

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Rare Achievement

by Becky Clough



Who is that less than 5 feet tall dynamo sitting at table three at the local bridge club? Anyone who has played in Los Angeles for any period of time knows that it is most probably Ellen Anten. Ellen is a good friend and a fine bridge player. The reason she is the topic

of my column this month is that she has done something only 18 other women and 122 other men and women in the ACBL have ever done: earn 20,000 master points.

Roger and I went to Monterey with Ellen and Steve Gross early in January. At that time she needed 67 points to reach this milestone. Happily we helped Ellen earn half of those points and she earned the remainder of them in Albuquerque last week. Cheers to Ellen— it is quite an achievement.

Ellen was brought up in a close knit family in New Rochelle, New York. She graduated from Boston University where she first played bridge and where she met and married her husband Lewis. Ellen taught middle school mathematics in Boston before she and Lewis moved to Virginia so that Lewis could attend law school at George Washington University. During that time Ellen worked for the Fairfax, Virginia schools developing a special math program for gifted students. Two years later Ellen, Lewis, and new son Mark moved to Yonkers so that Lewis could complete law school and

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Providence Meeting Highlights

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



The following are highlights from the Providence Board of Directors Meeting.

Suzi Subeck from Chicago was elected ACBL President for 2015. It was a very close race with our District 22 Representative, Ken Monzingo.

All printed lifetime Masterpoint lists issued after December 31, 2014 will include online Masterpoints next to the total.

First time new members can have credit for up to 20 masterpoints won prior to becoming ACBL members. This motion eliminated a cut off time of 12 months.

Regionals now can be a full seven days instead of 6½ days provided certain parameters are met.

Regarding the 2015 budget, membership dues did not increase. Tournament sanction fees will be increased approximately 2% and TD session fees will increase approximately 5% beginning in April 2015.

Also, club short games (12-17 boards) table fees will increase from \$0.46 to \$0.52 per table.

ACBL Technology Committee

Robert Hartman, CEO, with the full support of the Board, has established a technology committee to advise management and the Board. The committee consists of management, board members, and outside experts. They held their first meeting the first week of January and established many subcommittees. These committees include: ACBLscore, Players paying for Club entries, Players paying for tournament entries, Clubs paying the ACBL, open data access through the web services, Data center, Budget 600K items, Results, and Online partnership desk(s).

It was agreed that all subcommittees will have open access to any information they need from the ACBL and that Face to Face Technology Committee

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Ellen could earn her masters degree.

Looking for warmer weather, Lewis accepted an offer from a prestigious patent law firm in Los Angeles. The family packed up and settled first in Sherman Oaks. Six months later they bought their home in Encino. Here they added son Todd and were soon joined by Ellen's parents and brother.

In time, as her sons grew up, they needed her less and Ellen needed something to do. She attended CSUN to become a career counselor and worked for the university in that capacity on a part time basis until they wanted her to take a full time position.

At that time, she began playing bridge again at the local bridge club with a friend. They weren't very good. Lewis's sister invited Ellen to go to a tournament in Bermuda, where by chance they won an Open Pair event and 25 gold points. Ellen, believing it was now time to really learn how to play bridge, began taking lessons and playing with better partners. She read many bridge books and took lessons from Craig Kavin. Some of her early partners were Andy Vinock, Gil Stinebaugh, and Bob Kerr.

In 1994 Ellen met Steve Gross. It was not long

before he was her favorite partner and they began traveling across the country to play bridge. Since the year 2000, Ellen has earned 1000 or more points every year and been among the top 100 players on the Barry Crane List. She attends on average two regional tournaments each month as well as all three nationals. When we are both in town, Ellen and I play Tuesdays at the Barrington. It's been fun being part of the ride.

Today, Ellen divides her time between bridge and her family. Her son Mark and his wife Charlotte live in Sherman Oaks with Ellen's twin grandsons, William and Gregory. The boys love to come to Grandma's house. Ellen travels several times each year to Manhattan to spend time with younger son Todd who followed in his father's footsteps as a lawyer.

In addition to playing bridge and spending time with her family, Ellen is also giving back to bridge by being part of the District 23 establishment. She is the Tournament Chairperson for all three of our regionals and our very successful Pro/Am game held each July is due to her leadership and hard work.

For me, Ellen is a dear friend who would give me the shirt off her back (it won't fit) if I needed it. I always know where to find her— at the end of her cell phone which is usually glued to her ear.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

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meetings will be held at each NABC on the last day of the ACBL board meeting. These meetings will be open to the public.

For 2015 I have been appointed chair of the Clubs/ Membership Committee and also chair of the Credential Committee. I will also sit on the Finance Committee as I am still ACBL treasurer. Finally, I will be on the Appeals and Charges Committee, Board Operations Committee, Communications/ Document Review Committee and Governance. It is a good thing I am planning on retiring this year.

Remember, if you need me, I can always be reached at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net

Southern California Bridge News

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**Woodland Hills Regional
February 16, 2015**

District 23 NAP Finals Conclude at Barrington

*by Mike Marcucci
D23 NAP Coordinator*

On January 18, we had 68 qualifiers compete for those New Orleans trips in the North American Pairs competition. We had a good day of bridge all around, according to our Director Dave White. In the end, there were repeat winners in two flights. After a long period going back to 1986, Mike Spero returned to the winner's circle along with Art Gulbrandsen in Flight A. Bob Shore took 1st in Flight B for the third straight time with new partner Kevin Lane. Dalia Hernandez and Colleen Bilas got the Flight C prize for this year. Our 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place pairs in each flight are pictured.

Ed Piken and Viktor Anikovich are also no strangers to the NAP. They have qualified for the national game five times (with different partners) and this is Viktor's fourth straight qual. With some rule changes this year, four of our B and C pairs will be invited to New Orleans, while for some reason it stays at three invites for Flight A. Our District will again be supplementing the ACBL awards for all our 2nd and 3rd place winners. Game entries are free in

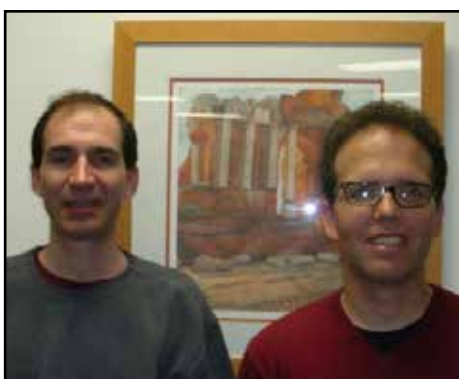
NAOP continued on page 13



A1. Mike Spero, Art Gulbrandsen



A2. Ed Piken, Viktor Anikovich



A3. Matt Klimesh, David Kempe



Kevin Lane and Robert Shore



Om Chokriwala, Bruce Altshuler



Steve Ramos, Michael Piken



Dalia Hernandez, Colleen Bilas



Joerg & Andrew Rottenbacher



Gerry Gastelum, Nancy Raiche

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

It has been fun getting to this point. My husband and I travel a lot so it took longer than desired to reach this goal. My only advice would be to set a goal and always work toward it.

*Barbara Leider
ACBL Regional Master*



I first played bridge when working for an aircraft company. We had 42 minutes for lunch so we had no time to stop and think, just play. After retiring, I started playing duplicate bridge and loved it.

The first time my partner and I won, we thought we were hot stuff winning .19 masterpoints. That was my start 15 years ago. Through the years I met new friends, new partners, and traveled throughout Southern California to tournaments. Everyone said, play in knockouts, you can win more gold points. One of my most memorial tournaments was when we won the first session and had to play in the second session. We didn't know that after winning the second session, we had to stay and play in the third session at night. We didn't leave the hotel until about 11pm and all four of us were like zombies. The best part of the event was **we won gold!**

Throughout the years I have always encouraged my partners to wear festive colors to the tournaments because we wanted to look good in the winner's circle. We always had our picture taken, whether we won or lost. I used these photos to make an iMovie of all my friends and partners. Although I am proud of my Life Master achievement, these photos remind me that it was the journey itself that was the most fun.

*Beebe Moorhead
Life Master*

District 23 Rank Changes December 2014

Junior Master

Charlotte Bannan
Sharon Lowry
Sandra Macdonald
Edward Pelant
Rosemary Schroeder
Tate Shafer
Dea Toutoungy

Club Master

Barbara Eckstein
Roger Neustaedter

Sectional Master

Selma Archerd
Michael Bazdarich
Gregg Myerson

Regional Master

Susan Frank
Barbara Leider
Sandy Rathbun
Shelley Singer

NABC Master

Barbara Astrin
Martin Lipman

Adv NABC Master

Dalia Hernandez

Life Master

Beebe Moorhead

Bronze Master

Nancy Collinge
Linda Renkus
Debora Stein

Gold Life Master

Lance Kerr, Edward Schwartz

Diamond Life Master

William Ng

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

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

WHEN?

**Monday, February 16th to
Sunday, February 22nd, 2015**

WHERE?

Warner Center Marriott

21850 Oxnard Street Woodland Hills CA 91367

**Reserve at 1 (800) 228-9290 or at
LosAngelesRegional.com**

Reserve early, rooms will sell out!

- ♠ Room rate \$134 (single or double)
- ♥ Reserve by Friday Jan. 31st 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 1 of 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 2 of 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, February 14, 2015
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

The Y is under construction and onsite parking is extremely limited. The back lot is no longer available. However, **free** parking is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Exchange parking lot, one block west, on Maryland, opposite the movie theater. Parking tickets are validated by the Y. The school parking lot on Wilson and Kenwood remains open for us on Wednesday nights and Saturdays.

Results of our January Unit game were as follows:

N/S

A1		Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A2		Jack Futrell & Patrick Cardullo
A3	B1	Merry Bezvold & Art Chacanas
A4		Hugh Bartlett & Bill Brodek
	B2	John Barrow & Karen Arase

E/W

A1		Sara Wilson & Martin Blain
A2		Robert Shore & Joe Viola
A ^{3/4}	B ^{1/2}	Betsy Josias & Nancy Lyon
A ^{3/4}	B ^{1/2}	Rick Weiss & Rhoda Weisler
	B3	Ann Raymond & Sandra Rucker

Our next Unit game is on Valentine's Day. Please join us.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

December 21 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Carmela Chiurazzi/Walt Schafer, 2nd Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan, 3rd Steve Skinner/Baum Harris, 4th Susan and Keith Hafen, 5th Bee Kinman/Jon Yinger, 6th Bob Mault/Phyllis Parker. In the B flight overall Barbara and Manuel Nowick were 2nd, Carol Murakoshi/Lavonne McQuilkin 3rd, Carl Muchnik/Jeff Grotenhuis 4th, Paul Pettler/Barbara Shuping 5th, Colleen Bilas/Dahlia Hernandez 6th. In the C flight overall Howard Smith/Judy Lorber were 3rd, Kay Hyland/Lynne Finley 4th. Congratulations to all!

January 1 Unit-rated New Year's Day Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Lorna Wallace/Mike Welsh, 2nd Walt Schafer/Carmela Chiurazzi, 3rd Ralph Beazley/Earl VanDerVord, 4th Kay Tseng/Cory Hand, 5th Diane Starbuck/Eddie Gruber, 6th Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger. In the B flight overall Robert and Richard Bakovic were 4th, Lavonne McQuilkin/Carol Murakoshi were 5th. And in the C flight overall Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein were 3rd. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: In open games Dec 16 through Jan 15: Jan 2 John Petrie/Earl VanDerVord had 70.43% and Jan 10 John Melis/Susan Hafen had 70%. Congratulations to both pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards Dec 16 through Jan 15: In the unit game Dec 21 Carmela Chiurazzi/Walt Schafer won 4.11 mp for 1st, Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle 3.08mp for 2nd. Dec 26 Jo Daigle/Marcie Evans won 4.33 for 1st, Tom Felice/Bill Brooks 3.25mp for 2nd. Dec 28 John Petrie/Louis Shen won 3.17mp for 1st. Dec 29 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 4.50mp for 1st, Robert Gish/Rose Boot 3.38 for 2nd. Dec 30 Steve Mager/Luis Gamio won 5.00mp for 1st, Bob Mault/Jerry Cassady 3.75mp for 2nd. In the big New Years Day game Carmella Chiurazzi/Walt Schafer won 5.69mp for 1st, Diane Starbuck/Eddie Gruber 4.27mp for 2nd, Ed Barad/Carol McCully 3.20 for 3rd. Jan 2 Mike Welsh/Loran Wallace won 4.81mp for 1st, Walt Schafer/Carmela Chiurazzi 3.61mp for 2nd. Jan 3 Earl VanDerVord/Sean Lui won 3.65mp for 1st. Jan 5 Cecil Cook/Al Beebe won 3.94mp for 1st. Jan 6 George

Welsh/Earl VanDerVord won 5.25 for 1st, Robert and Richard Bakovic 3.94mp for 2nd. Jan 7 April Berg/Larry Topper won 4.08mp for 1st, Orhan Gurbuz/Kay Tseng 3.06mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

Get Well Wishes: Mary Thomas and Larry Slutsky.

New Members: Robert Barmeyer, John Hagman, Camden Clair Parish, Donald Valens. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Ed Janik. New Sectional Masters: Carol Lopresti, Betty Scharf. New NABC Master: John Berg. New Bronze Life Master: Jane Reid. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club

February 9-15 Club Championship Week. Extra points, regular prices.

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Game: December 18 (Clubhouse #3) overall winners: Marilyn McClintock/Sibyl Slutsky 1 in A. Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 2 in A. Sharon Baren/Shirley Spinks 3 in A. Jim Kaping/Alan Olschwang 4 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Judy Carter-Johnson/Gene Yaffe 5 in A, 2 in B. Paul and Monica Honey 6 in A, 3 in B. Dick Sands/Ted Galardos 4 in B. Cookie Pham/Bobbi Vann 5 in B. Midge Dunagan/Julia Cunningham 2 in C. Betty Sichel/Jean Byer 3 in C. Thuan Gwynn/Nancy Lichter 4 in C.

Congratulations: Joan and Ted Weiber had a 71.97% game December 22 at Clubhouse #3.

Get Well Wishes: To Larry Slutsky and John Chang.

Upcoming Club Championship Game: Clubhouse #3 January 8.

Upcoming Unit Rated Game: Clubhouse #3 February 16.

Phone Number for Clubhouse #3—Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner—After 12:00 none: (562) 481-7368. Games are held on Mondays/Thursdays at Clubhouse #3 and Friday/Saturday at Clubhouse #1 at 12:15. Advanced reservations are requested as Leisure World is a gated community. Please Call: Monday—Midge Dunagan (562) 594-9698 Thursday—Cookie Pham (562) 431-6453 Friday and Saturday—Jaye Woodington (562) 799-1089. If you have any news for next month's column

please email me: jcj90740@gmail.com. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

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

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

We rang in the New Year (EST) at San Marino with 8½ tables and lots of great food, thanks to Dominique and Bernie. We weathered the cold with a plethora of heaters that proved a challenge to the fuse.

The heat is back in San Marino, the part has been replaced!

Unit Game Winners, January 2

Flight A: Lulu Minter and Fredy Minter,
Flight B: Gary Swinhart and Timothy Parris
Flight C: Zu Ming Cheng and Edward Hsi

San Marino Bridge Center

Celebration of Life Luncheon in Memory of Rita Corwin: Monday, January 19, 11:30 San Marino Game,
Unit game: February 8, 2015 Sunday, 1:00 San Marino

Admittedly, the following song is 'a day late and a dollar short.' But I thought you'd enjoy it anyway.

*'Twas the night before Christmas
Two guests in our house
Were playing some bridge
With me and my spouse.*

*"Please tell me," she shouted
"Why didn't you double?
'Twas plain from the start
We had them in trouble."*

*"Tis futile, my Dear -
I am taking no stand.
So please stop your nagging
Let's play the next hand."*

"Remember next time"
 She said with a frown
 "To double a contract
 That's sure to go down."

North
 ♠9876
 ♥65432
 ♦8765
 ♣--

West
 ♠--
 ♥QJ109
 ♦KQJ109
 ♣KQJ10

East
 ♠AKQJ10
 ♥AK87
 ♦
 ♣A987

South
 ♠5432
 ♥A432
 ♣65432

West	North	East	South
		1♠	2♦
Dbl	2♥	Dbl	2♠
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
Pass	Pass		

So I picked up my cards
 In a downtrodden state.
 Then I opened one Spade
 and awaited my fate.

The guy sitting South
 Was like many I've known.
 He bid and played
 In a world all his own.

"Two Diamonds," he countered
 With scarcely a care.
 The Ace in his hand
 Gave him courage to spare.

My wife, smiling faintly
 And tossing her head,
 Leaned over the table,
 "Double," she said.

And North for some reason
 I cannot determine
 Bid two Hearts,
 like preaching a sermon.

I grinned as I doubled
 Enjoying the fun,
 And turned round to South
 To see where he would run.

But South, undistressed
 Not at loss for a word
 came forth with "two Spades" -
 Did I hear what I heard?

The other two passed
 And in sheer disbelief
 I said "Double, my friend,
 That'll bring you to grief."

South passed with a nod
 His composure serene.
 My wife with a flourish
 Led out the Heart Queen.

I sat there and chuckled
 Inside o'er their fix.
 But South very calmly
 Ran off his eight tricks.

He ruffed the first Heart
 In his hand right away.
 And then trumped a Club
 On the very next play.

He crossruffed the hand
 At a breathtaking pace,
 'Til I was left holding
 Five Spades to the Ace.

In anguish my wife cried
 "Your mind's growing old.
 You should see that Six No Trump
 for us is ice-cold!"

By doubling this time
 I'd committed a sin.
 It just goes to prove
 That you never can win.

How about two impossible bids, in one auction?
 Last Thursday, at Arcadia, I opened, 2nd seat, 1
 Heart. Opponents did not bid, and my partner bid 1NT
 (forcing). I then bid 2♦, and my partner made the →

first ‘impossible’ bid, i.e. 2♠. Impossible because had he held 4 or more spades he would have bid 1♠ over my 1♥ opener. Not to be outdone, I then made the next ‘impossible’ bid. Holding ♠KJx, I **passed**. Needless to say, we did not fare well in our 3/3 spade fit.

Partners bid was meant to show that his was a maximum forcing NT, coupled with strong support for my 2♦ bid. Others thought it either asked for, or showed a spade stopper for a possible NT contract.

All, however, were in complete agreement that that my pass was, truly, impossible.

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, February 28, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – Saturday, February 7, LaVerne Site

We start this month off with an apology. In the listing of NAP qualifiers for the final, we inadvertently omitted the name of Bridgit O’Sullivan. Mea culpa, mea maxima culpa.

The December Unit game was won by Paul Chrisney - Ann McClelland, followed by Vic Sartor - Hans Hehnke, Fredy Minter - Lulu Minter, and Timothy Finlay - Eileen Finlay.

The December Unit game was won by Anand and Kiran Kumar. Fredy and Lu Minter took second, Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore placed third, Richard Patterson - Roger Boyar fourth, and Pat Radamaker – Clint Lew rounded out the top five.

The January Individual was won by Your Correspondent, followed by Carolyn Siracuse, Bob Kakade, Richard Patterson, and Claudia Cochran.

No promotions this month. Oh well, except for the Palm Springs regional, not a lot of action in December. Too much holiday spirit? (No, an oxymoron, there.)

The top game this month was a 71.3% effort by Walt Otto and Clint Lew. Lots of other names also graced the leader board: Penny Barbieri, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Hanan Mogharbel, Charlotte Capelle, Roger Boyar, Richard Patterson, Mary Miller, John Barrow, Roger Ginsburg, Lynn Parker (visiting from the frozen wastes), Don Logsdon, Lois Snowden, Barbara Killebrew, Billie Steiner, and Carolyn Siracuse (ironically, from Buffalo). Fittingly (or so it seems to our warped sense of humor) for the New Year, our hand of the month returns to the “why me?” theme. These two gems both popped up in

the same session. As dealer, you find yourself holding:
♠AKT764 ♥K ♦K ♣JT932.

Hmmm, not often you hold two stiff Kings, and neither of them the club King. You open 1♠, and somewhat disappointingly it goes pass – pass – 2♥. OK, so you climb back in with 2♠. Pass, pass, 3♥. Grrrr. OK, you can take a joke, so now you show your club suit. And then it gets ugly, because, suffering a senior moment, you call 3♣. LHO inexplicitly condones the call, partner corrects to 3♠, and RHO ends a frustrating auction with 4♥.

Oh well, it could be worse. You rate to take a spade trick, both kings are probably behind the aces, and partner might just come up with something useful. You lead the A♠, and dummy comes down with scattered stuff including a singleton heart. Great! Now declarer can take the trump finesse! Unfortunately for you, although partner does have something useful – namely the A♦, declarer, missing five trumps to the king, eschews the finesse and plays to the ace! Making 4. Declarer’s hand?

♠2 ♥AQJT974 ♦Q865 ♣6

Dummy had running clubs so away went some diamond losers. There ain’t no justice!

Our other exhibit just adds insult to the above injury. A few rounds later, you find yourself looking at one of the finest hands you’ve ever picked up:

♠832 ♥874 ♦T953 ♣743

No points, no shape, and you can’t even complain about holding a Yarborough with that stupid 10 staring you in the face. Oh well. (For the record... it was board 12. What else is new?)

With Valentine’s Day looming, our quote for the month is right on target: “Brevity is the soul of lingerie.” (Dorothy Parker)

Until next month ...

San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Special Congratulations

Om Chokriwala of Sherman Oaks achieved an →

impressive 788.49 MP's last year. He now ranks second nationally for the 500-1,000 Mini-McKenney category for 2014. Om closed a 60 MP deficit in December, narrowly missing first place by just 16.23 MP's. Unit 561 commends him not only for his outstanding bridge playing skills, but also for his consistent gentlemanly demeanor at the bridge table! Bravo, Om, for your superb accomplishments!

Unit 561 players with 10,000+ MP's who achieved more than 1,000 MP's last year: Steve Gross (1,208.40), Ellen Anten (1,133.01), and, Mitch Dunitz (1,003.73).

Unit 561 Mini-McKenney Winners (2014): Harris Blumenthal (0-5); Dennis Forst (5-20); Beverly McLeod (20-50); Dennis Hill (50-100); James Robinson (100-200); William Raines (200-300); Frederick Upton (300-500); Om Chokriwala (500-1,000); Marel Bates (1,000-2,500); Martin Blain (2,500-5,000); Andrew Vinock (5,000-7,500); Gilbert Stinebaugh (7,500-10,000); and, Steve Gross (10,000+).

Unit 561 Ace of Clubs Winners (2014): Harris Blumenthal (0-5); Laurence Abramson (5-20); Beverly McLeod (20-50); Dennis Hill (50-100); Dick Berg (100-200); Larry Kussin (200-300); Paul Endler (300-500); Om Chokriwala (500-1,000); Tammy Purkin (1000-2,500); Steven Yaffe (2,500-5,000); Andrew Vinock (5,000-7,500); Gilbert Stinebaugh (7,500-10,000); and, Steve Gross (10,000+).

December Top Ten Masterpoints at the 750 Club were: Phil Calloway 9.73, Susan Raphael 9.60, Carol Bell 9.26, Gloria Feerst 8.66, Vera Mandell 7.87, Michael Wiener 7.12, Bill Raff 6.16, John Tickner 6.16, Dan Strauss 6.14, and, Jack Weingarten 5.59. 70% GAMES were achieved by Gloria Feerst-Michael Wiener (74.54%) and Ron Stewart-Michael Wiener (70.12%).

January Happenings

2015 Officers and Board of Directors: Doug Beagle, President; Dennis Hill, Vice-President; Nancy Klemens, Secretary; and, Phil Jones, Treasurer. Board members are Dennis Forst, Audrey Hill, M.J. Jubelirer, Rochelle Lotto, Frank Nordyke, Linda Silvey, and Ann Trygstad.

Calendar of Future Events

February 9, Unit 561 Board Meeting, at the 750

Club, 2:45 p.m.

February 9-12, Club Membership Days, at the 750 Club, 100% sectional rated black points.

February 13, "Top 50" Party, at the 750 Club, 100% sectional rated black points, catered lunch provided, reservations required.

February 16-22, Los Angeles Presidents' Day Regional, at the Marriott Hotel, Woodland Hills.

March 7, Unit 561 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Awards Celebration, at the 750 Club, catered lunch at 12noon, Intermediate/Open games at 1:00 p.m., \$12 fee, reservations requested, sign up at the 750 Club or email mjjubelirer@att.net for reservations/partnerships.

April 24-25, San Fernando Valley Sectional, at the 750 Club, 299er, Open and Swiss Team Games.

Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

The annual meeting for Unit 556 and "After the Holidays Potluck" was held on January 13 and a new board was elected for 2015. The board members are: Ruth Baker, Tracy Boys, Bill Brodek, Roy Ladd, Elaine Moore, Beth Morrin, Meressa Naftulin, Paula Olivares and Rand Pinsky. We had a successful year in 2014 with approximately \$1,000 profit on our sectional, two mentor games and an "Introduction to Bridge Day" at the library in Valencia. We plan to continue holding activities that will help grow the game of bridge in 2015.

Thanks to outgoing board members, Basant Shah and Onorita Pallanti, for their service in 2014.

Unit Game Results from December 30 in Santa Clarita

1. Arif Shah – Gary Grey 61%
2. Rita Vannatter – Bert Stock: 60%
3. Ted Maki – George MacDonald: 59%
4. Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky: 56%
5. Barbara Jones – Thomas Jones: 54%

Unit Game Results from January 13 in Santa Clarita

1. Betty Pavey – Basant Shah: 64.6%
2. Charles Morrin – Beth Morrin: 61.6%
3. Paul Gill – Roy Ladd: 57.3

4. Arif shah – Gary Grey: 56.2%
 5. Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky: 55.3%

Upcoming Events

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 3 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

Visit us on facebook for pictures from various tournaments and other activities: <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit556>

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

NLM Club Championship: Thurs, Feb 5, 10:30 a.m.
 Club Swiss Team Championship: Tues, Feb 10, 7 p.m.
 Club Championship: Wednesday, February 11, 7 p.m.
 Friday Night games on February 6 and 20

Club Championships

At the Unit Christmas party on December 14 Flight A in the top bracket was won by Fran Israel/Ray Mack with JoAnne and Cal Waller taking Flight B and Joan Crishal/Virginia Brewer leading Flight C. The Second Bracket saw Chris and Dave Larsen sweeping the board winning Flights A, B and C. The Club Appreciation game on December 31 was led by Carol McCully/Ed Barad in Flight A with Arlene Greengard/JoAnne Waller on top in Flight B and Freda Main/Madge London ahead in Flight C. The Club Championship on January 5 was led by Ted Gibbs/Mike Welsh in Flight A. There was a tie for Flight B honors between Jim Jensen/Booth Tarkington and Joyce Klossner/Mahin Khadive who also took Flight C honors. On January 14 the Club Championship was won by Dolores Nawa/Harry Wessells in Flight A with Nanci Schultz/Ernie Frank leading Flight B.

Team Winners

Only a couple Tuesday night team games during the holiday season. Following are the winning quartets.

Dec 16 (STAC): Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr,
 Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott
 January 13: Shirley Chang, Michael Piken, Jeff
 Strutzel, Steve Ramos

Western Conference STAC Results for TSB Unit games

Following are the pairs that placed in the overall standings during the recent Western Conference STAC in games played in TSB Unit clubs.

Monday Morning, December 8

14A Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott
 16A Gaye Herrington/Lucy Gellner
 24A Gabriela Jackson/Ray Mack
 17B Jim Jensen/Booth Tarkington

Monday Evening, December 8 Aux Pairs

1A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott

Tuesday Morning, December 9 Aux Pairs

1A Adelia Horton/Gabriela Jackson
 $\frac{2}{3}$ A $\frac{1}{2}$ B Kim Wang/Chein San Han
 $\frac{2}{3}$ A $\frac{1}{2}$ B Nancy Collinge/Dolores Nawa
 3B Nancy Guenther/Kathy Shinkle

Wednesday Morning, December 10

1A Fran Israel/Patty Taylor

Friday Morning, December 12

8A Gaye Herrington/Jeff Strutzel

Saturday Afternoon, December 13

16B Terry Hane/Mark Raggio
 14C Joanna Wallis/Booth Tarkington

GUV Memorial Award

At a recent tournament partner and I came up against a renowned pro and his client in the last round of a Swiss. This pair has had many successes over the years. However, success or not, the pro isn't shy about being very critical of his clients game at the Bridge Table. On one hand in this set they had a very torturous bidding sequence lasting several rounds to get to a cold game. In truth when the dummy hit the table it was apparent the client could have simplified matters by just bidding game a few rounds earlier. The pro taking note of this told the client "Do you just like to torture me bidding like that." Having witnessed a lot of the pro's admonishments to this particular client over the years, I couldn't resist uttering "Maybe it was just payback." At this point the client gave me a high five.

Na Zdrowie

→

West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Games:

February 12 at 12:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

February 13 at 12:30 p.m.

The More Things Change...

Officer elections came on the heels of our Unit Board's reelection. Congratulations or condolences, as appropriate, to each of our elected officers because all of them have reupped for another year. However, in a recent development Nancy Heck has agreed to put her professional skills to use on the Board's behalf as our new Webmaster, and Stephanie Young joins Candy Scott as one of our Publicity Chairs. We look forward to bringing you another year of great events.

Some Changes We Could Do Without

For as long as I've been serving as your Humble Scribe, I've been assisted by club reporters who have given of their time to locate and provide to me the 70% games at the clubs and the winners of club championships. And for as long as I've been filling this space, the Barrington news has been sent to me by Sandy Rink. Unfortunately, last month's report was the last we will ever receive from Sandy. Sandy passed away as the year was changing. Our heartfelt sympathies to Rodger and the rest of Sandy's family and friends.

Another all-too-soon departure was that of Elliott Marshall, who succumbed to a long illness. It wasn't that long ago we were celebrating 27,394 days since Elliott's birth. Elliott was a kind man whose presence will be missed for years to come. Our condolences to Elliott's family and friends as well.

Fun in the Desert Sun

Lots of winners to report from the Palm Springs Regional. Leading things off, James Perkins won the Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs. Joanie Pepper and Keith Miller took home the gold in their bracket of the Cathedral City Knockout Teams event. Zorina and Ed Pelant won the Thursday afternoon 99er Pairs event and then returned to the winner's circle in the Saturday afternoon 99er Pairs event.

Barbara Federman's team won its bracket of the Palm Desert Knockout Teams event. Doug Kushner grabbed a win in his bracket of the Bermuda Dunes Compact Knockout. Ifti Baqai was a winner in the four-session Saturday-Sunday Super Swiss Teams game. Closing out the tournament, Alan and Sherie Schneider won their bracket of the Sunday 0-2000 Swiss Teams.

There were other tournaments over the last month as well, and they didn't go ignored by members of our Unit. Your Humble Scribe made a modest contribution at the last Reno Regional by winning the laurels in his bracket of the Welcome '15 Compact Knockout Teams event. John Ramos went to the New York Regional and came back with a victory in the Sunday Round Robin Teams. Mike Savage continued his victory parade by winning the Sunday Swiss at the Dana Point Sectional.

Taking the Extra Chance

Red against white in fourth seat at matchpoints, you hold:

♠107 ♥A976 ♦Q ♣A87632.

Partner opens 1♦, you respond 1♥, and partner jumps to 2NT. Your methods allow you to make a slam try in clubs without committing past 3NT, so you decide your hand is worth it. You make an artificial 3♣ Wolff sign-off bid, forcing partner to bid 3♦. Your 3NT continuation shows mild slam interest with a club suit. Partner apparently liked what he heard, because his next bid is 6♣. The opponents lead the spade 3 and you see this dummy:

Dummy: ♠AK ♥Q43 ♦A652 ♣KQ95

Declarer: ♠T7 ♥A976 ♦Q ♣A87632

Your only problem is the heart suit, where you need to hold yourself to 1 loser. Eventually, of course, you'll lead a heart toward the queen, but if you get reasonable breaks, you can give yourself an extra chance.

After winning the first spade on the board perforce, you draw 1 round of trump on dummy, and both defenders follow. Now cash the diamond ace and ruff a diamond with the trump ace. Draw the last trump and ruff a second diamond. Now lead a second spade to dummy (eliminating that suit) and ruff dummy's last diamond (eliminating that suit as well). Now it's time to tackle hearts. You cash the heart ace and →

lead a heart to the queen. Your main chance fails when RHO produces the king. But your extra chance comes to the rescue when RHO proves to have been dealt only two hearts. She has nothing left but spades and diamonds, so on her forced return you trump in hand and you discard dummy's last heart, making 6 for a top. Just another example of the power of the extra trump.

Learning Can Be Fun

There are a lot of tournaments around this month, so we had to squeeze our Unit Games into a single week of the month. We are holding Unit-Wide championships on Thursday and Friday, February 12 and 13, at 12:30 at Barrington and Beverly Hills. Also, the Thursday night team game at Beverly Hills on February 12 (7:00 p.m. start time) also will be a Unit Championship.

Later in the month, the week of February 16-22 will feature our District's first regional of the year, at Woodland Hills. As always, the tournament will include speaker series both for more advanced players and for 299ers. I hear that Saturday's scheduled 299er lecture is a real barnburner. I, for one, can't wait to hear it.

Welcome Mat

Our newest members are Dilshad Ahmad, Ron Bloom, Kathy Cahalan, Lawrence Morse, Joe Sessa, and Jackson Tsao. Joining us from places near and far are Pat Bessone, Brenda Siegler, Janet Treisman, and Miriam Wyan. Please give them a big welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

NAOP continued from page 3

New Orleans.

Our qualifiers for the nationals in New Orleans:

Flight A

1. Mike Spero, Art Gulbrandsen
2. Ed Piken, Viktor Anikovich
3. Matt Klimesh, David Kempe

Flight B

1. Robert Shore, Kevin Lane
2. Bruce Altshuler, Om Chokriwala
3. Steve Ramos, Michael Piken

4. Joyce Henderson, Bob Preece Flight C

1. Dalia Hernandez, Colleen Bilas
2. Joerg & Andrew Rottenbacher
3. Gerry Gastelum, Nancy Raiche
4. Nancy Karnes, Bruce Schelden

The Flight B competition has grown nicely in the last few years and was slightly more than 8 tables this year. Flight C is attendance is traditionally way too small in this District. Since the under 500 MP

Beverly Hills was going through a Web site transition, so our reporter wasn't able to deliver news of its club champions and 70% games from the last month. Our apologies if your news is omitted from the column for that reason. Cyma Aronow has picked up the reins as our new Barrington reporter. She reports that Sandy's brownie recipe made an appearance at Sandy's memorial, courtesy of Bobbe Korbin. Hitting 70% games last month at Barrington were Aram Bedros and Art Zail and Marty Blain and Ted Glaessner.

We fit in three Unit-wide Championships in the last month. Taking first place at the Holiday Party were Danny Kleinman and Sally Karbelnig. Winning the New Year's Eve shindig were Bob Levy and Basant Shaw. Celebrating Elvis's birthday in style with a win were Nelly Gordon and Mim Spertus.

Climbing the Ladder

Looks like we started the new year with a bang. Our newest Junior Masters are Carol Muchin, Jerry Muchin, and Steve Reitzfeld. Lila Levine and Sin Orensztin have become Club Masters while Robert Eisenstein, Linda Rasmussen, and Brenda Rosin all have achieved Sectional Master status. sMarsha Bocan and Fuad Khuri are now Regional Masters and James Perkins has become an Advanced NABC Master.

Michael Abeles, Ellen Carrier, Eileen Miech, and Tom Webb are our newest Life Masters. Ellen Carrier has made it all the way to Bronze Life Master and Cathy Shpall is now a Silver Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

crowd are playing for the **same** prizes as Flight A, we challenge our C players to get that game up to eight tables next year. Please come out and enjoy a game where you can win gold points while playing against **only** our peers.

Congratulations to all our players for contributing to an enjoyable day of bridge in Santa Monica and good luck to our players going to New Orleans. Hope you bring back the medals.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Ed Davis, Ross Grabel, Rick Roeder, David Sacks, Michael Shuster, Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
all vul

North	East	South	West
1♠	Pass	1NT	Pass
4♠	Pass	?	

You, South, hold: ♠Q5 ♥KT84 ♦K6 ♣KT964
What call do you make?

We will start with a panelist who honestly admits that he wouldn't normally think of this as a problem.

Grabel: Pass. I must confess that if you were not presenting this as a problem, I wouldn't have considered moving. If partner can make a slam opposite a limit raise, he should have bid something else.

Another panelist prepares for winning the postmortem.

Sacks: Pass. 4♠ rebid with four key cards should probably open 2♣.

Other panelists regret not having an artificial game forcing jump available.

Roeder: Pass. I believe this problem is an advertisement for why a 2NT rebid by North should be an artificial game force. Lacking this treatment, I still think partner would have jump shifted in a faux suit, then rebid 4♠ on his third bid if slam was percentage.

Shuster: Pass. We rate to have 3 cover cards, which means our guy is going to make easily, but this hand isn't very slammish. In modern partnerships, strong 4♠ calls start with an artificial 3♣ jump shift. A direct 4♠ should be something like ♠AKJT9xx ♥x ♦AQx ♣xx - we don't even have 5-level safety opposite that.

Wittes: Pass. Very tempting to bid. If partner has

something like ♠AKJ10xxx ♥Ax ♦Ax ♣Qx, we're going to be just about laydown for a slam. On the other hand, if partner has something like ♠AKJ10xxx ♥AQx ♦xx ♣Cx, we're not totally safe at the 5 level.

Shuster and Wittes quoted almost identical hands as a minimum 4♠ bid. Maybe ♠AKJT9xx ♥x ♦AQx ♣xx is a 4♠ rebid for some players, but with 4 losers plus two finesses, 3♠ looks better to me.

Davis: 4NT. Although it is possible that we are in danger at the 5-level (♠AJTxxxx ♥x ♦AQJT ♣x), I think it is more likely that 6♠ is a good contract (♠AKxxxxx ♥Ax ♦A ♣Qx). We should have a good play for 6♠ if we are not off two keycards.

This hand came from the Monterey Regional. My teammate, Ellen Anton, held this hand and thought for quite a while before passing. Her partnership had a style of making semi-artificial jump shifts occasionally. Chris Compton, my LHO, had this problem. He took quite a while to think about this problem before bidding RKC. He caught 5♦ (one or four), and bid 6♠. His partner, Ron Smith, held ♠AKJxxxx ♥x ♦Ax ♣Ax and the slam was easy. Was Compton aided by knowing he was playing with a conservative partner? Note that if partner has 8 spades and 4 controls 6NT will be safer than 6♠ because the kings can't be lead through successfully.

2

IMPs
NS vul

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

You South hold:

♠A ♥KJ8 ♦J965 ♣AKT86

What call do you make?

2NT is woefully inadequate, given that it describes a balanced 12 – 14. Partner's double only promises an 8 HCP hand, so 3NT is a bit of an overbid and seems inflexible as to strain. The panelists came up with a couple of approaches as alternatives to directly bidding some number of no trump.

Shuster: 3♥. This is the wrong vulnerability and suit strength texture to convert for penalties or to unilaterally commit to NT, especially at IMP scoring. For me, it boils down to a choice between 2♥ and 3♥ and whether partner will move on over 2♥ on enough of the hands that are making game. To help with that decision, it is best to construct for partner a useful minimum such as ♠Qxxx ♥QTxxx ♦Ax ♣xx and see how game fairs (note, I gave partner the wasted ♠Q and not the ♣Q.) Here, we are off a heart and a diamond and need to deal with the spades. Still, we have chances on a crossruff if they don't lead trump... and to establish clubs if they do. Game is a favorite.

Grabel: 3♦ followed by 3NT. Can play alternate strains and this lets partner participate. 2NT seems inadequate and 3NT too unilateral.

Davis: 3♦. I would defend 2♦X at any other vulnerability and it certainly could be right to pass on this hand. However, we might not beat 2♦X enough to make up for a vulnerable game our way. If partner has an opening hand with short diamonds and good club support (♠KQxx ♥Axxx ♦x ♣QJxx), we should be able to bid and make 6♣. By bidding 3♦ and following with 3NT over 3♥ or 3♠, I show a hand that has more doubt about 3NT as the final contract than if I jumped to 3NT directly. If partner bids 3♠ over 3♦, he may think I have four hearts when I bid 3NT (I could), and he may correct 3NT to 4♥, which I will pass. (Partner's negative double of 2♦ does not promise both majors, so there is a reasonable argument for partner to bid 3♥

over 3♦ whenever he has 4+ hearts, since that would allow opener to bid 3♠ with four spades.)

One panelist dislikes the 1♣ opening bid.

Sacks: Pass. I want to abstain because I would open 1NT (no adequate rebid over 1♠ let alone 1♥) but given the conditions of contest, I pass and take as much as we can out of 2♦.

Opening 1NT solves some problems, but it creates others. Opening 1♣ does allow for the possibility of reversing into diamonds. If the auction goes 1♣ Pass 1♥ Pass, then reversing with a 2♦ bid seems about right. If the auction goes 1♣ pass 1♠ pass, 2♦ now seems too rich, and a heavy 2♣ rebid looks better.

Roeder: Pass. Anything else is as speculative as hitting on the last available female at 1:45 a.m.

Wittes: Pass. If partner has some random 8 count with short clubs, we are probably not making a game. If partner has short clubs and only the ♠K and ♥A, for example, we may be getting 800. Even if we are making a game, we're probably getting 500 against 2♦ doubled for only a small IMP loss. It seems like more good things can happen by passing than by bidding.

I like passing the double. This almost ensures a plus score for our side. East didn't raise, so partner is likely to have at least one trump. Some days we will have a game that will score higher than defeating 2♦ doubled. Even then, we may well have to get to the best game. Spades can't be completely ruled out as being our best strain, and certainly NT, hearts, and clubs could also be best. Any plus score will be good if our counterparts at the other table get to the wrong game and go down. On a lucky day we will get more than the value of our game.

3

IMPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
1♥ ?	3♥*	Pass	3NT

* asking for a stopper

You, South, hold: ♠AJ96 ♥AJ876 ♦-- ♣KQJ9
What call do you make?

Roeder: 4♣. You have to bid since this could easily be a double game swing. You might need keen table feel here because your best spot could be in spades.

Shuster: 4♣. We could have a slam (give partner ♠Kx ♥x ♦xxx ♣Txxxxxx.) They could be making 3NT. It feels like passing will get a terrible result and doubling for a possible 1 trick set isn't even remotely appealing. The club texture, and failure to hear a negative double from partner, lead me to the flexible 4♣ call. If spades is right, we just aren't often going to get there (I could bid 4♦ for takeout though). I realize some partnerships would use 4♣ as artificial here. Good thing I didn't discuss it ahead of time.

Sacks: Double. I used to have an agreement that 4 of a minor is takeout of that suit and double showed a playing trick hand with a 5 card minor, but given that no such agreement is available, I would double. Does the ♣J lead demand the ♣10 unblock? At least I get to pitch after declarer, which should make the defense easier.

Wittes: Double. If it goes all pass, I'll lead a high club. If they run to 4♦, I'll double again. The biggest problem might be if the 3♥ bidder has eight diamonds, it goes all pass, and we're cold for 4♠. However, I

would expect partner to bid with long spades and some distribution. I would also expect partner to bid with a heart raise that wasn't good enough to bid freely over 3♥.

Grabel: Double

Davis: Double. There are lots of options here, each with risk. Double is the most likely to be right since it could win in many ways: a) the best would be if it got partner to bid a major with sufficient length, b) it will get more points for us if they fail in 3NT or c) if it got them to run to 4♦ and, if partner did not double, it would allow me to bid 4♠ (this might not be good for us but it would be my choice). 4♣ or 4♠ (scary to bid 4♠ with no assurance of four-card or better support) instead of double could be the winner since that would make it easier to get to our right contract when partner has sufficient length. Bidding 4♦ and then redoubling for takeout would be fine except the nasty opponents might decide not to double.

This was a hand from a GNT several years ago. The player holding this hand doubled and it went all pass. He defeated the contract two tricks for +300. Beating the hand five tricks for +1100 was possible, but I wouldn't have found the defense either.

District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying

Barrington Bridge Club
April 11-12: Flight A and Flight C
April 25-26: Open Flight and Flight B

The complete Conditions of Contest can be found on the District 23 website: www.acbldistrict23.org
More information will appear in the February Southern California Bridge News
. Direct any questions to howardeinberg@yahoo.com

4

MPs
all vul

North	East	South	West
1♣	1NT	Dbl	2♦
Pass	Pass	?	

You, South, hold:
 ♠KJ962 ♥AQ762 ♦54 ♣8
 What call do you make?

Davis: 3♦. I hope partner will take this as takeout for the majors. I will pass partner's bid.

Roeder: 3♦. If my minor suits were reversed, I would bid 4♦.

Grabel: 3♦. Hopefully partner sees this as pick a major.

The 3♦ bidders are not forcing to game. They expect partner to jump with a reasonable fitting hand.

Shuster: 4♦. I might have started with 2NT to show a GF 2-suiter,

but here I'll "splinter" to force partner to pick a major. I hope his major isn't clubs.

Wittes: 4♦ If partner doesn't have a 3 card major, I may have goofed. Otherwise we rate to have a good play for 4 of a major.

Sacks: 2♥. I probably should have shown majors over 1NT, assuming we have a bid to show such. *[David is correct that most expert partnerships have a way to show both majors after a 1NT overcall, playing Hamilton or*

something similar. Maybe bidding for the majors would have been the choice of many panelists.] Since I am sitting over the 1NT bidder, my hand is probably worth more than 10HCP. 2♥ is my bid, which should be forcing at least one round and probably through 2NT. Bidding hearts, I don't force us to game and don't miss any nine card fits.

Is 2♥ forcing? I am certain that experts would not be in complete agreement on this question.

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.



"Fabulous" LAS VEGAS SECTIONAL

March 23-27, 2015
Monday to Friday

Tournament Co-chairs:

Jane Rubin (janee1212@aol.com), Bruce Rubin (brr32196@aol.com)

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5

MPs
all vul

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	Pass	?

You, South, hold:

♠962 ♥KJ5 ♦QJT9 ♣A86

What call do you make?

Davis: Pass. I would bid 1NT if they were not vulnerable, but pass looks best at this vulnerability, particularly at MP. If we beat them a trick, we score more than we would if we bid and made 1NT. I can lead trumps when I get in, and they may not be able to score any small trumps. Once I lead a trump, partner will continue to lead trumps if it is right. Partner did not overcall a major so the hand is unlikely to belong to us in a 5-3 major-suit fit. They may be better off in a major suit or in 1NT. Everything argues for defending 1♦ on this hand.

Grabel: Pass. There is no need to protect.

Wittes: Pass. Close between pass and 1NT. If partner has short diamonds, and couldn't double or overcall over 1♦, we're probably all right. If partner has a balanced 13 count, we might make a game, but I would still expect partner to double with a balanced hand and at least 1 four card major and less than four diamonds. *[Doubling on 4333 13 HCPs, and even 14HCP hands, is out of fashion with experts due to the fact that 4333 hands defend much better than they play.]*

Sacks: Pass. What does partner have not to bid over 1♦? Even if partner has 14 HCP, if he is 4333 we might not have a decent play for game. It seems to me that pass will average a bigger plus score than any other bid.

Roeder and Shuster don't always agree, but on this answer they seem joined at the hip!

Roeder: Pass. If you think for more than 10 seconds on this one, the ACBL should subtract about 50 of your master points. 100 beats 90. 200 beats 120. Pard could not make a takeout double. QED.

Shuster: Pass. We have a good shot at 100 vs. 90, or 200 vs. 120 here, as we have entries enough to draw trump. This would be a more difficult problem at IMPs, where missing a close game could be a huge adverse swing (I'd bid 1NT at IMPs.)

This is an old problem with one exception. The original problem was IMPs, not MPs. A strong international panel voted about 3 to 2 for 1NT on the initial problem. Several of the original panelists commented that it would be a tougher problem at MP. So I changed the problem to MP, and what do I get? I get a unanimous panel. I agree with them, too. The MP conditions make it less likely that missing a game will be horrific, and the opponents' being vulnerable means that if they are going down, we will score well by defending. Shuster is right. It is a better problem at IMPs, where our being vulnerable tilts the scale slightly towards bidding, so we won't miss a vulnerable game.

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org