

# Southern California Bridge News

Deliver by 1st of the Month

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### High Finishers From Boston NABC

*by Bill Schreiber*  
*ALACBU President*



As I promised, here are the high finishers from the Boston NABC: In the Marsha Sternberg Women's Board-A-Match: **Renee Mancuso** and **Pam Wittes** finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, **Becky Clough** finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place; In the Reisinger Board-A-Match Teams: **Billy Cohen** finished 2<sup>nd</sup>— As Porky Pig would say— That's All, Folks. If I missed anyone who finished 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> in a National Event, I humbly apologize.

As I mentioned last month, our Webmaster Guru, **Kevin Lane**, has implemented a system on our website [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org) whereby

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## 2009 D23 GNT Qualifying

### Open Flight

0-unlimited  
Feb 28-March 1

### Flight A

0-5000 MPs  
March 28-29

### Flight B

0-2000 MPs  
Feb 28-March 1

### Flight C

non-life master, < 500 MPs  
March 28-29

see page 13 for more information

### National Board Votes To Increase Card Fees At All NABCs

*by Rand Pinsky*



#### Final Comments Regarding Boston

Last month I reported on many of the motions that were passed in Boston. To complete my report, the board voted to increase card fees at all NABCs per player per session in the NABC+ events from \$18 to \$20; NABC Limited events from \$16.50 to \$17, Regional two session events from \$15.50 to \$16, and Single session and IN events from \$14.50 to \$15.

A motion that could have an effect in our district and neighboring District 22: it was passed that when a sectional (excluding StaCs) or higher rated event is being conducted within 25 miles of a club game's playing site, the club is permitted to hold only its regular

scheduled club masterpoint games (i.e. no special games). I would like feedback on this regulation from our clubs and units.

Issues pertaining to youth bridge: the ACBL Youth Division will have an under 20 years of age eligibility and the ACBL Junior Division will have an eligibility of under 26 years of age. The board also voted to have a Youth NABC for the summer of 2010.

Finally, the board voted to establish a new event called the Platinum Pairs. This event will be open to anyone who has won 50 or more platinum points in the three years prior to the event or 200 platinum points in a lifetime. This will be a six-session event.

Management Report. I recently received the December Management Report. The highlights include a net gain of 1,177 members for the 2008 year. New members totaled 11,678, a 2% increase over 2007. Our

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you may insert your email address and a link to the Southern California Bridge News will be sent to you via email blast instead of your having to log onto the website each month.

Although we have already started collecting email address as of February 1, I do not anticipate this to be functional until approximately April 1.

The Bridge Week schedule is taking shape and will be in next month's Bridge News.

We are attempting to have a Calcutta as the third session on Friday, July 3. This will be a non-masterpoint event, but rather a

money event. For those of you who do not know how a Calcutta works, each pair entering the event is bid upon, auction style. The winner of the auction for any particular pair owns that pair and is the recipient of a certain percentage of the total pot.

Any pair has the right to "buy back" up to 50% of itself. We expect to pay six or seven overall places, with 20% of the overall going to the District. All auction proceeds must be cash and the high bidder for any pair need not actually participate in the game itself. This is an exciting new addition to our tournament and has been approved, but not sanctioned, by the ACBL.

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membership is back to our 1999 numbers and reflects a gain of more than 3,600 in the last three years. As for tournaments, in 2008 we had 426,968 tables of bridge, a gain of 365 tables over 2007. Regional table count was down slightly as were sectional table count. The increase in count came from increase in I/N sectionals. StaC's were over 100,000 tables with the average table count just over 1,400 per event.

One final note which pertains to the Cooperative Advertising Program. Our district received 6 subsidies for a total of \$3,997.48 resulting in 209 new members. This total ranked us 24th out of 25 districts. For the entire ACBL there were 344 subsidies for a total of \$143,337.45 resulting in 11,678 new members. If any clubs, teachers, or units want more information about this great program, please let me know.

It Is A Different  
View From Dummy

<b>For a Grand Slam in Real Estate, Call Your Own ACBL Members</b>	
<b>Carolyn Taff &amp; Marion Napier</b> <b>Realtors</b> <i>Bringing You Tomorrow's Lifestyle Now</i>	
Relocation, Negotiator, Seniors, E-pro Certified Representing 1st Time Buyers and Sellers, Probate & Trust Transactions, Estate Properties, Clients with Complex Real Estate Matters and World-wide Executive Transfers	Carolyn ~ 310-442-6270 Marion ~ 310-442-6198 11900 W. Olympic Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90064

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**TEAM GAME SECTIONAL**  
The Team Game Sectional is happening in March. I am the tournament manager for the third year in a row. As our paper is now electronic, I am asking all of the Units and Clubs to please go to our website ([www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)) and click on the flyer for the event. Then please print a few flyers for distribution to your unit membership and club players.

Best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year. Next month's column will include a preview of Houston and my ideas for promotion of youth bridge. Reach me at [pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net).

# District 23 NAOP Qualifiers

The district 23 NAOP finals are complete.

The three pairs from each of three flights pictured below are now eligible to compete in the NAOP finals at the Spring National in Houston.

Congratulations to all the qualifiers. And thanks to Mike Marcucci for organizing this event, and to Tournament Director Peter Knee for a well-run competition.

## Flight A



Leo Bell (left) and John Jones



Mary Ann Coyle and Steve Mager



Viktor Anikovich (left) and Alexander Kolesnik

## Flight B



Matt Klimesh (left) and David Kempe

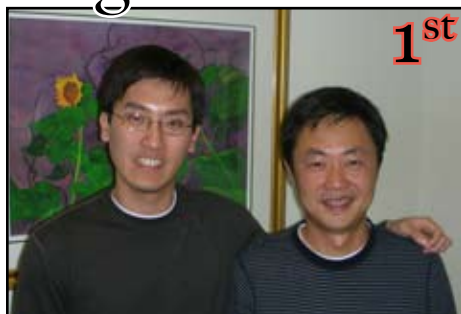


Keith Hafen and Susan Hafen



Tammy (left) and Noel Purkin

## Flight C



Hsi-Chun Liu (left) and Zheng Zhang



Steve Ramos (left) and Kevin Lane



Lisa Kuo and Murat Veysoglu

# Around the Units in District 23

## Antelope Valley Santa Clarita by Gin

The Wednesday night bridge game has become a mentor game. The graduates from Ron Oest's beginner class are paired with experienced players to introduce the former students to the world of duplicate bridge. Visit the web site [www.acblunit556.org](http://www.acblunit556.org) to view the weekly results. Kudos are extended to the experienced players who continue to mentor the newcomers. Their efforts will soon reflect growth in our club.

Bob Cuccias has temporarily returned to the Antelope Valley. Bob will be working Monday through Friday in Lancaster and returns to Rosalie in their new home in Laguna Woods on weekends. Bob is playing in the Wednesday night Bridge Game.

At the Reno Regional Dave and Marlene Gaspar teamed with Brad Ward and a pick-up partner for a second place win in a knockout event. It appears that the economy and severe winter weather had a negative impact on attendance at this popular tournament.

The January Unit Game enjoyed a capacity crowd of 16.5 tables. What a sight that much have been. The complete results are reported elsewhere in this column.

February's Unit Game was moved up a week to February 8 to allow football fans to enjoy the Super Bowl. I can attest bridge playing football fans are most appreciative of this decision.

Jill Adkins is now residing at Merrill Gardens in assisted living. Jill is still recovering from a broken ankle.

We will soon be saying so long to Rose Coldiron who is moving to South Carolina. She has purchased a condo in a senior community near her son. Rose's move will create a significant void in our club. She has been very active in our club. Rose has been the Hospitality chair for the sectional tournament for more years than I can remember.

Betty Reed has recovered from hip surgery and is

playing bridge again. Nan Newland was hospitalized recently but has recovered and is also back at the Bridge games.

Our thoughts and prayers are with George and Gail MacDonald. Gail is facing a long recovery from surgery and subsequent medical treatments. Gail underwent emergency surgery to remove ovarian cancer.

Our condolences are extended to Carol Kemmerer and her family. Carol recently lost her mother.

### Top Five

December was an interesting month for the top five. Games were very competitive although fewer due to the holidays. 72.4% was posted by Marlene Gaspar and Brad Ward for first place, Dan Crozier and Charles Morrin followed with 70.83%. In third place were Elaine Moore and Sterrett with 67.82%, fourth place went to John Langer and Rand Pinsky with 66.32%. Fifth place went to Lola Messiha and Viviane Dinehart with 63.04%. If errors occurred attribute them the cold temperatures in the lower Colorado River Valley or the allure of the bright lights across the river at Laughlin.

### Club Championship - Valencia

	A	B	C
Don and Lou Anne Vandemore	1	1	1
Betty Pavey and Everett Dehn	2	2	-
Charles and Mary Anne Self	3	3	2
Richard Plotin and Phil Rabedon	4	4	-

### Unit Game Jan 4

Dave & Marlene Gaspar	1	-	-
Russ Buker & George MacDonald	2	1	1
Jack Miller & George Lewis	3	2	-
Brad Ward & Pat Juenemann	4	-	-
Ron and Sandi Oest	5	3	-
Rose Coldiron & Bobbi Thompson	6	-	-
Charles Morrin & Don Crozier	-	4	-
Dee Dee Cove & Dorrance Deston	-	5	2
Charles & Mary Anne Self	-	-	3

A parting thought.....A stolen kiss is petty larceny but usually it is grand.



## Downey – Whittier

by Bernice Crelia

Our new year is rolling right along. We have some good news and bad news to report to you this month.

First the good news, we have had recent visits from three of our former members who we were very glad to see return to play bridge with us. Eddie and Dianne Hurt came to visit from their new home in Lake Havasu, Arizona.

Our next out of state visitor was Ralph Hill, who now lives in Venice, Florida. He was my partner when he lived here in Whittier so it was a real treat to play with him again.

Now we must get on to the bad news. One of our very active members Betty Boss, has passed away. She loved playing bridge and she enjoyed helping to keep our unit running well. She served as president of our

board and was always available when she was needed. Our condolences to her sister Barbara Horn. We will miss Betty.

We also want to send get well wishes to Dolores Phillips. We really miss you, so take care of yourself. We are all thinking of you. To everyone else – we will look for you at our regular Wednesday and Friday games.

Hope to see you there.

## Glendale-Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game: 1:00 Saturday, February 14  
12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch

At the January Directors Meeting Betsy Josias announced that Eva Seri was elected to fill the vacancy on the board and



# SADDLEBACK 525 SECTIONAL

February 7 & 8, 2009

ACBL Sanction S 0902076

Laguna Woods Village Clubhouse 7  
24111 Moulton Parkway  
Laguna Woods, California

Orange County Thomas Guide - Page 891 - D7

Scott Campbell, Director  
\$10 per person/session

Tournament Manager Jacqueline Jackson 949-855-1963

Assistant Manager Mary Scott 949-380-1830

Partnerships Audrey Wicks 949-599-5990

Saturday February 7, 2009

*299ers always play separately*

10:00 am Stratified Pairs (single session)

Compact Knockouts (round 1)

3:00 pm Stratified Pairs (single session)

Compact Knockouts (round 2)

Pairs Strats A = 2500+

B = 1000+

C = 0 - 999

Sunday February 8, 2009

*299ers always play separately*

10:00 am Swiss Teams

Dinner break tba

Swiss Stratified A = 5000+

A/X = 0-5000-

B = 1500 - 2500

C = 750 - 1500

D = 0 - 750

# MARY GOLDBERG 4TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL GAME



Come celebrate with me, my Mom's love  
for this game, with an afternoon of  
**Food, Drink and Bridge!**

**Sunday, February 22 12:30 for Lunch 1:00 for Game**

SFV Bridge Academy  
6733 Variel St.  
Canoga Park, CA 91303  
818-999-9131  
[staff@sfvbridgeacademy.com](mailto:staff@sfvbridgeacademy.com)

accordingly was welcomed to her new post. Also the Board of Directors officers' assignments remain pretty much the same and are partially listed herewith: President/Secretary-Merry Besvold; Vice President-Hal Gordon; Treasurer-Sharon Wolf; ALACBU Representative-Margaret Mataga; Business Manager-Nancy Lyon; Membership Chair-Betsy Josias; and Merry and Karen Alpert continue as our sectional tournament directors. Should you have any constructive suggestions, please let us have them, preferably in writing, for consideration at Board of Directors meetings.

It wasn't much of a vacation, but Lyle Wiedeman certainly covered a lot of miles last November. His son was transferring to the Washington DC area, and Lyle accompanied him by auto, alternating on the driving of those 3,000 miles. They allowed five days for the trip, and all went well, including Lyle's return flight to LAX, so he only missed one week of bridge and golf...

Bob Zappaterreno is hoping that his good partner Carol Ladue's absence from our tables will be temporary, but for the present family and job responsibility have nudged her bridge games aside. So now Bob avails himself of the pick-up-a partner desk at the Regency. He's also done a lot of picking up at lemon tree (juxtaposition unintended!) that comes with a property he owns in the Palm Springs area. Our are enjoying the fruit of his labor and extend a bushel of thanks. 'Tis the season for lots of Vitamin C, n'estce pas?

I finally got to see a copy of the first issue of the Southern California Bridge News in its new format, but not until January 13. Being one of the many computer illiterates, I do not feel comfortable asking others to prepare a copy for me and, surmising others are in the same fix, I wish to suggest to my editor that, now that the cost of the News has been considerably reduced, why not have ALACBU furnish several copies of the publication to each of the clubs in this area to accommodate us dues-paying members who do not have computer access. And please do not mention "cake."

As you will see below, Barbara McKissick did not let her cheffing duties at the January Unit Game dull her gaming skills. Nor did other winners succumb to the good feasting, to wit:

#### North/South

A1	B1	McKissick and Vernon Thomas
A2	B2	Daniel Oakes and Susan Rhoades
A3		Ann Banta and Ron Moeckel
A4		Bob Cranoe and Arne Lier
A5		Joan Massias and Marge Gould
A6		Steve Licker and Bob Gish
	B3	Madelon Liebman and Carol Lessing

#### East/West

A1		Rae Murbach and Shiu-Ming Huang
A2		Sam Wang and Helen Wang

A3		Weezie Reich and Amr El Gharmy
A4		Tom Wan and Hal Gordon
A5		Gary Belcher and Bob Tayrien
A6/7	B1	Esther Tapelband and Bob Hogan
A6/7		Brad Beland and Tim Lolli
	B2	Harold Knowles and Vedro
	B3	Art Chacanas and D. LaMaie
	C1	Betsy Josias and Nancy Lyon
	C2	Sixten Ohman and Temo Arjani

Our next UG will Feb 14, Valentine's Day, a time to honor dear card hearts and gentle people, n'estce pas? Take care everybody....

## Long Beach

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

[www.longbeachbridge.com](http://www.longbeachbridge.com)

by Jon Yinger

**JANUARY 11 UNIT GAME (25 tables):** Overall results in the open game: 1st in A, Stanley Snyder/Michael Ventri; 2nd Irma Johnson/Cory Hand; 3rd John Killian/Cayce Blanchard; 4th Bob Mault/Yas Takeda; 5/6 tie Wayne Rapp/Peggy DeSantis tied with George Thompson/Steve Skinner. Overall winners in the B flight were: 3rd Calvin and JoAnne Walker; 4th Sue Fardette/Vincent Remedios; 5th Hashim Mahmood/Thambu Nadarajah; 6th Mark Tang/Steve Sulzby. Overall winners in the non-Life Master game: 1st Betty and Rudi Metzner; 2nd Sherry Royce/Nancy Karl; 3rd Fred and Karyl Gurzi; 4th Sally Fenton/Judy Grieb.

**70+% GAMES through 1/15:** Six pairs had 70+% games. In open games Cory Hand/Irma Johnson 75.08% on Dec 21, Lois Abramson/Walter Rothstein 70.35% on Dec 23, Bill Malcom/Earl VanDerVord 71.13% on Dec 30 and Marjorie Michelin/Steve Clements 74.16% on Jan 4. In Easy Bridge Alan and Sally and Alan Gordy had 73.33% on Dec 20, and in the Jan 9 NLM game Yolanda Medina/Cole Sachs had 73.9%. Congratulations to you all!

**BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS:** Big points in big games: In the Jan 11 Unit Game Stanley Snyder/Michael Ventri won 4.96mp for 1st place and Irma Johnson/Cory Hand won 3.72 for 2nd place.

**NEW MEMBERS and NEW STATUS:** We issue a warm welcome to two transfers into our unit: Laurence Gresko and Fred Otto. Status changes: congratulations to Ellen Goodwin for becoming a Junior Master, Melanie Smith for achieving Club Master and Mary Thomas for



reaching NABC Master.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE CLUB:** Saturday, Jan 31st: International Fund Game; extra point. Card fee: \$10. Beginning Feb. 1st a week of sectionally rated games. Card fee: \$10. Monday Feb. 11, 7pm: stratified open team game. Sunday Feb 15th Unit Game: lunch at 12:30, game at 1pm, first 13 tables in the non-life master game play for free. Monday morning 9 am Feb. 23rd ACBL senior pairs. Card fee is \$10

**GET WELL WISHES** to Bev Harmsen, Joyce Siegel and Mary Schefter. And on the mend from broken wrists: Peggy Waite, Christy Mangum and Anna Kavoian. Three in one month! I guess it's safer to play bridge than to work in the garden. Get well soon.

**HELP THE COLUMNIST:** If I have missed an award or status change, please let me know. If you have any news items you would like to see in the column, my email is [jjyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jjyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

[www.darbonne.com/bridge](http://www.darbonne.com/bridge)  
by Jan Wickersham  
and Roy Wilson

Shiu-Ming Huang got our New Year off to a great start with a yummy presentation celebrating the Chinese New Year. She went all out for the entrees, had a beautiful cake saying Happy Chinese New Year, and she even included balloons. Many thanks to you Shiu-Ming for an outstanding job!!!!

There was another great turnout for the game. Bob Gish and his partner, Jojo Sarkar, took the First Place honors, and Zheng Zhang and Hsi Chun Lin swept both the B and C Firsts. Margie Hall and Carole Collins were the top winners for the 299ers.

Please note that the Unit Game in February will be held the second Sunday due to the Super Bowl game being scheduled for the first Sunday. Hope to see you all there.

Plan now to attend the Election Party, March 8 (also the second Sunday). The board decided to change the date because the first Sunday was conflicting with the Grand National Team tryouts, and the people receiving the awards would not be present if we held it the first Sunday. We apologize about having to change dates. I

know it can get confusing, but events come up that are out of our control, so we do what seems best for the unit. The Election Party will be held at the Elk's Lodge, 27 West Huntington Drive in Arcadia. The meal will be a sit-down dinner with a choice of Prime Rib or Salmon, and cheesecake or chocolate cake for dessert. Tickets are \$35.00 per person and can be purchased from any board member.

The San Marino game on Monday, January 26, will be a special occasion where we will again celebrate the Chinese New Year. There will be a great lunch, and of course some very good bridge. Come early for the celebration.

On February 23, for one time only, the Monday game will be held at the Masonic Temple on Huntington Drive near San Gabriel. The San Marino Community Center will be busy that day with school activities.

Millie Williamson has been in the hospital with breathing difficulties. We miss you at the bridge table, Millie and hope to see you soon. Kathy Helber had bypass surgery on January 14. We're hoping for a speedy recovery for you as well, Kathy.

Charo Holdo has joined the ranks of the top 5% of our members in unit 559 – She is now a Gold Life Master with more than 2500 masterpoints. Congratulations, Charo.

Mark Hartzell became a Life Master in Hawaii when he and his teammates, Sandra Franciscus, Connie De Rosa and Norma Simpson won a Swiss event. Congratulations to all of you!

Does anyone have an old home-movie screen that they would donate to the unit? Roy Wilson has a projector that he would bring to the unit game if we can find a screen. This projector connects to a computer to display the computer's screen so we can watch as the scoring is done.

Bridge evolves... Here's a bit of history: In the old days a 1NT opening bid was always 16-18 points, so why did we change to 15-17? What happened was that a few bridge experts found that a 15 point hand with a five card minor played as well, or sometimes better, than a balanced 16 point hand. Many of them decided to open with 15 points, but only if they had this type of hand. It didn't take long for the rest of the bridge playing world to notice and start opening 1NT with only 15 points. Only thing is, they neglected the requirement to have a five-card minor and in a short time even the experts had to open 1NT with 15 points just to be competitive. For awhile the range was 15-



18 points, but bidding theorists consider a four point spread too wide because the responder has a difficult time evaluating his hand. So, have you noticed how many players are now using 14-16 points as their notrump range? And what about those weak notrump opening bids of 10-12 points? Players who open weak notrump hands often give up transfer bids. They're a two-edged sword, but can be effective. Another change you will see is the willingness to open 1NT or 2NT with a five-card major, a method that can get complicated trying to discover a major suit fit. Also, some players will not play either Stayman or Transfer bids when partner uses a 1NT overcall. They consider a response of 2♣ or 2♦ as natural and non-forcing. (Actually, any of the three remaining suits at the two level is natural and non-forcing.) A question for you: What do you tell your partner when you open 3NT? Is it a Gambling 3NT with a solid minor? That's very popular, but you don't get it very often. A hand that you do see frequently has both minors and about 10-15 points. If you come across players who open 3NT to describe such a hand you will find it's also a preemptive bid making it difficult for your side to enter the auction. Here's a suggestion: Cuebid 4♣ to show majors with better hearts, and cuebid 4♦ to show majors with better spades. A double says you want to punish them.

As I said, bridge evolves and you might consider making some changes to your own bidding style or perhaps discussing how to defend against these non-standard notrump bids.

See you at the table...

## Pomona-Covina

by Vic Sartor

Last month, as some of you are aware, the unit installed a new board and president (under protest, in the latter case).

For those who missed the spectacular inauguration ceremonies of the new unit officers, let me give you a brief recap.

In his ermine robe, the new president was escorted to a rhinestone encrusted throne, while his adoring subjects threw tokens of their affection— rose petals, rocks, bricks, etc. With a beatific smile, the new potentate then blessed the board, anointing them with seltzer and tapping them lightly on the shoulder with the unit scepter as each genuflected before him in turn.

It was a truly inspiring scene right out of Camelot. Unfortunately, with all the hoopla about that other inauguration in Washington, D.C., we failed to get the coverage I felt we deserved from our local news media.

Rising above petty grievances, however, I'd like to thank Tom Lill for pinch-hitting for me on last month's column. As noted, I was in the hospital trying to take advantage of a special two-for-one heart pacemaker and frontal lobotomy special they were running for the holidays.

Moving on to actual news, we have the following recent results: The unit game was won by Hans Hehnke and Vito Sartori with a 68% effort. Cordell Goode and Lary Alba won their direction and took 2nd OA with a 64.5% game. The monthly individual Event was won by Genise Hasan, followed by Helen Wang, and Margaret Merritt.

Top game of the month was a 68% win by Penny Barbieri and Helen Wang. 60%+ winners were Toni Dennett, Kurt Trieselmann, Roger Boyar, Walt Otto, Dave Ruoff, Vic Sartor, Sue Rottner, and Milt Kalikman. Other winners included Val Fletcher, Fred Minter, and Lulu Minter.

Roger Boyar wants to remind everyone that he is offering a free play to any first-time player at his Tuesday morning, Thursday evening, and Friday morning games at La Fetra. He is also offering a free lesson to any new student at his Wednesday classes— tell a friend! For aspiring players, don't forget that there will be three unit championships on February 24, 26, and 27. This is a chance to earn extra masterpoints, so get a partner and come out.

Our hand of the month tests both your bridge skills and your trust in your fellow man and woman. Vul. vs. non-vul, you hold:

♠A10xxx ♥-- ♦98xxx ♣A10x

Your partner opens 1NT (14-16 HCP). You bid the obvious 2♥ and hear your partner super-accept with 3♠. Over your raise to 4♠, your RHO, who has passed quietly throughout the auction, suddenly comes in with a bid of 5♥! This is passed around to you. Your action? If you suspect that your RHO is out on a pass from the California Home For the Bewildered, you may decide "the 5-level belongs to the opponents" and double. If you know that the lady in question is a good player and quite sane, however, you might want to think it over.

As it happens, she has been sand-bagging with 3-8-1-1 distribution and KQJ10xxxx of hearts. Your partner holds ♠KQJx ♥xx ♦KQJx ♣KJx, which means she catches two red aces and a stiff spade in dummy. Without a trump lead, a duck of the first spade off the board around to your pard, and a second trump lead, she is going to wrap 5♥ doubled around your neck! If you smelled a rat and bid 5♠, you got it right. Pard rolls 6 without a diamond ruff.

‘Til next time...

## San Fernando Valley

[sfvunit561@aol.com](mailto:sfvunit561@aol.com)

by Jimmie Swan

Unit 561 Sectional on April 24-26, 2009

Please mark this event on your calendar—you'll be glad you did! This will give you time to line up a partner, and perhaps a team, for the stratified pair games [0-299 and open] or the one-day Compact Knockout events on Friday morning and afternoon, and again on Saturday morning and afternoon, and the Swiss Team events on Sunday morning and afternoon. There will also be a stratified pairs game on Friday evening.

All Friday games will be held where The 750 Club meets in Woodland Hills. There is a large, free, parking lot adjacent to the building. They will be held in the Upper Hall at the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, a few blocks from the Ventura Freeway and Topanga Canyon Boulevard. The Saturday and Sunday games will be held at the Bridge Academy in Canoga Park, a few blocks from DeSoto Avenue and Vanowen Street. More details will follow soon.

**70%+ games in Unit 561  
between December 15 and January 15**

- \* Carol Diamant and Naz Saghbazarian 71.73%
- \* Ron Malkin and Bill Taylor 70.63%
- \* Miriam Bental and Curt Darden 70.33%

Congratulations to all of you!

**The Top Ten Masterpoint Leaders for December  
with <299 in 0-500 games**

Jim Gardner led with 5.85, followed by Eric

Heilman, Michael Klemens, Joan Farrar, Jim Lechner, Samy Antoun, Eva Seri, Rochelle Lotto, Merkie Rowan and Allan Palansky. Good job everyone!

**The Top Ten Masterpoint Leaders for December  
with <1,000 in 0-1,000 games**

Ron Malkin led with 3.76, followed by Herb Zweig, Joyce Hart, Jody Lombardo, Bernie Davidorf, Carol Connolly, Marcia Broderick, Mel Lerner, Paul Endler, and Sam Faye. Good job everyone!

**The Top Ten Masterpoint Leaders for December  
with >299 in open games**

Ellen Anten led with 21.58, followed by Leda Danzig, Gil Stinebaugh, Tom Wylie, Andy Vinock, Dick Lum, Armand Szulc, Michael Gosnell, Marta Peltz, and Eddie Gruber. Good job everyone!

Freddi Straus reported that hubby, Bill Straus, was elated after playing in his first real competition, where he and his partner, Greg Bozin, had a 69.9% game. Congratulations!

That's all for now. Carpe diem!

*Please call me at (818) 893-7108, or, email me at [SFVunit561@aol.com](mailto:SFVunit561@aol.com) when you have any Bridge News to submit. Please put "Bridge" in the subject line, and give me your name and phone number, in case I have any questions. You may also call or email me if you have any questions or comments. Just remember to put "Bridge" in the subject line so your email does not get deleted as spam.*

## Torrance South Bay

<http://home.netcom.com/~asmager1/sbbchp.htm>

<http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>

by Steve Mager

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Thursday, February 5, 7:00 pm  
2-Session NLM (<500) Swiss Teams:

Saturday, February 7 at 10:30 a.m.,  
includes lunch, Reservations requested.

Club Championship: Monday, February 9, 11:30 a.m.  
Handicapped Swiss Teams: Sunday, Feb 15, 1 p.m.

Club Championship: Friday, February 20, 11:30 a.m.  
 Friday night games on February 6 and 20  
 Handicapped Swiss Teams Tuesday nights at 7 p.m.

### Club Championships

The December 17 NLM Club Championship was won by Anne Andres/Margaret Yeh in Flight A with Joan and Robert Stillwell on top in Flight B. On December 23 the Club Championship saw Gabriela Jackson/Masae Kato winning Flight A, Kim Wang/Lutrell Long leading Flight B and Carole King-Kepperling/Beverly Narahara ahead in Flight C. Starting off the New Year Gary King/Ted Gibbs emerged victorious in Flight A at the Club Championship on January 2 with Beverly Narahara/Carole King-Kepperling taking Flight B honors.

### Team Winners

On December 16 the team of Betsey Amador, Jeff Strutzel, Andy Anderson and Mike Savage took home the top honors. The December 30 game saw the quartet of Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Dean Kaloudis

and John J. McDermott leading the way. The 2-session charity Swiss event on January 3 resulted in the team of Lucy Tredennick, Dean Kaloudis, Maurice Suhre and Jerome Drayton finishing on top in the Flight A game. The Flights BCD Swiss at this same event was won by MaryBelle Hoenig, Cal and JoAnne Waller and Gerri Carlson. On January 6 the team of Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema and C. M. Meaux led the way

### GUV Memorial Award

Lucy Tredennick might become known as "Lucky Lucy." She made a claim the other day that an opponent informed her was incorrect. He pointed out that if his partner on lead led a heart it would screw up her communication and she would lose one more trick. This was all true but lucky for Lucy said partner was out of hearts.

In a recent Swiss team game after one soft match Lucy's partner put a \$100 dollar bill on the table and said that if one of their teammates played with Lucy he could have the C-Note. The teammates appeared to act like true gentlemen by turning down the \$100 but then one of them ruined it all by saying, "But for \$500."

## District 23 – Team Game Sectional

Saturday March 28 and Sunday March 29, 2009  
 Barrington Bridge Club

### Saturday, March 28

**10:30 am –**  
 Swiss Teams Strata Flighted  
 First Session of Two  
 Flight A/AX: (5000+ / 0-5000)  
 Strats B, C, D: (1000-2500/500-1000/0-500)

**Second Session To Be announced**



### Sunday, March 29

**10:30 am –**  
 Compact Knockouts  
 Rounds 1 and 2

**3:30 pm –**  
 Compact Knockouts  
 Rounds 3 and 4

**3:30 pm –**  
 Swiss Teams  
 Single Session - Stratified  
 (2500+/750-2500/0-750)

### Card Fees:

ACBL Members  
 \$10 per person/per session  
 Non-Members  
 \$11 per person/per session  
 Additional charge for GNT

### Location:

Barrington Bridge Club  
 11514 Santa Monica Blvd.  
 Los Angeles, CA 90025  
 Telephone: 310-966-4144

### Partnerships & More Information:

Rand Pinsky  
 District 23 Nat'l Board of Directors  
 Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net  
 (661) 253-1105  
GNT Information  
 Howard Einberg (310) 475-9784  
 Grand National Teams Coordinator

\*\*\*\*\*All profits from this tournament will be given to our GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS to help support their trip to Washington D.C. as they represent our District in the GNT National Competition \*\*\*\*\*

**GRAND NATIONAL TEAM FLIGHT A AND C WILL TAKE PLACE AT THIS TOURNAMENT**



Her partner did not produce \$500 and he kept playing with her. In her defense the team wound up first overall winners.

Neal Kleiner also rates an honorable mention. Playing with Gerri Carlson he passed in first seat and then after Gerri opened 1NT noticed he only had 10 cards...which must be some kind of record. After about a minute of prying cards apart Neal finally discovered the missing 3 cards and they were significant enough to give him an opening hand with 5 hearts. Chances are if he opened 1 Heart they would have wound up in 4 Hearts. But Neal decided to bid 3NT which turned out to make as many as a Heart contract and gave his innocent opponents a big round one.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA

by candy

Being from Minnesota, I have called my cousins and joked about their senate race. January being election month for the units is more a race to see how fast you can get this done and then play bridge. So after a lovely dinner at the Einberg's it was on to the electioneering (i.e. who wants my old job? --- No one --- what are you guys doing? --- moved, seconded and voted --- congratulations, the incumbent wins again.)

While Sandy was out answering the phone and Howard asked for a volunteer for president, the board went with the "ask a stupid question get a stupid answer," and the dirty deed was done. Sandy returned and the board gave her their best sad puppy look with the torn slipper in its mouth routine. Carolyn Taff turned her head and her fate was sealed, Howard suggested Carolyn as VP and it was on to Treasurer, since Fred Moutner has the checkbook...it's time to vote for Secretary, Jordan Chodorow was caught holding a pencil. Elections done.

On to appointing a Cabinet: Howard looked at last years list, liked it and signed, sealed and delivered it to the ACBL. Membership: Roger Clough, Disciplinary: Cecil Cook, Recorder: Gene White, Business Manager: Fred Mautner, Tournament Coordinator: Pete Benjamin, Publicity: Mario Mory, Hospitality: Toby Green, Novice: Karen Byrd, Charity: Barbara Nusbaum, Unit Education Liaison: Roger Clough, NAP: Karen Byrd, GNT: Howard Einberg, ALACBU Representatives: Barbara, Carolyn, Cecil, Roger, Howard (alt.), Toby

(alt.). Someone wanted to know what their job was and was told they did a fine job last year, keep up the good work.

Time to pick teams. I wasn't on the winning team, but won another term as Unit Reporter. So that's why its midnight on the 15th and my computer and I are spending quality time together. So, Minnesota, learn from us, if there's only one candidate elections go much faster, is cheaper and no one has to spend time recounting votes.

In college I took a break from bridge once a week and went to a Strategic Games Club (we played Risk). To be an official club you had to have a president and a nominee for Homecoming Queen. I was asked to run for HQ being the only female in the club. I told them only if no one votes for me. All the other geek clubs asked if I would be their HQ if they promised not to vote for me. Five years later I was on campus and noticed that the newspaper listed the HQ candidates and my name was still there. Scary thought is I might still be running for HQ.

Barry and Marcia Fisher have a new grandson born January 7. Barry has named him Sammy the Moose. Fortunately Mom and Dad favored Samuel Aaron.

A little club report is better than none ... So from Barrington I got Connie Fishbach & Art Zail and Roger & Becky Clough had 70% games, Club Champs were "A" Jill Richmond & Gary King "B" Trudy Sokol & Rhoda Weisler "C" Ellen Korney & Laura Waisler.

Next month I'll tell you about our May Sectional and all the chocolate we're planning to have. Diabetics be forewarned you may need insulin before reading my column. Considering I had less to go on when I started this column I should be able to waste a lot more cyber space next month. Til then I'm going to take a cue from Douglas Adams, grab my towel and hitchhike across the galaxy.

*Thank your  
unit columnist  
by sending them  
news.*

## Team Game Sectional

by Rand Pinsky

To all units and clubs: Please print out the Team Game Flyer which can be found at our district website [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org) (the flyer is also in this edition of the Bridge News on page 10) and distribute them to your members and players.

All money raised from this event will go to help subsidize our Grand National Teams as they represent our District at the Summer NABC in Washington D.C. For more information, please contact Rand Pinsky, Tournament Manager at [pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net) or 661- 253-1105.

### 2009 District 23 GNT Qualifying Facts

- All events take place at the Barrington Bridge Club: 11514 Santa Monica Blvd, LA 90025 310-966-4144
- Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5 or 6 players
- Game Times are 10:30 a.m. and TBA
- Players can enter more than 1 event (on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in Washington DC this summer
- Winning teams to receive partial refund of expenses for the trip to the finals
- Masterpoint limits are based on recorded points as of 10/1/2008
- For complete conditions of contest see the ALACBU website: [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org) or the ALACBU blog: [www.acbldistrict23.org/blog](http://www.acbldistrict23.org/blog)
- Questions? Call  
Howard Einberg 310-475-9784  
or Bill Wickham 310-234-3238

### District 23 Rank Changes 12/1/08-12/31/08

#### Junior Master (5 points)

Ruth Baker  
Jaleh Berset  
Albert Cohen  
Richard Dial  
Bobbi Endler  
Steve Goeden  
Jan Goldsmith  
Laurence Gresko  
Carol Hartley  
Yu-Ping Liu  
Karen McKittrick  
Gregg Myerson  
Marianne Newman  
Bridget O'Sullivan  
Bruce Peterson  
Jan Peterson  
Carole Slavin  
Billie Steiner  
Madge Weinstein

#### Club Master (20 MPs)

Lee Axelrod  
Dale Blessing  
Liz Anne Deforest  
Kathleen Holbrook

Mark Lavine  
Rachel Parker  
Wally Simmons

#### Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Louise Bowyer  
Zeme Christopoulos  
Julia Ann Cunningham  
Midori Dekiba  
Helene Greenwood  
Dennis Hollingworth  
Krystyna Hollingworth  
Peggi Spring  
Donald Van Wye  
Rita Vannatter

#### Regional Master (100 MPs)

Bunnie Blender  
Frona De Covnick  
Floyd McKinsey  
Joianna Ogner  
Larry Olson  
Steve Ramos  
Roy Tomooka  
Ann Trygstad

#### NABC Master (200 MPs)

Sally Karbelnig  
Joan Klein  
Zhong Bin Lin  
Marcia Meyerson  
Allan Palansky

#### Life Master (300 MPs)

Barbara Bereny

#### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Barbara Bereny  
Robert Chui  
Sandra Franciscus  
Fran Malina

#### Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Edwin Feldmann  
Nancy Heck

#### Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

William Ng

#### Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Adrienne Green

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

Panelists: Eddie Kantar, Marshall Miles, John Jones, David Chechelashvili, Adam Meyerson, Ed Davis, and Mr. Mealy-mouth

# 1

all vul  
MPs

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

You, East, hold: ♠T7543 ♥A842 ♦K5 ♣A4

What call do you make?

**Kantar – Pass.** First I am asked to make a rebid on a hand I wouldn't have opened. To be consistent, I am passing.

**Miles – Pass.** A 2♥ rebid only gains when partner has 4 or more hearts, and then only part of the time. It is a close decision, however, since partner is probably short in both spades and diamonds, so a 4+ heart holding is fairly likely.

**Jones – Pass.** I must admit that I wouldn't actually open the bidding with that hand. I think it is close though. The normal action over 1♠ Pass-1NT-2m (2♣ or 2♦), is to rebid 2♥. This hand is an exception because little is to be gained by bidding. Pard can double for takeout if he is short in diamonds with a decent hand.

**Chechelashvili – Pass.** A takeout double is a very close second choice, because of the form of scoring; however, I would want to have better spades to double. If I had ♠JT9xx, I would not hesitate to double.

**Bartusek - 2♥.** This is forced because we could be shut out of our heart fit if LHO raises diamonds. Even if he doesn't raise, the follow-up auction could get ambiguous if I pass. Once you've opened this hand, why is this a problem?

**Meyerson - Double** (in my style this is takeout and does not particularly show extras). I would not have opened this hand, and it is tempting to pass "because the hand is so poor" but I think this is bad strategy.

Passing when we have the normal shape for another call puts partner under a lot of pressure and will make it difficult to reach a 4-4 heart fit or defend 2♦ doubled when it's right.

**Davis - Pass.** Partner already knows I have five spades and an opening hand and this is a bad vulnerability for aggressive bidding. A 2♥ bid will too often lead to a bad result either because we don't belong in the auction or because it will cause partner to bid too much. Partner knows much more about my hand than I do about his hand so any further bidding by our side should come from him.

**Mealy-mouth – 2♥.** Continuing the psych. If I don't bid 2♥, partner will never believe I have four. Daddy, what's a free bid?

*Yes I agree with some of you that this is not an opening bid, but it is your partner who made it, we just want to know what you would do now. Yes you may be jammed out of the heart suit, but just as or more likely you will be going for a number (even if that is 200 for down two vul). The hands you pay off to are the ones where partner has a small singleton spade and five hearts; for that one will play extremely well. Mark asked why this was a problem, I was asking that myself when my partner years ago bid 2♥ and we ended up going for a number. I am now satisfied, most of our esteemed experts agreed with me that there was no problem. Pass! - DS*

PSP continued on next page

*Thank you Marshall Miles for years of hard work, interesting problems, and wonderful columns. Marshall has resigned as moderator of the Problem Solvers' Panel, but has stayed on in the capacity of a panelist. The panel will be moderated on a rotating basis by John Jones, David Sacks and Leo Bell.*



2

no vul  
IMPs

You hold:  
 ♠7 ♥AKT5 ♦AKQ ♣T9765  
 What call do you make?

**Kantar - 1♥, in a 'heart'beat.**

**Miles - 1♥.** I don't know what to rebid over 1♠ if I open 1♣, nor does 1♦ appeal to me at all. If I can't show everything, I don't want to fail to show hearts.

**Jones - 1♣.** Ugly hand! Over 1♣-pass-1♠-pass, I'll make a very conservative 1NT bid. This hand isn't really as good as a 16 HCP hand, especially if pard has spades.

**Chechelashvili - 1NT.** Tough call, I hate all my options, and 1NT is the least of evils. Form of scoring also influenced me, at matchpoints, I would open 1♣.

**Bartusek - 1♣.** Reversing into hearts is the best way to describe the hand. In my opinion, opening 1♥ is too dangerous. Hopefully partner will rebid 2♠ over my reverse so I can bid a non-forcing 2NT. Admittedly, we could be in jeopardy if partner rebids a "Lebensohlish" 2NT over my reverse.

**Meyerson - 1♣.** It is true that there are problems if partner responds 1♠ (I would stretch a bit and reverse into hearts if this happens). But the auction doesn't have to go that way - opponents could bid spades, or partner could respond in hearts or with a minor suit raise. In all these cases I will be glad to have started by bidding my longest suit.

**Davis - 1♣.** Ugh! I can lie by a spade (open 1NT), lie by a heart (open 1♥), overbid on an unproductive 16 HCP (open 1♣ then reverse with 2♥) or lie by at least one diamond (open 1♦ then rebid 2♣). It is more likely to cause a problem lying about my major suit length than it is lying about 1 HCP so I'll open 1♣ intending to reverse with 2♥.

**Mealymouth - 1♥.** Not 1♣. Topless suits are fine for girls at the beach, but not for opening the bidding. If I have to lay my hand down as dummy, I will put my queen of diamonds in with my hearts and claim "100

honors" so I can hear one opponent tell me that honors don't count at duplicate bridge and the other remind me that hearts aren't trump. This would be a good rebid problem after a 1♣ opening and a 1♠ response from partner. Then, I would be able to abstain, earning a place alongside Al Roth and Paul Trent in the Master Solvers' Hall of Fame.

*Now I feel more comfortable... my answer is different than everyone else's and the moderator thinks that is correct. Kudos to David C: I have always admired the use of the rule of 16 (opening 1NT with hands with a 5-card major and precisely 16 HCP). Some of the panel wants to treat the heart suit as five, so 1NT might work. To me, the singleton should have some positional value in order to open 1NT, and for me that would be at least the ten-spot (the nine-spot if I was feeling frisky that day). Those of you who don't want to go against the field and therefore open 1♣ and intend to rebid some horrible bid, which do you choose: 2♣ (rebid that robust topless honey), 2♥ (almost guaranteed to get us to an unmakeable contract) or 1NT (sorry partner, I know 1NT shows 12-14, but I had a compensating singleton in your suit)? I love it out here by my lonesome with my ONE DIAMOND opening. Since some of you think the club suit is unbiddable and the heart suit is not a five carder, why not treat this hand like the one it is most like, a 1444? That diamond suit looks more like a four bagger than that club suit looks like a five bagger. Rebid problems? Find one. (OK, maybe a round or two down the road, but I think the auction 1♦, 1♠, 2♣, 2♦, 2♥ pretty much describes this hand in strength and shape without going overboard) Betcha that Mr. Mealymouth agrees with me now, too. - DS*

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4

all vul  
MPs

East	South	West	North
1♠	pass	1NT	pass
?			

Hand 1: ♠AT8765 ♥QJT8 ♦AJ8 ♣--

Hand 2: ♠QJT876 ♥AT85 ♦AJ8 ♣--

- a) Do you make the same rebid with each hand?  
 b) What rebids would you make?  
 c) Same hands as above, responder bids 2NT over your rebid. What do you bid?

**Kantar a) - Yes**

b) 2♥. I like these hands and am prepared to rebid spades, if necessary.

c) 3♠. I made that commitment when I rebid 2♥. I'm leaving now before the doubling starts!

**Miles a) No**

b) With the first hand I would rebid 2♥. We have a fair chance for game if partner raises hearts. With the second hand we may do just as well in spades opposite a singleton honor as in hearts opposite three or four, not to mention three small. Also, we have less chance of making game if partner raises hearts.

c) With the first hand, I pass 2NT since I think 1♠, 2♥, 3♠ should be forcing. With the second hand, I bid 3♠.

**Jones a) Yes**

b) I'd bid 2♥ with either hand.

c) I would bid 3♠ (forcing) with the first hand to get pard's help. With the second hand I would just bid 4♠, even if pard has a small singleton, 4♠ may well be a good contract.

**Chechelashvili a) Yes.**

b) 2♥.

c) 3♠. I don't play it as showing extras, as it used to show some years ago, I believe. Hearts are too important not to bid them after pard's 1NT, even at matchpoints. With extras and 6-4, and good spade suit, I can jump to 4♠ after pard's 2NT. If I have a bad spade suit, I can bid 3♠, the same bid that I am making now, holding a minimum.

**Bartusek a) Yes.**

b) I'd bid 2♥ with either hand. It's too risky to bid 2♠

on either hand because we might miss a heart game. If the second suit were a minor then we would rebid the major with a minimum followed by the minor at the 3 level.

c) 3♣, relaying to 3♦, followed by 3♠ showing a weak 6-4 in the majors with QJ10876 of spades. Pass with the A108765 of spades because I will not risk playing 3♠ opposite a stiff or void spade. This relay is a very useful treatment to distinguish between weak hands and game-forcing hands. Using this convention an immediate 3♦/3♥/3♠ is game-forcing.

**Meyerson a) and b) 2♥ in both cases.** It's true that a 6-1 spade fit could be better than a 4-3 heart fit especially opposite the second hand, but we could easily have a NINE card heart fit and miss it completely by rebidding 2S. I don't see any reason to make a call that caters only to the "worst case" possibility.

c) 3♦, patterning out, in both cases. Each hand has so many spot cards (and the six card suit) that I will accept an invite, and it's not hard to imagine having a game in diamonds if partner has five of them. This will also help partner know to avoid 3NT with weak clubs (since I can have at most one club on the bidding).

**Davis a) and b) I would bid 2♥ on the first hand and 2♠ on the second hand.** My preferred method is to play transfers over 1♠-1NT, 2♥-2NT. If I was, I would bid 2♥ on each hand since I can transfer back to 3♠ on the second hand without showing extra values. The biggest advantage to rebidding 2♥ is that partner can have something like x Kxxxxx Qxx Qxx and would have to pass 2♠ but can bid a game over 2♥.

c) Pass over 2NT on the first hand since a 3♠ bid is forcing after I had rebid 2♥. I'll bid 3♥ on the second



hand since I had rebid 2♠.

**Mealy-mouth a) 2♠.**

b) 2♥. Fat-bottom suits, you make the rockin' world go round!

c) 3♥ on the first hand, finding our 4-5 fit at last. 3♦ on the second hand, finding our 3-4 fit at last.

*a) Not all 6-4-3-0 hands with 12 HCP are created equal. There are several things to be considered with these two hands. Are they one suited, two suited or three suited? Are they minimum or maximum? For me the hands have one key difference, how will they play opposite a stiff spade?*

*b) On the first, if I rebid two hearts and partner dragged up a 3 heart bid I would confidently bid 4 hearts expecting to make no matter what dregs pard has. On the second, if partner has one spade and three hearts, I think I will garner more matchpoints in spades. In bidding it is not just what I have, but what partner has and what the probabilities of one bid working over another.*

*I think I will let the panel speak for themselves on the third part. But I almost 100% agree with Ed's and Marshall's evaluation of the bids. But I just might bid out pattern with 3♦ instead of passing 2NT with the first hand cause I just might get to a super diamond fit or a makeable 3♠ after bidding out my pattern.*

*Mark's convention over 2NT makes sense if you want*

*to give up bidding out your fragment. Of course, there may be more to Mark's treatment of good and bad 6-4's.*

*John, remind me to partner up with you, when down by 30 at IMPs.*

*Eddie, seeing your answer, reminds me of the days I used to hear these fascinating bidding discussions between you and Marshall.*

*I would like to thank the panel for their timely answers. I hope my style of moderating is not too snarky for some of you. If it is, or you think that some of my ideas are twilight zone, please write me a note at u3825it-bridge@yahoo.com or post a comment on the bidding polls on the District 23 blog at [www.district23.org/blog](http://www.district23.org/blog) and I will try respond accordingly.*

*Marshall Miles, John Swanson, and Michael Schreiber have set an extremely high standard of moderating this column over the years. I hope that in some small way I have been able not to wander too far off their paths of wonder.*

## What call do you make?

Check out the weekly bidding polls on the District 23 blog:

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

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