

# Southern California Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Zero Tolerance: Myth or Reality?

*This article is reprinted with permission from the October 2014 Western Conference Contract Bridge Forum*



I want to thank David Lodge, President of District 22, for sharing his article with me to use in my column this month. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

- Becky Clough

Zero Tolerance, while being very much a reality, is frequently misunderstood. The policy of Zero Tolerance exists to allow a director, at any level of bridge from club to NABC, to impose an immediate penalty at the table for conduct that is unbecoming. The penalty is in match points in a pairs game and IMPs or VPs in a team game. The right of the director to impose such a penalty comes from the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. Any such procedural penalty does not result in any document that might otherwise end up residing in a player's file held by the ACBL recorder or the recorder for the district or unit.

At your local club (assuming the unit does not run the game), if someone behaves in such an unacceptable manner that the players are affected, the club director can do anything or nothing. It is totally within the purview of the director/sanction holder/game manager, and the ACBL doesn't get involved. There is no written document that goes into the offending player's file at the

PRESIDENT *continued on page 17*

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## Providence Board Meeting

*by Rand Pinsky, District Director*



As I always report prior to a national board of directors' meeting, following are some of the interesting motions and items that will be decided in Providence.

First is the election for ACBL President for 2015. There are two excellent candidates, Ken

Monzingo from San Diego and Suzi Subeck from Chicago. I expect a close election.

One motion the Board will consider is a motion submitted by the Board of Governors. The motion requested that all masterpoints won online be separated from points won in face-to-face competition. Since this motion was referred to the Board, Management has made substantial improvements to the ACBL website for reporting masterpoints including many new categories. I urge you to check it out and provide me with your comments as to how you like it and if you would want additional search capabilities. For me, I would like to see more detail for Districts and Units. I will be suggesting this in Providence.

A motion I am not sure about supporting is one that will increase from 25 miles to 50 miles the distance a club must be from a sectional (excluding STaCs) before it can hold a special game, thereby limiting the club to only running a regularly scheduled club game. I think this restriction is too severe and it could impact clubs in Los Angeles and other major metropolitan areas.

Probably the most important item that will be dealt with is the 2015 Budget. The finance committee, which I am a member, will be dealing with issues regarding ACBLScore+ and also the ACBL's pension liability. There will also be a discussion regarding raising some sanction fees and costs. In January, I will have a detailed report regarding the budget. As Treasurer of the ACBL, it is my responsibility to report at every NABC to the Board of Governors about the financial health of our organization. Even though the numbers may look bleak,

DIRECTOR *continued on page 17*

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

the financial health of the ACBL is still very strong.

One last item, and one which I help draft, is an addition to the Board of Directors' Conflict of Interest Policy. Presently, each year all board members must complete a conflict of interest form for financial interests. The addition I have worked on will now include non-financial interests also. This will extend to others including family, business or other ties the board member may have.

I hope this information is helpful in understanding some of the issues to be discussed and voted upon in Providence. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to write to me at [Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net).

**1964-1972 Southern California Bridge News Copies Needed**

Anyone who attended the recent LA Regional in Torrance may have noticed the large print-outs on the wall outside the playing area. These contained lots of information related to the history of District 23, some of it going back to 1935. This history is a work in progress and is in need of a favor from some unknown, kind bridge player in LA. We need issues of the District 23 Bridge News that are, so far, hard to find. The very first issue of the Bridge News was in June 1964. If anyone knows of the existence of any issues from #1 through December of 1972, we would like to borrow them for a short time as part of our history research.

If you know of anyone who can help on this matter, please contact Mike Marcucci. 818 903-2471. Thanks from ALACBU.

**NAP Finals Looking Good**

by Mike Marcucci  
D23 NAP Coordinator

Seventy players arrived for our second District 23 NAP Semi-Final on November 16 in Long Beach. It was great to see players who had never played in the NAP semi's before. Forty of them left very happy that they had qualified for the Finals in January.

Folks who came out on top in Long Beach were: Steve Mager & Bruce Horiguchi in Flight A, Cal Waller & Stan Greengard in Flight B, and Dalia Hernandez & Colleen Bilas for Flight C.

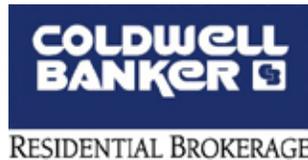
Last summer's Qual games at all our clubs produced 1035 qualified players for this competition. After two Semi-Finals, we are down to 78 players who will compete for those prize-winning slots to New Orleans.

If everyone attends the Finals, we will have 6 tables in A, 10 tables for B, and 4 tables in C competing for the NABC invitations. Thanks to our director for the Semi's, Mike Savage. The conduct at both games was exemplary by all players and Mike said they were the easiest games he's ever directed. :) Hope that we see everyone bright-eyed and ready to go in January at Barrington. More cookies to come.

**Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier  
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## Bridge Stories

*This recurring 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 had no idea I became a Regional Master! I won my latest points at a Regional at Sea with Mike Lawrence giving lessons. It was a lot of fun. I met some great people from across the US and made new friends. We have all decided to meet up again at other Regionals, so I'm looking forward to adding some more points!

*Marcia Broderick  
Regional Master*

Duplicate is a good way to get acquainted when you are new in a community. It's also a very good brain stimulator, as I'm sure most people are aware of.

*Charlotte Capelle  
Regional Master*



I "learned" to play bridge as a child as I watched my mother's bridge group. I played a little in college but for the next 40 years played very little other than on cruises. Many years ago, I asked my wife to learn the game so we would have some mental activities when we retired. When I retired from managing mutual funds (a really high stress position) and moved to Los Angeles, my wife pushed me to get back to bridge and reminded me of my suggestion to learn the game. I found that the game was very different than that I had learned, so I got a variety of books and tried to start from scratch. I was fortunate to have a couple of top players spend some time with me and that helped my game. I took a couple of bridge cruises and was fortunate to learn from the late Bernie Chazen and more recently Larry Cohen, both of whom were terrific. I'd

also like to thank Ed Lucas and Bob and Ellen Kent as well as Mitch Dunitz.

Now I play mostly at Bridge on the Boulevard and the 750 Club with several partners. Both these clubs do a good job and should be supported. I have learned an enormous amount from the players who are willing to help with their suggestions when asked. I play most often with Dr Bob Gasway (who pushed me to achieve Life Master), Mike Klemens, and sometimes my wife, along with several others. A few years ago, Bob said lets go down to the Palm Springs Regional and get you your Life Master. We drove down, played in the Pairs event and got enough points. More recently, Bob said he wanted to be the one to push me over 500 and we went to the Ventura Regional where we placed sufficiently high to get the additional 12 points that I needed.

I would like to see more effort to bring some young people into the game. I don't think most people realize the mental skills you can develop in playing this phenomenal game and how they may help you in other things.

*Martin Hurwitz  
Bronze Life Master*

Attaining Life Master was memorable because of our opponents. After our team had been eliminated in the morning knockout we elected to play in a compact knockout starting that afternoon at the Ventura Regional. Our team consisted of Bill Raines, Doug Beagle, Larry Kussin and me, with the point total of less than 1600. We made it through the afternoon and in the evening our first match was against a team with more than 90,000 points and included a professional. We won that match straight up without needing the handicap points. In the final match we lost a close match to a team with 50,000 points.

Hopefully our story will inspire others to keep on trying when they face very impressive opponents.

*Paul Endler  
Life Master*

## District 23 Rank Changes October 2014

### **Junior Master**

Gary Caine  
 Ron Casey  
 Robert Geoghegan  
 Daniel Humphreys  
 Everett Meiners  
 Gail Melom  
 Carol Muchin  
 Jerry Muchin  
 Elvira Munoz  
 Elizabeth Pringle  
 Steve Reitzfeld  
 David Scholler  
 Marcia Siegel  
 Michael Walker

### **Club Master**

Amy Choy Sai Ba  
 Gloria Butman  
 Hollace Cain  
 Judy Fischer  
 Lila Levine  
 Jeanette Mamakos  
 Michael McGory  
 Daniel McGreevy  
 Paula Millar  
 Robert North  
 Sin Orensztin  
 Leila Otey  
 Brigitte Prince  
 Jerold Rose  
 Valerie Turner

### **Sectional Master**

Jack Christy  
 Keith Davidson  
 Deborah Downs  
 Robert Eisenstein  
 Gayle Ginsburg  
 S Hunt  
 Richard Pavlotsky  
 Linda Rasmussen  
 Brenda Rosin  
 Louis Zgonc

### **Regional Master**

Dick Berg  
 Marsha Bocan  
 Marcia Broderick  
 Charlotte Capelle  
 Joann Jubas  
 Fuad Khuri  
 Benjamin Kushner  
 Jamila Malikyar  
 Shirley Wilson

### **NABC Master**

Kent Burrell  
 Larry Kussin  
 Joyce Shuford

### **Adv NABC Master**

Colleen Bilas  
 James Perkins

### **Life Master**

Michael Abeles  
 Ellen Carrier  
 Paul Endler  
 Rochelle Lotto  
 Eileen Miech  
 Merkie Rowan  
 Ann Trygstad  
 Thomas Webb

### **Bronze Master**

Steven Alt  
 Ellen Carrier  
 Clinton Gorsuch  
 Martin Hurwitz  
 Roy Ladd  
 Rochelle Lotto  
 Marguerite Pinkers  
 Merkie Rowan

### **Silver Life Master**

Richard Plotin  
 Barbara Shortwell  
 Cathy Shpall  
 Mike Welsh

# Los Angeles Presidents' Day Regional Woodland Hills !

## WHAT ?

- ♠ **GOLD RUSH PAIRS** every day -Tuesday through Saturday !
- ♥ **New KO's** start every day - Monday through Saturday !
- ♦ **299er** games twice a day !
- ♣ **Daylight** schedule Saturday and Sunday!

## Need partner or team mates?

Betty Jackson 562-594-4420  
rjackson62777@roadrunner.com  
or try partnership desk at  
[LosAngelesRegional.com](http://LosAngelesRegional.com)

Tournament manager Peter Benjamin  
310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com  
Director-in-Charge Brian Russell  
Sanction number R1502030

## WHEN?

**Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> to  
Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

## WHERE?

### Warner Center Marriott

21850 Oxnard Street Woodland Hills CA 91367

Reserve at 1 (800) 228-9290 or at  
[LosAngelesRegional.com](http://LosAngelesRegional.com)

Reserve early, rooms will sell out!

- ♠ Room rate \$134 (single or double)
- ♥ Reserve by Friday Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> 2015
- ♦ Overnight self parking \$10
- ♣ Card fees \$14 for paid members,  
\$18 for others. *10% discount in Breeze restaurant*



### Monday, February 16, 2015

**10:15 AM**  
299er Free Lesson  
**1:15 PM**  
Stratified Charity Pairs  
299er Pairs  
**7:00 PM**  
Charity PM Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 Session

### Tuesday February 17, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 1 of 5  
First AM Stratified Swiss Teams 1 of 2  
299er Game  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game  
**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Game

### Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 2 of 5  
First AM Stratified Swiss Teams 2 of 2  
299er Game  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Robert Chui memorial Open Pairs  
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 3  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game

### Wednesday, February 18, 2015 (continued)

**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Robert Chui memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/-3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 4  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 Session  
299er Game

### Thursday, February 19, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Second AM Stratified Swiss Teams 1of 2  
299er Pairs  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Thursday Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 3  
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/-3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
Mark Shreiber GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game  
**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Thursday Compact KO Sessions 3 & 4  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 4  
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
Mark Shreiber GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Game

### Friday, February 20, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Second AM Swiss Teams 2of 2  
299er Game  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game

### Friday, February 20, 2015 (continued)

**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Game

### Saturday, February 21, 2015

**Jill Myers day !**  
**10:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 3  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Saturday Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game  
**3:00 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 4  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Saturday Compact KO Sessions 3 & 4  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Swiss Teams 1 Session

### Sunday, February 22, 2015

**10:00 AM & TBA**  
Flight A/X Swiss Teams (0-5000/5000+)  
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (0-2000)  
Stratified Fast Pairs

### Stratified games: 0-750/750-2000/2000+

- **Open Games 0-1500/3000/3000+**  
(stratified by average points of pair or team)
- **Gold Rush: 0-100/100-300/300-750**  
(stratified by average points of pair, no player can be over 750)
- **Bracketed Flight B Swiss: 0-2000**  
(stratified by average points of team, no player can be over 2000)

# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Unit Game and Holiday Party, December 13, 2014  
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

Our December Unit game will be our annual Holiday Party, complete with a catered turkey dinner and all the fixings. Please let us know if you're coming, so we will have enough tables, chairs, and food for everyone: 818-869-4386

I am sad to report the passing of long-time Unit and former Board member, Esther Tapelband on November 7, 2014. Our condolences to her family and friends.

The November Unit game results are as follows:

N/S

A1	Merry Bezvold & Art Chacanian
A2	Jack Futrell & Rae Murbach
A3	Beverly Weiss & Martin Weiss
A4	Hugh Bartlett & Bill Brodek

E/W

A1	B1	Rufus Rhoades & Carol Provost
A2	B2	Betsy Josias & Nancy Lyon
A3		Gerry Belcher & Amr Elghamry
A4		Adam Barron & Leon Alexander

Our next Unit game is on December 13. Please join us for holiday merriment.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

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

**October 26 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 2nd Roda Weisler/Jan Richter, 3rd Jackie Hess/Wayne Otsuki, 4th Marcie

Evans/Mary Kiecle, 5th John Petrie/Orhan Gurbuz, 6th Steve Skinner/Bob Lavery. In the B flight overall Judy Jones/Wayne Rapp were 2nd, Sharon and Al Appel 3rd, Carol and John Williams 4th, Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth 5th. In the C flight overall Paul Pettler/Sue Boswell were 2nd, Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson 3rd. And in the NLM section Colleen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez were 1st overall, Rosalie Storck/Joyce Roberts were 2nd. Congratulations to all!

### October 31 Unit-rated Halloween Day Game:

Overall results: 1st in A: Marcie Evans/Jo Daigle, 2nd Brandon Sheumaker/Mark Leonard, 3rd Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley, 4th Betti and Warren Harris, 5th John and Joy Ready, 6th Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein. In the B flight overall John Galligher/Christine Frumen were 4th, Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson were 5th, George Welsh/Ed Neuroth were 6th. And in the NLM section Tom Cotten/George Alemshah were 1st, Sally Fenton/Judy Percer 2nd, Bonnie Walsh/Karen Watson 3rd, Joan Leb/Elaine Dovgard 4th, Nancy Lichter/Emily Lane 5th, Gerald Ketz/Jamila Malikyar 6th. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games:** No 70% games Oct 16 through Nov 15.

**Big Masterpoint Awards** Oct 16 through Nov 15: Oct 21 Cliff Goodrich/Ralph Beazley won 3.25 mp for 1st. In the unit game Oct 26 Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger won 4.11 mp for 1st, Rhoda Weisler/Jan Richter 3.08 mp for 2nd. In the unit-rated Halloween Day game Oct 31 Marcie Evans/Jo Daigle won 5.53 for 1st, Brandon Sheukamer/Mark Leonard 4.15 mp for 2nd, Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley 3.11 mp for 3rd. And in the big game Nov 7 Ron Lien/Wei Pei won 4.25 mp for 1st, Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein 3.19 mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

**Get Well Wishes:** Larry Slutsky, Jean Matz, Cecil Cook and Lois Abramson

**New Members:** Jack Van Horn, Orhan Gurbuz. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New Junior Master: Vince Vilker. New Regional Master: Ylia Ross. New NABC

→

Masters: Sally Fenton, Kay Hyland, Ernest Ross. New Silver Life Master: Linda Stein. Congratulations to you all!

### Upcoming Events at the Club

December 8-14, Western Conference STaC—card fees \$12, extra points, silver points  
 December 21: Unit Game, lunch 12:30, game 1 p.m.  
 December 25: Bridge Center closed  
 December 28: Holiday Party  
 December 31: 7 p.m. New Years Eve Unit-rated game

### News from Leisure World

*by Judy Carter-Johnson*

**Club Championship Results:** October 18 (Clubhouse #1) overall winners: Verna Burns/Howard Smith 1 in A. Bee Kinman/Stan Blitz 2 in A. Sue Fardette/Dorothy Favre 3 in A. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 4 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Jeanette Estill/Bud Parish 5 in A, 2 B. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Betty Sichel 3 in B, 2 in C. Marilyn McClintock/Chie Wickham 4 in B. Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw 5 in B, 3 in C.

**Congratulations:** To Camden “Bud” Parish for attaining Bronze Life Master.

**70% Games:** Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw had a 74.29% game on October 31 in Clubhouse #1!!

**Get Well Wishes:** To Larry Slutsky.

**Condolences** to family and friends of Jack Miller who passed away earlier this month at the age of 103.

**Pro-Am Game:** Thursday Nov 24---call Howard Smith 562-598-6121 for reservations.

**Upcoming Club Championship Dates:** Clubhouse #3 Thursday, Dec 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 e-mail address and I’ll put you on the list. My email is [jjyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jjyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Roy Wilson

It’s been a long time since I wrote this column, but Marty and Bev couldn't do it this month, so here I am again.

Have you bought your ticket to our annual Holiday Party? It’s a two-session event and will be at the Arcadia Community Center, which is just south of the Methodist Hospital on Huntington Drive in Arcadia, at the intersection with Campus Drive. The afternoon game will be a stratified pairs game and the evening game will be a stratiflighted swiss event. Tickets are only \$35.00, which gets you a choice of either turkey or ham at dinner time. Any board member can sell you a ticket. Please come join your friends and have a good time.

You might know that the two Wednesday games in San Marino each have jackpots that have been building for some time now... To win you must have at least a 70% game and there must be at least seven tables. Well, Marie Nimmrich and Beverly Weiss played together for the first time and almost managed it. It’s really a mixed emotion situation when you have a huge 69.94% win but find you missed the money by 0.06%, right? That happened at the afternoon game on October 29.

If you are looking for a nearby sectional to get those last little bit of silver points you can drive down to the Dana Harbor club right after Christmas. The tournament starts on Friday, the 26th and ends on Sunday.

Last month our unit game was won by what has become a pretty strong partnership-- Tim Parris and Gary Swinhart had a 63.89% score and won 3.97 masterpoints. No fancy bidding, either, just solid bridge. They were 1st in both flights B and A. The flight C winners were George Tien and Tim Lee, who won 1.38 masterpoints. Congratulations, players!

The Arcadia Bridge Center will have another Christmas Party this year! Actually, there will be two of ‘em. The first one is for Rookies and Newcomers and will be held on Friday the 19th at 7:15 in the evening, and the second one is an Open game. That party will be held on Sunday afternoon, the 21st and everyone is invited. And as usual, there will be both a Winner/Loser game and a Beat the House night in December.

Let’s talk about bridge. What do you bid when → you hold 26 points and a balanced hand? Trick

question, eh? Well, nobody opens 3NT with that hand like ol' Charlie Goren taught us. Nope, today's players open 2♣ and then rebid 3NT. Hmm. So what is that particular opening bid of 3NT good for? Ask a lot of players how they use it and they will tell you it's a Gambling Three Notrump showing a long and solid minor that will take at least seven tricks in a notrump contract. Partner is invited to pass if he thinks that's a good contract or bid 4♣, which the opener can correct to 4♦. (Same with a response of 5♣) There's some difference of opinion on what the opener's hand looks like - some partnerships say there are no outside aces or kings while a minority of players say the hand must have stoppers in two outside suits. The argument against that agreement is that it reduces the frequency of the bid. That's true, but the frequency of the other agreement isn't that often, either.

Interestingly, Eddie Kantar, one of the foremost players in the world, suggested that the bid should show any solid suit, even a major. That sounds reasonable to me, especially at matchpoint scoring.

A very long time ago Marshall Miles opened three notrump on my right, and that was in the days before the alert was required for an unusual bid. I thought he had a monster of a hand so I passed. He did indeed make his bid, but not with lots of points. Since that time a great many good players have used this bid and think it's a nice gadget, but another group of very good players, influenced more recently by Larry Cohen, have given it up because they say invariably the contract is played from the wrong side of the table, especially if the agreement is to not have an outside ace or king. These players use the bid to describe a broken minor that is good enough for a 4-level preempt. The idea is to let partner make the final decision knowing he will get a good but perhaps not a solid minor in the dummy. (This also seems to work well with another convention called Namyats, where an opening at the 4-level in a minor shows a good hand with a long major. Bidders choose the particular minor to show which major suit they hold.) I think the frequency of this hand is higher than the one where you have a solid minor, so it's probably used more often.

And there's still another use for an opening bid of 3NT. Ten plus points with at least 5-5 in the minor suits. The bid is both descriptive and preemptive, and it has a high frequency of occurrence, too. Partner knows immediately what your hand looks like and the opponents have to start looking for their possible major

suit fit at the 4-level. Jan Wickersham has suggested that a response of 4NT is not Blackwood but is simply a query - "Partner, if you like your hand, let's bid a slam." Also, your partner can pass with stoppers in both majors or bid a major asking you to pass. (He knows what your hand looks like and chose to bid the major anyway. Let's assume he knows what he is about.)

You really need to ask your partner what an opening bid of 3NT promises and if she says it is 25-27 points and balanced, then you need to ask another question - What does your response of 4♣ say? Is that Stayman, asking about a 4-card major, or is that Gerber, asking about the number of aces held by opener? Don't be wondering about that a couple of years from now when she gets that hand. I say a couple of years because that hand has a very low frequency of occurrence! My suggestion is that you ask her to adopt one of the methods shown above.

Bridge is such a simple game.

Marty will be back next month. See you at the table.

## Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, December 20, 11:00 a.m.  
Individual – Saturday, December 6, LaVerne Site

This month's Unit game will feature our annual holiday celebration – food, cookies, Tom's Nuclear Powered Punch (both regular and unleaded), and other good stuff. Bring in your holiday baking to share, if you like. Five free plays for future unit games will be awarded.

Catching up on unfinished business from last month, the winners of the Annual Two-Session Unit game were Vic Sartor – Walt Otto. In second place after the morning session, they finished strongly in the afternoon to overtake Kirin and Anan Kumar, who finished second. In third place were Amr Elghamry – Shiu-Ming Huang, followed by Penny Barbieri – Tom Lill, and Dave and Susan Ruoff. Rounding out the top finishers were Linda Tessier – Sofie Kasubhai, finishing fourth in flight B.

In the November Unit Game, Vic Sartor – Genise Hasan took the top spot, followed by David and Susan Ruoff, Tom Lill and Linda Tessier, and Margaret Merritt

→

– Kerry Sartor.

The November Individual was won by Clint Lew. Bob Kakade and Steve Mancini tied for second, followed Linda Tessier and Margie Hall.

Two promotions this month: Grant Zimmerman is now a Club Master, and Kiran Kumar is an NABC Master.

The top game this month was “only” 69.7% by Hanan Mogharbel and Don Naf. This just edged out the 69.0% achieved by Penny and Tom. Other first place finishers were: Ann McClelland, Vic Sartor, Ken Bloomfield, Ron Purkis, Linda Tessier, Kurt Trieselmann, Lulu Minter, Fredy Minter, Genise Hasan, Roger Ginsburg, Roger Boyar, Hans Hehne, Richard Patterson, Denise Morgan, Barbara Killebrew, Sofi Kasubai, and Amr Elghamry.

By the way, if you’ve been looking for the results of the three La Fetra Friday games held while Roger was goofing off, they can be found on the ACBL web site, under “club results.” Look for the Unit game section, not the La Fetra section.

We open this month’s hand-of-the-month with an hors d’oeuvre. Defending 3NT, the opening leader chooses the ♣3. Down comes the dummy with ♣6542. After much amusement about the “good suit to be set up,” clubs turn out to be 4-3-3-3 around the table, and that ♣6 becomes a winner. The ninth trick, in fact. You never can tell ...

What are the chances of picking up an 8-card suit? About 1 in 214 ... better than you would guess. However, what are the chances of TWO 8-card suits facing one another? I’m not going to calculate the odds – probably they are better than 1 in 214 squared (about 1 in 45,000) but not too much better. Anyway, in a recent club game, this deal (produced by a more-or-less human being) popped up:

♠ J72	
♥ JT52	
♦ 95	
♣ JT43	
♠ 3	♠ KQT98654
♥ 73	♥ 98
♦ AQT86432	♦ --
♣ K5	♣ Q82
♠ A	
♥ AKQ64	
♦ KJ7	
♣ A976	

You’ve been looking at tram tickets all night, and

then you pick up that nice South hand. Unfortunately, East is the dealer and elects to open 4♠ at favorable vulnerability. Arrrrrrgh! Of course you double (for penalties, according to your agreements). West ponders a bit and calls ♦5. North and East have nothing further to say, and you double again. Around it goes again to East, who pulls to 5♠! Christmas seems to have come early this year and you double again. Down 2,300 to North-South.

Notice that no one can make much of anything on this hand. You can make 3♥, and West can make all of 1♦, and North is just waiting to get to the next deal.

Quote for the month: “You’ve got to be very careful if you don’t know where you are going, because you might not get there.” (Yogi Berra)

Until next month ...

## San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

### October Masterpoint Winners

The “Top Ten” for Bridge on the Boulevard: Armand Szulc 10.72, Gary Frans 8.55, Deborah Levinson 6.62, Tom Wylie 4.65, Beverly McLeod 3.68, Jerry Goodman 3.64, Philip Berk 3.55, Joan Rubin 3.44, Sharon David 3.44, and Martin Hurwitz 3.41.

The “Top Ten” for the 750 Club: Ron Malkin 7.37, Eva Seri 6.58, Paul Endler 5.90, Phil Calloway 5.78, Helen Malzer 5.70, Susan Raphael 5.44, Vera Mandell 4.97, Norm Bloomfield 4.95, Dan Strauss 4.93, and Jody Lombardo 4.77. Jerry Athans and Arlene Newman achieved a 70.06% game.

### November Happenings

A very successful **Celebration of Leda Danzig's Life** was held on Sunday, November 16 at Bridge on the Boulevard. Organizers/Hosts of this event were Ellen Anten, Joan Rubin, Barbara Pinchuck, Barbara Levitt, and Sheila Bozin. After the potluck lunch, many of Leda’s bridge friends shared their fond memories about her. A lovely poem, “Thinking of Leda,” was written and presented by Sy Zemlyn. Almost all of the expenses were donated, allowing for a generous contribution of \$255 to the Waldenstrom’s Macroglobulinemia Foundation. When all was said and done everybody was a winner. The highest scores in the bridge game →

were as follows: Flight A – Andrew Vinock and Peter Knee; Flight B – Marel Bates and Deborah Levinson; and Flight C – Beverly McLeod and Gregory Bozin.

The 750 Club observed **Giving Thanks Week**, November 10-14, with an impressive donation of \$1,005 to The West Valley Food Pantry, the Club's next door neighbor. These funds were provided by \$1.00 from each card fee and additional monies collected from the daily players. The Pantry was most grateful for this contribution that enabled them to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys for many needy families in the San Fernando Valley.

With sadness we note the recent passing of **Sara Wetherbee**, who played regularly at the 750 with Mel Lerner. She was a friendly, dedicated player, who always arrived early and was interested in improving her bridge skills. Sara was a unique individual and will be truly missed.

### Future Events

Unit 561's **Gala Holiday Party** will be held on Sunday, December 7, at the Marriott Hotel in Woodland Hills. There will be two sessions of bridge starting at 1 p.m. with a delicious dinner served between the sessions. Price will be \$40 per person in advance and \$50 at the door. Tickets are available at Bridge on the Boulevard and the 750 Club. If you need a partner, contact Rochelle Lotto at [nanalotto@yahoo.com](mailto:nanalotto@yahoo.com). For additional information, contact [Lnsilvey@mindspring.com](mailto:Lnsilvey@mindspring.com).

December Activities at the 750 Club: "Free Play" gift cards with holiday themes are available for purchase. These make excellent presents for your bridge friends, partners, and even worthy opponents! .

Club Championship Games (extra black points) will be held during the week of December 15-19. The 750 Club will be closed on December 25 and January 1 for Christmas and New Year's Day.

## Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Ruth Baker

It has been a busy month for Unit556. We offered an "Introduction to Bridge" class at the Valencia Library on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Rand Pinsky did an outstanding job with his "hands-on" lessons. The

library was very grateful for an afternoon that had the most participants they had seen in a class for adults. Many of our members volunteered and helped at each table. Thanks to Bill Brodek, Paula Olivares, Meressa Naftulin, Ruth Baker, Tracy Boys, Robert McBroom, Kathy Flynn, Anita Walker, Roy Ladd, Bert Stock, Dan McGreevy, and Betti Sternberg for their assistance.

### Game Results

**Unit Game Results from November 9** First Place: Paula Olivares and Bill Brodek with 61%, Second Place: Mary Ellen Downs and Hal Underwood with 57%, Third Place: George Lewis and Barbara York with 55%

**Ventura Regional:** Rita VanNatter and Anita Walker had 61.5% placed first in the Sat. 299er Game

**Santa Barbara KO III:** Elaine Moore and Tom Shudic were on a team that placed first

A few Valencia and Friendly Bridge club results are noted below: Jane Dietz and Linda Merante had a 69% morning game. Lamont Johnson and Bill Brodek had a 69% afternoon game. Michael Grossman and Purshotem Tenvarangam had a 72% morning game.

### Recent rank achievements

Carole Provost became a Regional master Roy Ladd became a Bronze Life Master.

There will be Unit games December 9 and January 13 in Valencia. January 13 will be our after holiday-holiday party and general membership meeting.

We will select our new board members at this time.

## 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: Monday, December 1, 7:30

Club Championship: Friday, December 5, 11:30

Western Conference STAC:

Monday, December 8 thru Sunday, December 14

TSB Unit Christmas Party:

Sunday, December 14, 1:00 (Lunch at noon)

Club Championship: Tuesday, December 16, 11:30 →

Friday Night games on December 5 and 19

### Unit Christmas Party

The Torrance South Bay Unit Christmas Party will be held Sunday, December 14. Food will be served at noon and the game will start at 1:00 p.m. There will be matchpoint pairs games for A/X and BCD Strats. To assure a place please sign up for reservations at the South Bay Bridge Club or call the club at 310-325-7222. If players want to donate food to the party the unit would be very grateful.

### AGILE Bridge Club News

Club Championship Week: Tuesday and Friday 199er games December 9-12

The Christmas Party Pot Luck will be Tuesday, December 16 at 11:30 a.m. at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club.

Beginning Bridge starts at a new location with four free lessons Thursday, January 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. For the first time Jeff Grotenhuis will teach beginning Bridge in his new home in Redondo Beach. Location will be at the Woman's Club of Redondo Beach 400 South Broadway. The class is for new players and those returning to Bridge who want to learn modern Bridge. Lessons will be every Thursday morning. The first four weeks are free. Players will play on their first day. Contact Jeff Grotenhuis (310)-600-4275, jeff@gmail.com or visit [www.agilebridgeclub.com](http://www.agilebridgeclub.com).

### Club Championships

The October 27 Club Championship saw Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott winning Flight A with Bob Rothman/Mike Welsh on top in Flight B and Robin Hill/Donna Moody leading Flight C. On November 7 the Club Championship was headed by Joan Johnson/Bea Cron in Flight A and Ellen Tarlow/Tajie Major in Flight B. The NLM Club Championship on November 13 was won by Freda Main/Madge London in Flights A, B and C.

### Team Winners

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

October 21: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Ed Piken, Wayne Otsuki  
 October 28: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott  
 November 4: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott  
 November 11: CVal Gamio, John Jones, Jim Dutton, Broniek Felczer

### TSB Winners at Torrance Regional

The following is a list of Torrance South Bay unit members who won events at the recent District 23 Torrance Regional.

Monday Afternoon 49er Pairs: Martha Bragg/Norma Gecks

Tuesday Midday Side Game: Carol McCully/Ed Barad

Tuesday Afternoon 299er Flt D and E: Shirley Wilson/Robert North

Tuesday Afternoon 299er Flt F: Sally and Christopher Earnest

Tuesday Evening Side Game: Luis Gamio/John Jones

Tuesday Evening Swiss Flt B: Lilyan and Ernie Frank

Tuesday/Wednesday AM Swiss Flt B and C: Madge London, Freda Main, Elizabeth Biggins, Carole LeCaze

Wednesday 49ers Flt B and C Debbie Meyers/Shirley Clouch

Pat Banks A/B Pairs Flt B: Jeff Grotenhuis/Ann McClelland

Thursday Afternoon 299er Swiss: Michael McGory, Thomas Fisher, Charles Stratham, George Kay

Thursday AM Side Game Flt B and C: Judith Tomic/Nancy Guenther

Katherine Helber A/B Pairs: Bruce Horiguchi/John J. McDermott

Katherine Helber A/B Pairs Flt B: Robert Rothman/James Andrews

Friday AM Side Game Flt B and C: Elizabeth Biggins/Laurie David

Friday Afternoon 299er Pairs: Sara Dokter/Hollace Cain

Saturday Compact KO Bracket 1: Mike Savage/John J. McDermott

Saturday Morning 299er Pairs Flt B and C: →

Johanna Kang/Terry Hane

Lois Miller Gold Rush Pairs Flts Q and R: Linda Dillon/Stephen Page

One last note is that I was told to mention that Luis Gamio had a 74% game in the side game he won. This is all the more remarkable since he was playing with John Jones (for the first time).

### **GUV Memorial Award**

Having bragged a little last month about running a double Squeeze to save face at IMPs when in the wrong contract I must confess now to making the biggest defensive blunder at the Torrance Regional and maybe all-time in Bridge. Playing in the IMP pairs I held ♠xx ♥xxx ♦Kxx ♣K8xxx. The bidding proceeded 2♦ by pard, Double by RHO, 3♦ by me, 4♥ by LHO, pass by pard, 6♠ by RHO. I led a low diamond and saw ♠xx ♥AKQJxx ♦Jx, ♣9xx in dummy. Declarer won with the ♦A and cashed 2 high trumps. He then led the ♣A, partner dropping the ♣10. He next led a low club. Now my dumbest Burmese cat and almost every player in the room would know that it was obvious that declarer had a heart void and was in big trouble. Everyone except me. Rather than cashing my two kings I let the ♣9 win in Dummy supplying declarer with all the necessary pitches to claim 13 Tricks. Looking at the results on the Internet later I was amazed to discover that 6 people actually were in slam making on this hand. Could the 6 worst defensive plays of all-time been on the same hand? This hand was played against John Jones and Roger Lee who won the event comfortably with a lot of help from me. It must have been their day.

Gerri Carlson relates a story from the same tournament in an eight board Swiss match. After playing boards 1 thru 7 her opponent asked what board came next. Gerri's team lost the match.

Na Zdrowie

## **West LA by Robert Shore**

### **Holiday Cheer**

I hope that everyone enjoyed this year's Holiday Party. We'll have a full report next month, but for now (with the party between my submission deadline and

publication) I'll predict that the Black-and-White Ball was a smashing success. For those who just can't get enough party action around the holidays, Barrington will hold its holiday party on Tuesday, December 23, while Beverly Hills plans its party for December 11. The December 11 game will be part of the STAC and we expect to hold the December 23 game as a Unit-Wide Championship, so not only will there be plenty of holiday cheer to go around, but also lots of master points.

### **Coast to Coast Action**

First, an omission from last month's column. Your Humble Scribe managed to find the victory circle in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs game at the Magic Mountain Sectional.

As usual, our Unit claimed top honors at the Torrance Regional early and often. New member Steve Reitzfeld starting things off with a win in the Monday afternoon 299er Pairs game. Peter Benjamin kept things going with a win in the Tuesday-Wednesday morning Swiss Teams event. Colin and Nelly Gordon teamed with Ted and Cecil Glaessner to win their bracket of the Pumpkin Knockout Teams event. Willa Johnson alliteratively won the Wednesday afternoon 49ers Pairs game, and Michael Keston won the Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs. Bill Schreiber won the Haunted Knockout Teams event, and then partnered with Sid Brownstein to win the Saturday A/B Pairs event. Len Holtz scored a win in the Witch's Knockout Teams event, while Mike Savage claimed victory in the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams game. Finishing off Saturday, Lila and Dan Levine won the Saturday afternoon 49er Pairs game. Ifti Baqai was a winner in the Sunday A/X Swiss Teams event, and Joel Schiff, Rick Turner, and Alyssa Kennedy teamed to win the top bracket of the Sunday Flight B Round Robin Teams.

Moving up the coast, Judy Hyde took home the victory in the Tuesday Open Pairs game. James Perkins won the Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs game, while new Unit member Alex Kolesnik teamed with John Ramos to win the Wednesday afternoon-evening Swiss Teams event. Your Humble Scribe and Bruce Altshuler managed a win in their bracket of the Final Compact Knockout Teams event.

Judy Hyde returned to the winner's circle, traveling across the country for a victory in the Monday evening Charity Pairs game at the Daytona Beach →

Regional. At the Long Beach Sectional, Ifti Baqai was a winner in the Saturday afternoon pairs game and Mike Savage won the Saturday Compact Knockout.

Finally, in North American Pairs action, Viktor Anikovich was the top Flight A qualifier at the Beverly Hills District semifinal. The second semifinal was played this month at Long Beach, and qualifiers in all three flights have the opportunity to win a subsidy to the New Orleans Spring Nationals. The District Final will be January 18, 2015, at Barrington.

### Two Goodbyes

Another coast-to-coast tour, this one on a sadder note. First, Paul Smith, having passed the age of 100, has left us. Those who know Paul, or who read his obituary in the Los Angeles Times, know what a remarkable life he led. At the bridge table Paul remained sharp to the very end. Indeed, he appeared in last month's column with one of his many 70% games, and I'm reasonably sure his most recent regional victory was within the last year or two. Our sympathies to Paul's numerous friends and family.

Crossing to North Carolina, we received word that long-time Unit member Marshall Wengrow has passed. Marshall and his wife recently moved to North Carolina to be closer to his grandchildren. Our condolences to Helle and the rest of Marshall's friend and family.

### Removing the Guess

Sitting fourth seat, at matchpoints, red against white, you hold:

♠AK5 ♥A963 ♦KJ843 ♣Q

It's a nice collection, of course, but after two passes in front of you RHO opens 3C. You have an easy double and partner bids 4C. You bid your four-card major and buy the hand in 4H. The opening lead is a low club and you see:

Dummy: ♠Q1094 ♥Q1072 ♦A65 ♣J7

Declarer: ♠AK5 ♥A863 ♦KJ843 ♣Q

Righty wins the first club with the A and leads a small club back, which you ruff in hand. You lead the trump A, both following, and another trump toward dummy, fetching LHO's J. You cover, of course, and righty wins the K and returns a third trump, lefty

discarding a low club. Decision time. How will you play the side suits?

We've seen that RHO has three hearts and we can be sure on this auction that he has at least 6 clubs. As long as that's true, there's a guaranteed line. Simply lead a low diamond from dummy and cover RHO's card. If LHO returns a diamond, the whole diamond suit is coming home. If LHO returns a spade, inserting the 10 picks up the spade suit. And if LHO has a fourth club and leads it, then cashing the diamond A will allow you to complete the count on RHO's hand. If RHO shows out he started life with 6 clubs, 3 hearts, and 1 diamond, so you can simply play the top three spades to bring home the spade suit. Unfortunately, hindsight is 20-20. I missed that line at the table and was the only declarer to go minus when I misguessed the spades, playing LHO for four to the J.

### Welcome Mat

Another bunch of new members to welcome to our Unit. Recently joining the ACBL are Edna Eldridge, Suzanne Prince, Steve Reitzfeld, Dan Sloan, and Ms. E. Wright. Transferring into our Unit are Beth Benson and Robert Cottle. Please give them a hearty welcome when you see them at the table.

### Around the Clubs

One of last month's Barrington Club Championships resulted in a tie between the pair of Susan Somogyi and Rick Weiss and Steven Yaffe and Paul Smith, who went out a champion. Paul partnered with Aram Bedros to win the other Club Championship. Paul and Steve also had 70% games, as did Aram Bedros, Art Zail, Michael Nash, and Hans Kraepelien (who each hit the benchmark twice last month).

Club champions last month at Beverly Hills were Marty Gelfand and Bill McClean and Alan Wollman and Chuck Fonarow. Hitting 70% last month were Wayne Karson and Aram Bedros, Kris Sommer and Richard Stevenson, and Bob Levy and Sally Aminoff.

Finally, a rare report from the Marina Club, where Tony Scott and Wayne Karson notched a 75% game last month.

### Climbing the Ladder

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, David Chechelashvili, Roger Lee, David Sacks, Mike Shuster and Jon Wittes

# 1

MPs  
no vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠-- ♥JT764 ♦94 ♣AK8764

What call do you make?

*We'll start with a panelist who doesn't like the 1NT Forcing response.*

**Bare: 3♣.** There is no good bid. I would bid 3♣ on my first call. That should show 10 or 11 HCP with six clubs. Not perfect, but 1NT followed by 3♣ should show a bad hand with more than six clubs. *[I don't think that I like an invitational 3♣ initial response even if I had it in my arsenal. It preempts hearts, and runs some risk of playing a 6-1 club fit with a good heart fit on the side.]*

**Sacks: Pass.** I have ruffing value for 2♦. Yes, we could be missing 5♣ or even 6♣ with a perfect three card club fit opposite.

**Wittes: 2♥.** I'm assuming 1NT is forcing. Partner has more diamonds than clubs, could even be 5=3=3=2 or 5=3=4=1, and we are playing matchpoints. At IMPs I would probably bid 3♣.

*Gerry, David and Jon have more experience with Forcing NTs than almost any three people I could name. All three of them were close to the ground floor of the Walsh 2/1 development. And look at their answers: three experienced experts, three different answers.*

**Chechelashvili: 2♥.** It looks like I might get too high, but I don't think I can afford to pass. If partner has 5=4=2=2 or 5=4=3=1 type and extras, we belong in a game.

**Lee: 3♣.** Anything else is too speculative.

**Shuster: 2♥.** This rates to make. 3♣ doesn't score as well and is a level higher.

*This hand was given to me by a reader, Matt Klimesh. Matt chose 2♥. I'd choose 3♣, but I agree it's a guess.*

2

IMPs  
all vul

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

You South hold:

♠-- ♥AQ73 ♦AKQ73 ♣KQ92

What call do you make?

*First we will hear from our identical twins.*

**Bare: Double** - What else?

**Chechelashvilli: Double** - What else?

*David and Gerry aren't really twins. They both are expert players and outstandingly nice partners. But stylistically, they are far apart. Gerry is solid, conservative and uses tried and true conventions. David is creative, very aggressive, and uses some very modern treatments. But they react identically to this problem, "Double, What else?" So both ends of the expert spectrum think that doubling is obvious. Should we consider other actions?*

**Lee: Double.** I'm happy to defend if partner wants to. I think 2♠ shows long diamonds, not a hand like this.

**Sacks: Double.** I don't like having a void, but I have enough tricks to know they are going down. If somehow partner pulls, we are better placed than starting with 2♠ and not knowing if we really have a fit. The bonus is that many times on this auction, an opponent bids 2♠.

**Wittes: Double.** Partner doesn't rate to have very much, and if he wants to defend, I'm game with all of my extras. If partner has a real dog with only so-so spades, it might be right to just pass and take my plus 200 or 300, since partner might pull and all we would

have would be a part score. However, the chance of a big number seems to make a double correct.

**Shuster: Double.** Is this from the world championships where partner converts with KQJx of spades, and we have slam on? It wasn't this hand's fault.

*This hand is from the 2012 Spingold semi-final. Claudio Nunes and Jimmy Cayne held this hand. Cayne chose to double and had partner Michael Seamon pass holding ♠976543 ♥64 ♦6 ♣AT73 for down one and plus 200. Nunes chose to reopen with 2♠. This netted 3♣ by Fulvio Fantoni, 3♠ by Nunes, a nice 4♠ bid by Fantoni, 6♣ by Nunes, all pass, making, for a 15 IMP gain. Nunes and Fantoni don't play standard. In the Fantunes system, the 1♦ is natural and sound, and is forcing for one round. Did the system differences mean much on this hand? I doubt it. When I was beginning to learn bridge, I was advised not to reopen with a double holding a void. I don't believe that is sound advice. Many numbers come from reopening with a double. But what influenced Nunes not to reopen with a double? Most American experts would agree with Roger that a 2♠ reopening would show longer diamonds. I asked the panel, but still don't understand why 2♠ should be chosen versus double. Maybe Nunes was lucky? A subsequent discussion I had with Shuster indicates that maybe I asked about the wrong hand. Possibly the ♠976543 ♥64 ♦6 ♣AT73 hand should realize that the overcaller is likely to take five trump tricks and shouldn't pass.*

## What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to  
[bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)

# 3

MPs  
all vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥J976 ♦AJ92 ♣AT92  
What call do you make?

*This hand is very similar to a hand a few years back in the Bridge Bulletin. In that problem there were votes for nine different calls: Pass, 4♠, 4NT, 5♣, 5♦, 5♥, 5NT, 6♦ and 6♥.*

*We'll start with the passers.*

**Chechelashvili: Pass.** Partner can have 18 to 19 balanced, and I need very specific hand with no lost values in spades to make a slam, and it is matchpoints.

**Shuster: Pass.** Clear at MP scoring, close at IMPs, but I take the low road with 4441 shape.

**Sacks: Pass.** I take the low road. *[If you see Mr. Shuster on that road, say "Hi" for me.]* This mostly depends on how much wastage partner has in spades. Most people these days are pushy when vulnerable to bid 4♥ rather than 3♥ on marginal hands.

*The more aggressive bidders make a slam try. If we make a try, which slam try is best?*

**Wittes: 5♥** - Should ask for good trumps. If partner has something like ♠AKx ♥Kxxx ♦KQxx and ♣KQ, I don't want any part of a slam, but with good trumps, slam rates to be a good proposition. *[5♥ asking for good trumps focuses on the problem better than cuebidding 5♣.]*

*Even more aggressive are the RKC bidders. They'll be in six if partner has two of the ♠A, ♥A and ♥K.*

**Bare: 4NT.**

**Lee: 4NT.** Seems simple enough.

*This problem is twofold. The first part of the problem is to consider what types of hands would bid 4♥. The second part of the problem is to visualize which of those hands make slam and which don't. The jump to 4♥ in modern expert style is typically a balanced 18 or 19. Some sloppy 18 counts might only bid 3♥, and some hands with a singleton honor might not splinter. But visualizing a balanced 19 HCP hand opposite will get us close. An evaluation technique when deciding to make a game try or slam try is to visualize partner's hand having a magic minimum: perfect cards, but no extra HCP, nor any extra distribution. If a perfect minimum makes game or slam cold, then make a try. This technique is sometimes called "Evaluation by Visualization". Eli Culbertson was probably the first to write about this system, and Jeff Rubens and Richard Pavlichek have contributed also. The best possible hand partner could hold is ♠Axxx ♥AKQT ♦KQx ♣xx, which makes 13 tricks quite likely. The worst hands that partner could hold include: ♠AKQJ ♥xxxx ♦KQx ♣KJ or ♠KQJ ♥Kxxx ♦KQxx ♣KQ. Those hands might go down in game on an unfavorable layout. What about the majority of the hands in the middle, those which are neither a terrific fit, nor a terrible fit? I think less than half of them will make slam, but that doesn't necessarily mean we shouldn't try. I think that asking for good trumps makes sense. So I'll askew the chance to join my friends on the low road, and join Mr. Wittes on the road less taken, the 5♥ path.*

4

IMPs  
no vul

West	North	East	South
3♠	Pass	Pass	?

You, South, hold: ♠-- ♥AKJ8762 ♦KJ ♣AQ63  
What call do you make?

**Chechelashvili 4♥.** Don't want any risk of partner's passing double with the wrong hand, and I can't really bid 5♥, as this most likely asks for spade control.

**Lee: 4♥.** I haven't made it yet.

**Sacks: Double.** I don't like it, but I'm too strong for 4♥, and 7-4 does not seem like a good hand for 4♠.

**Shuster: 5♥.** I wonder what East has that he didn't raise. Nevertheless, I'll bid my hand. [*5♥ would be our initial entry into the auction. I think it's natural, not asking for a spade control.*]

**Bare: 4♠.** This normally shows two suits, but an immediate 5♥ sounds like asking for a spade control.

**Wittes: 4♠.** This is the toughest problem of this set. We could be making anywhere from 7♥ to no game, though that seems unlikely. 4♠ followed by 5♥ seems to be a good compromise. Double could even be right if all of partner's values are in spades with short hearts.

*Yichi Zhang and Bob Long held this hand during a Cal Tech team game. Yichi elected to double, and his partner holding T8xxx x AT9x Kxx made the normal conversion of the double for +300. Of course 6♥ is a good contract and 13 tricks are available on the favorable layout with ♥Qx onside. Bob tried 4♥ and played there. Yichi said 5♥ was his second choice.*

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

unit, district or national level unless the individual is barred or suspended from the club. In that case, the club manager needs to notify the player in writing that they are being suspended and for what reason; a courtesy copy of that letter should then be sent to the ACBL Club Department. Even if this behavior is repetitive, if the club takes no action, your only recourse is to vote with your wallet and refuse to attend that game. This does not apply if the game is an ACBL game held at a club such as a unit game, NAP qualifier or GNT qualifier.

### Regional, Sectional & NABC ZT

Now let's assume that such behavior takes place at a regional, sectional, NABC or other ACBL game, even if held at a club (unit game, etc). Any person who believes that such behavior warrants a hearing in front of a disciplinary committee may take action. In many cases, the director-in-charge learns of the behavior and

calls for a committee. The DIC has some discretion as to whether to hold a hearing and it is very inappropriate to insist on a hearing where there is no merit to the claim. Gary Zeiger and Nancy Boyd, our two exceptional DICs, have sufficient experience to guide us if they think the claim is worth holding the hearing.

The other option is to report the incident in writing to the unit/district/national recorder (i.e. file a Player Memo). The recorder will then investigate the complaint and determine if the behavior documented warrants a disciplinary hearing. The recorder may also decide that the behavior should be recorded (kept on file) in case there are future incidents that demonstrate a pattern of behavior that may warrant a hearing. Last and not least, the recorder may decide the complaint is without merit and will notify the complainant and the subject that no action is being taken.

If a committee is convened, a document is created with the committee's findings and which is forwarded to ACBL headquarters and becomes a part of the player's

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5  
 MPs  
 EW vul

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♥	4♠
Dbl	Pass	5♦	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠64 ♥AT3 ♦JT973 ♣A96  
 What call do you make?

*How much do we need to worry about partner opening light at white versus red?*

**Sacks: Pass.** Would partner not open with a 55 or 65 ace-less light opener or even five five with ♥Axxxx and ♣Kx of clubs? I really want to bid 6♦, but partner was a third hand opener, and it is not clear to bid six opposite a first or second hand opener.

*How much do we need to worry about the matchpoint conditions?*

**Chechelashvili: 5♥.** It's matchpoints, and partner did not promise shortness in spades.

**Shuster: 5♥.** It's MPs, so I risk the major. Slam isn't really a consideration without more fillers.

**Lee: 5♥.** I'm too chicken to bid a slam and too greedy to pass, so I'll take the middle path.

*Can we belly up to the bar and bid the slam?*

**Bare: 6♦.**

**Wittes: 6♦.** Partner rates to be quite distributional to pull at this vulnerability, and my cards all seem to be working.

*This hand comes from this year's North American Pairs semi-final. My partnership does not have a style of opening extremely light, so I guessed to bid 6♦. My partner, Yudit Hasin, held ♠x ♥KQxxx ♦AKxxx ♣xx. Diamonds divided 2-1, so 6♦ would have made. I say "would have" because my LHO saw the passed hand bid slam after the third seat NV opener hadn't shown extras, and he took the incredible action of taking a Vul-versus-Not sacrifice (essentially ensuring that he would get a bad board). He was right that 6♦ was making, but got a zero for his minus 500.*

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permanent disciplinary file. In the event that the committee determines that the accused was guilty of inappropriate behavior, they can issue a reprimand, suspension or probation. In extreme situations the offender may be expelled from the ACBL. Expulsion or suspension is effective for all ACBL-sanctioned events including club games. If a suspended or expelled player attempts to play in an ACBL-sanctioned event further penalties will be incurred.

So to summarize, while Zero Tolerance is alive and well, don't hold onto the common misconception that there is a relationship between that policy and the much more formal procedure contained within the ACBL Code of Disciplinary Regulations. Both the Laws of Duplicate Bridge and the Code of Disciplinary Regulations can be found on the ACBL website.

Thanks to Chris van Leeuwen at ACBL headquarters for helping me with this topic.

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Our Unit's newest addicts, er, Junior Masters are Susan Louiseau and Bonnie Okamoto. Jeanne Bernstein, Karen Comegys, Gayle Dennis, Lynn Harvey, Heather Ho, Marilyn Rohlin, Janice Ronci, and Karen Sterling all have become Club Masters. Ms. S.T. Peterson, Roger Rasmussen, and Izydor Wilchfort are now Sectional Masters.

Jodie Rachmil enters the ranks of Life Masters as a Bronze Life Master. D. Geffner is now a Silver Life Master. Michael Nash is a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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