

# Southern California Bridge News

Deliver By 1st of the Month

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Changes In 2009 For The SC Bridge News



by Bill Schreiber  
ALACBU  
President

Welcome to the first Internet-Only publication of the Southern California Bridge News. The paper has been redesigned so it is easier to read on your computer and easier to print on regular paper. Virtually all of the content of the Southern California Bridge News has been retained, including the Problem Solver's Panel. You are invited to submit problems for our local experts to answer in the panel. The problems may be submitted to [bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org) subject: PSP.

At this time the Southern California Bridge News is available only by logging onto our website, [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org).

We would like to create a database for our district so that the paper can be e-mailed directly to you.

Our webmaster (and jack of all trades-electronically speaking), Kevin Lane, has indicated that by February 1 he hopes to have on our website a link to where you can input your email address and become part of our database.

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## Director's Report From The Boston NABC



by Rand Pinsky  
District Director

Boston was a wonderful city to hold a NABC. Even though it was cold (very) and windy, the two host hotels were connected by a walk-through mall so you did not have to go outdoors.

The table count was over 10,000 tables but the projection had been for 12,000. The economy and Thanksgiving had an impact on attendance.

Our own Ellen Kent who has been very active with bridge in Chicago, and more recently in Los Angeles, and who is a current representative of our district on the Board of Governors was elected on a first ballot against two other candidates for the position of Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors. We wish her the best of luck with her new position.

As for the business of the board, there was a motion to reconsider the

new requirements for becoming a life master by requiring that at least ten of the gold or platinum points be won in pair events. This motion was defeated. Then there was a motion submitted by the Board of Governors that no person may be prevented from active, in hearing, representation at any hearing held be an EKUELE disciplinary body merely because they hold a law degree and/or are or were licensed to practice law in any jurisdiction. This motion failed to pass. I did vote for its passage.

A motion that did pass unanimously was one regarding the ACBL Disciplinary Committee and the Ethical Oversight Hearing Committee. Starting immediately, if either committee is unable to seat a five person hearing committee, the chairman may select members from the other committee to reach the five person committee. Another motion defeated was one which would have reduced the tri-yearly stipend of \$1000 to \$750 board member

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**TOURNAMENT NEWS:**  
We have a signed contract for Bridge Week 2009. The dates are July 3 through July 12... a 10-day tournament to be held at the Pasadena Hilton. John Killian will be the Tournament Manager. Many thanks to Jan Wickersham for having served as Tournament Manager for most of the regional tournaments since I became active in ALACBU. Highlights of Bridge Week will include a 2-session 299er Championship with a Barometer final; a 4-session Open Pairs with a Barometer final; a 2-session Board-a-Match Team event; a 4-session Swiss Teams; and of course plenty of Knockouts. Make your reservations early by going to our personal Hilton webpage: <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/PASPHHF-LART-20090703/index.jhtml>

Results of the Boston NABC (District 23 High finishers) will be the one of the subjects of next month's column.

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receives for travel to district and unit events, telephone expenses, mailings, and miscellaneous office expenses.

In regards to hand records, a motion was passed that requires for all NABC+ events (these are the premiere events of each NABC), the hand records shall be different from the hands played in other games (Regional, side, I/N).

Online Club Championships received a boost from the board with a vote to allow online bridge clubs to run Club Championships under similar conditions as face-to-face clubs. All masterpoints will be non-pigmented. Further, in an online club championship, each pair must play 18 boards in length. One open club championship may be awarded per quarter for sessions 1-12 (Monday - Thursday) with a maximum first place overall award of 3.90.

StaC Charges have changed for 2009. Fees will be based upon the following:

## Tables Factor

**0-500:**

\$4.35 x # of tables

**500-1000:**

\$4.10 x # of tables over 500  
+ 2175

**1000-2000:**

\$3.75 x # of tables over 1000  
+ 4225

**2000-4000:**

\$3.30 x # of tables over 2000  
+ 7975

**4000+:**

\$3.00 x # of tables over 4000  
+ 14,575.

I will discuss the remaining items of interest next month.

### IT IS A DIFFERENT VIEW FROM DUMMY

The next big event for the district will be the Grand National Teams. To help support our teams when they go to Washington DC, our district will once again hold a Team Game Sectional the last weekend of March. All money raised will be given to our teams. This year the event will be at the Barrington Bridge Club. Saturday is a team game and Sunday will be a compact knockout.

Also, Kathy and I were able to attend the Antelope Valley /Santa Clarita Unit party and the Torrance/ South Bay party the following week. Next year we are hoping that all the parties will not be on the first and second Sundays of December. We never have anything to do on Saturdays.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year.

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# Around the Units in District 23

## Antelope Valley Santa Clarita by Gin

The promise of a cold winter has not disappointed. The rainfall in December has shadowed the total rainfall in our decade history of wintering in the Lower Colorado River Valley. The temperature seems colder, perhaps the combination of the rain and wind. Warm winter wear is the norm rather than the exception.

Holiday celebration was outstanding this year. Unit 556 had its annual general meeting and dinner at Josie's Tea Room. Not only was it a delicious meal but it was served in an elegant setting. The Board of Directors retained its status quo and Henry Roedeger reported the unit operated in the black albeit by a slight margin. A fourteen and half table Unit Game followed at the clubroom. All in all Unit 556 is ending the year in a positive note.

The Board of Directors is hard at work to bring accountability to our club in an effort to return to the glory days of stability. Vice President Brad Ward is working on job descriptions for all positions on the board. Head Director Ron Oest is seeking input from the club directors for ideas to improve the unified performance of all directors. All in all look for a whole new and improved club policy that will help us grow and provide a more pleasant ambiance.

### Top Five

Russ Buker and Mary Ann Shaw took first place with 69.19% and fourth place with 65.03%. Second place went to Dave Gasper and Gloria Robinson at 67.10%. Third place was won by Ron and Sandi Oest with 65.28% and rounding out the top five were Alfred Miller and Barb Shuping with 64.94%. Congratulations to all for such well played games.

Unit Game – December 7 Overall

	A	B	C
Mary Stauf and Henry Roediger	1	-	-
May Abagi and Sandi Niren	2	1	1
Doris Thompson and Joe Weber	3	-	-
Lola Messiha and Viviane Dinehart	4	2	-
Ron and Sandi Oest	5	3	-
Charles Morin and Don Crozier	-	4	-
Onorita Pallanti and Frances Wiley	-	5	2

Current events, game results, etc can be viewed at [www.acblunit556.org](http://www.acblunit556.org). There is also district blog at [www.acbldistrict23.org/blog](http://www.acbldistrict23.org/blog) which keeps current on events in our district as provided by individual units and also contains features like bidding polls and a place for players to comment on interesting hands. I urge you to visit these sites frequently to keep yourselves up-to-date on events.

## Downey – Whittier by Bernice Crelia

One more year is almost over as we once again look back on so many memorable events, shared with our friends.

Each year we sadly remember all of the members we have lost but we will never forget how much enjoyment they added to our gatherings.

At this time we would like to sincerely thank all of the members from surrounding areas who joined with us on December seventh to celebrate our annual Christmas party. The turnout was just great. People came from miles around and we honestly hope you all enjoyed every minute with us, right down to the special little Christmas treat to thank you for coming.

We are so lucky to have such a really wonderful director and so many gracious members who spend hour after hour helping to keep this club going.

As we begin our schedule next year I hope the time will be filled with many of our old friends coming out to enjoy playing this game we all love so much. May you have a very Happy New Year and a lot of time to appreciate all the really nice people you can meet just by playing bridge.

# Glendale-Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game - 1:00 PM Sat. Jan 10  
12:15 PM Sat. Jan 10 Buffet Lunch

Board of Directors Meeting  
11:00 a.m. Saturday January 10

"Tis the season to be jolly," so Brethren & Sisters, even if your partner forgets your favorite convention, try to smile - at least until you get out to the parking lot.....No such problem for Dan Oakes & Tim Lolli who communicated well during a recent 70% win. Also Paul Nason and one of his New England partners placed 12th in a Mini-Blue Ribbon Pairs event the ACBL National in Boston.

Maureen Peterson and Donna took off a whole month

to take in some of the flora and fauna of Africa. It must be frustrating not being able to communicate with some of those beautiful animals, but manes get tossed and tails get twitched to no avail. Of course, one does have to pay attention to a serious roar, trumpet or whinney, n'est-ce pas? At any rate they both came home safely, but soundly probably came later as the wonder (and jet lag) wound down.

Eva Seri and her husband who is prominent in the pediatric field, specializing in neo-natal problems, took off for 26 days of business and pleasure in Europe. Vacation time came first as they visited friends and played some indoor tennis, etc. in chilly Zurich. Then on to Rome where he conducted a teaching seminar lecturing on his favorite subject, as he did in Budapest as well. Eva reunited with childhood friends there, enjoying spa time, bridge games, etc. Incidentally Eva and her husband first met when she was in kindergarten in Budapest. They went their separate ways,



## RIVERSIDE REGIONAL



**January 26-February 1, 2009**

**Riverside Convention Center**

3443 Orange Street, Riverside CA 92501

Website: [www.TheRiversideRegional.com](http://www.TheRiversideRegional.com)

10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. Prime Time events  
Evening Pairs & Team Games available

### Pairs Games

Charity Pairs - Monday single sessions .....3:00 & 8:00 p.m.  
Stratified Pairs daily, Tuesday-Saturday .....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Side Game Series (3) Tues.-Sat. ....10:00 a.m., 3:00 & 8:00 p.m.  
Fast Pairs - Sunday .....10:00 a.m. & TBA

### Knockout Teams

Monday-Thursday evenings .....8:00 p.m.  
Wednesday-Saturday evenings .....8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday-Wednesday both days .....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday-Thursday both days .....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday-Friday both days .....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday both days .....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Saturday Compact KO Teams .....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

### Swiss Teams

Two Session Swiss Teams - Thursday-Friday .....8:00 p.m.  
Sunday (last day) .....10:00 a.m. (playthrough)  
Single Session Swiss Teams - Tuesday-Saturday .....3:00 p.m.  
Single Session Swiss Teams - Tuesday-Saturday .....8:00 p.m.

Sanction# R0902024

### Tournament Highlights

- ♥ Plenty of D22 Hospitality
- ♣ Ice Cream, Beer & Pizza
- ♦ Giveaways and Section Tops
- ♠ Pre-Duplicated Boards in Pairs Events
- ♥ Daily Speakers

**Parking is Free** - (space available)  
at the Riverside Convention Center

**Mission Inn** parking is \$8.00 (\$15.00 valet). Some metered and some free street parking is nearby. City parking lots are across the street. Handicap parking is free in all city metered spaces.



### Host Hotel

**The Beautiful, Historic Mission Inn**

3649 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, California 92501

**Special Bridge Rate:** \$99/sgl/dbl

**Reservations Phone:** 951 784-0300

To reserve online go to: [www.MissionInn.com](http://www.MissionInn.com)

or call toll free at 800 843-7755

**2009**

Map: [www.TheRiversideRegional.com](http://www.TheRiversideRegional.com)





and then finally bonded when he was still embroiled in Med School. Undoubtedly, Eva made a good FIRST impression.

We had a nice turnout for the Holiday party, and Very Special Jingle Bells go to Merry, Pat, Barbara, Betsy, Nancy and Margaret for their manifold efforts in bringing it all off. Also our thanks to all those who contributed to the Teddy Bear bin, especially Ann Banta who provided a veritable teddy bear parade as she transferred a bunch to the boxes. And if you were wondering why Art Chcanias won so many of the raffle prizes, his usual generous check was partially used for tickets - and, besides, it was his birthday!

As indicated below, the efforts at the bridge tables also deserve lots of jingles:

North/South	
A-1	Steve Licker & Robert Gish
A-2	Charo Holdo & Jeanette Deverian
A-3 B-1	Pat Abbey & Sherry Strube
A-4	Bob Tayrien & Jack Futrell
A-5	Jan Wickersham & Dominique Moore
A-6	Carolyn Cohen & Melina Stevens
B-2	Merry Besvold & Karen Alpert3

East/West	
A-1	Ann Banta & Phil Dessert
A-2 B-1	Esther Tapelband & Bob Hogan
A-3	Tim Lolli & Brad Beland
A-4	Harold Gordon & Wm. Carlson
A-5 B-2	Daniel & Shelby Oakes
A-6 B-3	Art Chacanas & D. LaMaie
B-4	David & Nancy Zeller
C-1	Nancy Lyon & Betsy Josias
C-2	Sharon Wolf & Chuck Cordero

We do hope this reaches you via your own computer set-up or copy provided by someone at your local bridge club. With the difficulty for many players in trying to find out where the local tournaments are being held, as well as the scheduling, it will be interesting to see future attendance results, n'est-ce pas? Perhaps we should apply for a government bail-out.....

Take care everybody and try to enjoy.



## Long Beach

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

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

by Jon Yinger

### DECEMBER 7 UNIT GAME (24 tables):

Overall results in the open game: 1st in A, Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger; 2nd Bea and John Bralliar; 3rd Steve Ramos/Ed Piken; 4th Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle; 5th, Verna Baccus/Lois Abramson; 6/7 tie CathyBauer/Lucille Hovland tied with Al and Sharon Appel. Overall winners in the B flight were: 3rd Karen Arase/Jacob Frenkel; 4th Jean Matz/Lois Perovich; 5th Keith and Susan Hafen; 6th Kim Wang/Mark Tang. Overall winners in C were: 3rd Sandra Franciscas/Mark Hartzel; 4th FayBeckerman/Shinko Mauritz; 5th Fern and Hank Dunbar. Overall winners in the non-Life Master game: 1st Maruxa Cargill/Bob Hargrove; 2nd G. T. Tseng/Harry Wang; 3rd Mary Thomas/Cole Sachs; 4th Claudette Barrack/Earl Liston.

**70+% GAMES through 12/15:** Four pairs had 70+% games. In open games Mark Tang/Steve Sulzby had 72.92% on Dec 1 and Verna Baccus/George Thomspon had 70.14% on Dec 5. In Easy Bridge/Bridge Plus games Bobbie Peterson/Mihir Das had 72.92% on Dec 6, and Frank Varga/Hershy Mault had 70% on Dec 15. Congratulations to you all!

**BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS:** Big points for first overall in big games: Nov 16 Stephen Lowe/Sandra Pickering 4.82mp; Nov 22 John Melis/Cayce Blanchard 4.00mp; Nov 23 Audrey Ellis/Ernie Frank 4.00mp; Dec 5 Verna Baccus/George Thompson 6.83mp; Dec 7 Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger 5.83mp; Dec 8 Betty McClellan/Jon Yinger 5.33mp. Big point awards for 2nd overall: In the big game Dec 5 Charlotte/Steve Sturm won 5.12mp, in the Dec 7 Unit Game Bea and John Bralliar won 4.37mp, and in the big game Monday, Dec 8, Shmuel Fisher/Ann Croul won 4.00 mp.

**NEW MEMBERS and NEW STATUS:** We issue a warm welcome to two transfers into our unit: Camden Parish and Kathleen Pecarovic, and to new members Donna Kupfer and Kiyo Nagaishi. Status changes: congratulations to Ron Spain for making bronze life master and to Baum Harris for achieving gold life master.

**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE CLUB:** January 11 Unit Game: lunch at 12:30, game

at 1 p.m., first 13 tables in the non-life master game play for free; January 19 sectionally rated stratified open team game; Monday January 19 through Sunday January 25 a week of Club Championship games, extra points, regular prices; Sunday January 31 at 12:30 International Fund Game, card fee \$10.

**CONDOLENCES** to the family of George Lawrence who passed away last month.

**GET WELL WISHES** to Joyce Siegle, Mary Schefter and Ray Cummings.

**HELP THE COLUMNIST:** I apologize 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 jyinger1@gmail.com.

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

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

Unit Game: January 4, 2009  
San Marino Recreation Center  
[www.darbonne.com/bridge](http://www.darbonne.com/bridge)

Well, the year is coming to a close, and, once again, our Holiday party was among the highlights. Dominique Moore was in charge of the party with some assistance from Jan Wickersham. When Dominique is involved, it is always "First Class" and it was she who made those gorgeous centerpieces. I hope you were one of the lucky ones who were holding the wands when the music stopped. The dinner was catered by Aldolino's, a "hole in the wall" restaurant in Azusa. I was personally very pleased with the menu and hope you were, too. If you would like to pay them a visit sometime, they're located in a strip mall at the corner of Arrow Highway and Cerritos. A huge thank you to all who brought hors d'oeuvres.

I don't know yet how much money we raised for the Elizabeth House, but, it seemed to me that everyone was in a very generous mood. The big winners for the day were Jeff Goldsmith and John Jones, who managed to win the Open Pairs with a 76.80% game and also to win the Swiss with their partners, Mike Shuman and Rufus Rhoades. Since the game was also a STaC game,

Jeff and John probably won across the entire district! First in B were Miriam Collup and Mike Tweihaus. Miriam may be 93, but she's obviously still working on all cylinders and has a life-time of bridge experience. Another wonderful win was Bob Verholf and Bob Novell. In their section they were first in A, B, and C with a 62.50 game. That is most impressive as there was lots of stiff competition at the event.

Some of you had to miss the party because of conflicting commitments. Good News! Next year we have already reserved the Arcadia Community Center for December 6, so mark your calendars, now, and we will hope to see you.

You might also start thinking about our Election Party coming in March. That's always a fun event and it's the time of year when we recognize our outstanding unit players from the previous year. A new membership roster will be available in March, and both Marie Nimmrich and Art Gulbrandsen have galley proofs that you can check to be sure your information is correct. Also, if you would like to be a candidate for the Unit Board, you should let a member of the nominating committee know you want to be considered. Call Jan Wickersham or Mark Hartzell.

Do you play what's called a balancing notrump? Many players do, but are you confident about your agreements after that? At the holiday party Jan and I faced a tough pair on the first round. Although these particular opponents have played together for a long time, they had a disaster when the following auction happened at our table:

Jan	East	Roy	West
1♦	pass	pass	1NT
pass	2♣	pass	pass
pass			

West's 1NT bid was a balancing notrump showing about 11-14 HCP and East thought she was asking about a major by bidding 2♣, which she considered as Stayman. West didn't think so, muttering something about it being natural, and passed. They played in a 2-2 fit and it didn't give them a very good result. So, do you play a balancing notrump in the pass-out seat? If you do, what are your agreements? In this case it would have been better for East to cuebid 2♦ rather than bid 2♣, right?

Sometimes your LHO opens the bidding and after two passes the bid comes around to you in fourth seat.

You have to make a decision. Perhaps you have a decent hand with some points but you don't have a clear-cut bid or double. Many players agree that 1NT in this position is not a full 15-17 points, but is a balancing bid with perhaps 10-13 or 11-14 points. If you do have a standard notrump bid, you would start with a double and then rebid notrump to show 15-17 points. Also, a jump to 2NT is not unusual for the minors, but shows about 18-20 points. It's probably best to agree that any response by your partner except a cuebid is natural and non-forcing. One last point that you should discuss... Do you have a stopper when you bid 1NT in the pass-out seat? Some players say yes, others say no. You decide. But for better bridge, be sure you have your agreements in place!

See you at the table...

## Pomona-Covina

by Tom Lill

Unit Game: January 11

Lunch 12:30

Game 1:00 p.m.

Individual: January 3 9:30 a.m.

No, your eyes do not deceive you. Our usual Scribe, Vic, wanted to get out of writing this month's column in the worst way. So that's what he did – he scheduled some heart surgery. Sheesh.

We must begin this month's column with some sad news. Long time Unit 551 member and former co-owner of Bridge, Etc. Margaret Jacobs passed away suddenly on the evening of December 4. She left this earth doing one of the things she loved best: playing bridge. In fact, she was declaring a hand when she suddenly collapsed. As fortune would have it, Dr. Joe Unis was in attendance at the game and attended to Margaret while the paramedics were summoned. Although she seemed to be recovering, she passed away about an hour later in the hospital. She will be greatly missed.

Our annual Christmas party was well attended and there was some pretty good bridge in spite of the attempt at sabotage (Tom's Terrible Nuclear Punch was being served). Thanks to Rosalie Roberts who supplied the turkey and to all the others who brought in a dish. The game itself was won by Bill Papa in a fine solo effort. (Well, yes, technically there was someone facing him ... let's just say that said Someone has played better

bridge. One guess who it was.) Finishing second, and first in the opposite direction, were Tim and Eileen Finlay. They were followed by Cordell Goode-Lary Alba in third place, and Rosalie Roberts-Marcella Scott in fourth.

The monthly individual game was won by Luan Schirmer, followed by Roger Boyar and a tie for third by Margaret Merrit and Tom Lill.

In a schedule abbreviated by holiday closures, the top game this past month was a 64.6% effort by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Others turning in 60%+ games were Linda Ananea-Val Fletcher, Richard Patterson-John Tyner, Herman and Kathy Helber, Ken Bloomfield-Ken Lowenthal, Margaret and Fred Beck, and Penny Barbieri-Denise Morgan. Other winning efforts were turned in by Walt Otto-Clint Lew, George Altinis-James Rhodes, and Toni Denet-Kurt Trieselmann.

We'd like to welcome new members Paige Pruitt and Zara Seibel to Unit 551. Promotions this month were earned by Donna Mason (to Junior Master), Donald Naf and Suzanne Wojcik (to Sectional Master), Ken Bloomfield (to Regional Master), and Kurt Trieselmann (to NABC Master). Congratulations to you all.

Finally, our Hand of the Month this time falls under the heading of "The Christmas Present That Almost Was." With only the opponents vulnerable, you pick up: ♠A Q J T 2 ♥A J 4 ♦K 7 ♣A K 7. Partner dealt and it goes pass – pass to you. Well, that's a reasonable 2♣ opener, and as usual pard chimes in with 2♦. (When was the last time you opened 2♣ and pard didn't have dreck?) All set to make your rebid, RHO chimes in with 2♠! Well, unless RHO has all 8 missing spades, not likely on this auction, you have visions of sugar plums dancing in your head as you (in tempo, of course) put a red card on the table. It looks like 800 at least, maybe 1400 on a good day.

Unfortunately, you and partner haven't ever played together before and partner isn't sure of your bidding. Taking the sensible view of "when in doubt, DO something", pard rebids 3♦. Oh well, you call 3NT and it makes for +400 – dead average. Better luck next time.

Oh yeah – RHO put her neck on the chopping block holding ♠K 9 7 5 4 ♥K 9 7 3 2 ♦2 ♣Q 6. That 2♠ call was enterprising, to say the least.

Until next month ...

# San Fernando Valley

sfvunit561@aol.com

by Jimmie Swan

What a turnout! You missed a super holiday party if you did not join us on December 7! Everyone had a great time playing bridge and enjoying the delicious Mexican dinner and Margaritas that were served. The Unit Board put on a terrific party! I especially want to thank Larry Gordon for his work with Cisco's, Gloria Malkin and Fran Cohen for their delicious desserts, and Bill Morton, Jim Gardner, and Ray Bush, for their shopping and all that heavy lifting. Great job everyone!

Congratulations to the winners at the Unit Holiday Party!

## Afternoon Open Game

1st overall Ellen Anten and Larry Brasler - 62.50%

2nd overall Robert Bass and Steve Gross - 56.48%

## Evening Open Game

1st overall Glenna and Armand Szulc - 58.33% game

2nd overall Robert Bass and Steve Gross - 57.87%

## Afternoon 0-500 Game

1st overall Nancy and Fred Becker - 65.51%

2nd overall Gloria and Ron Malkin - 62.73%

## Evening 0-500 Game

1st overall April Adams and Bea Greenwood - 62.30%

2nd overall Margy and David Sievers - 60.54%

Unit 561 Sectional will be on April 24-26! Don't forget to mark it on your new 2009 calendar!

When you begin your 2009 calendar, don't forget to mark the Unit 561 Sectional on April 24-26!

Unit news from the Thousand Oaks Sectional: Lynda Ullman and James Kauder were second overall in an Open Pairs game.

The Palm Springs Regional starts as this column goes to press, so any results from this event will appear next month.

The Bridge News will continue to appear, online only, but the Unit 561 News will continue to be posted in both clubs, The Bridge Academy and The 750 Club. You can read the entire Bridge News at [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org), and it is resuming a monthly schedule beginning

with this issue. You can also check the District 23 blog at [www.acbldistrict23.com/blog](http://www.acbldistrict23.com/blog). The blog is updated almost daily and includes features like bidding polls and a chance for players to comment on stories.

## THE 750 CLUB

Carol Lang & Mike Halprin

[805] 499-7910 or [805] 214-1517

Upper Hall, 5700 Rudnick, Woodland Hills

The 750 Club is pleased to announce the beginning of 4 new daytime games, beginning, Monday, December 1. It is an ACBL sanctioned club offering games to those with 0-1,000 masterpoints. See the information below on the Novice Games too. We continue to grow and hope you will join us!

The games will be held at the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, in their Upper Hall building, at the far end of their parking lot. It is located near Burbank Boulevard and Shoup Avenue, in Woodland Hills. This is just north of Ventura Boulevard and the Ventura Freeway, and just west of Topanga Canyon Boulevard. It is easy to find and there is a HUGE FREE PARKING LOT, south of the church. From the intersection of Burbank and Shoup, go north on Shoup to the first street on your right, Collins Street, and turn right (east). Collins dead-ends in one block at Rudnick and the church is right in front of you. Turn right, south, and park in the lot immediately on your left, just south of the church. Drive to the far end of the lot and the Upper Hall is the last building, with the Club just through the third door, about 10 yards from the parking lot.

The four day games begin at 11 a.m., preceded by a free half hour lecture at 10:30 a.m., on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. There will be a short break mid game, so you can eat your lunch and enjoy our free coffee, tea, cocoa, chocolates and other snacks. Card fees are \$9.00.

The night games begin at 7:15 p.m. on Monday and Thursday, beginning Monday, January 5. Drinks and snacks will be available in the evenings as well.

The Novice game begins at 7:15 p.m. on Thursdays, beginning January 8. It has supervised play and is open to those with 0-20 masterpoints.

Please call Carol or Mike at (805) 499-7910 for reservations, partners, and further information. A couple of hours before the game, and during the game, they may be reached at (805) 214-1517.



**THE BRIDGE ACADEMY**  
 www.sfvbridgeacademy.com  
 6733 Variel Avenue, Canoga Park  
 [818] 999-9131

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 22, 2009, for the Mary Goldberg Memorial Game, in her honor, and all the members who have died the past year from Unit 561.

From mid November through mid December, there was only one 70% game at the Bridge Academy: Eric Heilman and Phil Swan had a 70.56% game. Congratulations you two!

The Top Ten Masterpoint Leaders for October with <299: Samy Antoun leads the group with 6.05 masterpoints, followed by Eric Heilman, Allan Palansky, Jim Gardner, David Friedman, Bob Glasser, Marlene Brounstein, Merkie Rowan, Jim Lechner, and Bill Taylor. Good job everyone!

The Top Ten Masterpoint Leaders for October with >299: Gil Stinebaugh leads the group with 22.36 masterpoints, followed by Gary Frans, Leda Danzig, Marta Peltz, Armand Szulc, Joan Rubin, Andy Vinock, Mary Dougherty, Tom Wylie, and Sharon David. Good job everyone!

"The Bridge Academy could not find a better forum to thank their wonderful players for their loyalty, constant support and many kind words expressed to them since they have undertaken ownership. The comment most frequently expressed is that they feel as if the club is a second home. We realize that we do have some concerns with regard to parking; thus, we have been working with the owners of the building and with the City of Los Angeles in the hope of securing additional parking. Continuing in January 2009 Peter Knee will be conducting beginning and intermediate classes. The new sessions will start Monday, January 5. Supervised play of the hand will continue on Wednesday evenings to accommodate those players wishing to continue instructions. Also on Tuesday, January 6, at 7 p.m., an official ACBL Novice game will be starting, with supervised bidding. All players having less than 50 masterpoints may participate. You do not need your own partner; just call us and we will provide one for you. Throughout the year, we will have special games with food and fun once a month on a Sunday. We will be continuing to celebrate our monthly Birthday Babies the second Wednesday of

each month. Call the Academy at the number above if you have any questions. The Academy is located just south of Vanowen Street between Canoga Avenue and DeSoto Avenue in Canoga Park." - Freddi, Mary, and Sheila

## 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: Friday, January 2, 11:30 a.m.

KO and Swiss Teams:

Saturday, January 3, 10:30 a.m. Reservations Required

Swiss Team Club Championship:

Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams:

Sunday, January 18, 1:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Monday, January 26, 11:30 p.m.

Friday night games on January 2 and 16

There are Handicapped Swiss Teams every

Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

Club Championships

The November 17 Club Championship saw Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott taking Flight A honors with Dolores Nawa/Masae Kato capturing Flight B and Beebe Morehead/Betty Williams leading Flight C. The Non Life Master Championship on November 19 was won by Robert Daniel/Guy Brackett in Flight A with Karen O'Neal/Jeanine Shamely winning Flight B. The December 5 Club Championship was won by Dean Kaloudis/Jerome Drayton in Flight A with Flight B honors going to Gerri Carlson/Mary Belle Hoenig. At the unit Christmas party Valerie Gamio/Dean Kaloudis topped the field in Flights A and B with Sheryl Kohlhoff/Patti Taylor Capturing Flight C. In the NLM game at this party Peggi Spring/Midori Dekiba captured Flights A, B and C.

### Team Winners

The monthly Sunday Swiss on November 16 was won by the quartet of Fran Israel, Winnie Ninneman, Gabriela Jackson and Mark Raggio. The winners on

November 18 were Bernie Weinstein (!!!), Ernie Frank, Bronek Felczer and Jim Dutton. On November 25 there was a tie between the squads of Bruce Merchant, Winnie Ninneman, Fred Spradlin, Henry Crowder and Dennis and Krystyna Hollingworth, Bruce and Dolly Weiner. The Capital Appreciation Compact KO teams and Swiss teams were held on November 29. Winners of the Bracket 1 Compact KO were Lucy Tredennick, Dean Kaloudis, Maurice Suhre and John J. McDermott. Winners of the Bracket 2 Compact KO were Hal and Jill Goodman, JoAnne and Cal Waller. Winners of the Swiss Teams were Kyoko Ohtomo, Masae Kato, Hank Sheehan and Harold Koletsky in Flight A with Charles Lafranchi, Mark Raggio, Steve Ramos and Mark Lane capturing Flight B. The December 2 Swiss was captured by Mary Belle Hoenig, Mark Sinagra, Gerri Carlson and Ron Carlson. The December 9 STAC Swiss was led by Lucy Tredennick, Bruce Horiguchi, Bea and John Brailliar.

Great Western Holiday STAC Overalls in  
TSB Unit Games

Great Western STAC Overall finishers in games

played at the South Bay Bridge Club are listed as follows.

- Monday Morning, December 8
- 10A Jackie Hess/John Brailliar
- 11A Lucy Tredennick/Dean Kaloudis
- Tuesday Morning, December 9
- 23A Bea Cron/Dolores Nawa
- Wednesday Evening, December 9, NLM Pairs
- 2A, 1B Neal Kleiner/Oystein Hellesoy
- Thursday Morning, December 10, NLM Pairs
- 2A Kathy Rudolph/Pam Gudish
- 3A Tom Barna/James Blaha
- Thursday Evening, December 10
- 7A Bea and John Brailliar

### GUV Memorial Award

Everyone has been on their best behavior. I haven't been able to come up with a deserving candidate for this month's GUV Memorial Award.

Happy Holidays to all.

Na Zdrowie

## 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



### 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

### 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)

### 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**

## West LA

by candy

Since I last left you I'm back to a monthly column, plus I'm online. Being a computer moron this should be interesting. It does mean my Top Ten New Years resolutions are back. And here we go....

10. Spending time while dummy counting the points partner opened 1NT with wastes good brain neurons.

9. Saying "Thank you, partner" is a good thing. Saying "Thank you, dummy" is a bad thing.

8. Stroking dummy- good, double dummy- good, hacking dummy- bad, grabbing dummy- not necessarily bad.

7. Remember that there is no ball or space in bridge for the End Zone dance.

6. When partner asks "Where did you find that bid?" have a book, author and page number ready (can be and usually is fake, so keep a straight face).

5. If you look pitiful enough and really milk the ASL sign "I'm sorry," partner might believe you.

4. If a hand does a Sarah Palin wink at you, bidding after you have passed usually minimizes the damage.

3. Limiting the times I eat at Burger Continental at the Pasadena Tournament to sessions I'm playing.

2. Look at partner's signals, before ignoring them.

1. Find silly ways to play silly contracts.

The holiday party went off almost as I envisioned it. The best part was seeing everyone enjoying themselves. I want to thank my cast of characters (as they say on the USA channel, "Characters welcome"), Rodger, Ida, Marco, Howard, Sandy E., Sandy H., Toby, Carolyn, Vicki, Beverly, Cecil, Marcia, Paula, Roger, Betsy, Anne, my dancers, The Mighty Echoes, and Burger Continental.

Becky Clough was the well deserving winner of the "Player of the Year" award. Jeri Berger and I got a special acknowledgement for the work we have done for the unit.

Congratulations to our newest Life Masters: Charles Kelley did it a month after wife Jo Anne, Fran and Arthur Sherwood went over together. Other rank changes were Junior Master - Anne Bank, Bennet Kerns Club Master - Judi Friedlander, Carolyn Kaplan, Marsha Kerns Sectional Master- - Lou Zucker Regional

Master - Roberta Constine, Carol Schwartz NABC Master - Constance Abell, Kathy Harouche, Norma Feshbach, Richard Neumeyer.

Two players passed away last month. Helen Kaswen a long time member of the westside units. As we mourn her loss we think of her husband Morris. Our thoughts are with you.

I've known Barbara Lesser since she and Jill walked into Lee Henry's beginning Bridge Class at the Wild Whist Bridge Club. I didn't get to know them very well in my Intermediate Game because they left as soon as they could to Section B and as soon as they had a couple wins under their belts it was on to Section A. Barbara met Bob Lesser and a match made in heaven. Years later she would play with Art Zail and he would call her "Slick". Slick asked Art what was Bob's nickname and Art looked at Bob and said "Muffy." Years later, she was in a doctor's office with her mother and while waiting was reading a magazine about the lines in your palm. Her lines showed that she had a special angel looking after her, and his name was "Muffy".

I was lucky enough to be on the first Women's Team with Barbara, Jill and Becky. We were the last seed playing the first seed. We were being defeated, but by less each quarter. A friend of our opponents came over and said their opponents withdrew and he'd meet them later. Becky turned to our opponents and said "stay seated, we're not going anywhere." We beat them on the last quarter. When Adrienne was added to the team, they were now seeded and staying in much longer.

Barbara was a special woman with wonderful partners, friends, family and a very special angel that she married, Bob.

Judi Friedlander & Meredith Murad had a 70% game which won the 199er Club Championship game at Barrington. Other Barrington Club Champs were "A" Danny Kleinman & Robert Martin, Nelly & Colin Gordon, Sally Karbelnig & Danny Kleinman "B" Novrit Chowaiki & Rama Linz, John Campbell & Jefferson Steffes (twice), "C" Melinda Curry & Hilde Harris, Daniel Gornel & Edward Vincent, Joan Feldman & Diane Licht. Cyma's Club Champs were Lew & Rhoda Himmel, "B" Anna Benatar & Claude LeFeuvre, "C" Babs Dizon & Al Franken.

Here's hoping I don't get lost in Cyber Space with Captain Cody and the men from the moon.

## 2009 Grand National Teams

Flight	Dates	Masterpoints
Open	Feb 28-March 1	0-unlimited
Flight A	March 28-29	0-5000
Flight B	Feb 28-March 1	0-2000
Flight C	March 28-29	non life master, < 500

### GNT 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 or blog at [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org) or [www.acbldistrict23.org/blog](http://www.acbldistrict23.org/blog)
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg 310-475-9784 or Bill Wickham 310-234-3238

## NAOP Finals

by Mike Marcucci

Congratulations to the District 23 players who have qualified for the 2009 District NAOP finals. The finals will take place at 11 am on Sunday, January 11, 2009 at the Barrington Bridge Club, 11514 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica.

Several players qualified in both semifinal games.

We also had a discontinuity in the Universe - something happened that should be impossible according to the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. Murat and Lisa qualified for the finals in all three flights!

Only those folks who were fortunate enough to attend semi #2 will know why! Good luck to all in January at Barrington.

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## District 23 Rank Changes 11/1/08-11/30/08

### Junior Master (5 points)

Beatrice Breslaw  
Ellen Goodwin  
Maria Marvosh

### Club Master (20 MPs)

Dorothy Joseph  
Peter Joseph  
Nancy Klemens  
Robert Krause  
Fred Schoellkopf  
Melanie Smith  
John Soldano  
Gan Tai Tseng  
Joyce Yeh

### Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Linda Henson  
Edwin Kelly  
William Lama  
Donna Massman

### Regional Master (100 MPs)

Robert Englekirk  
James Gardner  
Carolyn Hannas  
Neal Kleiner  
Michael Klemens  
Mary Miller  
Lynne Parker  
Tien Zee

### NABC Master (200 MPs)

Mary Thomas  
Marion Tumen

### Life Master (300 MPs)

Joanne Sasaki

### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Michael Abrams  
Lorraine Krieger





# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Jon Wittes, Michael Shuster, Rick Roeder, Eddie Kantar, Jeff Goldsmith, Billy Eisenberg, Mr. Mealy-mouth, David Sacks, David Chechelashvili, Marshall Miles, Mark Bartusek, Michael Schreiber and Leo Bell

*We wish to thank Marshall Miles for years of hard work, interesting problems, and wonderful columns.*

*Marshall has resigned as moderator, 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.*

# 1

vul vs not  
IMPs

East

1♥

South

double

West

3♣\*

North

?

\* = preemptive

You, North, hold: ♠K93 ♥AQ864 ♦J864 ♣6

What call do you make?

**Wittes – Pass.** We probably have the balance of power, but it is doubtful we have a game. My hearts are poorly located and partner's clubs are poorly located. If partner has decent clubs, we are probably beating 3♣. If partner is 4-2-3-4, a good possibility, bidding could lead to a minus score.

**Shuster – 3♦.** It seems likely that clubs is a good strain for the opponents, so it behooves me to compete. Double would be penalty, 3♥ would be a massive overbid and 3♠ aims at what is at most a 7-card fit. So what is left?

**Roeder – 3♦.** If 2008's economic crisis has taught us one concept, it is to go low in a bear market. Heart and club honors are poorly placed for us. My heart length is a liability. 3♦ is plenty. In the unlikely case pard has extras, he can still bid 3♥ and we can play 3NT.

**Kantar – 3♦.** I don't like it, but I can't get myself to do anything else.

**Goldsmith – Pass, unless double is takeout.** This hand rates to play very poorly for whoever declares, because the suits are breaking badly for them and sit over our honors for us. I won't make a penalty double as they could have seven club tricks and a couple of side winners.

**Eisenberg – Pass.** Could miss 3NT, but would need

double as takeout.

**Mealy-mouth – Pass.** Too bad Marshall isn't moderating, John, or I'd know what to do (bid 3NT, of course). *Tough to predict the moderator's view when the moderator is wildly inconsistent isn't it? - JJ* And too bad the moderator isn't Master Solvers' Club maven Eric Kokish, who believes that all doubles below the level of 7NT are takeout, or I could double, confident that partner would pull with anything less than 100 honors in clubs. So I'll just pass and take my +50 or (heaven forbid!) -110 on this deal where neither side has a good fit. However, all is not lost. Partner may have 100 honors in clubs and wield the axe. Or West may be confused and rebid hearts, thinking that Bergen Raises apply even over an intervening double.

**Sacks – 3♦.** Partner is almost certain to have 4 or more diamonds. Second choice double: this double seems akin to a double after partner overcalls 1nt and then opening bidder's suit is raised. The double cannot be done on a trump stack, it shows cards.

**Miles – 3♠.** Quite likely, if we buy the bid, West will lead a heart. 3♦ is safer, but we would be unlikely to get to a good game that way. Proving Mr. Mealy-mouth's prediction wrong. *Even the Godfather of 3NT isn't enticed to try 3NT on this one.-- JJ*

**Chechelashvili - Double.** I don't think it shows stack  
PSP continued on next page

of clubs. I think the meaning of this double is that it shows values, and shows some heart values, and gives pd a choice to pass 3♣. Of course, I would love to have at least 1 more club. But I don't think I can make any other call. 3♦ is underbid, pard can bid himself 3♦ (after my double) if his double was weak and shape based. Otherwise we risk missing 3NT, the only 2 calls that will get us to 3NT, are double and 3♥. For many reasons, I prefer double as more flexible bid: a) allows us to be in 3♦ when it is right, b) allows us to defend 3 when it is right, c) will not have lead implications if we are in 3NT, unlike if I bid 3♥.

**Bartusek 3♥.** This is a very tough problem. I'm overbidding to try to avoid ending up in a silly spot since both pass (missing game) and 3♦ (7-card fit?) could be horrible spots. This basically shows heart values and some high cards. I should have more clubs to double because it is primarily penalty. At least my upside is a game bonus if we end up in a making 3NT or Moysian 4♠ contract (or possibly 5♦).

**Schreiber - 4♠.** We could be cold for 5♦ and go down in 4♠ but I am really guessing no matter what I do here. If I knew for sure that double is responsive and not penalty I would do that. If partner has 4 good spades and 4 or 5 good diamonds I should be okay and be able to scramble for 10 tricks.

**Bell - Double.** This could be dangerous with some partners who play "equal level" conversion takeout doubles (that is, they don't necessarily have club length). My regular partnership agreement is that this is card showing rather than strictly penalty. What I would LIKE to do is to bid 3NT and to cloud my RHO's mind to lead out of turn.

*Actual hands prove very little, but they are interesting sometimes. This hand occurred in Eli Borok's expert invitational IMP game. The auction was the same at both tables, and both players choose 3♥, an aggressive bid I don't care for at all. Pard has Qxxx x Qxx AQTxx (not necessarily on everybody's approved T/O double list), and the objective on the actual hand is to avoid getting doubled by East, who is doubling any game, and might double 3♠. Several panelists mentioned that double would be attractive if it were T/O. The expert world has more disagreement about the meaning of competitive doubles than they have in any other area. This double used to be played universally as penalties. Many partnerships now play this as cooperative, showing values. -- JJ.*



2

all vul  
MPs

S	W	N	E
1♥	p	1♠	p
?			

You, South, hold:  
♠AT73 ♥AKQJ82  
♦64 ♣7

What call do you make?

**Wittes - 4♣.** This hand is just too powerful not to splinter. If partner has KQxxx of spades and the A of diamonds, for example, we have a laydown slam. I know if partner has a weak hand with poor spades, we should probably be playing in hearts, but 4♣ gives us the best chance of getting to a slam on relatively few high card points.

**Shuster - 4♥.** This is an excellent problem and I am not pleased with any of the choices. Matchpoint scoring complicates the decision, since the wrong lead could lead to additional tricks in spades (KQxx, xx, xxx, Axxx), yet if the defense must cash out, then their task will be easier with this hand as dummy (KQxxx, xx, xxx, xxx). I give a slight edge to 4♥, since partner might have mediocre spades. I would bid 4♠ if I had the agreement that 1♠ cannot be bid over 1♥ with four small spades.

**Roeder - 4♣.** Some play that a big hand can only splinter here when they have a control in the 4th suit – in this case, diamonds. Well, some people love straight jackets too, especially in West Los Angeles. How else to get to a phenomenal slam when pard has as little as Kxxxxx x Ax xxxx?

**Kantar - 3♠.** It might lead to slam and it might play better in spades with the lead coming up to partner's hand. I don't think this hand is strong enough to

PSP continued on next page

splinter. Too many holes.

**Goldsmith – 4♣.** At IMPs, one might aim for hearts, as that rates to be the safer game, but at matchpoints, you have to play spades, as they rate to take an extra trick, for example vs. KQJx xx Axxx xxx. Once you commit to spades, you might as well make a descriptive bid to find a possible slam.

**Eisenberg – 4♥.** Might miss a slam, but well worth the risk.

**Mealymouth – 3NT.** No way will I stop below game with this slammish “14-point” hand. The skeleton for 4♠ is KQxx xx xxxx xxx, the skeleton for 6♠ is KQxx xx Axxx xxx. I have the perfect convention for this slammish hand: ViBeS. Bid 3NT, which by agreement shows game values with either four spades and an unspecified singleton or three spades and six strong hearts. If partner cares which, he can relay with 4♣, in reply to which I’ll bid 4♦ (four spades, singleton club, as with four spades and a singleton diamond I’d bid 4♠ and with three spades and six strong hearts I’d bid 4♥). In case any readers are unfamiliar with my book, 625 Conventions You Ought to Play, I offer the other ViBeS rebids for opener: 4♣ is a balanced game raise, 4♦ (no clubs) and 4♠ (no diamonds) are surrogate void splinters.

**Sacks – 4♣.** This would be a tougher problem with a stiff diamond, as the splinter would then bypass an uncontrolled suit. If one gives up 3♦ as a strong jumpshift, that bid could be used as a relay to describe various 6-4 hands.

**Miles – 4♣.** Partner needs only ♠KQxx for a good game and the same spade holding and the diamonds ace for a good slam.

**Chechelashvili - 4♥.** There are more responder hands to make 4♥ better contract, than 4♠. Those hands

that make 4♠ a better contract, more likely also make a slam. For example, something like KQxxx x Axxx xxx, and those who bid splinter with my hand will bid and make 6♠. Since I am not planning to splinter, there are more arguments towards bidding 4♥, and playing pard for a typical hand such as Qxxx x Qxxx KQxx, or Kxxx x xxx KQTxx

**Bartusek - 4♣.** If my long suit were a minor then I could jump to 4 of the minor to perfectly describe this hand (unfortunately a rebid of 4♥ is natural). Despite the paucity of high cards, this is a very strong playing hand. A natural jump to 4♥ might be safer on some combinations, but it generally gives up on slam, doesn’t protect a crucial diamonds king in partner’s hand, and is misleading to partner regarding the known spades fit (people try to avoid bidding 1♠ over 1♥ on 4 weak spades since it generally invites a raise with Hxx of spades).

**Schreiber - 4♣.** There are so many possibilities here: 3♠ 4♠ 4♥ 4♣. At matchpoints the problem with 4♣ is we may have drawn a map for the right opening lead – if in fact we do not bid a slam. There are many hands that will not even produce a game let alone a slam but when you consider partner could have as little as KQxx of spades and out I have to do something that at least gets us to game.

**Bell - 3♥.** This gives us maximum flexibility to find the right strain, even though this may be a slight underbid. My first inclination was to jump to 3♠ or 4♠, but there are so many hands where spades won’t make, but hearts will, such as: Kxxx xx xxx KQJx or 3NT with partner’s hand such as Jxxx xx Kxx AKxx

*This is a hand from 7 years ago. Neither of the partners bidding the hands cared for 4C at the time, one of them preferring 4♥, and the other preferring 4♠. Both are on the current panel, and both answered 4C this time.*

PSP continued on next page

## 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)

3

no vul  
IMPs

South

1♦

West

2♣

North

?

East

You, North, hold: ♠K972 ♥Q97 ♦J2 ♣AJ63

What call do you make?

**Wittes – Double.** I will bid 2NT over 2♦ or 2♥.

**Shuster – Double.** This does not guarantee 4-4 in the majors. The 2♣ overcall of a 1♦ opening bid is so destructive that I have the agreement that it can be made without high-card expectations in many of my partnerships. If partner bids a red suit, I will correct to NT. If the opponents compete further, I will double again. If the clubs were KJT<sub>x</sub> instead, I would play for penalties.

**Roeder – 2 NT.** As the hasty stripper once said, “Get it off your chest right away!” *You’re consulting strippers for bidding advice now? -- JJ* A negative double is for those who decide to marry without pre-nuptial agreements: The bid is fine for now but does not resolve future problems. Even if you are fortunate enough to catch pard with 4 spades, 4-1 splits are more likely in this scenario.

**Kantar – Double.** Obviously 2NT is possible, but it seems that I can always bid NT later while still getting spades into the game by doubling.

**Goldsmith – Double.** WTP? (*What’s The Problem?, meaning this is easy*) – *JJ* If partner bids 2♥, I can bid 2NT. I suppose it could continue 3♣ 3♥ pass and we might get too high, but getting to marginal games is a winning style at IMPs.

**Eisenberg – Double.** Very close, as pass, and pass after partner reopens, or 2NT are both possible.

**Mealy-mouth – Double.** In pre-Sputnik 1957, when Marshall Miles wrote his classic book *How to Win at Duplicate Bridge*, and even eight years later, when Fred Karpin, Sidney Silidor and Norman Kay wrote their book imitating Marshall’s, we all knew what to do: double. In 2009, we still know what to do: double (Sputnik). *Sputnik doubles are now normally called negative doubles. Negative doubles were originally called “Sputnik,” because they were invented around*

*the time the Russians launched Sputnik. -- JJ* We can handle all minimum replies: raising spades, converting other bids to NT. And we need not worry, as we did in 1957, about keeping the drool from spilling onto the table. Anyone who passes in hopes of seeing partner balance with a double should be exiled to outer space, as he is obviously relying on either a private partnership understanding that his partner must reopen, even with some 3=4=4=2 minimum, or his own tempo or other mannerisms to help his partner know what to do.

**Sacks – Double, or pass as penalty double.** I would tend to make a negative double to find game in either spades or NT.

**Miles – Double.** If partner bids spades, I will raise; if he bids 2♥ I’ll bid 2NT. The diamonds jack persuades me to try for game rather than pass, hoping for a reopening double. 3NT.

**Chechelashvili – Double.** Followed by 2NT if pard bids 2♥.

**Bartusek – Double.** Let’s try to find a spades fit first before rebidding 2NT. If I had slower club stoppers such as KJ10<sub>x</sub>, then I’d probably just bid 2NT.

**Schreiber – Double.** If partner bids 2♠ I bid 3♠. Over 2 of a red suit I bid 2NT. While an immediate 2NT or a penalty pass are both possibilities with this hand if we have a 4-4 spade fit our number of defensive tricks against clubs will probably be diminished. And, if partner has a stiff club with 4 spades I really don’t want to be defending this hand.

**Bell – Pass.** I’ll risk missing a game versus collecting an almost sure plus score. If partner reopens with 2♦, I can still bid 2N to invite game.

*Pard has a 3460 shape with 12 HCP. All games fail on the actual hand, proving again that bridge can be frustrating. -- JJ*



4

all vul  
IMPsNorth  
passEast  
passSouth  
2♠West  
?

You, West, hold: ♠AKQ63 ♥Q2 ♦A86 ♣AK7

What call do you make?

**Wittes – Pass.** We have almost a sure plus score against 2♠. There is no guarantee of a game or even a plus score our way, since a good portion of my values and length are in the opponent's suit. Partner is a passed hand, and the preemptor rates to have maximum values, since he opened 2♠ vulnerable on a jack high suit.

**Shuster – 3NT.** No reason to confuse the issue by starting with a double.

**Roeder – Pass.** Finally: A math problem for a mathematician. Suppose I pass and collect 300-500 defending 2♠ as opposed to 600-660 for us in 3NT. I am investing 3 to 8 IMPs in such situations. Since there will be the occasional layout where pard has a poor hand and no game makes, let's assume the average IMP loss by defending 2♠ is 4.5 IMPs. If partner has enough strength to balance in pass out seat, fantastic things happen if he says double with his spade shortness, typically 1100 or 1400. If partner balances with 3♣, 1370 becomes a lively possibility for us. The tricky part is to estimate how much of the time he would balance as a passed hand: if he has as little as 8 HCP, he may elect to do so. Since you know the 2 spade bid to be likely to be a 3rd seat joke, let's estimate this probability to be 30%. We pick up 10 to 14 IMPs when pard says double or, possibly, even 3♣. 30% of the time an average pick up of 12 IMPs occurs, or 3.6 IMPs, by passing. During the other 70% of the time, we pick up an average of 4.5 IMPs by bidding 3NT or about 3.1 IMPs. So, if you think these assumptions are in the ball park, the math says to go for the big enchilada.

**Kantar – 3NT.** I've seen this hand before but can't remember what was right. If you pass, it has to be quickly, and I took some time so I didn't think I could do that. Is partner supposed to reopen with 'double' holding 4-5 HCP and short spades? Are you wondering where 9 tricks are coming from? So am I. A great partner will table: xx xxxx xx Q10xxx. Is that a

reopening double?

**Goldsmith – In-tempo pass.** I'll take my score in 100s. Lord help them if partner finds a reopening double.

**Eisenberg – 3NT.** One easy problem.

**Mealy-mouth – Pass.** Obviously, East is playing Octopus Preempts (eight different possibilities, none of which include genuine spades) and West has forgotten to alert. Maybe West will also forget to respond 2NT to ask East to clarify, and I can collect 400 or more points defending against 2♠. But what if both opponents have forgotten Octopus Preempts, and East really has a "modern" Weak 2♠ Bid with five or six topless spades? Then I may still come out ahead collecting several hundred points on defense while South at the other table reaches a normal contract on an uncontested auction, only to be beaten by foul splits.

**Sacks – Double.** Perhaps partner will scrape up something other than 2NT as a weak relay to 3♣. Probably wishful thinking, but NT looks like it might possibly play better from partner's side anyways.

**Miles – 3NT.** Pass is a close second choice. Not that I expect a reopening double, but +200 or +300.

**Chechelashvili – Pass.** If this is not a trap pass hand then what is? The only risk I see that we make 3NT and pard will not have enough to double. But for that pd must have source of tricks, something like x Jxx xxx QJxxx, or x Jxx KQJxx xxxx, and, and with a second hand he can still reopen with a double.

**Bartusek – Double.** I'm not that optimistic that partner will reopen with a double. A direct 3NT would imply a long 6+ suit with a source of tricks. I will rebid 3NT over partner's response which will allow him to pull

PSP continued on next page

to 4♥ with a 6-card suit. If he jumps to 4♥ (promising at least 5♥) then we'll scramble to some slam.

**Schreiber - 3NT.** It is true we may be lay down for 5 of a minor while the opponents may be able to take 5 or 6 heart tricks against 3nt, it is almost impossible to get there after a 2 spade opening.

**Bell - Pass.** Assuming your RHO isn't totally insane, say they rate to have 8-9 HCP to make a VUL weak 2 bid. That leaves 9-10 HCP shared between partner and LHO. The more partner has, the more likely you can beat 2♠ enough so you won't lose many IMPS. The less partner has, the more likely you will achieve a minus score by bidding. Since my partners rarely have good hands, I'll gamble that our best chance for a plus is to defend.

*Several panelists thought they recognized the hand, and they are correct. The actual deal occurred online and my frequent partner Valerie Gamio held the hand. Valerie passed IN TEMPO, (well done), but it was not the winning call on the actual deal. Her pard, Eli Szeps of Argentina, held a soft 7 HCP hand and passed. 3NT would have been better than down 4 undoubled. Valerie and Eli argued about the hand and I emailed the problem to over 100 good players from around the world. My international panel was split, much as our District 23 experts are, between pass, 3NT and double, with no call getting a majority.. My personal vote is for pass, despite knowing it didn't work on the actual hand. -- JJ*

# 5

all vul  
BAM

South	West	North	East
2♠	pass	pass	double
pass	?		

You, West, hold: ♠A953 ♥7 ♦4 ♣AT87542  
What call do you make?

*BAM stands for Board-A-Match which is a very simple form of team game scoring. If your score, added to your teammates score, is positive, then you score one point (winning the board). If your team's combined score is zero, then you score ½ for tying the hand. If your team's combined score is negative, then you get zero, losing the board. It's matchpoints with a top of one, and is by far the simplest form of scoring.*

**Wittes - 4♣.** I would like to bid 5♣, but just in case partner's double was based on a good hand with long hearts or diamonds, I want to leave a little room. I would be much more inclined to bid 5♣ with better clubs and no A of spades. Partner might have something like, xx AKQJxx AKxx x for example. Admittedly if partner has a minimum hand, with a club fit, 4♣ may not work out ideally, but I think the former hand is more likely.

**Shuster - 5♣.** This is best for both game and slam purposes. It is too deep to try to get to 3NT. South, vulnerable, could easily have an outside ace.

**Roeder - 3NT.** Playing BAM? Then let's go "Bam, bam" and shoot 'em down.

**Kantar - 5♣.** Some might overcall 3♣ with this hand, but If I give this one any more time, I won't make the Sunday deadline you set for us, John. 3♠ seems like a good start, but when I bid 5♣ over four of a red suit, won't partner think I have two places to play.

**Goldsmith - 3♠.** This is made difficult by both the BAM scoring (3NT may outscore 5♣), and by the wide ranged nature of partner's reopening double. The normal bridge action, however, is to drive to 5♣. I don't see a way to tell which of 3NT or 5♣ will score better, and 3♠ followed by 5♣ might get us to a slam vs. a sound double, for example, x KQxx Axxx KJxx. Note that on that hand, 5♣ will outscore 3NT as the defense can switch to diamonds to hold you to nine tricks, after you, perforce, duck a spade at trick 1. In practice, that might or might not happen (and it might be right to continue spades, depending on the location of the HA)...it's very tough to judge between 3NT and 5♣. Since there may be a club loser (give partner ♣Qxx, for example) and there may be a club slam, and if each game goes down, 3NT will go down more than 5♣ does, I think the odds favor getting to clubs, and 3♠ followed by 5♣ may get us to a cold slam.

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**Eisenberg – 3♠.** Making a slam try in clubs.

**Mealymouth – Pass.** If East is the same joker who opened 2♠ in #4, I pass, expecting +800 or more (with West not raising preemptively, partner will have ♠KQ doubleton). Otherwise I bid 5♣, confident of +600 and hoping that partner, with the right extras, can bid 6♣ for +1370. Good thing the moderator is you, John, as Marshall would surely chastise me for missing out on an “obvious” 3NT. *Again, predicting that Marshall, the Godfather of 3NT, would bid 3NT. See below.-- JJ*

**Sacks – 2NT.** Ah, the vagaries of balancing doubles. A 3 club bid now would show extras but not 7-4 hand with two bullets. 2NT relay to 3♣ followed by 4♣ sounds like a plan that only partner (by not bidding 3♣) could screw up. David obviously believes that lebensohl is on over a balancing double. *I agree with this view, unless 2NT is used as minors, or scramble. Apparently some members of the panel don't believe Lebensohl is on opposite a balancing double. -- JJ*

**Miles – 5♣.** Best chance to get to a slam if we belong in it. *That's twice you've let Mr. Mealymouth down Marshall. Either your bid box doesn't have a 3NT card, or Mr. Mealymouth needs a new crystal ball. --JJ*

**Chechelashvili - 5♣.** I would love to bid 3♠ followed by 5♣, but I am afraid it will be ambiguous. Pard can take 5♣ bid as a cuebid for a suit he bids. My spades length makes it likely pard will take my bidding for a

trap pass with length in spades and hearts, and shortness in minors, if it continues like 3♠-4♥-5♣, and with the hand x AKJxxx AQx Kxx, will bid 6♥. That's why I would make a “scientific” 5♣ bid, at least they won't know what to lead. I expect that I might lose the board to 3NT at the other table, but 3NT would need some right cards from a pard, so 5♣ is a percentage bid in my opinion.

**Bartusek - 5♣.** Sure, I might miss a slam; but, this seems like the most practical bid. I don't see a good scientific way of bidding this hand since 4♣ is only invitational, and 3♠ followed by 5♣ would be very ambiguous in most partnerships.

**Schreiber - 3NT.** Where do you want to be if partner has Kxx of clubs? True, we may have a slam but again it is tough to get there. Our chances of getting to the correct game or slam would have been greatly enhanced had I bid 3♣ over 2♠.

**Bell - 5♣.** At the table, I might still be sitting there. I think this conveys the strength of my hand and gives partner the opportunity to bid 6 with good controls, i.e. ♠x ♥AQxx ♦Axxxx ♣Kxx.

*The actual hand was sent to me a few years ago by Dan Hugh-Jones, except the scoring wasn't BAM then. I changed the scoring to make the problem more challenging. Given BAM scoring, many panelists aren't terribly fond of 3NT, but are reluctant to bypass 3NT for a possible lower scoring strain. -- JJ*

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