

Southern California

Bridge News

Volume 54, #5

May 2018

Published by ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

History – Part 2

by Mike Marcucci



Had an interesting message the other day from ACBL. Their article a few months ago about very senior players by Rich Troxel got me interested in his question, which was “are there other active players who made LM before he did in 1955”. I knew that there was at least one right here in LA because I have played against Al Blinder. I was very happy to see in the following months that there were many replies on that subject and ACBL was nice enough to do features on the respondents with their pictures, including Al’s. Nice to see folks with that kind of interest in their hobby and who are still enjoying the game going on 60 & 70 years.

What I also found interesting was a mistake in their article. One of the respondents was in error by 106 places with the LM # they claimed. (In our D23 history records, we have a list!) Just for interests sake, I let ACBL know that and, sure enough, they responded with their thanks. No harm was done. The player absolutely deserved to be recognized because they were still prior to Rich’s #823 by a bunch! It felt good to have the record straight, but led to further investigation on LM numbers. Our tale continues.

By the end of a little study on LM numbers, we had found that certain numbers had never been issued. That was a surprise. One in the 2200 series, one in the 10500 series, and 50 of the 3600 series had never been issued! Just an interesting fact that is probably of no consequence to anyone these days, but I thought ACBL should know. They were also surprised and their message of thanks included disbelief that anyone would discover that! Amazing what you can find in old records!

PRESIDENT continued on page 2

District Director Report

May 2018

by Kevin Lane

“Bridge is a game and should be fun.”



Long-term progress on the board: the right direction

In three areas the board has made tremendous progress in the last three years. First, we have shifted to a business-oriented approach to running the ACBL – an approach that views the health of bridge overall as more important than the health of the ACBL organization proper. One consequence of this approach is a renewed focus on clubs.

Second, the ACBL has made great strides in addressing technology – both online play and internal systems. The problems from three years ago were deeply rooted. Some areas we’ve made great progress and other areas still lag.

Third, the board of directors has substantially cut their own expenses. In 2012, the board expenses were \$624K and for 2017 board expenses were \$397K.

I will provide more of both the good and the bad on organizational progress in upcoming months.

DIRECTOR continued on page 3

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PRESIDENT continued from page 1

Most folks in D23 (who come to regionals) have seen at least some of our historical records on the walls. The old pictures of players from the 60's and 70's continue to raise eyebrows and bring smiles to viewers. The Top 30 listings continue to be updated with both recent and past info. The Mini-McKenney listings are fairly complete for almost 50 years and more info is still being added to the earlier years. But what has exploded with new information since our last Regional in December is our list of old Bridge Clubs in LA. The listing has gone from about 200 to almost 400. We're not talking about present day clubs. We are talking about the ones that existed at one time but are now closed.

There is only so much data that we can get from magazines, and the time has come for a plea for assistance. In the next few weeks, each of the Units in LA are going to receive a list of those old clubs that we believe were in their geographical area. The request is going to be that this list be posted on a wall at the local club so players can examine it and add/correct/verify what we have. All of our senior players should get a kick out of seeing their old haunts up there on the wall. Many of the directors shown have passed away by now, but we honor their memory by keeping these records. We also honor all the work it took to operate these clubs by keeping these records, and things are even better when the information is correct!! If you've only been playing for a few years, the lists will entertain you by showing the great diversity of locations and people who contributed to club operations in all of LA. If you've been playing for a long while, please take a few minutes to find those old clubs that you may have started your career in and see if you can add any of the missing information. There will be an explanatory chart up there with the list to explain the columns. Mark-ups will be appreciated and you'll see your information displayed on the next edition.

We never have shown what the grand plan is for the D23 History Record. For what it's worth, we hope the attached TOC will get the idea across. The grand idea is to document the statistics of bridge in LA going back to 1935. This is not a novel. There is little narrative, no juicy stories of intrigue (there could be, in another effort), no explanations of why some partnerships lasted over time or why others were fleeting, no theories on the ups and downs of bridge interest over the last 70 years, no stories on how bridge has evolved over those years, and no prognostications

for the future. Our story will entertain by striking chords in player memories. Many old friends will be seen on our listings. We have not forgotten all those players who made their mark in LA, but have then moved away. If they come to our Regionals, they will see their record of accomplishment shown alongside those still here. We haven't quite decided on the pictures to include yet. We have found so many that a dividing line is not clear on what to include vs exclude. The project has already gone far beyond the initial idea (to record the NAP winners).

You'll also notice some stats that go beyond our D23 borders. A few of the topics will put our game in perspective for the reader (ACBL membership over the years, etc.). It is very satisfying to see the 100% labels on some of our topics.

That goal is probably not achievable for many of the topics, since source material/records MAY not exist today. Those copies of the SoCal Bridge News from 1964 to 1972 that we have not been able to locate would be priceless in filling in many blanks. There may be no other record in existence of our Boards of Directors for those years, our Unit Reporters for those years, etc., etc. Copies of the D22 Contract Bridge Forum from 1935 to 1956 is another lost treasure cache that would fill in lots of our history over those years. For anyone who has not heard my favorite lament, the "sphere of bridge" in the eyes of ACBL over those years did NOT include any activity west of the Mississippi. There is a pitiful lack of information about LA in any of the ACBL magazines from those years, so our main source could only be in those issues of the Pacific Bridge League's newspaper, the Forum.

Hope you are entertained by even the Table of Contents (TOC)! (See pages 3-4 for the TOC). Talk about a work in progress. Some day, parts or all will be on-line. You can help the project by filling in blanks.

In the meantime, I think I hear a nearby Sectional calling. Study the card. Study the card. See you at the tables.

Looking for a Club?

Check out

<http://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

All clubs in the Los Angeles area are listed.

You can look up all the game times,
locations, and contact info.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1**Philadelphia report**

The final Philadelphia NABC tablecount was 300+ above projections. Continuing my report from last month on the Philly board meetings:

New Convention Chart

The board approved a new series of convention charts – rules that decide which conventions are allowed at various levels of competition. This step represents major progress. Aside from the much-needed modernization of the infamous “General Convention Chart” the process for modernization is itself a success because a volunteer outside committee (Competition and Conventions), rather than the board, did the vast majority of work; tha’s a good thing.

Additional information on the new convention charts are available at:

<https://bridgewinners.com/article/view/official-version-of-new-convention-charts/>

Regionals at Sea

The board voted to increase the number of regionals at sea. I opposed this motion. My view is that regionals should be the province of districts – and sectionals should be conducted by units. I acknowledge that NABCs are a reasonable exception where concurrent regionals are allowed. The chief reason in favor of the motion is money.

Contact me at kland23@gmail.com to share your thoughts.

D23 History**A ALACBU**

- 1 origins of ALACBU
- 2 ABL, PBL, WC, ABA, USBA, ACBL dates
- 3 ByLaws
- 4 meeting dates, minutes
- 5 Office addresses

B Board of Directors

- 1 District Directors
- 2 officers, chairmen, members, committees
- 3 Unit Reps, Unit Presidents

C Regionals

- 1 dates, locations, attendance
- 2 flyers
- 3 Financial summaries
- 4 Flight point ranges
- 5 Tom Stoddard Trophy winners
- 6 Mel Morris Trophy winners
- 7 President’s Trophy winners
- 8 Betty Maier Trophy winners

D Scholarships

- 1 dates, winners, schools, awards
- 2 Winner pictures

Table of Contents**1960 to present**

55---60	100%
1931---present	20%
	40%
	50%

1960 to present

	100%
	85%
	30%

1934 to present

	100%---100%---70%
	85%
	15%
	70%
1970 to present	100%
1986 to 1994	40%
1990 to present	5%
1992 to 2003	100%

1993 to present

	100%
	50%

E Sectionals within D23		40's to present	
1 Units, months		85%	
2 Unit Sectionals per year/month		80%	
F ACBL / D23 statistics		1936 to present	
1 ACBL Presidents, home district		100%---	90%
2 ACBL membership		10%	
3 ACBL membership dues		95%	
4 D23 membership		5%	
5 #Regionals ACBL & D23		5%---	100%
6 #Sectionals---D23		90%	
7 #Units in D23		80%	
8 Unit consolidations		70%	
9 Unit Time Frames		70%	
10 Unit Charters of Incorporation		20%	
11 Unit ByLaws		100%	
12 List of Clubs		85%	
13 Goodwill Committee appointees	1955 to present	100%	
14 Charity Committee appointees	1959 to present	100%	
15 D23 Top 30	1935 to present	85%	
16 D23 Mini---McKenney leaders	1974 to present	90%	
17 D23 Ace of Clubs winners	1984 to present	50%	
18 List of Life Masters	1937 to 1962	100%	
G GNT Results		1973 to present	
1 Semi & Final game locations		0%	
2 Open, A, B, C results		90%	
3 Winner pictures		3%	
H NAP Results		1979 to present	
1 Semi & Final game locations		100%	
2 # tables, # players		50%---	40%
3 A, B, C results		98%	
4 D23 Winner pictures		40%	
5 National winners		100%	
I NABCs		1927 to present	
1 dates, locations, attendance		100---	100---90%
2 # per city		100%	
3 LM # awarded	'35---'73	90%	

District 23 Rank Changes March 2018

Junior Master

Iris Antola
Sue L Aspley
Joan N Brown
Bette S Gordy
Anthony I Gronich
Frances L Gross
Binnie D Lanahan
Jordan Moelis
Joyce L Neibart
Marjorie M Richards
Dave Singhal
Jim Werner

Club Master

Morris Asch
Judith Cook
Sylvia G Jones
Linda F Kilpatrick
Martin Petrasek
Diane L Vallette

Sectional Master

Mark B Beize
Sue Bernstein
Hilary W Clark
Laurie H David
Susan B Gornel
Robert M Hall
J Donald Houser
Julie Moelis
Jack D Stewart
H S Jackson Tsao

Regional Master

Lina Ashar
Joanne C Hadley
Michael R Kammerman
William H Miles Jr
Rudi Weinberg

NABC Master

Sharyn J Miller
Joan Oliver
Aggi I Oschin

Advanced NABC Master

Gerald C Ketz

Life Master

Kristi Kubo

Bronze Life Master

Jeffrey Hartmann
Kristi Kubo
Martin D Lipman

Silver Life Master

Samantha Macdouglass

Ruby Life Master

Russell S Buker
Janet R Cooper
Mike Welsh

Gold Life Master

Leslie Swift Rawitt

Sapphire Life Master

Ted Gibbs

Southern California Bridge News

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.
410 Mill Creek Lane, San Gabriel, CA 91775
Phone: 626-281-2179

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Copy deadlines: the 20th of the preceding month. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

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LOS ANGELES LONG BEACH REGIONAL

JULY 2-8, 2018

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

DAYLIGHT SCHEDULE! 299ER GAMES EVERY DAY!
PILE UP YOUR GOLD POINTS IN OUR GOLD RUSH PAIRS!
STAR SPEAKERS EVERY DAY! SATURDAY SPECIAL SHOW!

Monday July 2nd.
Free 2-hour Bridge Workshop
 10:30 - 12:30 am
 Followed by lunch

Marjorie Michelin
 Grand Life Master

Pro Am Game at 1 pm
 Card fee for Am's: \$14

Please pre register before 6/24
 Gerri Carlson
 gcoffa@aol.com
 310-377-0316

Need a Partner?
 Diane Sachs
 dianasachs@yahoo.com
 562-981-4884

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

Director-in-Charge:
 Ken Horwedel

District 23 Director: Kevin Lane
 District 23 President: Mike Marucci



Hilton Long Beach
 701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Room rate: \$139 (Free Wifi) please refer to ALACBU
 Reservation must be made by Friday, June 9.
 800-445-8667 or 562-983-3400

Card fees: \$14 for ACBL Members
 \$18 for expired ACBL Members

Notice: Non-members will be required to either join
 ACBL on an annual basis or on a new temporary one-
 month membership for \$7.99.

Self parking: \$6

Sanction Number: R1807009



Monday, July 2, 2018
 299er Free Workshop/Lunch (Reserv. Rqd).....10:30 am
 Pro-Am Pairs (single session).....1:00 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (1 of 6).....1:00 pm
 Stratified Charity Pairs (single session).....7:00 pm
 Starburst KO (1 of 4).....7:00 pm

Tuesday, July 3, 2018
 Starburst KO (2, 3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am, 3:00 & 7:30 pm
 AM Side Game Series (1 of 5).....10:30 am
 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
 Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Mark Schreiber Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture2:30 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (2 of 6).....3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:00 pm
 PM Side Game Series (1 of 5).....7:30 pm

Wednesday, July 4, 2018
 AM Side Game Series (2 of 5).....10:30 am
 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
 Bernie Mateer Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Lois Miller Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture2:30 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (3 of 6).....3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:00 pm
 PM Side Game Series (2 of 5).....7:30 pm
 Blackbird Turbo Swiss (1 of 2).....7:30 pm

Thursday, July 5, 2018
 AM Side Game Series (3 of 5).....10:30 am
 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
 Miriam Collup Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Red & White Stratified Swiss Teams (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture2:30 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (4 of 6).....3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:00 pm
 PM Side Game Series (3 of 5).....7:30 pm
 Blackbird Turbo Swiss (2 of 2).....7:30 pm

Friday, July 6, 2018
 AM Side Game Series (4 of 5).....10:30 am
 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
 0-99 Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
 WLA Player of the Year - Bob Chen - Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Unit 559 Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Liberty Bell KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture2:30 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (5 of 6).....3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:00 pm
 Bluefinch Turbo Swiss (1 of 2).....7:30 pm
 PM Side Game Series (4 of 5).....7:30 pm

Saturday, July 7, 2018
 AM Side Game Series (5 of 5).....10:30 am
 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
 Anand Kumar Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm

Saturday, July 7, 2018
 Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Liberty Bell KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Queen Mary Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6).....3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:00 pm
 Entertainment Event6:30 pm
 Bluefinch Turbo Swiss (2 of 2).....7:30 pm
 PM Side Game Series (5 of 5).....7:30 pm

Sunday, July 8, 2018
 Ft Henry Stratified Fast Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & TBA
 Flight A/X Swiss Teams10:30 am & TBA
 Pat Abbey Bracketed B/C/D Swiss Teams10:30 am & TBA

Event Colors:
 299ers: Orange
 Teams: Green
 Pairs: Blue

KOs may be handicapped.
 Games will be stratified
 by average masterpoints.

Stratified Games: 0-1500 / 1500-3000 / 3000+
Stratified Games:
 0-3000 / 3000-5000 / 5000+
Gold Rush: 0-100 / 100-300 / 300-750
Flight A/X: 0-5000 / 5000+
 Bracketed Flight B/C/D:
 Bracketed by average points of team.
 No player over 3000 MPs
 Turbo Swiss Teams: 3 x 8 boards

From the Director's Chair: *by Jim Perkins*

Play Nice.

I play bridge because of Mom. When I had to sit on the phone book* to see over the kitchen table, we would clear the dishes from the table after supper each night and couldn't wait to break out the cards. We played a lot of games, none of them bridge, but most of them involving taking tricks, bidding to name trump along with other features. Pinochle, a game we called 500 that was very similar to bridge but without a dummy, Pitch, Euchre. After supper cards is where I first learned the mechanics of shuffle and deal (or mix them up and pass them out as my first ex-wife would say), opening lead, following suit, trumping and revoking.

I took those kitchen table skills with me to school at the University of Iowa in the mid-80s where I saw my first bridge game in the law lounge. I kibitzed with relish, someone said they had class, I was asked to sit in and . . . as they say, the rest is history. I still can't figure out why anyone would leave a bridge game to go to class. At about the same time, Mom was learning bridge with some friends and they had a one-table Monday Night social bridge game that rotated around from home to home.

I loved bridge because my Mom loved cards and bridge. I took up duplicate in the Iowa City community after I moved back following a short stint in Chicago during which I almost called the duplicate club but did not. I talked about duplicate with Mom and she went to the Cornhusker Bridge Center in Omaha, just across the river from our home in Council Bluffs. Yes, that Council Bluffs (IA) where the Nebraska Regional is still held. A few years later I would find my own way into the CBC and make many friends there.

Mom was not long for duplicate. Some cranky but seemingly expert player yelled when a novice didn't know or didn't alert her agreement with her partner and the "expert" got fixed and the novice never returned. For the rest of her life. She never stopped loving bridge, though. Nearly 30 years later, I was visiting with her and she dug out her Masterpoint Slips from a drawer in the extra bedroom, to show me that

she had indeed won .05 and .03 of a MasterPoint playing bridge in an ACBL sanctioned club.

After one bad experience she never played at the duplicate club again. I play duplicate 5 or 6 days a week. I can't imagine all the joy she missed out on. But hey, I'm glad you got to vent over getting fixed by someone that barely knew the game. Every week, I ask the 199'ers why they don't play in the open game. Universally, the answer is that "the people are just nicer in here."

Mom is now in the final stages of Alzheimer's. In fact, I may be headed to her memorial before this article goes to press. It's too late for her. However, you have the opportunity to keep literally hundreds just like her coming back to bridge. You are the expert. You don't need to yell and intimidate to win. You don't need to give lessons to people that aren't paying for them. Your ego can stand a bruise from an accidental bad result and you don't need to prove your expertise to a player that probably can't distinguish a true expert from just another loud mouth at the local club.

Tell them where the iced tea is. Wait for them to ask about new minor forcing.

Be nice. Even when you're angry over a bad result. Seriously. You have no idea how you can affect literally decades of a life in just a few moments of a fairly trivial pass time that means so much to so many of us. And could mean so much to so many more. Thank you.

*For those growing numbers that don't know, a phone book is a big thick book listing all the phone numbers of most of the members of a community and the yellow pages were where you found people who had businesses that could provide services that you needed. Kind of like a paper contacts file. It was also used as a free booster chair for toddlers in many households where the adults grew up during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

**Results of the District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifier
Held April 28-29**

Open Flight (unlimited)

- 1) John Ramos, Viktor Anikovich, Roberto Scaramuzzi, Alexander Kolesnik (36.00 Gold Points)
- 2) Ed Davis, Jill Meyers, Mitch Dunitz, Iftikhar Baqai

Flight A (0-6000 masterpoints)

- 1) Gerry Geremia, Joseph Viola III, Robert Perlsweig, Peter Knee (30.00 Gold Points)
- 2) Robert Shore, Kevin Lane, Randy Howard, Howard Einberg

Flight B (0-2500 masterpoints)

- 1) Rick Turner, Alyssa Kennedy, Murat Veysoglu, Steve Ramos Jr., James Perkins, Basant Shah (26.00 Gold Points)
- 2) Nolan Chang, Frederick Upton, Jack Chang, Zheng Zhang

Flight C (0-500 masterpoints and Non Lifemasters)

- 1) Yunkai Song, Sophia Chang, Zu Ming Cheng, Kai Liu (3.75 Gold points plus 11.25 Red Points)
- 2) Laura Gastelum, Alan Olschwang, John Hagman, Paul Chen, Hsueehching (Shirley) Chang

**Congratulations to the winning teams, who will represent
our District at the Summer NABC.**

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

March 25 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Dominique and Arthur Moorer, 2nd Mary Singer/George Derevjanik, 3rd Judith Jones/Alan Olschwang, 4/5 tie: Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy tied with Michael Farber/Myrna Blaufab, Jackie Hess/Cliff Goodrich were 6th. In the B flight overalls April and John Berg were 2nd, Fern Dunbar/Hanefi Erten were 3rd, Penny O'Toole/Sandra Schlosser 4th, Dalia Hernandez/Thad Mikos 5th. In the C flight overalls Bill Dilks/Virginia Brewer tied with Nancy Toussaint/Bettyanne Houts for 2/3. In the NLM section Paul Chen/Mark Singer were 1st, Lillian Slater/Judy Cook tied with Jody Ceithaml/Lynda Grubbs for 2/3. Donna and Al Aidekman were 4th. Congratulations to all!

70+% GAMES March 16 through April 15: In the open game March 19 Marcie Evans/Betti Harris were first with 73.88%. In the LNM game April 13 Julie Osborne/Donna Agnew were first with 73.50%. Congratulations to both pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS March 16 through April 15: March 17 Kiyo Nagaishi/Usha Bansal won 3.35mp for 1st. In the District 22/23 STaC game March 22 KayTseng/Jackie Hess were first at LBBC with 68.79%, and 3rd over-all in Districts22/23 winning 10.58mp. In the unit game March 25 Dominique and Arthur Moore won 4.23mp for 1st, Mary Singer/George Derevjanik 3.17mp for 2nd. In the evening game April 11 Cary Hand/George Welsh won 3.06mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: Nancy Imbrey, Scott Ward, John Tholan, Robert McMahon. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Junior Masters: Ted Dowe, Charlotte Roush. New Bronze Life Master: Colleen Gardner. Congratulations to you all!

GET WELL WISHES TO Peggy Waite and Betty McClellan.

CONDOLENCES to the families and friends of Beverly Shafer who passed away earlier this month.

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

April 21 through June 2: Extra points, regular card fees.

May 7-13: Great Western STaC: Silver points; extra points, \$13 card fees.

May is Grass Roots Fund Month.

May 27 Unit Game. Card fee \$8. Only dessert served

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD BRIDGE CLUBS- Judy Carter-Johnson

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME—

Clubhouse #1—March 19: Bill Linskey/Larry Slutsky 1 in A. Jeanette Estill/Marilyn McClintock 2 in A. Julie Cunningham/Gene Yaffee 3 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Fern Dunbar/Rob Preece 4 in A. Judy Jones/Al Appel 5 in A. Ted Copper/Mark Singer 6 in A, 2 in B, 2 in C. Bea Aron/Tybie Becker 3 in B. Claudette and Richard Barrack 4 in B, 3 in C. Paul Chen/Harshad Vora 5 in B, 4 in C.

70% GAME: Bill Linskey and Gary Paugh had a 74.04% game at Clubhouse #3 on March 29th

GET WELL wishes to Ted Wieber

CONDOLENCES: to Verna Becker on loss of her husband George. They recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary.

REMINDER: ACBL classifies Leisure World bridge games as “invitational” meaning non-resident guests must secure an advance reservation. Games are held on Monday/Thursday at clubhouse #3 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Monday—Midge Dunagan [\(562\) 594-9686](tel:5625949686). Thursday—Cookie Pham [\(562\) 431-6453](tel:5624316453). Phone number for clubhouse #3---Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner--After 12:00 noon: [\(562\) 481-7368](tel:5624817368). Games are also held on Friday/Saturday at clubhouse #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday—Currently no reservation person for Friday—

Please come early **AND PERHAPS VOLUNTEER!!** Saturday—Judith Jones (174) 840-2300—(between 9am and 9pm only!) or mikrojjones@aol.com. Any news for next month's column, please e-mail me at icj90740@gmail.com. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pomona – Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Unit Game: Saturday, May 19, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Individual: Saturday, May 5, 9:30 a.m., Chino

The April Individual was captured by Roger Boyar. Clint Lew was second, Richard Patterson third, and Linda Tessier fourth.

Unlike last month, the April Unit game was closely contested. Indeed, it went down to the last score to come in. Kiran Kumar – Mike Marcucci edged Bill Papa – Vic Sartor by just ½ matchpoint. Clinton Lew – Patricia Radamaker were third, with Kerry Sartor – Barbara Papa in the fourth spot.

Lots of winners this month. More competitive, too, which is always a blessing to Those of Us Down in the Trenches. The top game was “only” 72.5%, by Ken Bloomfield – Kurt Trieselmann, but it was the lone 70%+ effort. Other winners: Karen Olin, Mary Miller, Joe Unis, Clint Lew, Herb Stampfl, Richard Patterson, Sofi Kasubhai, Claudia Cochran, Penny Barbieri, Fredy Minter, Lulu Minter, Hanan Mogharbel, visitor Fred Fairbanks, and Yours Truly all found themselves atop the leader board at least once.

No promotions to report this again this month. I believe that's the first double blank we've had, at least since I've been writing this column. Better news next month, perhaps.

Reminder: we will be hosting Longest Day games on Thursday, June 21, at the Knights of Columbus. Two sessions are planned, and if interest warrants Roger will hold the usual Thursday evening game at La Fetra.

The Bridge41 club will host a North American Pair qualifying game on Saturday, August 11 at 9:30 a.m., at the Chino site. Due to limited playing space (and ... sad to say ... limited interest) reservations WILL be required. If you've never tried it, give NAP a go. At worst, maybe you'll pick up a few red points. Maybe even a little gold, if you can get out of the semis.

Our Hand of the Month is, hopefully, a bit of a challenge. It's matchpoints, and no one is vulnerable. East deals and opens 1♦. Sitting South, you pick up this semi-balanced hand (6-5 majors, 1-1 minors. “Semi-balanced.”):

♠ KJ10865 ♥ AQJ83 ♦ 7 ♣ 8

You might make a Michaels cue bid, but the playing strength makes this hand too strong, really. Let's try 1♠. LHO calls 1NT (oh thrills, the spades are behind you) and partner raises to 2♠. RHO passes. Well?

Not too hard to construct a deal that will produce 10 or 11 tricks – and also one that will produce only 9 in spite of partner's raise. Well, let's try 3♥, a long suit game try.

Partner signs off in 3♠. The opening lead is a small club, and partner produces this dummy:

♠ Q743 ♥ 1042 ♦ 432 ♣ KJ5

Hmmmm. Good news, bad news. Partner's sign-off was surely correct. (“And stop calling me Shirley!”) Partner has no real help in hearts, and the two club pictures are probably waste paper. On the other hand, there's no wastage in diamonds, and only one trump loser. When LHO produces the ♠A and ♣K, you know the ♥K is on side and 10 tricks roll in. Game on an effective 13 HCP. Did you bid it anyway? If so, nice going. But just picture this dummy:

♠ 9743 ♥ 1042 ♦ KJ2 ♣ KJ5

A better hand in terms of high cards ... but you rate to take only 9 tricks unless the opponents are kind enough to cash just one minor suit ace then let you in for a discard. Maybe it's the kind of game you bid when you find yourself 20 IMPs behind in a match? Just shows to go you, shape trumps power in this game.

Quote for the month: “If you are playing bridge with your husband, your wife, or your significant other, don't.” (Eddie Kantar)



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Congratulations to Kristi Kubo who made Life Master at the San Diego Regional and to Russ Buker who made Ruby Life Master at the STaC game on Sunday, March 25th. Bert Stock and Roy Ladd also did well at the San Diego Regional by placing first in Flight C in the IMP Pairs on Friday, March 30th.

This year's Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 22nd and 23rd at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. For more information, contact tournament chair, Gay Gipson (gegipson@gmail.com)

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs, March 19, 2018, District 23

		Score
1 st	Carol Trendera - Gary Trendera	64.65%
2 nd	Carol Ashbacher	
	- Richard Ashbacher	64.25%
3 rd	Paul Gill - Rita Vannatter	62.77%
4 th	Roshen Hadulla - Arif Shah	61.87%
5 th	Roy Ladd - Albert Stock	58.03%

STaC Game Results from Thursday, March 22nd in Castaic:

First with 64.06%: Lamonte Johnson and Richard Stark

Second with 63.54%: Ted Maki and Roshen Hadulla

Third with 53.65%: Paul Gill and Rita Vannatter

STaC Side Pairs Results from Friday, March 23rd in Palmdale:

Tied for 1st/2nd/3rd 61.81%:

Paula Olivares and Vibeke Gilbreath
Ron Oest and Russ Buker
David White and Beth Morrin

STaC Game Results from Sunday, March 25th in Palmdale:

First with 69.63%: David White and Russ Buker

Second with 65.19%: Paula Olivares and Irwin Novick

Third with 58.15%: Sharry Vida and Beth Morrin

The Friendly Bridge Club held a Swiss Pairs Game on Monday, April 16th.

The scores are based on a comparison with the average of the other N/S or E/W results. Paula Olivares sponsored this event run by David White using software from England. We had a great turnout of 25 pairs. The winners were Ted Maki and Lamonte Johnson with 62%, followed by Rita Vannatter and Paul Gill with 60%.

Upcoming Events:

Western Conference STaC games: May 7-10 at the various clubs

Swiss Teams Game: Monday, May 14th, 12:30 PM at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita

World Wide Bridge Contest: Friday, June 1st at 12:30 at Joshua Tree

Longest Day Games: Monday, June 18th at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita and Friday, June 22nd at Joshua Tree in Palmdale

Instant Matchpoint Game, Monday, July 9th, 12:30 PM at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

Next Board meeting: Tuesday, July 17th at 5:30 PM at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

May 4-5: San Fernando Valley Sectional

Unit 561 will host a San Fernando Valley Sectional Tournament on Friday-Saturday, May 4-5, at The 750 Bridge Club (Prince of Peace Church), 5700 Rudnick Ave., Woodland Hills. Limited MP pairs, Fri, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Stratified Open Pairs, Fri and Sat, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Fees will be ACBL members \$12, non-members \$16. Swiss Teams will be held Sat 10 a.m., fee of \$112/Team (which includes lunch). For information, contact JoJo Sarkar at r.sarkar@ecrchs.net or for partnership assistance, contact Frona De Covnick at kidzathart@aol.com.

Special Congratulations

New Life Master Accomplishments by Unit 561 players were: Jeffrey Hartmann, D. Kleinfeld, and Raymond Primus (Life Master); D. Kleinfeld (Bronze); and Larry Doose (Silver - 1,000).

Recognition of Unit 561 players as 2017 National Winners in the ACBL Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs contests are as follows: Raymond Primus – Ace of Clubs (#14, 151 MPs) in the 300 – 500 category; Dwight Hunt – Mini-McKenney (#13, 526 MPs) and Claude Le Feuvre – Mini-McKenney (#23, 447 MPs) in the 1,500 – 2,500 category; and, Om Chokriwala – Mini-McKenney (#7, 687 MPs) in the 2,500 – 3,500 category.

The top five teams in the March 3 Unit 561 game were: Brian Fielding-Louis Papp 70.72%, Sharon David-Armand Szulc 63.89%, Donald Crum-Gilbert Stinebaugh 63.69%, Joel Schiff-Janet Wickersham 61.45%, and Joe Bregman-Marcia Broderick 58.60%.

March Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ray Primus 11.29, Martin Hurwitz 8.28, Elaine Keyes 6.89, Jerry Rose 6.27, Dick Berg 5.55, Vera Mandell 5.51, Tony Mirchandani 5.39, Alan Golden 5.35, Barbara Astrin 4.96, and Philip Berk 4.47.

The Top Five Masterpoints for the March Club Membership Week at The 750 Club were Martin Hurwitz 7.84, Elaine Keyes 6.90, Bud Shapiro 6.90, Lynn Edelson 5.77, and Mike Weiner 4.71. During March, the following achieved 70% games: Beverly McLeod-Eve Pohlo 72.92%, Samantha MacDouglas-Brian Reynolds 72.92%, and Brian Fielding-Louis Papp 70.72%.

“Longest Day” Games

“Longest Day” games supported cooperatively by Unit 561 and The 750 Club will be held at The 750 Club on Thursday, June 21. These games will be at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. All three games will be Open, Stratified Games. Card fees will be \$10/person/game. All proceeds, including card fees and directors’ fees, will be donated to Alzheimer’s research. Additional donations will be appreciated and accepted in the form of cash or checks made payable to the “Alzheimer’s Association.”

May 15: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, May 15. Dinner is \$20 per person and starts at 6 p.m. and the bridge is \$5 per person and begins at 7 p.m. This is an ACBL sanctioned game and the first place NS and EW winners will receive

coupons for Braemar’s Wednesday night “Taste of Tuscany” dinner. For reservations and/or partnerships contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Annual “Carol Lang” Game

On Friday, June 8, the Annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held at The 750 Club in honor of the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike, who started the club in 2006. Names of the winners will be engraved on the memorial plaque and certificates will be awarded. Game time is 11 a.m. and a catered Italian lunch will be provided at about 12noon. Reservations are required for this event. Please contact Terry Morton at thmorton@att.net or (818) 815-8826.

May Events at The 750 Club

The 750 Club will be participating in the Great Western STaC games during the week of May 7-11. All card fees will be \$11/person/game. On Monday, May 28 (Memorial Day), there will be a day game as usual, but there will be no night game.

Calendar

Friday-Saturday, May 4-5, U561 San Fernando Valley Sectional, at The 750 Club, Woodland Hills. See details above.

Monday-Friday, May 7-11, Great Western STaC games at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, May 15, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Monday, May 28, The 750 Club will hold a day game only (Memorial Day).

Friday, June 8, the annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Thursday, June 21, “Longest Day” games will be held at The 750 Club at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. See details above.

Reporter’s Note:

Special thanks to Terry Morton for writing and submitting the April article for me when I was incapacitated.



**Torrance-
South Bay**
by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568
 SBBC: www.southbaybridgeclub.com

In Memorium

As most all of you know now our own SBBC icon Gabriela "Gabby" Jackson passed away this past month. The SBBC sent out the following note which expresses all of our feelings.

Last week we learned the heartbreaking news that Gabby Jackson passed away. Gabby gave so much to the club that no list could possibly have been inclusive enough. She was beloved by all our players who will miss her greatly.

The service was at Star of the Sea Catholic Church in San Pedro. After the service a reception was held at Cabrillo Marina Plaza where a number of Bridge players gave speeches with Gabby stories.

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Unit Game: Friday, May 4, 11:30 AM
 STAC Week: Monday, May 7 thru Saturday, May 12
 Charity Game: Tuesday May 15

Club Championships

The April 6 Club Championship was won by Gaye Herrington/Jeff Strutzel in Flight A with Betsy Amador/Cal Waller leading Flight B and Patty Taylor/LornaWallace ahead in Flight C.

Following is a list of winners in the SBBC Club championship week April 9-14.

Monday April 9

Afternoon:

- A) CarolMcCully/Ed Barad
- B) Ed Ruttenberg/Stam Greengard
- C) Michael McGory/Gerald Ketz

Evening:

- A) Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott

Tuesday April 10

Afternoon:

- A) Fran Israel/Ed Ruttenberg
- B) Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson
- C) Charlotte Lewin/Jack Stewart

Wednesday April 11

Afternoon:

- A) Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott
- B) Harry Wessells/Ron Srenco
- C) Roberta Brown/Jack Stewart

Evening:

- A) Harold Avent/Jack Stewart

Thursday April 12

NLM:

- A) Joyce Field/Nancy Karnes
- B) Ken Brewer/Jack Stewart

Friday April 13

Afternoon:

- A) Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott
- B) Betsy Amador/Cal Waller
- C) Nancy Collinge/Marcia Strong

Evening:

- A) Mark Raggio/Ramani Ravikandan
- B) Ron Srenco/Lina Ashar

Saturday April 14

Afternoon:

- A) Lucy Gellner/Wayne Otsuki

Team Winners

March 27: Laura Gastelum, Ray Mack, Lisa Cote, Mike Savage

April 3: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Carole Mason, Mike Savage

April 10: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, John Jones, Wayne Otsuki

April 17: Gerri Soffa, Maty Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

District 22/23 STAC

Following are the pairs from TSB Unit games that placed in the overalls of the recent District 22/23 STAC.

Monday Morning March 19 SBBC

- | | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| 4A 2B | Carol Mason/Pat Schenasi |
| 5A | Betsy Amador/Harry Wessells |
| 6A | Ted Gibbs/Steve Ramos |
| 7A 3B | Hank Sheehan/Steve Dagel |
| 4B 2C | Lorraine and Michael Kammerman |
| 5B | Jean Futami/Lutrell Long |
| 6B 3C | Jeannette Betts/Roberta Brown |
| 4C | Jill Hornstein/Jack Stewart |

Monday Afternoon 299er Pairs Agile BC

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------|
| 1A | Edward Bucklin/Carolyn Woo |
| 2A | Robert Hall/Loretto Russell |
| 3A | Deborah Downs/Rami Razouk |
| 4A | Rose Marie Tashima/Betsy |

Nicassio
 5A 1B 1C Gavin & Julie Spore
 2B Kay Wardell/Patricia Sullivan
 3B Florence Cooper/Melody Harper
 4B 2C Theresa Dubernet/John Sellers

Monday Evening SBBC

5A Fran Israel/Steve Ramos
 6A Carol Mason/Mike Savage

Monday Evening Veterans Park Side Game

1A 1B Roy Young II /Rick Orandle
 5A 4B 3C Marilyn Daeshner/Frankie Victor
 5B 4C John Janus/Tom Keese

Tuesday Morning SBBC

1A Ted Gibbs/John J. McDermott
 3/4A Fran Israel/Stam Greengard
 6A 2B 2C Greg Gallagher/Neil Hudson
 7A Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel
 3B 3C Roberta Brown/Ed Ruttenberg
 4B Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan

Tuesday Afternoon 499er Pairs Agile BC

6A Virginia Brewer/James Deflon
 10A 6B Deborah Downs/Rami Razouk
 6C Andre Dimarco/Gordon Hull

Wednesday Morning SBBC

5B Betsy Amador/Pat Schenas

Wednesday Afternoon Veterans Park BC

10A Bill Malcomb/David Cheshire
 14/15A Joe Thomas/Joyce Nakasaki
 14/15A Bruce Scheldson/Manzoor Ursani
 19/20B Betsy Miller/Joyce Klossner
 19/20B Kay Maeda/Shinko Mauritz

Wednesday Evening SBBC

1A 1B 1C Norman Futami/Jack Stewaet
 7A 4B 4C Arlene Greengard/Elizabeth Higgins
 5B Stan Greengard/Shirley Cheng

Thursday Morning NLM Pairs SBBC

1A 1B 1C James DeFlon/Bruce Walker
 2A Marilyn Morton/Anne Andres
 3A 2B Dawn Suart McGill/Shahem Rahimtoola
 4A 3B Joyce Klossner/Betsy Miller
 5A 4B Marlene Felix/Kathy Shinkle
 5/6B Jeannette Betts/Ellen Davidson
 5/6B 2C Robin & Henry MacMorran

3C Caryn & Glen Musicer
 4C Neal Hudson/Greg Gallagher

Friday Morning 499er Pairs Agile BC

3A 2B Elizabeth Biggins/Laurie David
 4A 3B 2C Linda Klebs/Frank Roig
 5A 4B 3C George Kay/Norma Nicolson
 6A 5B Kate Pecarovich/Marilyn Henshel
 6B 4C Georgeann Dorn/Babs Dizon
 5C Elaine Bock/Marcia Siegal
 6C Bob Mallano/Patricia Sullivan

Friday Morning Pairs SBBC

6A 2B Harry Wessells/Mike Ullman
 7A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott
 4B 2C Pat Berg/Patricia Taylor

Friday Afternoon Pairs BCBC

38A 15B 4C Elaine Godin/John Janus
 27B Linda Klein/Robert Johnson
 8C Chick & Margi Thorsell

Friday Evening Pairs SBBC & Inglewood Beach BC

1A 1B Joe Thomas/Roy Young II
 4A 3B David Cheshire/Jeanne Tamaki
 7A 6B Patty Taylor/Jack Stewart
 2C Ed Srenco/Lina Ashhar
 3C Judith Estes/Rose Marie Tashima
 4C Pamela Boyer/Kathleen Shinkle
 5C Jane Tourino/Lee Sagendorf

GUV AWARD

I used to joke around with Gabriela "Gabby" Jackson a lot when I reached her table. She always used to say to me as TSB Unit columnist to write something nice about her when she died. I never thought that day would come but unfortunately it did.

Asked to do this I always replied that I would tell her I would write that she was always very generous to her opponents and gave them lots of gifts at the Bridge table. This was said in jest and I'm sure over the years Gabby got her share of gifts from me.

At the reception following her memorial service John Jones told a story about Gabby and her LOL team beating up on a team led by famed Bridge expert Marshall Miles in a KO match. Gabby wasn't shy about telling everybody about this major upset so when I saw her coming I was ready. Before she could say anything I blurted out "Did you hear about the 4 guys who committed mass suicide after losing to a LOL team." For an instant she was taken back then

busted out laughing knowing that I already knew about this upset.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

Back in the Saddle

The Unit Board has decided to reconsider its earlier decision regarding funding the *Southern California Bridge News*. By an extremely narrow margin, the Board decided to authorize the full payment requested by the District for 2018. That means this column will continue to appear in this space at least for the balance of the year.

League Champions

The Spring Bridge League has reached its conclusion. Congratulations to the champions! Winning the open flight were Rob Perlsweig, Pam Wittes, Steve Gross, Mike Savage, Andy Vinock, and Bob Bass. The Flight B champions were Tate Shafer, Linda Lin, Karraime Murray, Seymour Stoll, Doron Shauly, and Steve Rothman. The Unit Board has authorized its remaining allotment of sanctions to make two more leagues possible this year. Sign ups are underway for the Summer League, which will start play on May 3.

The Tournament Circuit

We had our usual quota of winners on the tournament circuit last month. At the San Diego Regional, the team including Marion Tumen, Jodie Rachmil, and Julie Kimelman won its bracket of the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout. Ifti Baqai made his a double, winning the Wednesday Open Pairs and the Tuesday-Wednesday evening Swiss Teams. Moving on to the Modesto Regional, Ifti, playing with Mike Mikyska, won the Thursday Choice Pairs. That was Mike's second straight win, since he also had won the

Wednesday Choice Pairs. Alex Kolesnik contributed a win in the Friday Compact Knockout Teams event. Peter Knee won the Monday morning event in the STAC and Aram Bedros won the Monday evening event. Finally, Mike Savage's team topped the field in the Bracketed Swiss at the Garden Grove Sectional.

A Moment of Glory

Our score at the club wasn't particularly good the other night, but I did enjoy one moment of glory. I played 3NT with the following cards:

Dummy: ♠ AK62 ♥ 653 ♦ AJ2 ♣ AK9

Declarer: ♠ 87 ♥ AJ9 ♦ KQ953 ♣ 765

The opening lead was a passive diamond, everyone following, and I won on dummy to lead a heart to the 9 and 10. LHO continued with a second diamond and her partner threw the club queen. I could see 10 top tricks so I called for a low spade from dummy to correct the count for a possible squeeze. RHO won this trick and led the club 3.

At this point, I won on dummy, cashed dummy's other high club for a Vienna Coup (RHO discarding a diamond), and ran diamonds, discarding dummy's club and a heart. My last four cards were a spade, the AJ of hearts, and the club 7. Dummy had AK6 of spades and a heart. LHO had the long spades and kept 3 of them, so she had to come down to a stiff heart. RHO kept two hearts and two clubs. Now I led my last spade to dummy (RHO pitching his penultimate club), and when RHO threw his last club on dummy's last high spade, I released my low heart. My heart A and club 7 took the last two tricks, for a successfully executed double squeeze.

Climbing the Ladder

I'm still working on a permanent solution to getting advancements in rank into this space.

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

New Feature in the Bridge News:

We plan to add a "Letters to the Editor" column to the SCBN. Got news, a topic, a question, or just a gripe to air? Send a note to bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org and we'll give you your 15 minutes of fame.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Jeff Goldsmith, Daniel Korbel, Roger Lee, Rick Roeder, and Jon Wittes.

<div style="font-size: 4em; text-align: center;">1</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints None Vul</div>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	pass	pass	double	2♦
	???			pass
	You, South, hold: ♠K103 ♥QJ2 ♦Q843 ♣K75 What call do <i>you</i> make?			

[* Assume that 2NT forces 3♣ (Lebensohl). Please argue for another treatment if you think it is superior, but use this parameter to formulate your answer.]

The first decision is whether or not we should pass and defend. If we don't wish to defend, we can bid 3NT directly, or bid 2NT followed by 3NT. The direct sequence discourages partner from pulling 3NT.]

Bare: 3NT, I think 2♦ will probably only go down 2 tricks.

Goldsmith: 3NT. It's close between 3NT and pass. I don't expect to make 3NT, but it could come home. If we can't make 3NT due to lack of aces, they might well make 2♦ doubled with five diamond tricks and three side cards. Hopefully, one trick for declarer's advantage will prevent our going down four; maybe we can beat some 180s. Partner is not a passed hand. Not playing some sort of Lebensohl versus an unlimited hand is only playable using That Old Black Magic. [Ed. note: It was Edgar Kaplan who used the term "That Old Black Magic" to describe the use of partner's hesitations and mannerisms to achieve a good result.]

Bartusek: 2NT, followed by 3NT over 3♣. I don't think that passing opposite the presumed 4=4=1=4 and collecting the likely +100 will score well at MPs (not to mention the occasional -180). Note that bidding will be the right choice if partner has extra distribution or is strong enough to break the puppet to 3♣. [Mark is the only panelist to have addressed the possibility that partner may have a hand that is too big to take the

puppet to 3♣ if we reply 2NT. However, I'm not at all certain that I agree with his conclusion. If partner has a big hand, we still may not have enough for slam, especially considering that partner's action is in balancing chair and might be a queen lighter than a direct action. However, if partner has a hand too big to overcall, we'll normally beat 2♦ more than the value of our game.] Assuming that diamonds are 6421 around the table, I can probably cut-off RHO in 3NT by ducking a round of diamonds. In combination with one or two winning finesses through LHO (and a squeeze?), I might be able to scramble 9 tricks. Obviously this is unlikely to be successful if partner has a dead minimum. A penalty pass would be very reasonable with slightly better diamonds (e.g. Q108x).

Korbel: 2♥. I don't believe that Lebensohl 2NT is a good treatment here, as in my experience you often are dealt a natural 2NT bid over a 2♦ response and its utility is decreased. However, in the position I am in, I'll just try 2♥. I refuse to be stamped into 3NT. [2♥ not only fails to make a positive move with 11 HCP, but also risks playing in a 3 – 3 heart fit. I'd much rather try making 3NT or defeating 2♦ doubled than risk a 3 – 3 heart fit. If I wanted to play in a suit contract, I think I would bid 2NT, and when partner took the puppet to 3♣, bid 3♦ to ask for a 4-card major. That gets us to the 3 level, but ensures we won't be in a 3 – 3 fit (partner will bid 3NT without a 4-card major).]

Lee: Pass. This would be normal at IMPs, but it risks going +100 when it isn't enough to compensate for our

partial. I'll do it anyway for lack of a better alternative.

Roeder: Pass. Especially if your RHO is under age 40. With Lebensohl, you could not have bid the rational alternative anyway, a natural 2NT.

Wittes: Pass. Partner is probably going to stretch to balance with the right distribution. I expect to get this for 300, possibly 500 if partner has honor X in diamonds or extras. 3NT will probably make, but may not be a lock.

[Hardly a lock to be best, but I'll cast my lot with the passers.]

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">2</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints None vul</div>	South	West	North	East
	1♠	pass	pass	pass
	???	2♣	double	3♣
<p style="text-align: center;">You, South, hold: ♠KQJ985 ♥A5 ♦K8532 ♣void</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What call do you make?</p>				

Bare: 4♣. 6♦ may make, even 6♠ might make. Over 4♦, I'll bid 5♣ as 4♥ might be a suit.

Wittes: 4♦. Slam is possible if partner has the right hand (♠xx ♥Kxxx ♦AQxx ♣xxx for example). If partner is 2-3 in my suits with a minimum, I would expect a 4♠ bid.

Roeder: 4♠. I'd try 4♦ in IMPs. While 6♦ may be a great contract, not many will get there opposite a passed hand. If I score 450, I will beat those in 5♦ making six. I will then bid 5♦ if opponents take the 5♣ dive.

Goldsmith: 4♠. 5♦ might be better, but I don't want partner's picking 5♦ over 4♠ with 2-3. Maybe partner's stiff is the ten.

Bartusek: 4♠. Likely to be the highest scoring game at MPs. It might even be satisfactory if the opponent's trumps break 4-3... Where's the panelist that invokes "Burn's Law" which states that you should always have more trumps than the opponents? Sure, we might have a makeable 6♦, but it's unlikely and too difficult to get to (presumably after starting with a 4♣ cuebid). Note that I don't believe 4♦ is forcing here. *[4♦ is not quite forcing, but if partner did pass 4♦, I think that 4♥ or 4♠ is likely reasonable.]*

Korbel: 4♠. Slam is pretty far off and I can't think of an auction that gets spades and diamonds into the picture sensibly.

Lee: 4♠. No point in mentioning the diamonds, and I'm not bidding 4♣ to let them double it.

[The strong spade spots influence me to bid 4♠.]

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">3</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints None vul</div>	South	West	North	East
		Pass	1♦	pass
	1♥	2♣	3♥	4♣
	???			
	You, South, hold: ♠852 ♥A954 ♦K53 ♣Q105 What call do you make?			

[Three diamonds to the king is close to a double fit. However, if we have eight hearts, and they have nine clubs, there should be about 17 total tricks. Is this a Law of Total Tricks (LTT) decision?]

Lee: 4♥, not a problem.

Wittes: 4♥. Tempting to bid 4♦, but partner would need a perfecta (♠Axx ♥KQxx ♦AQxxx ♣x for example), but even then, bad distribution might doom a slam.

Bartusek: 4♥. Seems clear-cut with a double-fit and my two key honors. Give partner a “dead” minimum like ♠Kxx ♥KQxx ♦AQxxx ♣x and it rates to make with decent breaks. I need better clubs to double, but we probably wouldn't collect enough to compensate for our game.

Bare: 4♥. Partner has good distribution and I have the ♦K. If we can't make 4♥ they might make 4♣.

Korbel 4♥. I have enough to try game and then double 5♣ if they bid it.

Roeder: 4♥. Doubling could be right as I do not have much extra but my diamond holding is potentially huge to fill out partner's long suit.

Goldsmith: Double. There appear to be 17 trumps. If we are making 4♥, the LTT says they are going for 500. The impurity in clubs suggests there'll be fewer than 17 tricks. Constructing hands, I judge that the location of the minor suit jacks is likely to determine the number of tricks taken, so the LTT could easily be off by as much as two tricks. Doubling wins over bidding if either 4♣ goes for 500 or 4♥ goes down; bidding needs both of those not to happen. Double is clearly percentage.

[The majority of the panel likes 4♥, but I'm with the minority here. I won't repeat most of what Jeff wrote, but the ♣10 convinces me that following the Law is percentage in this case.]

4

Matchpoints
Both vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠A ♥AQ753 ♦105 ♣AQJ105

What call do you make?

*Four card limit raise

[The first decision is how high do we want to go. Do we stop at game, try for slam, or force to slam? If we make an effort to get to slam, we could make a scientific effort, starting with 3♠, 3NT, or 4♣. Or we could withhold information from the opening leader by bashing 6♥. Or we could imply a diamond control by bidding some form of Blackwood. Or do we really try to confuse things by bidding 5♦ on two small?]

One panelist bashes the slam.]

Bartusek: 6♥. Making slam could easily depend upon the opening lead; thus, let's blast. Investigating slam via a natural second suit 4♣ call is only likely to assist the defender on opening lead (e.g. by letting RHO double a 4♦ cuebid, or by stopping in 5♥). Note that this same issue exists if I immediately RKC (and partner never has the perfect holding of K-A-K for his/her LR). My 2nd choice is a tactical 4♦ bid (ostensibly showing a second suit slam try in expert standard) which could easily steal the show; but, I'm afraid partner rates to raise diamonds showing good support...with RHO doubling. BTW, a lot of players would play 3♠ here as a Mathe Asking Bid requesting shortness.

Roeder: 3♠. Some play this as Mathe asking for shortness. In which case, 4♣ is fine. Over a 4♥ response, I will try again. Zia might psyche a cue bid of 4 diamonds en route to 6♥.

Goldsmith: 4♣. 4♣ is a long suit slam try, which seems perfect for this hand. Partner will devalue pointed queens and jacks and love the ♦A, ♥K, or ♣K, so his decisions can be trusted.

Bare: 4♣. If partner bids 4♦, 4♠ will complete the picture for partner to ask for controls.

Korbel: 4♣. This is easy. Partner will know I have hearts and clubs (best to use 3NT as a random slam try in this type of auction).

Lee: 4♣. I play this is a natural slam try (not a cuebid), which seems perfect for this hand.

Wittes: 4♣. If partner bids 4♦, I'll key card. If partner shows two keycards, I'll ask for the ♣K to bid a grand.

[I'm with the 4♣ bidders here. However, I think that if we surveyed a larger sample of experts, that we would see greater support for bashing 6♥ or even a tricky 4♦.]

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">5</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints None vul</div>	South	West	North	East
	1♥	3♠	pass	pass
	???		pass	pass
	<p style="text-align: center;">You, South, hold: ♠A8 ♥AQ1085 ♦K7654 ♣K</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What call do you make?</p>			

[If partner has spades or diamonds, it's right to reopen. Partner rates to have clubs frequently though. If we reopen with a double and partner bids 4♣, we won't be happy. Otherwise we pass or try a direct 4♦.]

Bartusek: Pass. WTP? (Risking the wrath of the Moderator?) *[Mark has previously quoted Al Roth asking "What's the Problem?" only to find the rest of the panel all voted for a different solution. In this case, he is with the majority.]* Partner would never trap pass at this level. Bidding here is extremely likely to turn a plus into a minus. I would need the ♣K moved to a red suit in order to act.

Goldsmith: Pass. Not close. Six losers, a doubleton spade, and a soft hand would make it unwise to enter the four-level on my own, even if partner were not a passed hand.

Lee: Pass. Way too speculative to try anything here.

Korbel: Pass. It's not that easy to construct hands where we make a game -- it would require a real perfecto. And the four level could put us into jeopardy. I am tempted a little bit by East's initial pass, making it less likely the opponents can double us if we bid on and are horribly wrong.

Roeder: Pass. Unhappily. The toughest problem of set. The odds of partner having a penalty pass when you hold Ax are close to zero. If I do double and partner bids 4♣ (let alone a horrid 5♣), is a 4♦ bid an equal level conversion at the four level? A direct 4♦ bid is out. If partner could not bid 4♥ straight away, do you really think 4♥ is making? And if 4♦ is our last making spot, your 4♦ will often beget a 5♦ bid by partner. After consideration, the old axiom, "When fixed, stay fixed," still has much wisdom.

Bare: 4♦. A total guess, as partner has some values and it will depend on partner's diamond holding. This could be a disaster hand. At IMPs I would pass.

Wittes: 4♦. Very risky. My kingdom for the ♦Q instead of the ♣K. We could easily be going for a number if partner doesn't have a fit, but it is matchpoints and the vulnerability is right, so I'll take a chance with this distribution.

[I think this is close, but I am a passer here.]