

# Southern California Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Taffy, Chowder, and Bridge

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



What do saltwater taffy and clam chowder have in common? They are both symbolic of Seaside, Oregon, the site for an ACBL regional bridge tournament held late September or early October every year. Seaside, a small town located just 90 minutes from Portland on the beautiful

Oregon coast, has been a popular ocean resort for over a century due primarily to its spectacular ocean views, miles of public beach, unique natural setting and mild ocean climate.

After the tourist rush of the summer and after kids have gone back to school, several thousand bridge players descend upon the little coastal town. Players stay in hotels, timeshares, and house/condo rentals at much lower rates than high season. There are a plethora of reasonable restaurants, many of whom offer clam chowder. If you want upscale dining, it is available a short drive away in Cannon Beach, another resort town along the Oregon coast.

Bridge is good. If you enjoy playing Knockouts Teams, a new one begins each day with enough brackets so everyone can compete with other players at their level. Gold Rush pair games are frequent. Saltwater taffy is available before every session. This year the table count was over 2700, more than twice what our tournaments have been running, despite the weather. The weather forecast was for rain nearly every day which was spot on. One day as the water was coming down in buckets, I could only ponder how wasted that rain was in Oregon, when we in Los Angeles need it so badly. I had purchased a bright yellow rain slicker at the Seaside discount mall last year - I was sure glad I packed it.

But rain aside, there were days of intermittent sunshine and time for other activities and many years

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## ACBLScore+ Update

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Last month I reported on the termination of the ACBL+ program. In discussing the points made by Management, I discussed the intent of adding new features and enhancing ACBLScore. I solicited your comments on what features you would like to be integrated into

the program. I then stated that I would submit them to Management for their comment.

The following are the suggestions/questions that I received. And I still request your additional comments. I especially would like club owners and directors to let me know what new features they would like to make the Club Mode of ACBLScore better.

- What specific ACBLScore features and enhancements are scheduled to be added within the a) Next 6 months, b) Next 12 months, and c) next 18 months?
- Is the "Boarding Pass" concept a new feature that will be developed within the next 18 months.
- Are electronic entries a concept that will be developed within the next 18 months.
- Is making BridgeMates functionally for Swiss events a concept to be developed within the next 18 months.
- Is making ACBLScore compatible for wifi display on monitors a concept that will be developed within the next 18 months.
- Using the Club Mode of ACBLScore, when

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we have been to the tournament when it hardly rained at all. Some of the possible activities that might interest you are:

**Walk the Promenade.** The 1.5-mile oceanfront Promenade and its famous automobile Turnaround at the beach date from the 1920s. The Prom is the perfect place for a morning jog, a casual walk, a bicycle ride or just to people watch.

**Feed the Seals.** Seals have been entertaining visitors for over 70 years at the Seaside Aquarium. Each of the seals has developed its own routine to encourage you to toss a bit of chopped fish its direction. The aquarium also features live displays of Northwest marine life

and a hands-on discovery center for kids.

**Watch a sunset.** Enjoy vibrant colors as the sun sets on the Pacific with majestic Tillamook Head as a backdrop. Watch the spectacle from your room, the Prom, the beach or an oceanfront restaurant.

**Watch for Wildlife.** Go bird watching, photograph a herd of elk or watch migrating Gray Whales. The Necanicum estuary, just north of downtown Seaside, has more than 20 acres of green space with public access and great bird watching.

**Hike or Bike.** The region offers numerous hiking and biking trails through forests, on mountains, or along the ocean at varying levels for everyone.

Roger and I enjoy attending regionals in interesting places.

This often means places somewhat difficult to get to. Seaside is not bad– you fly to Portland and drive your rental car for less than two hours. Over the years, we have made many friends in each of these unique places and look forward to visiting and playing with them each year. What more could you ask for? Good bridge (or not), good friends, and interesting places to explore. What a life!

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entering names, a search of a name can only be done by last name. Can a feature be added to allow for a name search by first name?

- Finally, two questions have been raised that do not itself address new features and enhancements, but have been the subject of discussion. This is an area and subject that I have absolutely no knowledge. The questions are: “What are the benefits or detriments to releasing ACBLScore as an open source?” and “Does the ACBL own the ACBLScore+ software?”

I believe that the answers to these questions are not just a yes or no answer. I am sure that there are legal issues involved that are complex and require confidentially at this time. I state this as my opinion as an attorney for many years and not from any “inside information” provided to me about ACBLScore+.

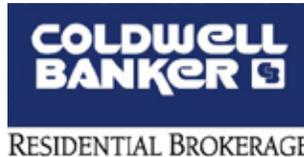
I will continue to monitor this matter and will provide updates when there is something concrete to report.

As always, if you want to reach me, write me at [Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net).

**Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier  
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## Bridge Stories

*This reoccurring series in the Southern California Bridge News includes short bridge stories from District 23 players who earned a new rank last month, as collected by Rand Pinsky*



I cannot be more thankful and humbled by the friends who have helped me achieve this goal not to mention my dear wife who has been an inspiration and wonderful mentor. Her patience and skill has been the driving force for me. I began playing serious bridge approximately 18 months ago learning and adding various conventions and techniques. During the subsequent months my wife and I played in several tournaments including the Kewbid Palm Springs Regional 2013 where our team won 1<sup>st</sup> place in the KO team competition and placed in the Open Pairs accumulating a total of 7.16 Gold and 6.22 Red points.

We have since been active in numerous local and other tournament events-Crystal Cruise with Roberta and Arnold Salob and the Vegas Flare NABC 2014 adding additional Black and Red points to our rank. I have also been playing regularly at a local club and find playing bridge not only stimulating but challenging.

It has taken me many hours of study in addition to reviewing hands and games in order to understand and compete. I have found that frequent playing and an "honest" communication/understanding are the requirements for success in winning bridge. Lastly, what has been encouraging has been the fact that we novices will make mistakes but just keep playing and reviewing. Errors can be the greatest teachers!

*Don Adler  
Club Master*

## District 23 Rank Changes August 2014

### Junior Master

Lorna Belman  
Marion Hogue  
Carl Hulick  
Nancy Hulick  
Laura Jimenz  
Linda Kilpatrick  
Johanna Kuang  
Stephen Lebowitz  
Russell Lefevre  
Don Levine  
Jerry Moore  
Lynn Rapaport  
Jill Richling-Thesma

### Club Master

Laurence Abramson  
Don Adler  
Harris Blumenthal  
Elaine Caplow  
Rohini De Silva, Esq  
Carol Decordova  
Joseph Duke  
Robert Kofnovec  
Joshua Kuschner  
Stephanie Lugash  
Jim Mercer  
Tony Mirchandani  
Ann Nemerouf  
Angela Peters  
Marjorie Preston  
Kathy Soltwedell  
Inga Stoops

### Sectional Master

Robert Lapin

Beverly McLeod  
Michael Perera  
Stephen Rosen  
Shoreh Toufanian

### Regional Master

Patricia Bessone  
Elizabeth Biggins  
Roberta Brown  
Nancy Guenther  
Barry Heller  
Gerald Ketz  
Bruce Schelden  
Jane Winston

### NABC Master

Dalia Hernandez

### Life Master

Linda Krause  
Marcia Meyerson

### Bronze Master

Sandy Bernard  
Jean Ingram  
Marcia Meyerson

### Silver Life Master

Michael Grant  
Cecilia Guttenberg

### Gold Life Master

Robert Levy

### Diamond Life Master

Peter Knee

**For the latest  
District 23 news:**

**[www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)**



# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

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

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Pat Abbey, long-time owner of the Glendale Regency Bridge Club and stalwart supporter of bridge events in Southern California, on August 20, 2014. The huge turn-out of bridge players at her funeral is testament to the affection we all share for Pat and our appreciation for her tireless efforts on behalf of the club, Unit 553, and bridge players throughout the region. Our condolences to her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

All games at the Glendale Regency Bridge Club will continue as scheduled for the foreseeable future, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Adam Barron and Merry Besvold to keep the club up and running. We owe them our thanks and, most importantly, our attendance, patience, and support. Pat's shoes are not easy to fill.

Please note the new phone number for the Regency: 818-869-4386. It will make things so much easier for the directors and smoother for all of us if you let us know when to expect you (and for regulars, when you will miss a game).

There was no Unit game in September, as it would have conflicted with a celebration of Pat's life. Our next Unit game, on October 11, will be a memorial to Pat Abbey. Please join us and please let us know that you're coming so that we can arrange for enough tables, chairs, and food.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

Unit website: [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
Club website: [www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

**August 31 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Kiyo Nagaishi/Pamela Cole, 2nd Sharon and Al Appel, 3rd Betty Witteried/Christine Frumen, 4th Bob Lavery/ Jackie Hess, 5th Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 6th Keith and Susan Hafen. In the B flight overall Paul Pettler/Hashim Mahmood were 5th. In the C flight overall Julie Cunningham/ Janet Logan were 2nd. And in the NLM overall Lynne Danielson/Shirley Knopf were 1st, Martin Lipman/Alan Olschwang were 2nd. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games:** In open games August 20 Earl VanDerVord/Jo Mellis had 70% and Sept 1 John Melis/KayTseng had 71%. Congratulations to both pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards** August 16 through Sept 15: August 24 Jo and John Melis won 3.50mp for 1st. In the Unit Game August 31 Kiyo Nagaishi/Pamela Cole won 3.54mp for 1st. In their big game Sept 1 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 3.97mp for 1st. Sept 9 Peggy Waite/Susan Hafen won 3.68mp for 1st. And Sept 12 Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein won 4.12mp for 1st, John Petrie/Cecil Cook won 3.09mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all six pairs!

**Get well wishes:** Larry Slutsky, John Killian.

**New members:** Ryan Mills, Suzanne Mills, Barbara Shuping and Vincent Vilker. Welcome to the club!

**Status changes:** New Club Masters: Ralph Brunson, Mariann Satin. New Sectional Master: William Heck. New Regional Masters: Linda Nye, Elaine Dovgard. New NABC Masters: Linda Dillon, Lynne Finley, John Galligher, Bernard Hader. New Advanced NABC Master: Susan Bibby. New Life Master: Richard Buhl. New Bronze Life Masters: Gloria Brown-Cook, Coocie Dampman, Doreen Maes, Annette Sincock, Murat Veysoglu. New Silver Life Masters: Carmela Chiurazzi, Kevin Lane, Sherry Troeger. Congratulations to you all!

### Upcoming Events at the Club

International Fund Week September 22 through  
→

27. Extra points all sessions. An extra \$1.00 per session will be charged for the ACBL's International Fund.

September 28: Unit Game. Lunch 12:30, game 1pm.

October 6 through October 12 is Club Appreciation Week. The Club Appreciation Games offer extra points with no extra charge.

Annual ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game October 16 at 12:30pm. Section-top winners will receive 1 gold point each for winning the unlimited top strata. All other awards are half red and half black.

Club Championship Week Sunday, October 19 through Saturday, October 25 for all sessions. The Club Championship Games offer extra points with no extra charge.

October 26: Unit Game. Lunch 12:30, game 1pm. Future Unit Games October 26, November 23, and December 21 (Christmas party at the LBBC).

October 31 unit-rated Halloween Game at 12:30 PM. Prizes for the best-dressed witch, warlock or whatever Halloween wardrobe you choose to wear. Extra points, regular prices.

### News from Leisure World

*by Judy Carter-Johnson*

**Club Championship results:** August 14 (Clubhouse #3) overall winners: Fay Beckerman/Marilyn McClintock 1 in A. Fern and Hank Dunbar 2 in A. Gene and Ron Yaffee 3 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Joyce Henderson/Robert Preece 4 in A, 2 in B. Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 5 in A, 3 in B. Sue Fardette/Vince Remedios 6 in A, 4 in B. Monica Gettis/Peggi Spring 5 in B, 2 in C. Jean Byer/Sue McHale 3 in C. Joan and Ted Wieber 4 in C.

Congratulations to Larry Slutsky/Howard Smith for their 70.84% game September 5 in Clubhouse #1.

Congratulations to regular guest player Jack Miller who celebrated his 103rd birthday at our August 28 game!!

Special Thanks to Ruth Kaller who was toasted and roasted at our September 9 game for serving as Club Manager for over ten years. Ruth has been responsible for all of the records, reporting to the ACBL, obtaining supplies, getting substitute directors, etc, etc.

Get Well Wishes to Barbara (Bobbi) Vann and Verna Burns. Happy to report both are recovering and should be back at the bridge table by the time this is published.

Condolences to Jan Gibbons and family on the loss of our dear friend Tom Gibbons.

Upcoming Club Championship Dates: Clubhouse #3 October 13, Thursday Dec 18. Clubhouse #1 Friday October 10 and Saturday October 18.

Upcoming Unit Rated Games: Clubhouse #3 Monday November 17.

If you have any news for next month's column please email me: [jcj90740@gmail.com](mailto:jcj90740@gmail.com). Results of all Leisure World games are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://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](mailto:jyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

Unit Game - October 5, Sunday 1:00

Halloween - Arcadia Bridge Center is open

Friday, October 24, 7:15 - Beat the House night

October 26, 1 p.m. - Winners and Losers

Long before I began playing bridge, Pinochle was my game. There are many varieties of Pinochle, but I played the three-handed version, sometimes called Cutthroat, which involved bidding and trick-taking play of the hand, not entirely unlike bridge. My story, however, is not about the game, but about how, when and where I learned to play Pinochle.

In the Spring of 1933, my mother, aged 27, left my father. We moved, together with Teddy and Irving, her two younger brothers, my cousin Arnold, like me, an only child of divorced parents, into a one bedroom flat on the top floor of a four story walk-up apartment house in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. Arnold and I were each a couple of months shy of 6 years of age.

During Summers, our apartment became extremely hot and uncomfortable because we were immediately beneath the tar roof. So, like our neighbors, and many who lived in similar buildings, we'd often spend much of the day, especially weekends, on what was known as 'tar beach'-- our roofs.

One hot Summer day, some two years later. I was on the roof with my two uncles, who were playing 2-handed Pinochle, a much less interesting version than Cutthroat. After a while, Irving, the younger of my →

uncles, called out, "you wanna play?" He had, by then, become much more than an uncle to me. He was the older brother I never had, the father I very rarely had.

"I dunno how," I whined. "Well, get over here and we'll teach ya,"

And teach me he did, just as he taught me so much before and after that sunny day. Finally, about an hour later, Irving handed me the deck and said the magic word, "Deal."

We played Pinochle the rest of that afternoon. There was no condescension from them. No 'taking it easy' on the 8-year-old who had just learned the game. I was, simply, the third hand and their opponent. They could not have paid me a greater compliment, and their instruction bore fine fruit. During my teens and early twenties, in Pinochle circles, I carried the well-deserved reputation of 'shark.'

I should note, at this point, the most significant difference between Pinochle and Bridge-- the Kibitzers. Bridge kibitzers sit silently, ask permission to watch, and if by chance a word escapes their lips, may well be asked to leave.

A high stakes Pinochle game, on the other hand, might often have six or more self-anointed experts surrounding the table, mumbling, grimacing, impatiently waiting for a hand to end, at which point there would be a cascade of critical comments, about the bidding, the play, the defense. To those 'experts,' the players were always 'bums'. I still remember one constant carper, an older man (I was 19, he was probably 50), who would always begin his criticism of me, by calling me 'Sonny'.....

And, although I was only 8 years old when I learned to play Pinochle, here I am, at 87, still learning to play Bridge.

### Congratulations to Nolan Chang

Nolan Chang was one of a few players to be selected to represent the U.S. for the Damiani Cup (team members must be under 21) in The World Youth Teams Championships that began in Istanbul, Turkey, that began on August 14. After taking on Sweden in the final round of the Damiani Cup in the 15th World Youth Team Championships, Team USA 1 finished in second place with a score of 237.5 IMPs to 185.

### Squeezes

Bev and I played in the Unit Game and we arrived in a 6♥ contract. We were down 1. I reviewed the hands later and decided that the diamond lead would have given me my 12th trick. The opponents led a club at our table. Here is the hand:

North (Marty) : ♠KQ5 ♥AT5 ♦AKQ6 ♣J65  
 South (Bev): ♠97 ♥KQ984 ♦T832 ♣AK  
 West (On lead): ♠42 ♥J76 ♦J975 ♣Q984

The next day, Roy pointed out, that a squeeze would have allowed me to make the hand. "There's nothing you can do about that ace of spades, but after you lose that you have a squeeze against west, who must guard both diamonds and clubs. Suppose you simply take all of your winners coming down to these last three cards in each hand. Now, when you play your last trump what will West pitch?," he said.

	♠--	
	♥--	
	♦Q6	
	♣J	
♠--		♠--
♥--		♥--
♦J9		♦--
♣Q		♣T73
	♠--	
	♥4	
	♦T8	
	♣--	

Nine people played this hand, and three made a slam, one didn't bid it, and the rest went down one.

Please contact Roy if you have a small group interested in learning about squeezes.

### Unit 557 Members Score

Unit Game results - September 3

- 1 Hanna Zhuang-William Ng
- 2 Jacob Frenkel-Miriam Harrington
- 3 Joan Mesias- Jeanette Deverian
- 4 Ronald Moeckel -Ann Banta
- 5 Xingping Kang -Chi-Chong Yu

Orange County Regional - September , 2014

Top 10 winners and points earned from our unit:  
 Herman Helber-41.47, Peter Szecsi-33.46, Xingping →

Kang-18.57, Shiu-Ming Huang-15.95, Amr Elghamry-12.8, Sandra Rucker – 11.27, Ann Raymond- 11.27, Janet Wickersham – 9.01, Robert Riechmann Jr.-8.83 pts, Rae and Jerry Murbach-8.55. Herman and Peter placed first in the A/B Open Pairs, winning 27 points.

Culver City Sectional - September, 2014

Sophie Change-7.86, Nolan Chang- 7.86, Lucy Zhang- 7.86, Zheng Zhang – 5.39, Xingping Kang – 3.98, Shiu-Ming Huang-3.25, Amr Elghamry-3.25, John Jones – 2.95, Gerald Bare- 2.95, Jack Chang-2.47

Thousand Oaks Sectional - September 2014

High Bartlett- 4.25, Rae and Jerry Murbach-3.36, Zu Ming Cheng-2.39, Xingping Kang-2.39, Hanna Zhuang-2.39

## Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, October 25, 11:00 and TBD  
Individual – Saturday, October 4, LaVerne Site

First up, as you note in the header above, it's October and time for our annual two-session championship event. You may play in either or both sessions, and join us for dinner – or not – at your option. (Of course, if you don't play both sessions, you don't qualify for the overall awards, just the single-session awards.) At press time, the Board of Directors still had not firmed up dinner plans, so check with one of us for details – they'll be available by the time you read this.

Between sessions we will be holding our annual Membership Meeting, where you – the membership – elect the Board of Directors for the coming year. We are always looking for fresh victims talent for the Board, so if you are willing to serve (the work is not hard), speak up!

Our September Unit game takes place too far ahead of our press deadline, so look for the results next month.

The September Individual was won by Al Lax, followed by Sofi Kasubhai, Sanford Jones, Linda Tessier, and Patricia Radamaker – Roger Boyar tying for the fifth spot. This game also marked your Unit's entry into the electronic scoring age. We have purchased a set of Bridge Mate electronic scorers (you know, the same ones used at the local tournaments) and will be using

them at all Individual and Unit games. No more traveler foul-ups, hurrah! (Of course, you are no doubt familiar with the old saying, "To err is human, but to really foul things up requires a computer.")

Lots of promotions this month: Marie-Rose Kardous, Dale Quasny, and Don Nakasaki are now Junior Masters; Sofi Kasubhai is a Club Master; Linda Stuart is a Regional Master, and Claudia Cochran is just a step away from that coveted gold card at NABC Master. Congratulations, all, and keep up the good work.

The top game this month was a 77.5% steamroller by Roger Boyar and Richard Patterson. Since this was a rather small game – suffice to say, it doesn't qualify for listing in the Bridge Bulletin – we'll give you the second best effort, 70.38% by Linda Tessier and Clint Lew. Other first place finishers were Margie Hall, Ann Raymond, Sandy Jones, Karen McCarthy, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Lulu Minter, Karen Olin, Rona Schneider, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Don Naf, Norma Appley, Larry Clark, and Tom Lill.

We continue last month's theme for hand-of-the-month with another exhibit from the Chamber of Horrors, with a serving of Frustration for dessert.

First: with only your side vulnerable, you find yourself looking at ♠ AQxxx ♥ AKQT98x ♦ x ♣ none. Partner, the dealer, opens 1♦, you respond 1♥, partner rebids 2♣ (of course) and the ball is back on your side of the net. What now? You have various options, all flawed: 4♥, 3♠ (natural), 2♠ (fourth suit forcing), or perhaps something cockamamie you and partner have worked out. For the sake of argument, let's say you try 2♠. The response will be 2NT, so partner must have the ♠K. And it's your turn again.

Ready with your answer? OK, here goes. Unless you said 4♥, you are destined for a minus score. Partner puts down ♠ Kx ♥ none ♦ KJxxxx ♣ AJTxx. Twist and turn as you will, you are going to lose the ♦A, and hearts break 4-2 as expected, with the ♥J on the four side. So you cannot make 6♥. Spades don't break, either, so 6♠ is out.

Our bittersweet dessert offering is this monster: ♠ AKQxx ♥ Ax ♦ AKQx ♣ Ax. Ho hum, just your average 26-count. Dealer, on your right, opens 2♥! Well, doubling seems to offer the most flexibility, so you do. LHO raises the ante to 3♥. Back to you.

Either 3NT or 4♠ seems indicated. The suit contract may work out better if an opponent has four spades, →

so 4♠ it is. Dummy flops with ♠ Txxx ♥x ♦Jxxxx ♣xxx, spades are not 4-0, and you have 13 stone cold tricks. If you are allowed to open 2♣, getting to at least the small slam should be easy; how do you get there with the interference? (To be fair, one genius ... or madman, take your pick) just blasted 6♠ at his first turn. Nothing succeeds like success, they say. Oh well, at least you beat out the notrump hogs, who weren't able to ruff the losing heart and so took only 12 tricks.

Quote for the month: "If Beethoven had been killed in a plane crash at the age of 22, it would have changed the history of music... and of aviation." (Tom Stoppard) See you in Torrance. Until next month ...

## Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

### Magic Mountain Sectional Tournament

Unit 556 held its annual Sectional Tournament on September 27-28 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita.

#### Saturday Morning Results Stratified 299er Pairs:

##### North/South Winners:

- 1 Susan Frank and Ira Thierer - 70.8%
- 2 Rosalee McEntyre and Harriet Flancer
- 3 Aggi Oschin and Michael Grossman
- 4 Barry Heller and Larry Wong

##### East/West Winners:

- 1/2 Douglas Campbell and Melisse Benson - 64.3%
- 1/2 Carole Bennett and Barbara Keller - 64.3%
- 3 Carol Trendera and Gary Trendera
- 4 Kathleen Keller and George Davall
- 5 Susan Adkins and Jereen Anderson

#### Saturday Afternoon Results Stratified 299er Pairs

- 1 Shirley Wilson and Robert North with 56.25%
- 2 Douglas Campbell and Melisse Benson
- 3 Barry Heller and Joe Walters

#### Saturday Morning Results for Open Pairs:

##### North/South Winners

- 1 Basant Shah and Lamonte Johnson - 66%
- 2 Rae Murbach and Jerry Murbach
- 3 Steve Gross and Ellen Anten
- 4 John Langer and Donna Davidson
- 5 Ted Maki and Lorraine Adams

##### East/West Winners

- 1 Paul Markarian and Peter Knee - 72.74%
- 2 Robert Shore and Joe Viola
- 3 Craig Kavin and Nancy Kavin
- 4 Russ Buker and George MacDonald
- 5 Henry and Sharry Vida

#### Saturday Afternoon Results for Open Pairs

##### North/South Winners

- 1 Robert Shore and Joe Viola - 62.26%
- 2 Basant Shah and Lamonte Johnson
- 3 Gilbert Stinebaugh and Donald Crum
- 4 Henry Roediger and Sharry Vida
- 5 Ann Croupe and Cheryl Loggins

##### East/West Winners

- 1 Paul Markarian and Peter Knee - 61.3%
- 2 Craig Kavin and Nancy Kavin
- 3 Paula Olivares and Vibeke Gilbreath
- 4 Tracy Boys and Ruth Baker
- 5 Margaret Mataga and Kristi Kubo

#### Sunday Results Stratified 299er Swiss Teams

- 1 Katherine Cresto, Jackie Moor, Anita Walker and Anne Schmidt
- 2 Aggi Oschin, Michael Grossman, Gay Gipson, and Melisse Benson
- 3 Jan Ladd, Betti Sternberg, Cookie Fessler and Deanna Kean

#### Sunday Results Stratified Open Swiss Teams

- A1 Tim Lee, George Tran, Xingping Kang, and Liang Fan
- A2 Steve Gross, Andrew Vinock, Craig Kavin, and Mike Savage
- A3 Robert McBroom, Kathy Flynn, Lamonte →

Johnson, and Basant Shah

B3 Dagmar Ragnow, Gary Morgan, Donald Cline and Anne Cline

B4 Russ Buker, George MacDonald, Carol Provost and Ted Maki

### Upcoming Events

Unit Game - Thursday Oct 9 in Castaic

Unit Game - Sunday, November 9 in Palmdale

Unit Game - Monday, November 17 at the Friendly Bridge Club in Santa Clarita

Board Meeting - Sunday November 9 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

Unit 556 will sponsor a "Learn Bridge in a Day" event on Sunday November 16, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Valencia Public Library, 23743 Valencia Blvd, Santa Clarita, 91355.

Unit 556's Annual Meeting and After-The-Holidays Party: Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

Welcome back to Michael Grossman who re-joined ACBL.

## Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: [www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568](http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568)

SBBC: [www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc](http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc)

### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Wednesday, October 8, 11:30

Club Championship: Saturday, October 11, 2:00

Club Championship: Monday, October 27, 11:30

Friday Night games on October 3 and 17

### SBBC Closure

The South Bay Bridge Club will be closed for all games during the Torrance Regional October 13-19. Good luck to all at the Regional.

### SBBC Lessons

On October 2 the South Bay Bridge Club will begin a series of eight weekly lessons. The lessons will

be from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and are free.

### Club Championships

The Club Championship on September 9 was won by Jim Jenson/Hank Sheehan in Flight A with Charlotte Lewin/Mahin Khadive leading Flights B and C. On September 15 the Club Championship was captured by Lucy Gellner/Jeff Strutzel in Flight A with Tom Crisswell/Bruce Merchant on top in Flights B and C.

### Team Winners

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

- Aug 19: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken
- Aug 26 : Rebecca and Roger Clough, Gerri Carlson, John J. McDermott
- Sept 2: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
- Sept 9: Wayne Otsuki, Lucy Gellner, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken
- Sept 16: Lucy Gellner, John Jones, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

### District 17-23 STAC Results

Pairs that placed in the overalls of the recent District 17-23 STAC in games played at Torrance South Bay unit clubs are listed below.

- Monday Morning, August 18
- 5A 3B Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder
- 16A Gabriela Jackson/Patty Taylor
- Tuesday Morning, August 19 - 499er Pairs
- 3A Setsuku Miyasaka/George Stinson
- 5B Nancy Raiche/Gerry Gastelum
- Wednesday Morning, August 20
- 1A Carol McCully/Ed Barad
- 11A 4B Stanley Greengard/Bob Rothman

- Thursday Morning, August 21- 499er Pairs
- 5B Laura Gastelum/Linda Dillon

Friday Morning, August 22

10A Al Blinder/Maurice Suhre  
 14A Beverly Narahara/Bob Bacharach  
 10C Patricia Westenhaver/Chris Freeland

### GUV Memorial Award

Gerri Carlson's favorite hand from the recent Irvine Regional was against a renowned Pro and his client. Gerri was my partner and she held ♠xx ♥Jxxxxx ♦Kxx ♣QJ.

Vul vs NV I opened 1♦ in second seat and Gerri's RHO jumped to 3♠. Not an easy bid for Gerri and she chose the most aggressive course bidding 4♥. The Pro bid 4♠ and I was looking at ♠ATx ♥AKx ♦ATxx ♣ATx. The way the cards lie a double here would have netted us plus 1100. However looking at this mountain I opted instead for 6♥. After a spade lead Gerri played ♥AK and thankfully the hearts split. She went to her hand and finessed a club and thankfully again the king was onside so she was able to shake the spade loser.

She actually could have made 7 if she wished to risk the contract now by taking a restricted choice hook in diamonds after her RHO dropped a diamond honor when she played the ♦K. The client pointed this out acting like he had gotten a top. Bad luck client, 6♥ making 6 was worth 25 of 25 Matchpoints.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by Robert Shore

### Defending the Home Turf

First and foremost, a big thank you to Terre Primmer. Even though Terre has no official position with the Unit, he was kind enough to give of his time and energy to help set up and take down our annual Fall Sectional. Events don't simply happen. They require volunteers. Board members get recognition in a variety of ways, but when those with no official step forward, it's worthwhile pointing out their contributions.

Unit members did an admirable job defending the home turf at our Sectional. Peter Benjamin started things off by winning the Saturday morning A/X Pairs. On Saturday afternoon, Lee Axelrod and Phyllis Selig-Kerns won the Open Pairs while Philip and Marilyn Rohlin won the 49er Pairs. Aram Bedros won the

Sunday morning Open Pairs. On Sunday afternoon, Bruce Altshuler won the Open Pairs and Marlene Felix won the 299er Pairs, while Mike Savage took the win in the Compact Knockout Teams. Winning the Monday Swiss was the team of Fuad Khuri, Joyce Lelah, Cathy Shpall, and Viktor Anikovich. Om Chokriwala broke Peter Benjamin's stranglehold on the Jill Meyers Trophy, which is awarded to the player who wins the most masterpoints at our sectional tournaments.

### Elsewhere at the Table

Roger and Becky Clough took a trip to the Edmonton Regional and came back with a win in the Thursday Swiss. Further south in Colorado Springs, Paula Nataf's team won the Sunday A/X Swiss. At the Garden Grove Sectional, Ifti Baqai won the Saturday morning Open Pairs while Mike Savage and your Humble Scribe tied for first in the Saturday afternoon Swiss. Peter Knee won the Saturday morning event in the Great Western STAC. The Thousand Oaks Sectional saw Joel Schiff win the Saturday morning Open Pairs, while Ira Thierer and Susan Frank won the Saturday morning 299er Pairs. Bob Levy won the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs and Doug and Benjamin Kushner won the Saturday 8 is Enough Swiss Teams event.

At the Irvine Regional, Charles and Jo Anne Kelley won their bracket of the Thursday Compact Knockout Teams event as well as the Sunday Bracketed Flight B Swiss. The team of Marion Tumen, Sue Ann Simon, Jodie Rachmil, and Peggy Levin won their bracket of the Thursday Compact Knockout and of the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event. Val Romoff also won a bracket of the Thursday Compact Knockout Teams. Alan Daniels and David Pelka won their bracket of the Wednesday-Thursday Knockout Teams. Closing out our report, your Humble Scribe took home a win in the Sunday A/X Swiss.

### Things to Come

Of course, there are more events to look forward to in the coming months. Our annual Fall Regional will take place at Torrance October 13-19. For those who took the opportunity to qualify to play North American Pairs and the opportunity to win a subsidy to New Orleans, the District's first semifinal will take place at Beverly Hills on October 26. And of course, November 23 will see our annual Holiday Party, once again being held →

at the Beverly Hills Country Club. Look for your invitation in the mail this month.

### Counterintuitive

This is a card combination problem. Suppose you're holding Q10987 facing A6 in a suit. Entries are no problem. What is your best line to take four tricks in the suit?

Assuming the auction or play can't help you place cards, this is not a guess. One play gives you a measurably better chance of bringing home four tricks than any other. Run the Queen. This caters to the only Kx holding that you

can handle, without giving up on other combinations. Any other play always loses to Kx in either hand.

### Welcome Mat

We have enough new members this month to hold a three-table Howell movement with a kibitzer left over. This month's new members are Judy Blits, Reba Block, Judi Brown, Nanci Cohen, Claire Frith, Bruce Krull, Patricia Moller, Jerry Moore, Susan Rosman, Jill Smith, Beverly Sugimoto, Sue Wittner, and Susie Zeegan. Our transfers from other units — Robert Brogan, Ashok Hargunani, and Saul Prierer

— will allow us to fill out a fourth table. Please welcome these players when you see them at the table.

### Around the Clubs

Rhoda and Lew Himmell turned in last month's only 70% game at Beverly Hills. Winning club championships were Mario and Phyllis and Mory, Shuli Katz and Bill McClean, Joianna Ogner and David Raphael, Lew and Rhoda Himmell, Sylvia Hurwitz and Masha Fleissig, and Rahim Israel and Charles Fonarow.

At Barrington, Aram Bedros, Art Zail, Steve Yaffe, Om Chokriwala, Nelly Gordon, and Colin Gordon hit 70% last month. Danny Kleinman and Evan Krantz won last month's club championship.

### Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters and Jordan Kuschner and Sin Orenztein. Arnold Green, Robert Malina, Karen Nieman, and Sandra Young are now Club Masters. Our newest Regional Masters are Adam Barron, Homa Nasser, Marcia Schulman, and Bob Seizer, while Suzanne Borenstein, Melinda Curry, Hilde Harris, Joseph Hooker, and Debra Stern are now NABC Masters.

Julie Kimelman has become a Life Master. Your Humble Scribe is now a Gold Life Master, and Howard Einberg and Sylvia Shallon have become Diamond Life Masters.

Congratulations to all on your achievements.

Got news? Send it to me at [Bob78164@yahoo.com](mailto:Bob78164@yahoo.com).

**ACBL**

**District 23**  
New Orleans - March 2015

NEW ORLEANS  
SPRING  
NABC  
2015  
BRIDGE AND ALL THAT JAZZ  
CREOLE CITY

**North American Pairs**

<b>Semi-Final #1</b>	<b>Semi-Final #2</b>
26 Oct '14, 11:00 AM	16 Nov '14, 11:00 AM
Beverly Hills Bridge Center 325 S La Cienega Blvd.	Long Beach Bridge Club 4782 Pacific Coast Highway

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks ☉ Sodas ☉ Coffee ☉ Gold/Red Points

Mike Marcucci - 818 903-2471

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Mark Bartusek, Leo Bell, David Chechelashvili, Ed Davis,  
Jeff Goldsmith, Mike Shuster, and Jon Wittes

# 1

MPs  
all vul

East	South	West	North
2♥	?		

You, South, hold: ♠AQ976542 ♥-- ♦8742 ♣Q  
What call do you make?

*There are two schools of thought here. One viewpoint is that 4♠ is a standard preempt with an 8-card suit. The opposing view is that 4♠ is a good hand and somewhat slamish opposite a reasonable hand for partner. The panelists aren't all on the same page here. First we'll hear from the panelists who think 4♠ is a preempt.*

**Goldsmith: 4♠.** This shows a normal 4♠ opening, and that's what I have.

**Wittes: 4♠.** Tough problem right out of the gate. I don't like the texture of my suit, but an eight bagger is an eight bagger. If it's the opponents' hand, it will make things a lot tougher for them.

*One panelist likes to have the agreement that 4♠ is preemptive, but thinks that isn't completely standard.*

**Bell: 4♠.** With most partners, I play this simply shows a desire to play 4♠. With a strong hand, I would start with 3♠ or double. If I didn't have that agreement, I would actually pass and hopefully show my suit below the five level.

*Some panelists believe that 4♠ shows a good hand.*

**Davis: 2♠.** Both 3♠ and 4♠ show better hands than I have so 2♠ it is. I'll probably end up bidding 4♠ at my next turn if the bidding continues (hard to believe that it would go all pass over 2♠) but if partner cue bids 3♥ I will show interest by bidding 4♥.

**Bartusek: 2♠.** Anything more and partner will probably hang me in the bidding. I'll be able to rebid spades over every bid partner makes. Partner might not be able to balance holding heart length if I pass (and thus miss a game). Past discussions with Marshall Miles indicated that he would overcall 2♠ even if you change two of the spades into clubs! *[Thankfully Marshall never shared that viewpoint with me. It would have made me nauseous.]*

**Chechelashvili: 2♠.**

**Shuster: Pass.** I have a preemptive hand with spades, but you can't preempt a preempt *[showing a strong hand]*. There are enough hearts and HCP out there that I'm confident I'll have a chance to bid spades later.

*I'm in the camp that believes that 4♠ should show a good hand. The opponents already have one hand well described, and it's much harder to effectively preempt them. Their unlimited hand is behind me, ready to double. I think the real question is whether to bid 2♠ or pass. Will I be happy on the rare occasions when 2♥ goes pass, pass, pass? That auction will be extremely rare, but I think I'll be quite content to defend if that occurs. Partner may have a heart stack and short spades. 2♠ rates to survive most auctions but will convince partner that I have a better overall hand than I actually hold. Still, I think pass and hoping to bid later is superior.*

2

MPs  
no vul

East	South	West	North
3♠	Pass	Pass	Double
Pass	?		

You South hold:

♠74 ♥Q4 ♦A8732 ♣A965

What call do you make?

*Some panelists are tempted by 4NT for the minors, but choose to go low.*

**Goldsmith: 4♦.** I think it's just a tad too pushy opposite a reopening double to bid 4NT for the minors. 3NT could be right, but it could cause the opponents to laugh at us. Other than possibly missing 3NT, however, 4♦ looks pretty good. If partner bids 4♥, I can raise to 5♥.

**Bell: 4♦.** It's tempting to bid 4NT for partner to choose a minor, but that won't work well if partner is 2-5-3-3. There's some thought to passing here, but the opponents likely have a nine card spade fit. Of course, the spirit of Marshall Miles is whispering for me to bid 3NT, counting on partner for a spade stopper and enough minor fillers for nine tricks.

**Chechelashvili: 4♦.**

*Some panelists bid aggressively for the minors.*

**Wittes: 4NT.** A little on the aggressive side, but all of my cards seem to be working, and if 5 or even 6 of a minor is right, it should probably be played from partner's side.

**Bartusek: 4NT.** We rate to have a playable minor suit fit even though I would prefer to be 4-5 the other way. 4♦ is a nothing bid with such good controls and working cards. Just because partner is in balancing seat doesn't mean he has a light takeout double. Passing could miss a slam, and I have already limited the strength of my hand by passing over 3♠.

**Davis: 4NT.** Shows the minors. 4♦ could be the winner but I am guessing that it is right to be aggressive.

**Shuster: 4♠.** 4NT is the minors with equal or better

clubs. 4♠ shows it the other way around. It COULD also be a 5♥ call with a spade control, but partner should assume both minors with longer diamonds.

*This problem comes from the Bridge Bulletin's Bidding Box column for October 2014, which should be out in a few days. I held the companion hand, ♠K6 ♥AKT732 ♦KQ ♣KQ4. When we bid the hands over the phone, Mark and his counterpart both bid both bid 4NT. I tried 6♣ to protect the ♣K, but it landed us in a 4-3 club fit instead of a much more solid 6♥. Thinking Mark's bid was pretty reasonable, and wondering what I should do differently, I gave my hand to a few internationalists, John Mohan among them. All of the international experts bid the club slam. When I showed Mohan the ♠74 ♥Q4 ♦A8732 ♣A965 hand, he told me that 4NT must show 5-5 distribution. Surprised by this, I asked him what was the correct bid. He answered 4♠. Mark asked Mike Passell and Passell said he would bid 4♦. The Bidding Box part of the story doesn't end there. When moderators Paul Linxwiler and Rob Clark revealed the scores, 6♣ scored a 0 (6♣ makes when clubs are 3-3 or frequently when the ♠A isn't led). Mark asked about this and the moderators asked scorer Bobby Wolff to look at the hand in light of the possibility that 6♣ could be right-sided. Wolff still scored 6♣ a zero. When Mark complained they said that Wolff was very experienced and he was their scorer. Mark sent an analysis of the hand, showing how often 6♣ would make, even with the ♠A lead (far from obvious if the leader held ♠AQJxxx). So they gave us a point on the board, but took 5 points off another problem. That'll teach ya! Any wonder that one of the very few people in the world who didn't get along with Marshall Miles was Bobby Wolff?*

3

IMPs  
NS vul

South	West	North	East
1♥ ?	Pass	1♠	Pass

You, South, hold:  
♠9875 ♥AKJ8742 ♦A5 ♣--  
What call do you make?

*Here we see some significant differences of opinion in terms of strain and evaluation. Some panelists want to consider hearts even with the spade fit. Some invite game, but others want to get to slam!*

**Davis: 3♥.** If partner has five spades and a stiff heart, I probably should have bid 3♠ instead of 3♥.

**Bartusek: 3♠.** Bidding any number of hearts could be a disaster if partner has decent spades and short hearts. Obviously if you also play Flannery like I do partner will not have a bad 4-card suit, and raising spades is indicated even more. Admittedly there are some hand combinations where hearts would play better (but a jump to 4♥ is really a gamble). 3♠ will get partner to value good trump suit texture.

**Shuster: 4♥.** This is an old problem with no obvious solution. For every construction where hearts is better, there exists one where spades is better.

**Goldsmith: 4♣.** This would be easy if playing Flannery. Usually, with 7-4, one does not want to play a 4-4 fit, but a 5-4 tends to be OK. I have to commit now, so I'll hope partner has five spades or four very good ones. If he moves towards slam, my hand will be even better.

**Wittes: 4♣.** If partner has Qxxx of spades, KJ of clubs, and out, I've made a terrible bid. If partner has AKQxx of spades and out, we should have a laydown slam. Add the Q of hearts, and we probably have a laydown grand. Any weak hand with a five card spade suit, and game is still a heavy favorite.

**Chechelashvili: 4♣ -** What else? I don't know any way of showing spade support and long hearts at the same time. The only damage this call can make is if partner has ♠Kxxx ♥x ♦KQxx ♣Axxx type of a hand. Second choice would be 4♠, which could be more misleading than 4♣.

**Bell: 5♣.** Exclusion keycard. If partner shows two, I'll ask about the ♠Q and bid 7♠ if partner has it. If partner shows one, I can still ask about the queen and bid 6, if shown. I will apologize for bidding too much if partner has zero.

*The panelists correctly pointed out that playing Flannery would help this problem. If partner has five spades the odds that spades is the right strain is much higher. It also makes slam a much better proposition. I'm with the 4♣ bidders here.*



Los Angeles Regional

Torrance, CA October 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2014



Los Angeles Regional

Torrance, CA October 13<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 2014



4  
 MPs  
 EW vul

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♦	1♥	1♠
?			

You, South, hold: ♠K97 ♥A976 ♦7 ♣KT976  
 What call do you make?

*There were six different bids on this hand, but one panelist described his call as “easy.”*

**Wittes: 4♦.** First easy problem in this set. With four trumps headed by the ace, and this distribution, it’s an easy bid.

**Davis: 4♦.** Best bid to describe my hand to partner. I’ll double if they bid on. I hope my splinter bid doesn’t allow them to pick up partner’s Qxx in diamonds if they bid on.

**Shuster: 4♥.** And double anything they bid higher. It doesn’t take much for game. ♠xx ♥KQJxx ♦xxx ♣Qxx is a favorite to make 10 tricks [*Well maybe, although that layout requires the ♠A to be onside, have clubs 3-2, and to find the ♣JJ and partner won’t cooperate with that (or more).*]

**Chechelashvili: 3♦.** Mini-splinter

**Bartusek: 2♦.** Limit raise or better (of course if you play that 2NT shows a limit raise or better with 4 trumps then bid that). If 3♦ is a limit raise with four trumps instead of a weaker mixed raise then that is acceptable. I have a lot of defensive values and the low level cue bid shows that. Obviously I will bid to the 3 level with such a great hand.

**Bell: 2♠.** The only concern here is which cuebid shows the better hand. Some even play that a bid in opener’s suit is natural [*that’s the way I play*].

**Goldsmith: 3♣.** Let’s see: five or more clubs, four or more hearts, limit raise or better values, and cards mostly concentrated in those two suits. Seems to be a fair description. If partner signs off in 3♥, I can live with that. If he makes a try with 3♦, we play game.

*Jeff’s bid is called a Flower Bid or a fitted-jump. It shows something resembling 4 trumps, five cards in the suit bid and limit raise values. It looks perfect.*

### A Defensive Problem

Dummy holds:

- ♠43
- ♥AT
- ♦QJT64
- ♣ T432

Behind dummy you hold:

- ♠J96
- ♥KJ87
- ♦AK5
- ♣875

South	West	North	East(you)
1♣	Pass	1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All pass

Nolan Chang sent me this problem. It was a real hand, played in the round robin during the USA1 – Chile match. Nolan altered it a little to make it a good problem. You are defending 3NT and sitting behind

the dummy. Dummy holds ♠43 ♥AT ♦QJT64 ♣ T432. You hold ♠J96 ♥KJ87 ♦AK5 ♣875. Auction was 1♣ by declarer, 1♦ by dummy, 2NT by declarer, 3NT by dummy. Partner leads the ♠5, and your ♠J is captured by declarer’s ♠Q. Declarer leads the ♦3 and partner plays the ♦8 (Upside Down Count). Plan the defense.

The actual spots were different and the actual contract was 1NT. The winning defense is to duck the first diamond. You win the second diamond perforce while partner follows with the ♦9 (showing a doubleton). You then must lead the ♥K to takeout dummy’s ♥A before the third round of diamonds can be played.

Nolan, a 17-year-old from Arcadia, was a member of USA1 in the Under 21 World Youth Championships just completed in Istanbul, Turkey. They finished second to win silver medals. Well done Nolan!

*by John Jones and Nolan Chang*

5

IMPs  
no vul

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♣	Pass	?	

You, South, hold:

♠AT863 ♥KQ6 ♦4 ♣J876

What call do you make?

**Shuster: 3♣.** Diamond shortness is a red flag, but partner need not be concentrated there. So I choose to involve my guy in the decision.

**Bartusek: 3♣.** Game try since I have a fifth spade and a stiff. I also have a 7-loser hand which suggests bidding on. A lot of perfect minimums in partner's hand make game.

**Goldsmith: 3♣.** Depends on your methods...it'd be nice to have a short suit game try in diamonds, but failing that, help suit in clubs is OK.

**Wittes: 3♣.** Help suit game try. This is very conservative with 5 trumps, but if partner has a lot of diamond wastage, game might not be that easy. As an alternative, Grabel and I play two-way game tries, and I can make a short suit game try in diamonds.

**Chechelashvili: 3♣** - asking for support in clubs.

**Bell: 2NT.** I'm willing to play game opposite a maximum with four trump or three trump and club shortness. I play something called Dutch Spiral here. Most are familiar with the 2NT bid, but the responses are different. Here, a 3♣ response would show a **maximum** with three spades and then a relay (3♦) asks for shortness. Hence, with that tool, I can stop in 3♣.

**Davis: 3♣.** In my preferred methods, 3♣ is a game try with five trumps and a stiff in partner's minor (I play 3 of partner's minor is natural and forcing). Partner

would have passed my 1♠ response [*you aren't a passed hand*] with three trumps and a minimum with a ruffing value such as ♠Kxx ♥xx ♦AKxx ♣Qxxx so I can expect a maximum with three trumps or, more likely, a fourth trump. This hand is very close to being worth a jump to 4♠ and that is what I would do if I didn't have a way to show my hand and ask partner's opinion. Opposite my 3♣ bid, partner will bid game with a fourth trump and little wasted in diamonds (♠Kxxx ♥Axx ♦Jxxx ♣Ax) and reject with only three trumps or with wasted diamond values such as ♠Kxx ♥Ax ♦AKxx ♣xxxx or ♠Qxxx ♥Axx ♦KQxx ♣Qx.

*The panelists all did better than the two players who held this hand at the table. Both actual players leapt to 4♠, down two when partner held a balanced 13 HCP including ♦KQJ9x and the spades were ♠KQx behind the ace. One declarer was doubled, but the panelists will get out in 3♠ and run no risk of being doubled. The panelists avoided using Spiral, (or 4433, which is the same convention but a different name). Spiral seemed like a good idea when I first heard of it. But like many conventions such as natural Strong Two-bids, Jacoby Step responses to 2♣, MUD leads, Transfer Preempts, Two-way Drury, 0 or 2 higher Trick 1 honor opening leads, Spiral will eventually get significantly reduced in popularity. Spiral, at least the normal version, does not address the location of opener's HCP, only the number of trumps and maximum versus minimum holdings. Souped-up versions such as Dutch Spiral or the well thought out complex version that Ed Davis has invented may survive because they are more useful.*