

Southern California Bridge News

Deliver by 1st of the Month

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Bridge Week

by Bill
Schreiber
ALACBU
President

This paper is scheduled to be available for viewing on July 1, 2009. At that time, we will only be two days away from the start of our first 10-Day Regional Tournament in many, many years. Also, this year we will be honoring winners in certain events with trophies. New permanent trophies will be inscribed with the names of the winners of the Mary Jane Farrell Open Pairs, the Marshall Miles Swiss Teams, and for the person who wins the most points at the tournament, the Eddie Kantar trophy. Winners of the Mark Schreiber 299er Championship on July 3 will receive individual trophies noting their accomplishment.

There are lots of knockout events (both regular and of the compact variety) and two events which finish with Barometer scoring. For those of you who have never played in a Barometer event, you will know how you are doing after each round (approximately one round behind).

Don't forget about the Calcutta, our money event on Friday evening. Entries will close at 7:00 p.m. Details about this event can be found on our website, www.acbldistrict23.org.

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*



Countdown to Pasadena

by Rand Pinsky
District Director

If you are reading this report on July 1 (the date the new edition of the Bridge News hits the net), Bridge Week is only a few days away. Bridge Week runs from July 3-12 and is being held at the Pasadena Hilton. Go to our web site, www.acbldistrict23.org, for more information. Also, you can sign up to have the Bridge News delivered directly to your computer by signing up for this service at our website.

The best event (in my opinion) for our junior players to play during Bridge Week is the 299er Mark Schreiber Memorial Pairs (with a Barometer Final). This will be held on the first Friday, July 3. A trophy will be presented to the winning pair. The Barometer Final is a very fun event to play; it's unlike a regular pair game where you don't know exactly how you're doing as the scores are not tabulated until the end of the game. In a barometer game, everyone plays the same board at the same time and the director collects the scores. Upon completion, the scores are tabulated immediately and the matchpoints are projected onto a large screen in the playing area so you can keep track of your score, board by board. The overall leaders are then posted on the screen so you can see if you are leading the event.

On the national front, it is now official that the ACBL headquarters in Memphis will be moving to its new building in Horn Lake, Mississippi. Horn Lake is just across the border from Tennessee and is considered an extension of Memphis. A video of the new building can be found on the ACBL website at acbl.org. The best news is that ACBL worked out a deal with the City of Horn Lake to lease the building for five years and can

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

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then purchase it for \$1. (Yes, one dollar!!!)

This past month Kathy and I had an opportunity to attend the Glendale Verdugo Unit Board Meeting and Unit Game. I presented to the unit a charity check in the amount of \$1,000 for the City of Hope. Each year, all 25 District Directors receive a grant from the ACBL Charity Foundation for local charity donations. It has been my practice to give our units this money for donations to their local supported charities.

One last item I discovered while

at the Unit Board meeting is that the unit in conjunction with the Regency Bridge Club has a notebook next to their book of recap sheets titled, "Bridge News." Each month they print out a copy of the Bridge News and place it in their Bridge News notebook. Then everyone who does not have a computer or just wants to see the paper can read it at the club. This also ensures that they keep all issues of the paper and I would suggest that all of our units and clubs adopt this practice.

To conclude, good luck to everyone attending Bridge Week and to all who are going to

Washington D.C. for the Summer NABC. As our board meetings will start after the deadline for articles for the August Bridge News, next month I will report on motions that will be discussed in Washington.

Finally, I want to thank Jennifer Einberg for all of her hard work during the last year in developing and maintaining 4NT, our district blog.

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

We estimate that we could have anywhere from 1200 to 1800 tables in play for the 10-day event. Help us get to the larger amount.

Players from New York and Hawaii have made reservations at the Pasadena Hilton. Come and greet them warmly; let's show them how District 23 puts on a regional.

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FREE SILVER POINTS

All 7:30 p.m. games are

FREE

Tuesday thru Saturday
(other sessions are \$10)



September 21-27, 2009

Riviera Hotel 800-634-6753

More info: LVsectional.com

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Tom@LVsectional.com

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley By Gin

It is always heart warming to report good things that happen to good people. Don Crozier and Charles Morrin attended the Ventura Regional Tournament. For some reason it seems that this was Don's first major tournament. The 4.65 gold points they earned with a second place win in a double session event was sensational. The KO team of Glenn Eddy, Tracy Boys, and Dave and Marlene Gasper won sufficient gold points for Glenn to become a Life Master at Ventura. How exciting is this? Dave White played Diane Lynch, an unplanned partner, in a Fast Pairs event. They earned 5.5 gold points for their second place win. There are more Unit 556 member playing at Ventura, however these were only the early results available at press time.

Roz Bandish and Jo Luegie are recent graduates of Ron Oest's first beginner class. Roz and Jo distinguished themselves by posting a 63.75% first place competing in an Open Pairs game at Lancaster. It has often been said that the success of a good teacher becomes apparent when the student can beat the teacher. Ron and Sandi also played in this game. Congratulations to Roz and Jo for their impressive win and to Ron for his demonstrated excellence in the classroom.

The extended KO club event is in the semi final stage as I write this. The Swaine team beat the Morrin team and will compete with the Oest team for the right to play the Gasper team for the championship.

Louise Levin won first place in the Antelope Valley Press "Draw your Dad" contest. The drawing of her father is extraordinarily good. Kudos.

The following results occurred at AVBC. They are not a common occurrence since they date back to 2002. The bid was 2♣ doubled and redoubled, down six for negative 3400 points. 5♦ doubled went down nine for negative 2700. The lowest percent game was twenty-seven. On the positive side 1NT, doubled and redoubled plus five for a positive score of 1960. The

most interesting result was 3NT down five for negative 500... it was a flat board! Lastly the director was called four times in the first four boards at the same table. The calls were for different and legitimate infractions. Every player at the table was guilty of one infraction. It gives a new meaning to the philosophy "a bad day at the bridge table is better than a good day at work."

Top Five

Russ Buker and Mary Ann Shaw took top honors with a 73.69% game. Ron and Sandi Oest were not far behind with 71.53% in second place. Dave and Marlene Gasper were in third place with 67.56%. Ron and Sandi tied with Mary Stauff and George MacDonald for fourth and fifth place with 66.67%. Congratulations to all for their fine play and competitive spirit in the friendly environment of our clubs.

June Unit Championship	A	B	C
Marlene and Dave Gasper	1	-	-
Joan Adams and Gin	2	1	1
Doris Thompson/Lola Messiha	3	-	-
George Lewis/Beth Morrin	4	2	2
Don Crozier/Charles Morrin	5	3	3
Dorrie Denton/Mary Stauff	6	-	-
Tom and Barbara Jones	-	4	4
Alfred Miller/Barb Shuping	-	5	-

A parting thought: Life is like a card game. By the time you learn how to play, you are already lost in the shuffle.

Downey - Whittier

No Downey-Whittier colum this month.



Glendale Verdugo

By Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game - 1:00 p.m., Saturday, July 18

**Board of Directors Meeting - 11:00 a.m.,
Saturday, July 18**

Since I've already professed to not being good enough to be modest, I'm containing my immodesty with a mere "yippee!" at winning three firsts in a row at the Regency afternoon. Making it a fait accompli were good partners Gerry Belcher, Patrick Cardullo, and Art Chacantias. (Uh-oh - Gerry and I don't get all the credit since we tied with Betsy Josias and Nancy Lyon, so downgrade that huzzah up there to just a "Yipe.")

However a full-pledged "Yippie" goes to Bob Tayrien and Dick Banta. In their very first partnership outing they scored 70%, and I learned how to behave if I ever reach the end zone again - just smile!

Tom Wan accompanied Kathie to the 30th reunion of her dental school graduating class, held in Philadelphia. After the festivities they ventured into Amish country and other parts of Pennsylvania as well as Washington

D.C. There's so much history in those areas to explore, and some of Tom's past choices in literature undoubtedly enhanced the appreciation thereof...

If you can't make it the first time around, try, try again. That's what Gerry Belcher and Barbara did, rescheduling last year's trip to Spain which had been cut short by his broken ankle accident. Good travelers that they are, they enjoyed the mal de merciless Atlantic Ocean crossing on the Royal Caribbean's "Marina," then followed a well-planned tour of the country, entrusting the airlines with homeward bound responsibilities.

Esther Tapelband took time from her busy schedule to visit her daughter, Karen, and family in Atlanta before the humidity and the peaches set in. Nancy Lyon opted for exploring the flora and fauna of some of our national parks, we hope with camera at-the-ready; they're all that beautiful.

So sorry to learn of another serious assault on Mike Pudlin's health. He's had enough setbacks, and we trust his medicine men can apply sufficient measures to permit his return to his skillful bridge game encounters. It has to be "slow," Michael, we're opting for "sure."

We had a good turnout for the June unit game, and

District 23 Rank Changes 5/1/09 - 5/30/09

Junior Master (5 points)

Michael Abeles
Jeanette Betts
Carol Brown
Lake Ellstrom
Rodney Goree
Doug Green
Joyce Klossner
Linda Krause
Marjory Rubinfeld
Lillian Sender
Sunil Singh
Vicky Stevenson

Club Master (20 MPs)

Thomas Anderson
Charlotte Capelle
Kathleen Chylinski
Jan Goldsmith
Dolores Goyette
Toby Idol

Yvonne Lai

Norma Leonard
Marilou Lieman
Karen McKittrick
Jane Reid, Debra Schellenberg
Joyce Shuford

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Dorothy Corbello
Cooie Dampman
Ellis Gusky
Claudia Henry
Frank Pinkus
Kim Robbins
Maurice Weir

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Linda Henson
Yoshiko Iida
Myrna Kalman
William Lama

Mary McIntyre

Dolly Messick Weiner
Donald Naf, Carol Sherman
Robert Sherman

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Amr Elghamry
Michael Klemens
David Sievers
Meg Yacawych

Life Master (300 MPs)

Jay Young

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Douglas Blagdon, Patty Sands

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Tammy Purkin
Diane Sachs
Kay Tseng

no wonder the winners played well; all that good food shored up everybody! It was a pleasure to have Rand Pinsky come to our Board of Directors' meeting, and he and Kathy showed their mettle as reflected below. Our thanks go to Merry and Pat and Betsy and Eva, and our huzzahs go to the following:

North/South

A1		Kathy Swain/Rand Pinski
A2	B1	Maureen Peterson/Claudia Elmes
A3	B2	C1 Edward His/C. C. Fang
A4	B3	James Frenkel/N. Phillips
A5		Carolyn Cohen/Melina Stevens
A6		Richard Banta/Bob Tayrien

East/West

A1		Harold Gordon/Tom Wan
A2	B1	Brad Beland/R. Gerry Belcher
A3	B2	Phyllis Phelps/Harold Bresler
A4	B3	Zach Vedro/Harold Knowles II
A5	B4	Arthur C./Dorothy LaMaie
A6		Weezie Reich/Amr ElGhamry

Special notice no. 1: The Regency Bridge Club will be closed July 3-12 during Bridge Week, but we'll be looking forward thereafter to hear all the wonderful things you did.

Special notice no. 2: Also leave space on your Bridge Calendar for our August 14-16 Sectional at the Scottish Rites Temple in Pasadena. See flyers for details.

Take care, everybody....

Long Beach Unit

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org

Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com
by Jon Yinger

May 17 unit game: Overall results in the open game: 1st in A: Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger; 2nd Bee Kinman/Baum Harris; 3rd John and Suzie Hand; 4th Robert Gish/Samuel Wang; 5th Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu; 6th Paul Pettler/Al Mastron. Overall winners in the B flight included: 3rd Tom Ludwig/Fay Beckerman; 4th Sherry Troeger/Sue Sood; 5th John Melis/Cayce Blanchard; 6th Dan Oakes/Sean Lui. Overall winners in C included: 4th Pat and Bob Adam and 5th Bob Goodman/Dolores Backlund. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master

game: 1st in A: Nancy Karl/Sherry Royce; 2nd Cooie Dampman/Miriam Kelley; 3rd Jerry Smith/Louise Sperr; 4th Miranda Reddy/Cole Sachs; 5th/6th Bernie and Larry Gresko tied with Mihir Das/Ruth Roe. And 4th overall in B in the NLM game were Madge Nusenow/Jackie Larkin, and 5th were Carol Ramsey/Anita Padget. Congratulations to all!

June 14 Eight is Enough unit team game: First place, each winning 5.67mp: Dwight Dorman, John Melis, John Killian, and Cayce Blanchard. Second place, each winning 4.25mp: Mark Tang, Sankar Reddy, Steve Sulzby, and Kevin Lane. Third place, each winning 3.19mp: George Rosenthal, Tom Ludwig, Joy Rosenthal, and Skip Genebach. Fourth place, each winning 2.39mp: Baum Harris, Bee Kinman, and Al and Sharon Appel. Fifth place: Keith and Susan Hafen and John and Bea Bralliar. Sixth place: Marci Evans, Cole Sachs, Mary Thomas, and Betty McClellan. Congratulations to you all!

70+% games 5/16 - 6/15: In open games two pairs had 70+% games during the past month. On May 18 Marcus Evans/Ralph Beazley had a 69.91% game (rounds off to 70%), and on June 1 Kay Tseng/Sue Sood had 76%. In the 299er game on June 10 Roy and Dianne Tomooka had a 70.63% game and in the Easy Bridge game on May 30 Jerry Smith/Judy Mathias had a 71.67% game. Congratulations to you all!

Big masterpoint awards: Big points for 1st overall in big games: In the May 17 unit game Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger won 5.38mp; on May 20 Steve and Charlotte Sturm won 4.67mp; on May 28 Ray Mack/Jerry Schreiber won 4.39mp; on June 5 Judy Jones/Marcus Evans won 4.33mp, and on June 6 Irma Johnson/George Thompson won 4.50mp. Big mp awards for second overall: May 17 Baum Harris/Bee Kinman 4.04mp; May 20 Earl VanDerVord/Sean Lui 3.50mp; May 28 Bob Mault/Judy Jones 3.29mp; June 5 John and Suzy Hand 3.25mp; and on June 6 T S Chernuchin/Baum Harris 3.38. Congratulations to all!

New members and new status: We issue a warm welcome to new members Joyce Menderson, Nikki Mertz, and Steven Arias. Status changes: New Junior Master: Hannah Gough. New Club Master: Lynne Finley. New Sectional Masters: Sue Ayers, Renee Hoffman and Anne Munchow. And new Silver Life Master: Ralph Beazley. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming special events at the club: Picnic

Saturday, July 4 12:30; Membership Game, Thursday July 16 12:30; Team Game Monday, July 20 7:00 p.m.; Silver Point STaC Games July 20-26; card fees \$11.

Get well wishes to: Julie Cunningham, Eileen Nelson, Frank Bartlett, and Dann Habberfield.

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.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

www.darbonne\bridge\

By Jan Wickersham

Our June unit game was a charity game, and Jan Wickersham was in charge of the food. We had tostadas topped off with a wonderful flan made by Sofia Pineda.

I was pleased to see the 299ers integrating into the open game.

Please mark your calendars now. Our July unit game with Mike Marcucci and all the Fourth of July trimmings will be held on June 28 so we don't conflict with Bridge Week, which runs from July 3-12 at the Pasadena Hilton.

Our board has voted to allow an averaging of points at unit games. If you are an A player with over 2,000 points playing with someone with considerably less points, and your average is under 2,000, you can play in B.

We want to thank Marion Miller for the outstanding job she has done as Friendship Chairman. She has requested a leave of absence as she has a friend who needs her help right now. Sandra Franciscus will take that responsibility until Marion returns.

WEST LOS ANGELES FALL SECTIONAL

KAYNE ERAS CENTER

5350 Machado Road

Culver City, CA 90230

SEPT 4 - SEPT 7, 2009



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club
11514 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310) 966-4144

FRIDAY, SEPT. 4th
7:30 pm

BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5th

10:00 am

STRATIFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS

Flight A/X (approx. 35% of field) 0 - unlimited
Strats B, C, D 750 - 2000, 0 - 750, 0 - 300MP

99er PAIRS

KNOCKOUT TEAMS - 2nd Session

3:00 pm

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

KNOCKOUT TEAMS - Finals

SUNDAY, SEPT. 6th

10:00 am

STRATIFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS

Flight A/X (approx. 35% of field) 0 - unlimited
Strats B, C, D 750 - 2000, 300 - 750, 0 - 300MP

199er PAIRS

3:00 pm

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

KNOCKOUT TEAMS

Not handicapped unless only 1 bracket

1st Round	Friday, Sept. 4	7:30 pm
2nd round	Saturday, Sept. 5	10:00 am
Final round	Saturday, Sept. 5	3:00 pm

WEST LOS ANGELES UNIT BOARD

Peter Benjamin	Howard Einberg	Mario Mory
Karen Byrd	Charles Fonarow	Barbara Nusbaum
Jordan Chodorow	Toby Green	Bill Schreiber
Roger Clough	Sam Haveson	Candy Scott
Cecil Cook	Fred Mautner	Carolyn Taff

MONDAY, SEPT. 7th

10:00 am and TBA

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS TEAMS

Flight A/X 0 - Unlimited MP
[approximately 35% of field]

Strats B, C, D 750 - 2,000MP, 300-750, 0-300MP

Masterpoint Limits for all Stratified Events:

- Strat A: 2000+
- Strat B: 750-2000
- Strat C: 300-750
- Strat D: 0-300

COMPETE FOR TWO TROPHIES

The West Los Angeles Unit player winning the most master points combined at the two 2009 West Los Angeles Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Jill Meyers Trophy. The 299er player winning the most master points at the West LA Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy. The 2008 winners were Margie Michelin and Charles & JoAnna Kelley.

CARD FEES \$10.00 PER PERSON PER SESSION

Non-Members and Life Masters who have not paid service fees pay \$11.00.

Students under the age of 19 play free!

Tournament Manager - Peter Benjamin
(310) 558-0888 EMAIL ahoneydo@aol.com
(310) 720-6050 (cell Peter Benjamin)
Tournament Director - Peter Knee



DIRECTIONS FROM 405

- Exit at Jefferson and go east
- Turn left onto Sepulveda
- Turn Rt. onto Machado from Sepulveda (or left onto Machado from Jefferson)

Mike Pudlin had a stroke and has been in the hospital. We are hoping for a great recovery for him.

Penny Barbieri is looking for people from our unit who would be willing to serve as greeters for the Regional in July. If you would like to help in that capacity, please let Mark Hartzell know.

It's not too early to start putting your team together for the Eight Is Enough game, which will be held August 23. No more than eight points per team; 2,000+ = 3, 750-1,999 = 2, and under 750 = 1. The fees are \$5, so plan now to come and join the fun.

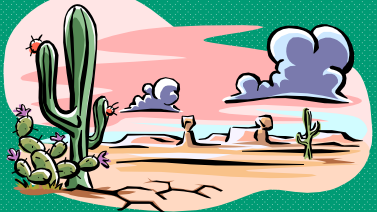
Pomona Covina

By Vic Sartor

Unit Game - Saturday, July 18

Game - 11:00 a.m., Lunch-TBA

For all of you who remember how half of Southern California's population filled the old Ambassador Hotel for Bridge Week, ALACBU is trying to bring back the good old days with a big 10-day summer regional at Pasadena's Hilton Hotel. District 23 is in a precarious financial situation, and a big turn-out is crucial for its survival as our local bridge organization. So I have a suggestion for all of you unit members who haven't attended a big tournament for years: set up some dates and recapture a little of the fun and excitement we all used to feel when Bridge Week rolled around. Starting times of 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. are perfect for those of us who haven't been up late enough to see the Tonight Show since Johnny Carson retired. You may not be up to playing in a midnight Swiss after an afternoon and evening session anymore, but surely you can manage to stay alert 'til around 7:30 or so. For those who don't want to be pummeled by the expert crowd, there will be



JOIN THE COOLEST PLAYERS AT THE HOTTEST REGIONAL!

PHOENIX DESERT EMPIRE REGIONAL

AUGUST 17-23, 2009

Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix AZ

<p>MONDAY, AUG. 17</p> <p>Stratified Charity Pairs 1 & 7 pm 199ers Pro-Am Pairs 1 pm Agave Bracketed KOs 7 pm</p> <p>TUESDAY, AUG. 18</p> <p>Side Game Series 9 am, 1 & 7 pm 199ers Pairs 9 am & 1 pm Stratified CHOICE* Pairs 9 am, 1 & 7 pm Agave Bracketed KOs 9 am, 1 & 7 pm Barrel Compact KOs 1 & 7 pm Stratified Open Swiss Teams 7 pm</p> <p>WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19</p> <p>Side Game Series 9 am, 1 & 7 pm 199ers Pairs 9 am & 1 pm Stratified FAST** Pairs 9 am Cholla Bracketed KOs 9 am Stratified OPEN Pairs 1 & 7 pm Ocotillo Bracketed KOs 1 & 7 pm Stratified Open Swiss Teams 7 pm</p> <p>THURSDAY, AUG. 20</p> <p>Side Game Series 9 am, 1 & 7 pm 199ers Pairs 9 am & 1 pm Stratified FAST** Pairs 9 am Cholla Bracketed KOs 9 am Stratified OPEN Pairs 1 & 7 pm Stratified Open Swiss Teams 1 & 7 pm Ocotillo Bracketed KOs 1 & 7 pm</p> <p>FRIDAY, AUG. 21</p> <p>Side Game Series 9 am, 1 & 7 pm 199ers Pairs 9 am & 1 pm Stratified CHOICE* Pairs 9 am, 1 & 7 pm Cholla Bracketed KOs 9 am</p>	<p>Prickly Pear Compact KOs 9 am Saguaro Bracketed KOs 1 & 7 pm Stratified Open Swiss Teams 7 pm</p> <p>SATURDAY, AUG. 22</p> <p>Side Game Series 9 am, 1 & 7 pm 199ers Pairs 9 am & 1 pm Stratified CHOICE* Pairs 9 am, 1 & 7 pm Cholla Bracketed KOs 9 am Prickly Pear Compact KOs 9 am Saguaro Bracketed KOs 1 & 7 pm Yucca Compact KOs 1 & 7 pm Stratified Open Swiss Teams 7 pm</p> <p>SUNDAY, AUG. 23</p> <p>Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams 10 am 7 x 7 with no break 199ers Stratified Swiss Teams 10 am no break, one session entries will be accepted for 199ers</p> <p>* CHOICE Pairs Must play in 2 out of 3 sessions that day</p> <p>** FAST Pairs 24 boards—50 minutes per board</p> <p>TOURNAMENT CHAIR Janet Newman j2newman@cox.net (480) 326-7144</p> <p>PARTNERSHIPS Page Tomkinson kittypage3@aol.com (480) 948-9217</p> <p>DIRECTOR IN CHG Gary Zeiger</p> <p>Results and information posted at: www.unit354.com</p>	<p>TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ First class hotel for only \$80/night! ◆ Renowned hospitality suite open daily ◆ Free covered parking ◆ Daily speakers ◆ Pre-duplicated boards for pair games ◆ 199er games daily ◆ All sessions non-smoking w/breaks ◆ Entry Fees: \$11 for ACBL members \$13 for all others <div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 20px; text-align: center; margin-top: 20px; background-color: #008080; color: white;"> <p>Sheraton Crescent Hotel</p> <p>(800) 423-4126 or (602) 943-8200 2620 W Dunlap, Phoenix AZ 85021 I-17 to Dunlap, Exit 207</p> <p>◆ Special Bridge Rate ◆ \$80/night Reserve by July 18th</p> </div>
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lots of limited masterpoint games and bracketed team games. So set up a partnership or team and come out and join the bridge community again.

During the regional, the LaFetra Bridge Club will be closed July 7-9. It will be open for the regular morning games on Fridays, July 3 and July 10. Qualifying games for the North American Pairs will be held on Tuesday, July 21 and Friday, July 31. Special STaC Tournaments will be held July 21-24. Call Roger Boyar (626-214-6354 or 626-335-1985) if you need a partner for any game.

The May unit game was won by Bill Papa and Vito Sartori with a 66% effort. Lary Alba and Cordell Goode finished first in their direction and second overall. Clint Lew and Pat Radamaker took Class B honors, followed by Denise Morgan and Genise Hasan. Roger Boyar won the monthly individual event, followed by Pat Radamaker, Charlotte Capelle, Clint Lew, and Dolores Kelley.

Top club game of the month was a nice 67% by Ron Purkis and Ann McClelland. Other winners were Linda Ananea, Kathy Helber, Dave and Susan Ruoff, Roger Boyar, Tom Lill, Genise Hasan, Penny Barbieri, Clint Lew, Clint Robertson, Fred and Lulu Minter, Lary Alba, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Kurt Trieselmann, Pat Radamaker, Susan Emminger, Milt Kalikman, and Sue Rottner.

The hand of the month was an interesting "when is it right not to balance" problem. Vulnerable vs. non, you hold: ♠-- ♥Axxxx ♦J10xxxx ♣xx. Your partner opens 1♠ (11-16 HCP), RHO passes, and you now have a problem. You know that if you bid a forcing 1NT your pard is about 99% sure to make things worse by rebidding 2♠ or even 3♠, so you decide to pass (rightly or wrongly) rather than risk getting into a worse mess. Surely the opponents will balance and let you escape to a red suit. Now LHO starts to think and you begin to sweat. It's obvious he's considering letting your side play it, and it may be ugly. Finally, he bids a quiet 2♣. Partner now freely bids 2♦! Suddenly life is good! RHO comes to life and Q bids, but you jump to 5♦, buying the contract and making. When you look at the hands you notice how close you were to complete disaster. Pard's spade suit was 9xxxx. RHO held AK10xx behind him, and LHO had QJx. If LHO passes, takes the first club and gets the bright idea of taking out trump, your partner will endure the indignity of going down 6 vulnerable in a 1-bid. You will be -600 instead of +600.

Your opponent's perfectly normal decision to bid cost a swing of a mere 1200 points! Bridge is indeed a funny game. See you in Pasadena.

San Fernando Valley

by Bill Morton

Unit events: The unit hosted the Annual Awards Dinner and Game on Tuesday, June 30. The Chinese buffet dinner was followed by a game at 7:15 p.m. The next unit event will be a summer unit game.

2008 Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Races

	Wallis Annenberg	29.28 points
5-20	Michael Klemens	31.59 points
20-50	Lee Skupen	25.51 points
50-100	Samy Antoun	60.31 points
100-200	Melvin Lerner	38.79 points
200-300	Herbert Ehrmann	54.96 points
300-500	Marta Peltz	134.56 points
500-1000	Mark Peters	95.97 points
1000-2500	Sheila Bozin	102.21 points
2500-5000	Andrew Vinock	231.86 points
5000-7500	Gil Stinebaugh	238.82 points
7500-10000	Bill Sides	65.11 points
Over 10000	Ellen Anten	177.97 points

2008 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Races

	Leo Lin	53.72 points
5-20	Michael Klemens	117.99 points
20-50	Phil Rabichow	33.55 points
50-100	Allan Palansky	156.91 points
100-200	David Lodge	79.50 points
200-300	Gloria Malkin	91.30 points
300-500	Marta Peltz	263.13 points
500-1000	Arlene Dick	176.65 points
1000-2500	Josh Sher	215.71 points
2500-5000	Andrew Vinock	600.25 points
5000-7500	Gil Stinebaugh	432.09 points
7500-10000	Mitch Dunitz	382.82 points
Over 10000	Ellen Anten	1,185.63 points

Upcoming unit events: Holiday Party, December 6, location TBA. Elections for the New Board will be held at a Unit Game in January, location TBA.

Member highlights: Congratulations to David Lodge, Gloria Malkin, Ron Malkin, and Phil Swan! All of them became Life Masters this month!

The top ten masterpoint winners for May: 750 Bridge Club: Herbert Zweig, Margy Sievers, David Sievers, Ron Malkin, Jerry Smith, Dan Strauss, Uri Ram, Ed Berliner, James Hoose, Billy Blanchard, and Mel James.

Bridge Academy 299 Game: Jim Gardner, Allan Palansky, Michael Klemens, Sam Antoun, Eric Heilman, John Tickner, Morris Cody, Donald Rosen, Marge Blumer, and Marlene Brounstein. **Bridge Academy Open Game:** Andy Vinock, Armand Szulc, Ellen Anten, Marta Peltz, Tom Wylie, Gil Stinebaugh, Mary Dougherty, Leda Danzig, Dan Kosman, and Sharon David.

70% Games for May: Marty Blain and Gary Frans 72.57, Kathy Saray and Bill Morton 72.50, Ruth Fleisher and Marilyn Gaims 72.32, and Sharon David and Armand Szulc 71.59.

The Club Managers Spring Newsletter lists the Top 50 clubs in 2008 based on the number of tables. The Bridge Academy is listed as Number 50 with a total of 5743.5 tables for 2008 with a gross income of \$40.00 per table. Congratulations on a financially successful year!

Column news: Make sure your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Bill Morton at wbmorton@att.net or call (818) 313-9711.

Torrance South Bay Unit

Unit Website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568>

SBBC Website:

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

By Steve Mager

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club:

Club Championship: Monday, July 13, 11:30 a.m.

NLM Club Championship: Wed, July 15, 6:30 p.m.

North American Pairs Qualifying:

Friday, July 19, 11:30 a.m.

Handicapped Swiss: Sunday, July 21, 1:00 p.m.

Swiss Team Club Championship:

Tuesday, July 30, 7:00 p.m.

There will be no weekend games during the District 23 Bridge Week in Pasadena July 3-12.

Club Championships: The Club Championship on

May 19 was captured by Dick Cheng/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Johnny Arceri/Nancy Coker on top in Flight B. The June 12 Club Championship saw Gabriela Jackson/Pat Schenasi leading Flight A and Rocky Williams/Kim Wang taking Flight B honors.

Team Winners: The charity Swiss on May 17 was won by the quartet of Gabriela Jackson, Fran Israel, Winnie Ninneman, and Ray Mack. On May 19 the team of Winnie Ninneman, Fred Spradlin, Henry Crowder, and Bruce Merchant came up winners. The May 26 game was taken by Mary Belle Hoenig, Mark Sinagra, Marty Cooper, and Ron Carlson. On June 2 Marie Willis, Mark Raggio, Carol McCully, and Ed Barad brought home top honors. On June 9 Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, and John J. McDermott were winners.

Milestones: This past month Lea McClernan passed away. She was always a pleasant opponent. Lea played often at the South Bay Bridge Club with a number of different partners. She will be missed by all at the club.

GUV Memorial Award: One thing you can bet the family jewels on is that the last table playing during the final round on Thursday night will have Bernie Weinstein as one of the players. Back in the days when I played regularly with Paul Boudreau in evening games, we always seemed to wind up playing against Bernie in the last round. At times I considered sending out for breakfast deliveries knowing that the round would take awhile.

So it came as a surprise to me one night during the past month when I finished the last round and Bernie was standing around already done. I asked Bernie if he had finally sped up his game. He said no, but having two passed out boards in the last round helped a lot. By the way, Bernie just hit the 80 year mark. This must make him officially an old something.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by candy

With the 4th of July right around the corner one would expect a column worthy of the sizzling fireworks. So with that in mind, I stared at the screen and then at the keyboard and fell asleep. Crash and burn. It's probably a good idea to lower your expectations.

Last month I had a “washed my hands and can’t do a thing with them” moment and while getting all the “o’s” in Jordan Chodorow’s name right I lost the “d” in his last name and put in a “w,” making a completely unpronounceable name and Richard Lim lost an “i” and became “LM.” Sorry Jordan and Richard, but I earned that “D” in typing and unlike wine, typing doesn’t improve with age. Leaving one to wonder, who had the sense of humor to put me in charge of the unit column? I remember: there was a meeting and Jordan, you were one of those voting for me.

The Pro/Am was a great evening thanks to Jeri Berger and her crew, Sandy Einberg, Carolyn Taff and Rodger Harbin. Winners were Barry Cooper and Roger Clough and second was wife Janet Cooper and Susan Somogyi. Janet, just tell Barry that you let him win, because he sacrificed watching the Lakers win in overtime to take you to the bridge club. What a guy!

July and August we take charcoal and lighter fluid to sacrifice meats and vegetables to the God of Bridge. To counteract this silliness (those finesses are never going to work) is the ice cream social. On Sunday evening August 30, the unit will hold a Pro/Am Swiss team and Ice Cream Social at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club. A Pro pair will be teamed with an Am pair. The Pros play against Pros and the Ams against Ams. After the round, compare with your teammates and enjoy dessert. Pairs or singles looking for a like-minded single to double dip with, sign up at the clubs. If you have any questions, call or email me at (310) 652-6116 or candysbridgeclub@aol.com.

Another special event coming up in August is the 8th Annual MS Charity Game with Eddie Kantar. This event will take place Sunday, August 9 at the Barrington Bridge Club at 12:30, and will be a fun afternoon of lunch, bridge tips, and bridge with all proceeds going to fight Multiple Sclerosis. Card fees are a tax-deductable \$50 per person. Call Fern or Bob Seizer at (310) 277-7050 for reservations.

My time machine will now back up to the May/June 70%ers - Dick Ryder/Paul Smith, Cyma Aronow/Art Zail, Beverly Goldstein/Gary King, Sam Haveson/Gene White, Sam Haveson/Dave Segal, Malka Fogel/James Manzie, Edith Large/Melina Stevens.

Laura Waisler is our newest Life Master! Other changes within the ranks were: Club Master: Teri Ponchick and Eleanor Goldman; Sectional Master:

Phyllis Selig-Kerns, Judy Zucker, Thelma Maltz, and Amedeo Ursini; Regional Master: Nell Eveleigh, Eileen Gittleman, Linda Camras, and John Stokdyk; NABC Master: Ellen Korney and Robert Martin; Bronze LM: Brian Rose and Pete Menotti; Silver LM: Mike Twiehaus; Gold LM: Solange Graziani, Bob Kent, and special note to our Units only Platinum LM: Roger Clough.

Club and Unit Champs were BHBC A: Ann Bazil/David Raphael, Sam Haveson/Dave Segal, Rhoda/Lew Himmell; B: Nourit Chowaiki/Trudie Graham, Arnold Green/Leo Lin, Gerson Rapfogel/Saul Leonard; C: William Inglis/Dan Garner-Barrington; A: Lois and Eli Borok, Maynard Tow/Danny Kleinman, Mickie Haines/Bob Lesser; B: Carl Kellet/Maynard Tow, Priscilla Blakely/Bob Lesser, Lynne Bronner/Connie Fishbach; C: Herma Altshule/Fern Seizer, Peggy Levin/Robert Martin, Susan Bornstein/Jodie Rachmil.

A decade ago Barry Saal ran the game at the Pacific Palisades Women’s Club. He made a wonderful homecooked meal and bridge game. In his memory, Tony Scott and friends, Ronda Platt and Bill Weingarden kept the game going. On the tenth anniversary of Barry’s death, Tony decided it was time to retire his potato masher. We want to thank the three of you for your years of friendly bridge in the Westside. We will miss you.

Being a “Southern” Californian, I’ll see y’all at Bridge Week; if I was in the Valley Unit that would be, “totally y’all.” I started this column in a complete haze and now realize half the year has gone by. I’m going to pull the blanket over my head and put the seventh month’s column to bed.

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DISTRICT 23 PRESENTS: LOS ANGELES BRIDGE WEEK REGIONAL
July 3 - 12, 2009
Pasadena Hilton, Pasadena, CA

Tournament Features

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 Team Games Daily
 Four Session Open Pairs
 Four Session Swiss Team Game
 Free Coffee before Morning Sessions
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Friday, July 3rd
 Entries close at 7:00 p.m.
 Auction begins at 7:15 p.m.
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BRIDGE WEEK 2009 DAILY SCHEDULE

Friday July 3 299er Mark Schreiber Memorial Pairs (Barometer Final) Stratified Open Pairs Friday/Saturday KO (Rds 1 & 2 of 4) First Side Game Series (1 of 6) First Side Game Series (2 of 6) Stratified Swiss (One Session) CALCUTTA 7:00 entries, 7:15 bidding Friday/Saturday Stratified Swiss (1 of 2)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:00 PM 7:30 PM	Wednesday July 8 Stratified IMP Pairs Wednesday/Thursday KO (Rds 1 & 2 of 4) Second Side Game Series (5 of 6) Second Side Game Series (6 of 6) Tuesday/Wednesday Evening Swiss (2 of 2) Evening Side Game Series (5 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM
Saturday July 4 Mary Jane Farrell 4 Session Open Pairs Qualifying Friday/Saturday KO (Rds 3 & 4) Firecracker Compact KO First Side Game Series (3 of 6) First Side Game Series (4 of 6) Margaret Jacobs Memorial Stratified Swiss (1 of 1) Friday/Saturday Stratified Swiss (2 of 2) Evening Side Game Series (1 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM	Thursday July 9 Wednesday/Thursday KO (Rds 3 & 4 of 4) Stratified Board-A-Match Teams (Rds 1 & 2 of 2) Stratified Open Pairs Third Side Game Series (1 of 6) Third Side Game Series (2 of 6) Thursday/Friday Eve. Stratified Swiss Evening Side Game Series (6 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM
Sunday July 5 Farrell Open Pairs (Rds 3 & 4) Barometer Final Stratified Swiss Teams First Side Game Series (5 of 6) First Side Game Series (6 of 6) Evening Side Game Series (2 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM	Friday July 10 Marshall Miles 4 Session Open Swiss Qualifying Compact KO Stratified Open Pairs Third Side Game Series (3 of 6) Third Side Game Series (4 of 6) Thursday/Friday Eve. Stratified Swiss Side Game	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM
Monday July 6 Monday/Tuesday KO (Rds 1 & 2 of 4) Strata-Flighted Open Pairs Second Side Game Series (1 of 6) Second Side Game Series (2 of 6) Stratified Swiss (One Session) Monday/Tuesday Compact KO (Rds 1 & 2 of 4) Evening Side Game Series (3 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM	Saturday July 11 Marshall Miles 4 Session Open Swiss Final Compact KO Stratified Open Pairs Third Side Game Series (5 of 6) Third Side Game Series (6 of 6) Stratified Swiss (One Session) Thursday/Friday Eve. Stratified Swiss Side Game	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM
Tuesday July 7 Monday/Tuesday KO (Rds 3 & 4 of 4) Stratified Open Pairs Tuesday Compact KO Second Side Game Series (3 of 6) Second Side Game Series (4 of 6) Monday/Tuesday Compact KO (Rds 3 & 4 of 4) Tuesday/Wednesday Evening Swiss (1 of 2) Evening Side Game Series (4 of 6)	10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM & 3:00 PM 10:00 AM 3:00 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM 7:30 PM	Sunday July 12 Becky Clough Flighted Swiss Teams (short break) Fast Pairs (short break) Side Game Series count best 2 games	10:00 AM & TBA 10:00 AM & TBA

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

Panel: Leo Bell, Ed Davis, Billy Eisenberg, John Jones, Eddie Kantar, Mr. Mealymouth, Jill Meyers, Marshall Miles, Rick Roeder, and Jon Wittes.

July's problems are in an experimental format.
There are only two problems, each requiring two answers.

1a

You hold: ♠T7 ♥98 ♦AKT8 ♣AQT97

What call would you normally make with this hand?

Marshal Miles: 1♦

Rick Roeder: 1♦

Mr. Mealymouth: Ah, I see you are trying to stump me with one of the unanswerable questions of Chapter 1, The Opening Bid, "What do you open with four diamonds and five clubs?" You have almost succeeded. In general, I open 1♣ unless the diamonds are significantly stronger, in which case I open 1♦.

Looking at both Problems 1 and 2, I am tempted to throw my hands (the ones with fingers, not cards) up in the air and say, "It's a toss-up; your guess is as good as mine." For in truth, I might open either of them 1♣ on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 1♦ on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, and toss a mental coin on Sundays.

That answer is too mealy-mouthed even for me. So I shall establish a Suit Quality Criterion: open 1♦ if the diamonds are stronger than the clubs by more than 7 on a scale of 0 to 100, else open 1♣.

How to measure suit quality? By the four highest cards in the suit, as four rounds usually suffice to draw trump. The third diagonal of the Triangle of 17th century French mathematician Blaise Pascal is 1, 3, 6, 10, 15, 21, 28, 36. Let these numbers correspond to the cards 7, 8, 9, 10, J, Q, K, A.

And now, invoking the advice of 17th century German mathematician Blaise Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz, "Let us calculate:"

(1) ♠T7 ♥98 ♦AKT8 ♣AQT97

Diamonds: $36 + 28 + 10 + 3 = 77$

Clubs: $36 + 21 + 10 + 6 = 73$

The diamonds are stronger by 4 – not enough – so I'd open 1♣.

Leo Bell: 1♦. I don't normally open a 4-card diamond suit and bypass a 5-card club suit, but when I don't have 3 cards in either major, I would rather rebid 2♣ after opening 1♦ than open 1♣ and rebid 2♣.

Ed Davis: 1♦. Not close. My preferred method is to open 1♣ with 4-4 in the minors unless my hand is too strong to rebid 1NT. Although I am comfortable with opening 1♣ holding four diamonds and five clubs if the hand is otherwise acceptable, holding no HCP in my short suits make a 1NT rebid a poor description of the hand. This hand has strong intermediates in diamonds, which makes a 1♦ opening more reasonable than if the diamonds were Axxx. I would open 1♣ and rebid 1NT with Qx Kx Axxx KJTxx.

Jill Meyers: 1♣ always at MPs, usually at IMPs. Just rebid 1NT.

Jon Wittes: I open 1♦ and rebid 2♣ under all conditions.

Eddie Kantar: I open both hands 1♦ regardless of vulnerability or form of scoring. I prefer bidding two suits rather than one if possible. Holding four diamonds and five clubs, the diamonds must be quite strong to open 1♦. These two hands bother me a bit

because the clubs are also quite strong. Couldn't you have made them a little weaker? If they were, to me it wouldn't even be a problem.

Billy Eisenberg: 1♣.

John Jones: 1♣ - I don't like opening 1♦ and rebidding 2 on hands with four diamonds and five clubs.



You hold: ♠T7 ♥98 ♦AKT8 ♣AQT97

At which vulnerabilities (white/white, white/red, red/white, red/red), forms of scoring (matchpoints, IMPs, BAM), or seats (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th), would you change from your normal action, and what is your alternate call?

Marshal Miles: I bid the same regardless of vulnerability, position, or form of scoring.

Rick Roeder: Open 1♦ and rebid 2♣ in almost any situation – no other first two bids tell partner the suits where at least 9 of my cards are. I accept opening 1♣ and rebidding 2♣ at IMPs because the excellent spots may prevent a disaster. At MPs or BAM, there is nothing terrible about opening 1♣ and rebidding 1NT over the expected one of a major response, particularly if I need a board. Of course, my partners will tell you that the way I play, I always need a board!

Mr. Mealy-mouth: I don't see why vulnerability, form of contest, or position at the table should affect things. I may still have to play in whichever suit I open, I may still face a preference to diamonds if I open 1♦ and rebid 2♣, and partner may still lead whichever suit I bid if my LHO becomes declarer.

My partner, however, could induce me to change my opening on Hand (1). Playing with Mrs. Guggenheim, I would open 1NT (if my range included 15 HCP, which is what this hand is worth), telling her afterwards how important it was to have the opening lead come round to my doubleton ten of spades.

Leo Bell: In 3rd or 4th seat (especially at matchpoints), I'd be more likely to open 1C for the lead, hoping the CK is on my right

Ed Davis: No change.

Jill Meyers: If I don't open 1♣, my alternate choice is obviously 1♦, but I don't like to open 1♦ and rebid 2♣ with this distribution because partner is going to take a preference to 2♦ on any 2/2 or 2/3 in the minors. With my partners with whom I play reverse Flannery (responding 2♦ or 2♥ over 1♣ and 2♥ or 2♣ over 1♦, showing at least 5/4 in the Majors and weak to invitational hands), I open 1♦ and rebid 2♣ because I know I am not going to find nine cards in the majors so we are more likely to have a minor suit fit.

Jon Wittes: I would open 1♦ and rebid 2♣ under all conditions.

Eddie Kantar: No change.

Billy Eisenberg: I do not change my bid. As long as I can rebid, I am comfortable.

John Jones: I open 1♦ in third chair, because I think it's likely the opponents will outbid me, and I want my AK suit led. In 4th chair I open a 12 - 14 NT if have it available (at any vulnerability). Otherwise I pass, thinking that someone owns the majors, and as Credence Clearwater sang, "it ain't me; I ain't no fortunate one."

2a

You hold:

♠QT5 ♥J ♦AQT8 ♣AJ987

What call would you normally make with this hand?

Marshal Miles: 1♣. I rebid 1NT over a 1♥ response or raise 1♠ to 2♠.

Rick Roeder: 1♦. Over a 1♠ response, I raise to 2♠. The only problem is when pard bids the expected 1♥ in BAM or MPs. Then, rebidding 2♣, 1NT, or even a clever 1♠ could work – I choose the boring 2♣.

Mr. Mealy-mouth: (2) ♠QT5 ♥J ♦AQT8 ♣AJ987

Diamonds: $36 + 21 + 10 + 3 = 70$

Clubs: $36 + 15 + 6 + 3 = 60$

The diamonds are stronger by 10, so I open 1♦.

Leo Bell: 1♣. On this hand, I don't have as tough a rebid problem as hand 1. If partner responds 1♠, I can raise, and if partner responds 1♥, I can claim one of my diamonds looked like a heart and rebid 1NT.

Ed Davis: 1♣, intending to rebid 1NT over 1♥ or raise if partner bids 1♦ or 1♠.

Jill Meyers: 1♣ except if playing reverse Flannery by responder. I raise 1♠ to 2♠ and might rebid 1♠ over 1♥.

Jon Wittes: I open 1♦ at any vulnerability, in any seat, in any form of bridge. Over 1♥ or 1NT, I bid 2♣. Over 1♠, I bid 2♠. Over 2♣, I bid 3♥. Over 2♦ (assuming it's inverted), I also bid 3♥.

Eddie Kantar: Same as Problem 1, I open 1♦ at any conditions for the same reasons.

Billy Eisenberg: 1♣.

John Jones: 1♣.

2b

You hold:

♠QT5 ♥J ♦AQT8 ♣AJ987

At which vulnerabilities (white/white, white/red, red/white, red/red), forms of scoring (matchpoints, IMPs, BAM), or seats (1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th), would you change from your normal action, and what is your alternate call?

Marshal Miles: I bid the same regardless of vulnerability, position, or form of scoring.

Rick Roeder: I open 1♦. I never deviate from opening 1♦ (my deviance goes only so far as I moved from LA in 1983).

Mr. Mealy-mouth: I don't see why vulnerability, form of contest, or position at the table should affect things.

Leo Bell: Again, in 3rd or 4th seat, I might open 1♦ for the lead, but it isn't so clear on this hand that a diamond lead is better than a club lead.

Ed Davis: No change.

Jill Meyers: No change.

Jon Wittes: I open 1♦ at any vulnerability, in any seat, in any form of bridge.

Eddie Kantar: No change, but another problem occurs on hand 2 if partner responds 1♠. It is close between a direct raise to 2♠ as opposed to rebidding 2♣ and then giving three card spade support showing extras. For example, after 1♦-1♠, 2♣-2♥, you have to jump to 3♠ as a 2♠ bid shows a doubleton.

Billy Eisenberg: I do not change my bid. As long as I can rebid, I am comfortable.

John Jones: No changes based on chair, nor vulnerability. I will raise 1♠ to 2♠, but rebid 1NT over a 1♥ response. If I were playing an ultra light opening bid system, I might pass the hand out in 4th chair.

I was surprised by the panel's near unanimity in sticking to opening one of a minor on each of these hands. In first or second seat, I can see not wanting to rock the boat, but I would.

While thinking about putting together a problem set for this month, I read an article about incomplete information. Many of our opinions and actions are based on very little or no information. These are called informational prejudices. I think we ought to try not to hold prejudices. Hold that thought.

For a long time now, many experts have had the attitude toward third seat preempts that the preemptor is in control of the hand, and a passed hand responder generally needs one more trump to raise than an unpassed hand. Especially non-vul, one does not want to hang a third seat partner for getting aggressive. After all, preempts make it tough on the opponents. Hold that thought.

Which is the most preemptive one-level bid? INT!! It is more difficult for the opponents than a weak two bid. Hold that thought.

Point count considerations aside, whose hand is it when your hand only contains four major suit cards? I think that the opponents are 60% likely to have at least a 9-card major suit fit. With a 9-card fit, they do not need many points to compete. If they can find their fit! Hold that thought.

Our expert panel mostly says that the form of the

game does not affect their choice of opening bid. This is odd; the games are quite different. Hold that thought.

Vulnerability also affects score expectation. Some pre-empts are wisely avoided when vulnerable, yet acceptable when not. Same hand, different bids. What makes the choice of opening bid so different? Hold that thought.

I think INT is a debatable option on each of these hands, at almost any condition. In some cases, I think it is a clear cut choice. I think opening INT on these hands is really right if: (1) not vul at BAM, or (2) not vul at IMPs (even more so white vs. red, where a major suit game can be shut out).

Not only is INT a good tactical shot, I think it is right on values. With Hand 1, I want to be in 3NT opposite a random nine count. Edgar Kaplan's CCCC (a complex algorithm for hand evaluation published in the October 1982 Bridge World) evaluates the hands as being worth 17.65 and 15.65 HCP respectively. Some of the panel discussed opening a minor and rebidding INT. That seems like an underbid to me. Sure, opening INT on either of these hands could backfire, but perhaps it is not as far-fetched as one might initially think, and it will put real pressure on the opponents.

David Sacks

u3825it-bridge@yahoo.com

Oh Calcutta!

by Bill Schreiber

No, it's not the raunchy musical from yesteryear. It's a **money**, no masterpoints, bridge event to be held at our Bridge Week Regional on Friday evening, July 3, 2009.

Prior to the playing of the 24- board event, there will an auction for each and every pair entered into the event by 7:00 p.m. of that evening. Anyone can bid on any pair of players entered. You do not have to enter yourself. The minimum bid to start will be \$50 and if no one bids on a particular pair, it is deemed that that pair has bought itself for the minimum and must pay the \$50 minimum fee.

Increments will be \$10 until the bidding reaches \$100 for any pair and \$25 thereafter. The bidding is expected to be fast and furious and fun. The playing pair has the right to purchase back, up to 50% of itself for half the final bid price.