for 2nd. May 26 Verna Baccus/Steve Skinner won 4.96mp for 1st, Steve Ramos/Toni Morford 3.72mp for 2nd. In the evening game June 6 Cliff Goodrich/George Welsh won 4.17 for 1st, Earl VanDerVord/Sean Lui 3.13mp for 2nd. June 7 Earl VanDerVord/Sean Lui won 3.83mp for 1st. June 9 Suzie and John Hand won 4.67mp for 1st, Verna Baccus/Lorie Schramm 3.50mp for 2nd. June 10 Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson won 5.50 for 1st, Liang Fan/Charyl May-Duff 4.13mp for 2nd and Lowell Andrews/Baum Harris 3.09mp for 3rd. June 11 Ron Pennington/Diane Starbuck won 4.33mp for 1st. June 12 Cory and John Hand won 4.33mp for 1st. In the afternoon game June 13 Walt Schafer/Carmela Chiurazzi won 5.83mp for 1st, Mike Welsh/Robert Rothman 4.37 for 2nd, Steve Ramos/Lucy Gellner 3.28 for 3rd. And in the evening game Eddie Gruber/Diane Starbuck won 3.00mp for 1st. June 14 Jackie Hess/Kieth Hafen won 4.00mp for 1st, Judy Jones/Wayne Rapp 3.00mp for 2nd. June 15 Keith and Susan Hafen won 3.00 for 1st. Congratulations to all!

→

New Members: Ahmed Khalak. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Life Master: Melanie Smith. New Silver Life Master: Pamela Kirkner. New Diamond Life Master: Betty McClellan. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club: Unit Game June 22. Lunch at 12:30, game at 1 p.m.

North American Pairs qualifying second week June 23 through June 29. You can earn many extra points and maybe even qualify for next year's North American Pairs competition.

The LBBC will continue to hold games at regular the times during the Los Angeles Regional Bridge Tournament at Long Beach June 30 through July 3.

July 4th picnic lunch at 11:45am, game at 12:30. Celebrate Independence Day at the Long Beach Bridge Center. Red, white, and blue attire is in order for the day.

Districts 22-23 STaC week Extra \$1.00 charge per session for the STaC event.

Another North American Pairs qualifying week July 20 through July 26. You have another chance to earn many extra points and perhaps even qualify for next year's North American Pairs competition.

July 27 Unit Game. Lunch at 12:30pm, game at 1:00 pm. Future unit games will be played August 31, September 28, October 26, November 23, and December 21 (Christmas party at the LBBC).

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Unit rated game results: May 18 (Clubhouse #1) overall winners: Larry Slutsky/Bill Linskey 1 in A. Fern Dunbar/Rob Preece 2 in A. Linda Carder/Ruth Kaller 3 in A. Lynn Danielson/Midge Dunagan 4 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Fay Beckerman/Marilyn McClintock 5 in A. Verna Burns/Bee Kinman 6 in A. Joe FioRica/Chie Wickham 2 in B. Colleen Gardner/Joyce Henderson 3 in B. Sue Fardette/Vince Remedios 4 in B. Howard Smith/Dorothy Thompson 5 in B. Bobbie and Brett Johansson 2 in C.

Club Championship Results: June 12 (Clubhouse #3) overall winners Joyce Henderson/Rob Preece 1 in A, 1 in B. Fay Beckerman/Marilyn McClintock 2 in A. Fern and Hank Dunbar 3 in A. Monica Gettis/Peggi Spring 4 in A, 2 in B. Monica and Paul Honey 5 in A, 3 in B. Ron McClintock/Jack Miller 6 in A. Bill Linskey/

Howard Smith tid with Jane and Tom Gibbons for 4/5 in B. George Koehm/Dick Stammerjohn 2 in C. Mary Atwood/Julie Mills 3 in C.

Get Well Wishes: Happy to hear Connie Young is recovering from her knee surgery and that Joyce Newton is recovering from injuries for an automobile accident.

Upcoming Club Championship Dates: Clubhouse #3—Thurs July 17 and Monday September 15. Clubhouse #1—Friday July 11 and Saturday July 19.

Upcoming Unit Rated Game: Clubhouse #3 Thursday August 14.

If you have any news for next month's column please email me: jcj90740@gmail.com. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org.

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via Email: Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

This really happened 10 or 12 years ago in an open game at the Glen Rock Bridge Club Maywood, N.J. I picked up the following hand:

♠AKx ♥AKJx ♦AKJxxx ♣--

As I was licking my chops, my partner, in first seat, opened a Gambling 3NT, showing either a 7-card minor topped by AKQJ or an 8-card minor topped by AKQ.

Opponent on my right passed. Now what?

1st thought: I see 13 tricks....so 6 or 7 NT.

2nd thought: How do I get to partners hand?

3rd thought: I can't, in NT...

4th thought: I can, in clubs, his 7 or 8 card suit, by ruffing something.

5th thought: With my club void, I bid 7♣.

His hand: ♠xx ♥x ♦xx ♣AKQxxxxx

I ruffed the second heart to get to dummy and clubs behaved, making 7♣. Most pairs were down in 6NT, one was down in 3NT and one bid 5♣, making 7.

I played in a regional in Cherry Hill, N.J. sometime around 1992-1993 that was memorable for two reasons. One was the flat tire which occurred on the N.J. Turnpike. It looked as though I'd be stranded for →

hours waiting for AAA, and never make the event, when I was rescued by a 'Good Samaritan' who changed the tire and absolutely refused to accept any monetary reward for his help.

The second was as follows: during the play, an opponent made an error during the verbal auction (there were no bidding boxes), the director was called, who then made a ruling: we should back up the auction and re-bid it. This, even to someone as inexperienced as I was, seemed completely absurd. When I objected, he warned me to resume play without further discussion, as per his ruling, or be disqualified. We had a poor result on the board and, needless to say, I was pretty upset. Later in the session, the same director approached me, saying his ruling had been erroneous, and he was therefore adjusting our score to "average plus." I objected, saying that had it not been for his erroneous ruling, we should have had an absolute top. He replied that was not within his options and would not discuss it further.

Later between sessions, still upset, I approached another director and asked how and where does one file a written complaint about a ruling. He laughed, saying, "You don't need to file a written complaint. Just speak to Sol, the head director."

I found Sol, waited as he finished a discussion with another player, then slowly and carefully I outlined my complaint. He listened carefully to my tale of woe. I finished and, following my lawyer's instinct, began to repeat my complaint. Sol held up his hand, "I got it," he said. "Let me check it out. I'll get back to you."

Later, toward the end of the second session, Sol tapped me on the shoulder, leaned over and whispered, "Your score on that board has been revised. You did get an absolute top."

That decision by Sol solidified my faith in and love for the game. And, incidentally, it elevated us into a tie for 1st overall....my first tournament

→



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL

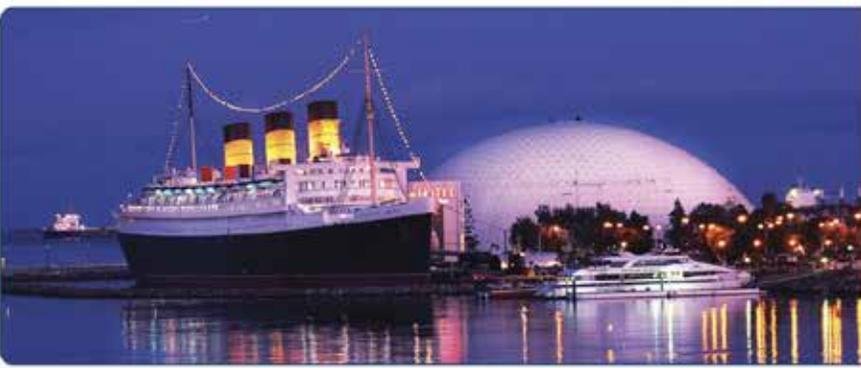
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- Five days of **GOLD RUSH** Pairs! Gold Point awards and no player will have more than 750 masterpoints!
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Upcoming

Arcadia Bridge Center: “Winners & Losers:” Sunday, July 7 at 1 p.m.; North American Pairs: Qualifying, Friday, July 11, at 7:15 p.m. and Tuesday July 29 at 7:15 p.m.

Long Beach Regional: June 30-July 6
There are no Unit Games this month.

Congratulations

70 % games: Dennis Semaine & John Waken, 70.25 at Arcadia, Beverly & Marty Weiss, 70.29 at Arcadia
New Life Master: Abby Triback at the Riverside Regional became a Life Master and also attained the Bronze Life Master level.

Unit Game Results

Flight A:

Joe Viol - Gerry Geremia
Lulu & Fredy Minter
Bill Ng- Matt Leung

Flight B:

Bill Dessert - James Rozzell
Mike Doll - Patrick Cardullo
Tim Parris - Gary Swinhert

Flight C:

Bob Reichmann - Mike Lo
Margie Hall – Ann Raymond
John Barrow – Bill Martin

Reminder: San Marino Monday games now being held at San Marino Community Church
Please support our Wednesday games at San Marino – 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Pomona Covina
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, July 19, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – No Game This Month!

That’s right, the monthly Individual won’t be held this month. It falls during the Bridge Week Regional, don’t you know. So we’ll see you in August.

The Unit game is back to its normal schedule, after

being somewhat discombobulated by the Longest Day events. Because that fell relatively late in the month, we don’t have the results yet – look for them next month.

The June Individual was captured by Richard Patterson, followed by Charlotte Capelle, Clint Lew and Rona Schneider (the latter two tying for third). Linda Tessier took fifth overall and first in flight C.

No promotions this month, but we welcome new unit member Betty Ellis.

The top game this month was a fine 69.71% effort by Penny Barbieri and Sandy Jones. Other first place finishers were Genise Hasan, Karen McCarthy, Dave Ruoff, Roger Boyar, Pat Radamaker, Richard Patterson, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Denise Morgan, Don Naf, Hanan Mogharbel, Charlotte Capelle, Billie Steiner, Amr Elghamry, Sofi Kasubhai, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, Herman Helber and Fred Theurkauf.

In tournament play, several of our members (and honorary members!) did well enough at the Riverside Regional. Sherman Gao took first overall in the Charity Pairs, third in a Gold Rush, and first in B in a stratified pairs; Dave and Susan Ruoff took first place in a side game, finishing tied for second (with each other, of course) in the overall for that side series; Your Correspondent and Claudia Cochran took a section top in a Gold Rush; Ray Malki took top honors in a 299-er game; Claudia Cochran and Esther Johnson took 3rd in a 299-er. If we missed your good results ... sorry about that.

Perhaps you remember the old Omar Sharif Bridge Circus of days gone by. Our hands-of-the-month – yes, there were a lot to choose from this month – are strictly from the Laurel & Hardy Bridge Circus. First up: you pick up the following somewhat drab collection: ♠ K975 ♥ JT ♦ 9863 ♣ Q54. Nothing to write home about there; low count and the most common shape. Take a look at the whole deal:

♠QT6432
♥Q542
♦--
♣AK9

♠K975
♥JT
♦9863
♣Q54

♠AJ8
♥AK97
♦AQT754
♣--

♠--
♥853
♦KJ32
♣JT8732

That's right. Three voids in one deal. On this one, who can make what, is a mystery yet to be solved.

Our next gem is even better... if you like this sort of thing. As dealer, not vulnerable, you pick up: ♠KT83 ♥A7532 ♦A2 ♣98. Hmmmmm.

You'd kind of like to open this hand, but you don't have a Flannery bid available. And if you open the "normal" 1♥, you're really going to have trouble with your rebid (unless partner is kind enough to bid 1♠ or raise hearts). One holder of these cards found a most creative solution. He took the ♣9, stuck it in with the spades, and opened 1♠. The kibitzer nearly fell out of his chair (yeah, it was *that* kind of game). It gets better: LHO called 2♥! After a somewhat tortured auction, LHO played 3♥ (don't ask), which goes down only one.

Finally, as dealer, vulnerable, you pick up: ♠T9732 ♥AK ♦AT983 ♣8.

Do you open? Three quick tricks, two five card suits. Flawed, but what the heck, you have the boss suit. With the opponents silent, you open 1♠, partner says 1NT, you bid your diamonds, all pass. The opening lead is the ♠A. Pard faces a singleton spade and king-third in trumps. Not bad. You can get a black suit cross ruff going. You call for dummy's spade and... RHO shows out! Arrrrrrrgh! Yes, spades are 7-0. Tough. One down on reasonable defense. At most other tables, the contract was 3♠ – by the opponents – down one. Bridge is such an *easy* game.

Quote for the month: "I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much." (Mother Teresa)

Until next month...

Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

The Worldwide Bridge Contest game for our unit was held Saturday, June 7 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club. This annual contest is held at clubs all around the world and had over 5000 pairs. First place went to Rand Pinsky and Kathy Swaine with 59.9%, second place went to Paula Olivares and Vibeke Gilbreath with 58.85%. Third place went to David White and Charles Morrin with 57.87%. There was a tie for fourth and fifth places with 57.29% that went to the pairs of Dan Spector/Barbara York and George MacDonald/Russ Buker. Official results can be found on the EcatsBridge

website.

Unit 556 held it's first NAP Qualifying on June 17th at the Valencia Bridge Studio. The North/South winners were John Langer and Arif Shah with 60.42% and the East/West winners were Roshen Hadulla and Rand Pinsky with 58.84%. The next NAP qualifying will be at the Friendly Bridge Club on Monday, July 28th. Please RSVP to Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net).

Upcoming STaC. games: Joshua Tree Bridge Club will hold two STaC games in July. They will be on Friday July 11th at 12:30 PM and Sunday July 13th at 1:00 PM. For more information, visit their website at joshuatreebc.com or call (661) 274-0959.

The Santa Clarita – Antelope Valley Unit will hold it's second Mentor Game on Tuesday, August 19 at the Valencia Bridge Studio in Santa Clarita. The purpose of the game is to help the intermediate/newcomer players transition into regular duplicate games. Anyone interested in participating can contact either Roy Ladd or Beth Morrin (morrin@sbcglobal.net).

Congratulations to Ruth Baker who made Life Master in April and Rich Kemmerer who recently made Silver Life Master. Henry Roediger made Life Master at the Riverside Regional. He and Sharry Vida won the Wednesday Gold Rush pairs with 61.76% and won 11.13 gold points.

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568
SBBC: www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

District 22/23 STAC: Monday, July 7-13
NAOP Qualifier: Tuesday, July 8, 11:30 a.m.
Club Championship: Monday, July 14, 11:30 a.m.
Club Championship: Saturday, July 19, 2:00 p.m.
Club Championship: Wednesday, July 23, 11:30 a.m.
NAOP Qualifer: Wednesday, July 30, 11:30 a.m.
Friday Night game on July 18

Club Championships

The Club Championship on June 6 was led by Kim Wang/Rocky Williams in Flight A with MaryBelle →

Hoenig/Stanley Greengard topping Flight B and Irene Rosenberg/Jan Hettick ahead in Flight C. The Club Championship on June 16 resulted in a tie between Terry Hane/Fran Israel and Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott for Flight A honors with Arlene Greengard/Ernie Frank winning Flight B.

Team Winners

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

- May 20: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio/Jim Dutton,
Bronck Felczer
- May 27 : Dolly and Bruce Weiner, Krystyna and
Dennis Hollingworth
- June 3 : Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Steve Ramos,
Ed Piken
- June 10: Three-way tie
Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Steve Ramos,
Wayne Otsuki
Gabriela Jackson, Harry Wessells, Mark
Raggio, Stanley Greengard
Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema,
John J. McDermott
- June 17: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Ed Piken, Steve
Ramos

A Hand To Remember

This hand came up recently at the Long Beach Bridge Center. You hold a rather undistinguished collection of something like ♠7 ♥42 ♦532 ♣AJT5432 with nobody vul at matchpoints. Without telling you the final contract guess the two most valuable cards in your hand. Your RHO opens 1♠. You try 3♣ and LHO bids 4♠. Your partner bids 5♥ passed around to LHO who bids 5♠. Pard doesn't give up and tries 6♥. The answer to my original question might be easier now but what do you think the two most valuable cards are in your hand? The ♣A of course and the ♥4. Pard held ♠-- ♥AQJT987653 ♦Axx ♣ so the ♥4 provides an entry for a diamond pitch making 6♥. In actuality most everybody in the room took a 6♠ sacrifice going down one, sometimes doubled.

GUV Memorial Award

Last month I visited my bridge playing sister Emily and brother-in-law Jon in New York. Not too far away from the hick town in which they reside there just happened to be a Regional going on in the rather nice locale of Saratoga Springs. So of course we all went.

I grew up in New York and am old enough to say that way back then I was a die in the wool Brooklyn Dodger baseball fan. Being a Brooklyn fan in those days fan naturally meant you were a Yankee hater. All the frustrating World Series losses in those years in which the Yankees lucked out against a better team were the height of frustration to us Bum fans.

To be sure me and pard didn't set the world on fire in Saratoga but I have one very pleasant memory. During the last round of a pair game an opponent sat down wearing a Yankees T-Shirt. I couldn't resist telling him he seemed like a nice guy but he had the same character flaw as my brother-in-law... he was a Yankee fan. In memory of the "Boys of Summer" I can't resist bragging that we took three straight cold tops off the Yankee fan which vaulted us up to something like 5th place in the section.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

A Legend Walks Among Us

Break out your checkbooks and save the date for a special opportunity. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on August 2, World Champion and Grand Life Master Eddie Kantar will give a lecture, to be followed by a light lunch and a bridge game. The price for this unforgettable day of bridge will be \$45, and seating is limited to 15 tables, so make your reservations early.

Comings and Goings

We are saddened to report that Ed Feldmann will no longer be sharing his warmth and wisdom at our tables. We are sure, though, that he is enjoying sharing his numerous gifts in his new surroundings. Nevertheless, he will be missed by those who have yet to share his journey. Our condolences to Ed's family and friends. On a happier note, we're glad to welcome Elliott Marshall back to the table. →

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

For the second straight year, the local unit of the ABA hosted an ABA-ACBL game. For the second straight year, the hospitality will be a challenge to match, but we're going to have fun trying. For the second straight year, the bridge was preceded by a feast. And for the second straight year, I'm already counting the days until the next installment. Winning the open game was the pair of Jordan Chodorow and Adrienne Green. The 299er winners were Katherine Weisberg and Joanie Pepper.

The Tournament Trail

This month's tournament report begins in the Pacific Northwest, at the Oregon High Desert Regional. Roger and Becky Clough turned in a hat trick, picking up wins in the Wednesday-Thursday morning Swiss Teams, the Thursday A/B Open Pairs, and the Mt. Jefferson morning Compact Knockout Teams. Moving down to Riverside, Peter Benjamin won the Wednesday A/B Pairs event, while Alyssa Turner and Rick Kennedy won their bracket of the Thursday Compact Knockout Teams event. Mike Savage went to the Temecula Sectional to win the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs and then headed to the Balboa Sectional for a win in the Saturday Swiss Teams. Also at Balboa, Liang Fan's team won the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams.

And of course, it's not too late to get eligible for the North American Open Pairs competition, which competes in three flights, culminating in a flighted final at the Spring Nationals in New Orleans. Look for a qualifying game at one of the local clubs in July or August. Another event to look forward to: the Thursday night team game at Beverly Hills on July 31 will be a Unit Championship.

Bonus Bridge

I didn't write up any hands last month, so let's include two with this month's column. In our first hand, all white at matchpoints, after partner, in second seat, opens 1♦ and RHO competes with a Michaels 2♦ bid, you double of 2♦, showing interest in penalizing at least one major. LHO admits to some hearts and you end up in 3NT, getting the opening lead of the heart 9.

Dummy: ♠K86 ♥A ♦KJ8643 ♣AJ4

Declarer: ♠AT52 ♥KT5 ♦A92 ♣Q75

You win trick one on dummy perforce and cross to your hand with the diamond A, noting the fall of the 10 on your right. You decide to run the ♦9 and LHO errs subtly by failing to cover as RHO dumps a spade. Can you take full advantage of the error?

Because you're still in your hand, you can take the club finesse, which wins. You cash the ♣A (RHO discarding a heart) and then run the diamonds, coming down to four cards in each hand. When you cash dummy's last diamond, you'll start the trick with the ♠AT, the ♥KT, and the ♣Q. If RHO keeps both heart honors, you can spare the ♥T, which has done its job because RHO is now down to 2 spades. When you cross to your hand with the ♠A (which you didn't need to use earlier because of RHO's failure to cover the diamond) you can cash the heart K. LHO needs to keep the → ♣K, so even if he started life with a spade guard, he doesn't have room to keep it. Dummy's ♠K8 will take the last two tricks, making seven. That's how Kevin Lane played the hand, for a well deserved top.

In our second hand, your LHO plays 3NT after you double a 4th suit forcing 2♣ bid. Partner dutifully leads the ♣2 (low from any 3-card holding when you haven't supported partner's suit) and you see the following:

Dummy: ♠A982 ♥K42 ♦A542 ♣Q5

You: ♠654 ♥Q985 ♦J ♣AJT84

Declarer errs by playing low from dummy and your 10 forces the K. Declarer crosses to the ♥K and finesses with the J. She returns to dummy with the diamond A and finesses again, cashing the fourth heart as partner discards a diamond and a club. Then declarer thinks a while and leads a club into your established suit, partner following.

When you cash the third club, partner discards the ♠7. On the fourth club, partner discards the ♠K! Did you cash the fifth club? I hope not. If you do, partner has no winning discard because you've subjected him to a suicide squeeze. Instead, I shifted to a spade and declarer won dummy's A in order to take a futile diamond finesse. (You'd have been better off shifting to a spade immediately, before squeezing partner out of his last safe exit card. Declarer could have endplayed partner in spades, forcing him to exit a diamond for a free finesse.)

ACBL Info Fair

This year in Las Vegas management is hosting information fair. It will take place on Saturday July 19. It is a free event and there will be team members on hand to answer any questions you may have regarding marketing, clubs, membership, ACBLscore, education, rulings, and more. The fair is open from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Las Vegas.

I also hope I will see you all before at our Los Angeles Regional in Long Beach which runs June 30 – July 6.

As always, if you want to reach me, write me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net.



Stephanie Young and Rand Pinsky

District 23 ACBL Goodwill Committee Appointments

1957

- *Mrs. Arnold Kauder
- *Barry J. Crane

1958

- *Helen Cale, Glendale
- *Robert Hawk, Pasadena

1959

- *Augusta Oppenheim, Los Angeles
- *Milton Vernoff, Los Angeles

1960

- *Mrs. Lewis Mathe, Los Angeles
- *Ralph Kempner, Santa Monica

1961

- *Mrs. Morris Portugal, Los Angeles
- *Morris Portugal, Los Angeles

1962

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- *Kelsey Petterson, Bellflower

1963

- *Bessie Stanley, Pacific Pal.
- G.J. Sandusky, Los Angeles

1964

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- *Mark Layton, Sherman Oaks

1965

- *Eileen Weingart, Claremont
- *Martin Kivel, Pasadena

1966

- *Mabs Askew, Downey
- *Lewis Mathe, Los Angeles

1967

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- Jules Farell, Beverly Hills

1968

- *Mrs. Paul Wayte, Whittier
- *Paul Wayte, Whittier

1969

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- Robert Landy, Los Angeles

1970

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1971

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- Roxy R. Violin, Culver City

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- *Tom Stoddard, Los Angeles

1973

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- *Donald D. Lundgren, San Gabriel

1974

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- *R.W. Goode, Los Angeles

1975

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- *Herbert S. Nusbaum, Los Angeles

1976

- Mrs. N.E. Hargrovenoga Park
- *Eilif Andersen, Los Angeles

1977

- *Mrs. Fred A. Maier, Santa Monica
- Fred A. Maier, Santa Monica

1978

- *Lilyan Eisenstein, Beverly Hills
- *Robert Eisenstein, Beverly Hills

1979

- *Mrs. Melrose Colvin, Los Angeles
- *Mel Morris, San Juan Capistrano

1980

- Donald L. Bond, Lancaster
- Beverly Bond, Lancaster

* *deceased*



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1990 Lois Violin, Tarzana *Trudi (Mayer) Nugit, Bel Air Marshall Kuschner, Los Angeles *James Thornbrough, Norwalk		
1991 Mrs. Pat A. Abbey, La Canada *Maida Maynard, Los Angeles		

2009
 Howard Einberg, Los Angeles
 William Schreiber, Van Nuys

2010
 Ellen Anten, Encino
 Mike Savage, Signal Hill

2011
 Roy Wilson, West Covina
 Ellen Kent, Marina Del Rey

2012
 Kevin Lane, Long Beach
 Rebecca Clough, Culver City

2013
 John Jones, Santa Fe Springs
 Leo Bell, Long Beach

2014
 Betty Jackson, Seal Beach
 Penny Barbieri, San Diams

Additional members
 *Helen Cale, Glendale;
 *Louise Freed, Los Angeles
 *Peggy Hawthorne, Tarazana
 *Mabs Jepsen, Bellflower
 Morris Jones, Monrovia
 Marcie Landry-Evans, Lakewood
 Syd Levey, Valley Village
 *Eugenie Mathe, Van Nuys
 Barbara McKissick, Chatsworth
 *Dale Nelson, Seal Beach
 *Ruth Novak, Woodland Hills
 E D Reiter, Glendale
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 Lois Violin, Woodland Hills CA

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL
 June 30-July 6, 2014

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 1:15 pm Pro-Am game. *Registration required for both.*

For more information & details go to:
LosAngelesRegional.com

Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin, ahoneydo@aol.com 310-720-6050

WEST LA continued from page 11

Welcome Mat

Florence Cooper and Mary Anne Finnance join the ACBL's ranks this month. Transferring into our Unit are Jordan Kuschner, Sandy Schmitz, and Gail Stone. Please welcome them when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Ruth Shayne won a pair of club championships at Beverly Hills last

month, playing with Harriet Dana and with Malin Memmat. Also winning club championships were Paul Markarian and Peter Knee, Sydell Aronson and Glenn Dicus, and Arthur Cohen and Sam Namer. Racking up 70% games were Paul Markarian and Peter Knee, as well as Myrna Blaufarb and your Humble Scribe.

Moving over to Barrington, Danny Kleinman and Beverly Goldstein picked up a club championship, while Aram Bedros, Paul Smith, Mike Mikyska, and Marty Blain hit the 70% mark.

Climbing the Ladder

It looks like people were keeping their powder dry this month for Long Beach. Our newest Junior Masters are Peg Burkhardt and Rita Schneider.

Richard Gliksman has reached Silver Life Master status. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

www.acbldistrict23.org

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

Panelists: Mitch Dunitz, Jeff Goldsmith, John Jones, Jill Meyers,
David Sacks and Mike Shuster

1

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
?			4♠

You South hold:

♠K ♥K8742 ♦A4 ♣AQT85

What call do you make?

Dunitz: Pass. I'm going low. Close decision as double could reap nice plus as long as partner doesn't bid 5♦. If the ♠K were somewhere else, I would bid.

Goldsmith: Double. Tough choice between 4NT and double. The hand looks better suited for defense than offense despite the 5-5 shape, so I'll start with double (takeout).

Jones: Double. There are conflicting principles on this problem. 5-5 hands generally should try to bid and play the hand, but with a singleton king in an opponent's suit, they are more valuable on defense. If I bid 4NT (two places to play), we're committed to playing the hand, whereas if I pass, we will surely defend 4♠. So double is an in-between action where we defend frequently, but partner may bid at the five level. This is a flawed action because of my lack of a third diamond, however it's the only way to get partner involved in the decision. I will pass if partner pulls to 5♦. Sometimes I'll get lucky and partner will bid one of my suits, or 4NT (two places to play).

Meyers: 4NT. I'm two suited, so I'm not going to

pussyfoot around and pass. *[Nobody has ever accused you of that!]*

Sacks: Pass. I have no problem with those that bid 4NT or double. Put the Ks value in another suit and then it mandatory to bid rather than pass. If you double, what do you lead versus 4♠X? *[I might just close my eyes and imagine I have the ♠2 rather than the K.]*

Shuster: Double. To be honest, I'm more worried about a losing pass from partner than 5♦, but 4NT is hardly a panacea - sorting strain and level out over 4NT is always problematic, and it bypasses our most likely plus score - defending 4♠. Pass could easily be right, but the ♠K doesn't have to be garbage, right? And doubled overtricks are only worth 100 a pop at this point.

Partner may have a tough time acting over 4♠. My rule of thumb is the hand with shortness in the opponents' suit should strain to act. Some treat double as just a strong balanced hand as opposed to pure takeout. Given that, 4NT seems right.



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL

Long Beach, CA

June 30 - July 6, 2014



2

IMPs
EW vul

South	West	North	East
3♥ ?	1♠ Pass	Pass 4♥	2♦* 4♠

*game forcing

You, South, hold: ♠732 ♥KQJ9752 ♦4 ♣65 What call do you make?

Dunitz: Pass. I described my hand and will leave final decision to partner.

Goldsmith: 5♥. 3♥ is beyond pusillanimous and 4♥ seems normal, but 5♥ might be better still since I am probably going to bid it at some point. Doing so immediately puts maximum pressure on the opponents. Now, bidding 5♥ has to be a good save. They probably aren't moving toward slam, but if they are, 5♥ takes away key card.

Jones: 5♥. When I work with the students, I try hard to teach them not to “re-empt”: to bid again voluntarily after preempting. I hope they don't read this month's column and lecture me. Since I might have bid 4♥ the last time and my small spades are unlikely to cause the opponents any trouble, I'll gamble that we're unlikely to beat 4♠ even if we could, because partner is unlikely to lead the diamond ace, even if he/she has it. Also, I'm creating a forcing pass situation, but at the same time making it difficult for the opponents to show or ask for controls.

Meyers: Pass. I already preempted - has something changed? [*Some would suggest 3♥ was pusilani-footing*]

Sacks: 5♦. We have no defense but they don't know that. If they think I have first round diamond control (void) they may not bid over partners 5♥. Partner may also have the ♦A and then heck I may end up directing the defense.

Shuster: Pass. Don't I have an exactly normal hand for the 3♥ call? [*Some would say it's timid*] Partner was best placed to make

a final decision for our side so it's their job to blow out spades or Blackwood, if needed.

Yes, 3♥ was a wimpy call at the previous turn. Given that, am I going to ignore the information I now have? Opposite as little as ♠xx ♥Axx ♦xxxx ♣xxxx, I have only 5 losers. I love David Sacks' 5♦ call! If partner has the ♦A, we might even beat 5♠.



September 1-7, 2014

Maritha Pottenger's

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Maritha's e-mail: maritha@pacbell.net

Have Questions?

How can I win Gold Points? Do I need to pre-register to play?
How many games do I have to play in? How long does a game last?
What is a convention card? What do I do if I don't have a partner?
Do I have to be an expert to play in this tournament?
How do I know which event I should play in?





We'll help you! Go to OrangeCountyRegional.com
and click on Tournament Help-Line. *We've got answers!*

3
 IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♣ ?	1♠	Dbl	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠AKJ9 ♥K32 ♦7 ♣KQ965
What call do you make?

Dunitz: 2♥. Excellent problem! I would opt to play in the Moysian 4-3 fit. If partner raises or cue bids, I'll jump to 3NT.

Goldsmith: Pass. It could easily be wrong, but no bid fits, so I might as well go for 300.

Jones: 2♥. All actions are flawed, but this has the advantage that partner will know of the heart support.

Meyers: 2NT. Nothing is perfect.

Sacks: 2♥. Best of a bad lot, tad strong on values but tad short on hearts.

Shuster: 3♥. No call really fits. The primary candidates are Pass, 2♣, 2♥ and 3♥. Pass is possible with this shape, but the honor texture is wrong to commit to defending at the 1-level opposite an unlimited partner. This hand doesn't need much for game with the diamond ruffs coming in the short hand, so I take the aggressive view. If someone holds five hearts, I hope it is partner.

As the panelists note, there is no bid that fits this hand well. I would opt for the INT underbid since I would play normal methods (XYZ) over that and I think we could still land in the right spot.

District 23 Rank Changes May 2014

Junior Master

Ralph Brunson
Carolyn Dubow
Mary Anne Finnance
Tom Keese
Helen Lam
Diana Mitchell

Club Master

Peggy Diller
Jim Keese
Howard Simon
Tim Wright
Hanna Zhuang

Sectional Master

Henry Ralph Abouaf
Cheri Bitar
Marilyn Blank
Laura Gastelum

Christine Hilger

Judy Husted
Patricia Martin
Joyce Roberts
Ronnie Stabler
Sandra Vogel

Regional Master

Liang Fan
Richard Halverstadt
Anand Kumar
Sara Wetherbee

NABC Master

Richard Bakovic
Usha Bansal
Stanley Majcher, M.D.
Joanie Pepper
Eric Chenteh Tang

Life Master

Robert Bakovic
Robert Fieselman
Berry Wilkinson

Bronze Master

Barbara Harris
William Smith

Silver Master

Anna Corea
Lorraine Kammerman
Clinton Lew
Cheryl Loggins

Gold Life Master

William Wilson

Diamond Life Master

Betty McClellan, Arthur Zail

4

MPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
Pass	4♠	4NT	2♠
?			Pass

You, South, hold: ♠92 ♥8 ♦T42 ♣AQJT973
What call do you make?

Dunitz: 5♣. I'm going to keep my seat belt on in case partner has both red suits.

Meyers: 5♣. I have no guarantee I can make 6, but I think I have as good a chance of making 6♣ as 5♦.

Goldsmith: 5♦. Partner almost certainly has the red suits with something such as ♠x ♥AKxxx ♦KQJxxx ♣x at this vulnerability. 6♣ could be in the picture, but it seems more likely that we should stop in 5♦. 5♣ has the advantage that if partner will get to play 5♦. On the other hand, maybe he has hearts and clubs, say x AKJ10x Ax Kxxxx, in which case we'll get to 6♣ if I start with 5♦. If he has the minors (yeah, right), I probably did the wrong thing.

Sacks: 5♣. The question comes later. Do I bid (and what) over partner's equal level conversion to 5♦?

Jones: 5♣. In the unlikely event that one of partner's suits is clubs, I want to be in 6♣. Otherwise, I won't hang partner for bidding. 5♦ is possible, but I want partner to be the declarer to prevent a trump lead through the strong trump hand. I'll pass a 5♦ correction by partner.

Shuster: 5♣. Not enough to bid slam confidently even if one of partner's suits is clubs, so I choose to try to stop at the 5-level. 5♦ has two downsides - partner might hold the minors and pass or partner could decide to raise to 6♦ thinking we have stronger diamond orientation than we actually do (partner would think a club void is good since you preferred diamonds!)

It seems likely partner has diamonds and hearts, so they will usually "correct" 5♣ to 5♦. It's unclear how good this hand is opposite the red suits, so conservative is probably the right way to go.

BRIDGE STORIES *continued from page 4*

I belong to unit 559. It is located in a peaceful area offering players a great experience in bridge playing. They offered me a free game when I moved to their unit, which delighted me. I also played in Downey sometimes on Wednesdays. The manager Marcy is nice and hilarious. With less than ten dollars, we get a lot of masterpoints in a single game. However, the club that I played most is Long Beach Bridge Club. I play there every Friday with Charyl. They are famous for

their Friday games and they serve excellent brownies and ice creams! They also give me a junior discount every time I play, showing their efforts in encouraging junior players to keep practicing.

I never worried about my life master rank. I am confident that I will get there very soon. However, my goal is to become a player with professional skills, but do not play as their professional career, just like Weishu Wu. On my business card, I consider myself as a "semi-professional" bridge player. That's what I want to be. I think the ACBL

and District 23 are doing a great job. They helped me get a discount on membership, and they offered me free tuition to the Teacher Accreditation Program. I believe as long as I continue player and always also remember my school work, I will fulfill my dream very soon. And I hope I can be a great teacher who can cultivate a lot of strong bridge students some day. Maybe I can also work for ACBL someday.

*Liang Fan
Regional Master*



South	West	North	East
		1♣	Pass
1♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠3 ♥AK872 ♦KQ7 ♣KJ98
What call do you make?

Dunitz: 3NT. The conventional answer is double. I have a game going hand, but don't know what to do. However, have you seen what crap people have to bid 3♠ at favorable vulnerability these days? My RHO didn't raise so partner has some beef in the spade suit. Can we collect 800? I have great admiration for 3NT with this hand... and if I'm wrong, it's only half a board and there will lots of laughs at the bar after the session.

Goldsmith: Double. What am I missing? [*Hopefully not your partner.*]

Jones: Double. This is an action double in the modern world, showing values and asking partner to make an intelligent decision. [*I could insert a wisecrack here about partners, but since John is a frequent one, I'll refrain.*] If partner passes or bids 3NT we are done. If partner pulls to 4♥, I will cuebid 4♠, but won't drive to slam. If partner pulls to 4♣, I will bid 6♣.

Meyers: 4♣. That has to bring clubs into the picture. [*Amen, the doublers just pass the buck back to partner who will be stymied with a hand such as ♠Axxx ♥Qx ♦Jxx ♣AQxx*]

Sacks: 5♣. I guess 4♣ should be forcing here but since I do not have that agreement I will bid 5 and hope that is the right place to land. The Gunga Dins that bid 4♠ have better understandings of subsequent bid than me.

Shuster: Double. In the modern style, whatever that is in 2014.

I usually choose double when it is a logical alternative, but here I think it might just create a bigger problem for partner. I like Jill's 4♠ bid, as the Hall of Fame inductee continues her trend of aggressive bidding. I also like Mitch's 3NT call. He's obviously channeling the late Marshall Miles.