

# Southern California Bridge News

Deliver by 1st of the Month

March 2009  
Volume 44, #3

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## 2009 District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying

**Flight A**  
0-5000 MPs  
March 28-29

**Flight C**  
non-life master, < 500 MPs  
March 28-29

## Upcoming Events



by Rand Pinsky  
District Director

On March 28 and 29 our District will hold its **Team Game Sectional** at the

Barrington Bridge Club. All money raised from this tournament will be given to our Grand National Teams to help defray some of their expenses for traveling to Washington D.C. to represent our district at the national Grand National Team competition. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you are planning to attend and have a team or need a partner or teammates, please send me an email at [pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net). This is our first tournament since the Southern California Bridge News became online only I do not have any way to track how the knowledge of this tournament is progressing.

The advertising for our Team Game Sectional has been through the Bridge News. There is an advertisement in this paper and at our website [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org) you can print out a schedule. I am asking all units to please print out a few flyers and distribute them to

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### D23 Annual Membership Statistics

by Bill Schreiber  
ALACBU President



STATISTICS, STATISTICS, STATISTICS.....This is my annual column in which I try to make sense of the statistics provided to me by the ACBL. Our district had 3,475 active members as of December 31, 2008. That is down 1% from the prior year end, or about 35 members. Three units went up during that period of time, **Pomona/Covina**, up 22.33%, **Torrance/South Bay**, up 5.38%, and **Long Beach**, up 2.41%. Congratulations on the effort of the membership chairpersons of those units.

The average age of our district is 68.60 years, slightly under the 68.75 of the ACBL as a whole. The youngest unit in the district, in terms of average age, was **Pasadena/San Gabriel** at 63.85 years (11<sup>th</sup> in all ACBL Units), the oldest is **Long Beach**, at 70.62 years (213<sup>th</sup> in all ACBL Units). For reference, the youngest unit in the ACBL is No. Manitoba at 59.75 years, the oldest (#303) is Eastern Montana at 77.15 years. Both of these units are in District 18.

In District 23, our average length of membership is 21.85 years. By comparison, District 22 has an average length of membership of 19.77 years. **Glendale/Verdugo** leads the way at 32.6 years, while **Long Beach** has the shortest at 19.39 years. Overall, the ACBL is at 19.71 years.

Enough about statistics...let's talk about bridge. Upcoming is the Houston NABC in March. I won't be going (I have never attended a Spring Nationals due to tax season), but I would certainly like to be able

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your local clubs. Saturday will be a two session **Swiss Team**. This is to coincide with the Grand National Flight A and C competition. Sunday will be a two session **Compact Knockout** with a afternoon one session Swiss Team. Game time is 10:30 a.m.

### Obama and Bridge

During the election there was some discussion that President Obama's mother played bridge. Thinking of ways to promote bridge, I have suggested to management that

ACBL should send to the private school that the Obama children attend beginning bridge instructional material so the entire school can lean to play bridge. Then in July when our NABC and Youth Bridge Nationals take place in Washington D.C., the Obama children can play in the Youth Nationals and bridge can get some wonderful publicity. I have suggested that management contact Warren Buffet to put in a good word to the president on the benefits of learning bridge to children. I hope to get a status report in March at the Houston NABC.

### 2009 ACBL Committee

Jerry Flemming, the 2009 ACBL President has announced the committee assignments for 2009. I have been appointed chairman of the Grand National Team Credentials Committee, and assigned to Appeals & Charges, Audit, Bridge, Real Estate, Technology, ABA Coordination, and CEO Review. These are excellent committees as Real Estate will be making some final recommendations as to where ACBL headquarters should be relocated and CEO Review will began to prepare qualifications for a new CEO when Jay Baum retires. The Audit Committee, which I was on last year and is composed of only three Board Members, will continue working on compliance issues with Federal Law such as a whistle blower policy. The technology committee is a new committee which is charged to investigate ways of modernizing our masterpoint ranking system. I am pleased to announce that Kevin Lane, our District 23 web master, has been asked to provide input to this committee.

### Houston NABC Board Meeting

I have submitted an amendment to a motion that will allow a club or unit to hold compact knockouts.

It seems that South Bay Bridge Club ran a charity compact knockout but then was told by ACBL that they could not do it. ACBLScore in the club mode does not provide for this type of game.

After calls to Memphis I was able to get a waiver for their charity event, but now I am seeking a motion to allow clubs and units to run a compact knockout.

I will file a full report from Houston after the Board Meetings concludes on March 9.

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# Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley  
Santa Clarita  
by Gin

the convalescent hospital.

Our thoughts and prayers are with both Jill and Bobbi.

## Top Five

A new knockout team game is coming to AVBC. Flyers with the detailed parameters of the game are being circulated. The extended knockout game will begin April 5, 2009. Each team will be comprised of four players and only four players. The game will be handicapped to level the odds of winning. It will be possible for any team to win. Start forming your team and you will continue to play as long as you win. It is my understanding the first session begins on Sunday April 5 and that winners will schedule their next session at the clubroom during a regularly scheduled game. There is also a possibility to win gold points in this event.

A fundraiser team game is scheduled at the Barrington Bridge Club in San Fernando on March 28 and 29. The money raised will be used to help defer the expenses of NAP winners competing in the National Tournament.

The Board of Directors is still working on the schedule of events for the Sectional on October 2-4. Open pairs will be offered on Friday and Saturday, Knockout Teams on Saturday, and Swiss Teams on Sunday. Starting times are still under discussion.

The Wednesday night game is a very special event. Experienced players are paired up with the graduates of Ron Oest's beginners' class. These newcomers are being introduced to duplicate bridge as they further develop their skills on Wednesdays and well as continuing with Ron's well taught lessons. We are beginning to welcome new players at regularly scheduled games. For the present the results of this game are not being considered in the Top Five section of this column.

We will soon be saying "So long" to Rose Coldiron. She is moving to South Carolina to be closer to her children. Rose, we wish you the best of everything, and you will be missed in this valley. Bobbi Thompson is recovering well from her recent surgery. She will be returning soon to the clubroom. Jill Adkins is back in

Marlene Gasper paired up with two of her favorite players to win the first and second place in January. She and hubby Dave posted a 72.69% game and a 70.5% game with Brad Ward. The Gaspers tied with Brad and Donna Davidson for third and fourth place with 67.5% games. In fifth place were Theodore Maki and Gary Grey with 65.78%.

There were many 60+% games in January but only the top are reported. The criteria for this section excludes special events and is limited to only the day to day games of all clubs in Unit 556. Rand and Dan send this reporter the results of their weekly games in a timely manner and every effort is made to report any and all scores that qualify for this section. A warm thank you is extended to Rand and Don. You guys make my job easier.

## Unit Game Feb. 8

	A	B	C
Brad Ward & Pat Juenemann	1	-	-
Dave & Marlene Gasper	2	-	-
Dave White & Jack Miller	3	1	-
Mira Rowe & Kristi Kubo	4	2	1
Hansford Rowe & Bill Brodok	5	-	-
Ron & Sandi Oest	6	3	-

A parting thought.....Gossip mongers, please note. Free speech is a right, not an obligation.

Downey – Whittier  
by Bernice Crelia

Here we are enjoying the really cold weather of winter. Great bridge weather, you can sit still and concentrate on your cards to keep warm.

There are a few things we have to tell you. One

very sad thing is the death of Dolores Phillips. She has been one of our most dependable players for many years. She became a gold life master just last year and she was always one of our very best players. We will miss her so much.

Our director Marcie Evans is concerned with the illness of one of her daughters, so we will all send her our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

There will be one big change in our future games. We will no longer serve lunches beginning March first. Our first Friday unit games will be the only time when we will provide food. So if you want to have lunch, be sure to bring it with you.

We are still giving out the most points possible and our game fees are very reasonable so come join us for a pleasant day of bridge. We look forward to seeing you.

## Glendale-Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game - 1:00 p.m. Saturday March 14  
12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch  
board meeting - 11:00 a.m. Saturday March 14

Realizing a part of one's potential should put a spring in one's step, and we hope the following acknowledgements of many of our members' ACBL accomplishments for the year 2008 adds some Spring Zing:

Mini-McKinney	Ace of Clubs
0-5 MPs	
Corrine MacPherson	C. MacPherson
John W. Plumb	J. Plumb
5-20 MPs	



# District 22 presents the 64th Annual San Diego Pacific Southwest Regional

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### Schedule Features

Kickoff Charity Swiss Teams Monday 1:00 p.m.  
New Knockouts begin every day except Sunday!  
Senior Pairs Tuesday-Saturday at 10:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Regional Swiss Teams across two mornings Wed.-Thur. & Fri.-Sat.  
Single Session Swiss Teams every evening Tuesday-Saturday  
Fast Open Pairs Sunday 10:00 a.m., out by 4:00 p.m.

### Daily Knockout Teams

Monday Kickoff Knockout continues Tues, Rounds 2-4.....7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday-Thursday Knockout Teams.....10:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Thursday-Friday Knockout Teams.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday Compact Knockout Teams.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

### Open Pairs Games

Monday Charity Pairs single sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday Stratified Pairs 2 sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday Stratified Pairs 2 sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday Stratified Pairs 2 sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Friday Stratified Pairs 2 sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday Stratified Pairs 2 sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday Fast Open Pairs 2 sessions.....10:00 a.m. & TBA

### Early Senior Pairs

Tuesday through Saturday.....10:30 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Co-Chairmen: Bill Grant • 619 260-0197 [wbggran@yahoo.com](mailto:wbggran@yahoo.com)  
Alice Leicht • 858 278-2256 [talktoalice@san.rr.com](mailto:talktoalice@san.rr.com)

### Lotsa Swiss Teams

Monday Charity Swiss single session.....1:00 p.m.  
Tuesday through Saturday single sessions.....7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday-Thursday Swiss Teams two sessions, gold.....9:00 a.m.  
Friday-Saturday Swiss Teams two sessions, gold.....9:00 a.m.  
Sunday Strati-Flighted Swiss Teams 2 sessions.....10:00 a.m.

### Three Side Game Series

Mornings, single sessions, Tuesday through Saturday.....9:00 a.m.  
Afternoons, single sessions, Tuesday through Saturday.....1:00 p.m.  
Evenings, single sessions, Tuesday through Saturday.....7:00 p.m.

Strat Masterpoint Limits 0-750/750-2000/2000+

### I/N Events (0-5 Play Free on Tuesday!)

Monday Charity Pairs single sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday through Saturday single sessions.....9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Sunday 299er Swiss Teams 2 sessions.....10:00 a.m.

### Tournament Highlights

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♠ Pre-Duplicated Boards in Pairs Events  
♥ Two Daily Speakers ♦ Early KO on Wed-Thur  
♣ Sunday Early Start - Early Out

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Temo Arjani	T. Arjani	N/S
Drana Callery	D. Callery	A1 John Villalobos & Bob Tayrien
Natalie Radbill	N. Radbill	A2 Robert C. Wang & Frank Shih
20-50 MPs		A3 B1 Pat Abbey & Sherry Strube
Elaine Moore	B. Butler	A4 Carolyn Cohen & Melina Stevens
Brian Butler	E. Moore	A5 Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
Kathryn Riedel	K. Riedel	B2 C1 C. C. Fang & Edward Hsi
50-100 MPs		E/W
Stephen Guerrero	S. Guerrero	A1 Rae Murbach & Shui M. Huang
100-200 MPs		A2 B1 Art Chacanas & D. LaMaie
Zeke Mataga	E. Seri	A3 Sam Wang & Kim Wang
Eva Seri	S. Harper	A4 B2 Gary Belcher & Brad Beland
Sterrett Harper	Nancy Lyon	A5 B3 Bob Hogan & Esther Tapelband
200-300 MPs		C1 Sharon Wolf & Eva Seri
Sharon Wolf	S. Wolf	
Thomas Annese	T. Annese	
Joanne Parada	J. Parada	
300-500 MPs		
Joe Hasencamp	J. Hasencamp	
S. K. Leech	S. K. Leech	
Betsy Josias	B. Josias	
500-1000 MPs		
Richard Weinburger	R. Weinburger	
Carol Frank	S. Licker	
Stephen Licker	Harold Knowles	
1000-2500 MPs		
William Ng	Melina Stevens	
Bradley Ward	P. Junemann	
Pat Junemann	B. Ward	
2500-5000 MPs		
Paul Nason	C. Cohen	
Carolyn Cohen	P. Nason	
5000-7500 MPs		
Thomas Lolli	T. Lolli	
Steve Cohen		
10,000+ MPs		
Jim Looby		

Congratulations to all of you, and the ACBL first place certificates attesting to your powers will be awarded at the unit game on April 14.

Nothing of a newsy nature to report, so let's move on to the February Unit Game. Our Valentine's Day event was well attended and Merry Besvold donned the chef's toque to see us well fortified with her special chicken-cranberry bake with rice, accoutrements provided by Margaret Mataga and Eva Seri. And here are the results of a good game:

Our kudos to all of you and (surprise!) to me (it's really been a long time!). We're heading for another UG on March 14, so hone up and then come and honor St. Patrick's month.

Take care and continue to enjoy.....

## Long Beach

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

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

by Jon Yinger

### FEBRUARY 15 UNIT GAME (27 tables):

Overall results in the open game: 1st in A, Gail Shapiro/Dennis Maynard; 2nd Bea and John Bralliar; 3rd Judith Jones/Gabrielle Sill; 4th Louis Shen/Ron Lien; 5th Lois Perovich/Jean Matz; 6th Lowell Andrews/John Killian. Overall winners in the B flight included: 5th Kim Wang/Chien-San Han; 6th Barbara Balowitz/Barbara Metselaar. Overall winners in C were: 2nd Al and Sharon Appel; 3rd Lynn and Curtis Johnson; 4th Karen Horton/Wayne Rapp; 5th Linda Renkus/Tom Ludwig. Overall winners in the non-Life Master game: 1st Claudette/Monica Gettis; 2nd Willie and Judy Grieb; 3rd Mary Lund/Sally Fenton; 4th Chuck Laine/Bob Hargrove. And 3rd over-all in the NLM game were Cooie Dampas/Mirian Kelley. A special thanks to Lynn Johnson for the great dinner.

**70+% GAMES** through 1/16 through 2/15: Seven pairs had 70+% games. In open games Gary Paugh/Walter Rothstein had 72.92% on Jan 16, Mark Teaford/Irwin Bender had 71.45%. On Jan 28 and Michael Daley/Earl VanDerVord had 69.68% (rounds off to 70%) on Jan 29. In the NLM game Jan 23 Yolanda

Medina/Cole Sachs had a 69.55% game, in the NLM Unit Game Monica Gettis/Claudette Barrack had a 70.87%, and in Bridge Plus (15 board) games Sharon Sloan/Kathleen Hoffman had an 80.77% game Feb 2 and Fred Willbanks/Skip Genebach had a 73.33% game on Jan 26. Congratulations to you all!

**BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS:** Big points for 1st overall in big games: On Jan 20 Irwin Bender/John Crabtree 3.58mp; Jan 22 Betty McClellan/Betse Straub 3.25 mp; Jan 23 Stephen Licker/Dick Sands 4.66mp; Jan 31 Donna Wenberg/Bob Mault 4.33mp; Feb 1 Lavonne McQuilkin/Elinor Baratelle 3.50mp; Feb 2 Lavonne McQuilkin/Marjorie Holmes 5.17 mp (Lavonne: two days in a row!!); Feb 3 Suzie and John Hand 3.67 mp; Feb 4 Kim Wang/Luttrell Long 5.17mp; Feb 4 (eve) Ross Grabel/Mark Itabashi 4.67mp; Feb 5 Baum Harris/Walter Rothstein 5.17mp; Feb 6 Mark Teaford/Gary Paugh 6.00mp; Feb 6 (eve) Stan Snyder/Bruce Horiguchi 4.00mp; Feb 7 Bill Wilson/

Dan Williams 4.50mp; and in the Feb 15 unit game, Gail Shapiro/Dennis Maynard 5.24mp. And big master point awards for 2nd over-all: Jan 23 Bill Wilson/Ralph Beazley 3.50mp; Jan 31 George Thompson/Irwin Bender 3.25mp; Feb 2 Marilyn McClintock/Sibyl Slutsky 3.88mp; Feb 4 Frances Israel/Francois Weston 3.88mp; Feb 4 (eve) Mark Raggio/Ray Mack 3.50mp; Feb 5 Dick and Linda Stein 3.88mp; Feb 7 Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger 3.38mp; Feb 15 Unit Game John and Bea Bralliar 3.93mp. Congratulations to all!

**NEW MEMBERS and NEW STATUS:** We issue a warm welcome to new member Patricia Hitchcock. Status changes: Club Master: Dale Blessing, Rachel Parker and Wally Simmons. Sectional Master: Zeme Christopulos and Julia Ann Cunningham. Regional Master: Larry Olson and Roy Tomooka. Congratulations to you all!

**UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE CLUB:** ACBL Senior Pairs, Mon. Feb. 23, 9:00am.

**Tournament Director**  
Scott Campbell

**Tournament Chairperson**  
Ruth Ann Alpert (714) 962-3251

**Assistant**  
Lynda Crawford (714) 968-5870

**Tournament Managers**  
**Partnership Desk**  
Mary Lou Kiley (714) 434-3884  
Mary Lou Hughes (714) 969-2502

**Hospitality Desk**  
Karen Johnston (714) 775-3589  
Marilyn Christy (714) 968-3048

**Card Fees per Session**  
\$10.00 per Person  
\$11.00 Non & Unpaid Member  
\$110.00 per Team for All Swiss Teams of Two Sessions; includes a box lunch.

299er Only: \$44.00 per Team - One Session, no lunch included

**\*Stratification Levels**  
[Friday & Saturday Only]  
Strat A 2000+  
Strat B 750 -> 2000  
Strat C 0 -> 750

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# 2009



## Unit 515 Sectional

Friday, June 5th	Saturday, June 6th	Sunday, June 7th										
<p><b>10:00 AM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratified* Open Pairs</li> <li>• 299er Pairs</li> <li>• Compact K.O.s (Rounds 1 &amp; 2)</li> </ul> <p><b>3:00 PM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratified* Open Pairs</li> <li>• 299er Pairs</li> <li>• Compact K.O.s (Rounds 3 &amp; 4)</li> </ul>	<p><b>10:00 AM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratified* Open Pairs</li> <li>• 299er Pairs</li> <li>• Compact K.O.s (Rounds 1 &amp; 2)</li> </ul> <p><b>3:00 PM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratified* Open Pairs</li> <li>• 299er Pairs</li> <li>• Compact K.O.s (Rounds 3 &amp; 4)</li> </ul>	<p><b>10:00 AM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (2 Sessions Only)</li> <li>• 299er Swiss Teams (1 or 2 Sessions; declare at signup)</li> </ul> <p>• <b>TBR</b></p> <p><b>Second Session</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Flight A</td> <td>5000+</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flight AX</td> <td>0 -&gt; 5000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strat B</td> <td>1250 -&gt; 2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strat C</td> <td>750 -&gt; 1250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Strat D</td> <td>0 -&gt; 750</td> </tr> </table>	Flight A	5000+	Flight AX	0 -> 5000	Strat B	1250 -> 2000	Strat C	750 -> 1250	Strat D	0 -> 750
Flight A	5000+											
Flight AX	0 -> 5000											
Strat B	1250 -> 2000											
Strat C	750 -> 1250											
Strat D	0 -> 750											

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District 23 STaC, week of March 2-8. Sectionally rated Team Game Monday, March 2, 7:00pm. Unit Game Sunday March 15, 1:00pm. ACBL Charity Game Tue. March 17th, 4:15pm. April 19: Unit Game and Awards Ceremony. Lunch at 12:00 noon, awards presented at 12:30; game at 1pm.

**CONDOLENCES** to the families and friends of Mary Schefter and Joyce Jung, both of whom passed away last month.

**GET WELL WISHES** to Ray Cummings, Bev Harmsen and Joyce Siegel.

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

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

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

Unit Game: March 8, 2009  
Elk's Lodge Arcadia

Since I last wrote the column, we have lost Millie Williamson. She was so very much a part of our bridge world and it's hard to imagine not seeing her any more. I thoroughly expected to see her back at the bridge table. We will all miss her and send our condolences to her family.

We had some last minute changes in February, and our unit members were right on top of it. San Marino was booked for February 8, so with a week to go, Art and Diane graciously opened their doors to us. It was quite a day. Peter Szeci was in charge of food and furnished us with a most delicious chili. He also supplied the perfect weather to go with it. Even with the short notice, we had 22 tables in the Open Game and four tables in the 299'er game. Honors for first in A went to Jeff Goldsmith and Paul Markarian, while first in B went to Shiu-Ming Huang and Robert Wang. Mark Hartzell and Sandra Franciscus won the C flight and Bridget O' Sullivan and Chuck Cordaro won the 299er game.

Our Election Party is quickly approaching. Daylight

savings will be starting that day, so please make a mental note so you won't arrive late. The game will begin at 1:00 PM and is being held at the Elk's Lodge in Arcadia. If you still haven't purchased a ticket, please contact any board member. It's a wonderful event where we honor those in our unit who have earned the top awards for the year, and our new Life Masters. We will also present the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards. Marie Nimmrich and Roy Wilson have worked hard to produce new membership rosters and this is your chance to get the "hot-off-the-press" new directories.

I have begun teaching bridge classes on Wednesday nights, second and fourth Wednesdays from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Our first class had four tables, and we spent the time tackling pre-emptive bids. Please consider joining us. The next class will be February 25th at the San Marino Center. If you bring a sack "dinner", you can plan to stay for the 7:15 game.

What's your best-ever score? Karen Johnson and Carol Rutherford put up a 79.07% game in a recent Tuesday Newcomers game at the Arcadia Bridge Center.

If this is your birthday month, the Bridge Center would like to give you a free play on the evening of Friday, March 13th. This is a new offering by Art and Diane and will usually be the second Friday of each month. The Bridge Center will be closed on Sunday the 8th because of the Unit's Election Party. If you like to play in the Winners/Losers game, it will be on the 22nd and if you also like the Beat the House night, that will be on the 27th. The Bridge Center will offer swiss teams on these Sundays: the 1st, 15th and 29th, with a Rookie swiss on Friday the 20th. There's something for everyone.

Do your eyes glaze over at the mention of mathematics? The math of bridge can be interesting and helpful. For example, there is a 52% chance that two missing honors will be divided between your opponents. That means that 48% of the time they are both in one hand, and half of that, or 24%, they are in the opponent's hand where it's good for you. Suppose you have the AQT in dummy... There's only a 24% chance that both of the two missing honors will be offside. That gives you a 76% chance at two tricks and a 24% shot at making all three of the cards in dummy. But you have to be willing to take the double finesse and put in the ten the first time you lead the suit, else you throw away that 24% chance when the honors are on your left. If you play the queen the first time you can only win the



ace next. Whoops, there goes another trick!

See you at the table.

## Pomona-Covina

by Vic Sartor

Unit Game Saturday March 21

Game- 11:00 A.M.(New day/New time)

As those of you who just read the heading may already have noticed, the unit board has decided to try a grand experiment in an attempt to improve attendance at our unit games. For the next three months we will hold the unit game on the third **Saturday** of the month, rather than our customary second Sunday. The time has also been changed to 11:00 a.m. This will allow players more time to get home and get ready for possible family activities. Food will still be served, probably with a brief mid-game break around 1:00.

Should the experiment prove successful, we will make the change permanent. We hope that those players who have been able to attend the Saturday individual game but haven't been able to play on Sundays because of church or family plans will now join us at the new time. If enough 299ers attend, we will provide a separate section for them. Please spread the word- especially if you know any players who don't have computer access to the Bridge News.

An added attraction at the March 21 game will be the presentation of the Ace of Clubs and Mini McK-inney awards for best performances of 2008. AOC winners and runnersups are: Maria Marvosh, Donna Mason, Greg Harding, Elmer Skeldon, Edwin Kelly, Donald Naf, Karen McCarthy, Mary Miller, Marva Packey, Kurt Trieselmann, Roger Boyar, Clint Lew, Richard Patterson, Helen Wang, Mary Ann Wotring, Warren Wotring, Barbara Baeskins, Vic Sartor, Larry Bolles, Bill Papa, and Erik Paulsen. MM winners were Billy Steiner, Elmer Skeldon, Edwin Kelly, Karen McCarthy, Joe Unis, Clint Lew, Helen Wang, Mary Ann Wotring, Eric Tan, Larry Bolles, and Erik Paulsen.

Top game of the month was a 70.7% effort by Jerry Androus and Billy Steiner. Other winners were Lary Alba, Dave Ruoff, Genise Hasan, Joe Unis, Richard Patterson, John Tyner, Pat Radamaker, Ken Bloomfield, Ken Lowenthal, Georgiana Bierman, Val Fletcher, Vic Sartor, Sue Rottner, Milt Kalikman, Linda Ananea and Val Fletcher, ,

Unit Game winners were Cordell Goode and Lary Alba, followed by Dave and Susan Ruoff. Tom Lill and Joe Unis took Class B honors, followed by Clint Lew and Pat Radamaker.

This month's hand of the month is a test of the merits of patience and scientific exploration versus old-fashioned, seat-of-the-pants, bid -what-you-think-you-can-make blasting. In fourth seat, you hold: ♠AKQxxxx ♥K ♦-- ♣AKJ10x The bidding goes: pass-pass-1♦ to you. What's your plan? What are the chances your passing pard will have a hand that will let you make 7 and do you have the tools to locate the ace of hearts and the queen of clubs even if he has them? Disdaining science, we had a simple auction at our table: pass-pass-1♦-6♠! This wasn't a bad result, but the perfectionists among us would not be impressed. Pard came down with :♠x ♥Axxx ♦Kxx ♣Qxxx so we missed the aesthetically pleasing, almost 100% cold, 7♣ (with spades 3-2, 7♠ also rolls). Would you get to the safest grand? If so, kudos. Til next time...

## San Fernando Valley

sfvunit561@aol.com

by Jimmie Swan

Unit Sectional – April 24-26

The Unit 561 Sectional is almost here! Don't forget to mark it on your calendar! The Friday games will be held at the Prince of Peace Episcopal Church Upper Hall Building, with lots of parking, in Woodland Hills. The Saturday and Sunday games will be held at the Bridge Academy in Canoga Park, where the parking will be much easier on the weekend, than during the week. We will have 299 games, open games, and Compact Knockouts on Friday and Saturday, and Swiss Teams on Sunday. See our flyer at the acbl.org website, in the April Sectional listings, or at the District 23 website at <http://www.acbldistrict23.org>, on the home page, under Upcoming Area Tournaments.

### Future Unit Events

The next unit event, following the Sectional, will be a game to present the Awards for the winners of the Ace of Clubs and the Mini-McKenney Races of 2008. We will also honor the winner[s] of the Kaiser Trophy Award, from the annual Unit Sectional. Winners will



play for free, compliments of the Unit. There will also be an election of the Unit Board of Directors at this Unit event. More information will follow in next month's issue of the Bridge News.

On March 20 at 7:15 p.m., the Bridge Academy will hold a triple point game.

### Congratulations To Those Below!

#### Recent Rank Changes:

Junior Master – 0-5 MPs

Bobbi Endler and Carol Hartley

Club Master – 5-20 MPs

Nancy Klemens

Sectional Master – 50-100 MPs

Helene Greenwood

Regional Master – 100-200 MPs

Bunnie Blender, Frona DeCovnick, Jim Gardner,  
Michael Klemens and Ann Trygstad

NABC Master – 200-300 MPs

Allan Palansky

Top Ten MP leaders in January with <299 MPs  
in the 0-500 games or the open games

Bud Shapiro led with 8.12MPs, followed by Allan Palansky, Samy Antoun, Marilyn Gaims, Marlene Brounstein, Eric Heilman, Esther Keyes, Barbara Parsons, Bob Glasser and Don Rosen.

Top Ten MP leaders in January with <1000 MPs  
in the 0-1000 games

Ron Malkin led with 4.57MPs, followed by Fran Mink, Joyce Hart, Margie and David Sievers tied, Carol and Norm Bloomfield tied, Herb Zweig, Ellen Carrier, and tied for 10th, Shelley Linick and Sam Faye.

Top Ten MP leaders in January with >299  
in the open games

Andy Vinock led with 16.22MPs, followed by Armand Szulc, Gil Stinebaugh, Sy Zemlyn, Leda Danzig, Gary Frans, Marty Blain, Joan Rubin, Sharon David, and Ed Gruber.

Please call me at (818) 893-7108 or email me at SFVunit561@aol.com when you have any bridge news to submit. Please put "Bridge" in the subject line, and give me your name and phone number, in case I have

## District 23 – Team Game Sectional

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

### Saturday, March 28

10:30 am –

Swiss Teams Strata Flighted

First Session of Two

Flight A/AX: (5000+ / 0-5000)

Strats B, C, D: (1000-2500/500-1000/0-500)

**Second Session To Be announced**



### Sunday, March 29

10:30 am –

Compact Knockouts

Rounds 1 and 2

3:30 pm –

Compact Knockouts

Rounds 3 and 4

3:30 pm –

Swiss Teams

Single Session - Stratified

(2500+/750-2500/0-750)

#### Card Fees:

ACBL Members

\$10 per person/per session

Non-Members

\$11 per person/per session

Additional charge for GNT

#### Location:

Barrington Bridge Club

11514 Santa Monica Blvd.

Los Angeles, CA 90025

Telephone: 310-966-4144

#### Partnerships & More Information:

Rand Pinsky

District 23 Nat'l Board of Directors

Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net

(661) 253-1105

#### GNT Information

Howard Einberg (310) 475-9784

Grand National Teams Coordinator

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

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

any questions. You may also call or email me if you have any questions or comments. Just remember to put "Bridge" in the subject line so your email does not get deleted as spam.

## Torrance South Bay

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

District 23 STAC: Monday, March 2 - Saturday, March 7

STAC Handicapped Swiss Teams: Tues, March 3, 7 p.m.

Club Championship: Monday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams: Sunday, March 15, 1:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Tuesday, March 17, 11:30 a.m.

Club Championship: Friday, March 20, 7:00 p.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams every Tuesday night at 7 p.m.

Friday Night games March 6 and 20

### Club Championships

The January 26 Club Championship was won by Barbara White/Jackie Hess in Flight A with Beverly Narahara/Carole King-Kepperling leading Flights B and C. The February 5 Championship saw Bea and John Brailliar leading the way. On February 9 the Club Championship was won by Gabriela Jackson/Ray Mack in Flight A with Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder leading the way in Flight B and Emily and Jon Rankin ahead in Flight C.

### Team Winners

The Swiss team Championship on January 13 was won by the quartet of Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer and Jim Dutton. This same team won the January 20 team game. On January 18 the team of Ray Mack, Mark Raggio, Ron Carlson and Ginnie Blitzman were winners. The team games on January 27 and February

3 were won by the foursome of Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema and John J. McDermott. The Charity Swiss for under 500 MP teams on February 7 saw the team on Sara Dokter, Nancy Collinge, Bernard Gee and Oystein Hellesoy winning the Flight A division in both the morning and afternoon games. The morning game was led by Bruce and Dolly Weiner, Krystyna and Dennis Hollingworth in Flight B and Susan Genta, Karen McKittrick, Kathleen Pecarovich, Marilyn Henshel in Flight C. The afternoon game was headed by James and Marie Lynch, Billee Kelly, Midori Dekiba in Flight B and Ron Smith, Charlie Gail, Madge Weinstein, Mary Palmer in Flight C. On February 10 the team of Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer, Jon Szeps and Jim Dutton led the way.

### Final 2008 Unit Leaders in Mini Mckenney and Ace of Clubs Races

The final standings for the 2008 Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs races are out. The leaders in each category for the Torrance South Bay Unit are as follows.

Mini McKenney	Ace of Clubs
	0 to 5 MPs
William Lama (37)	William Lama (22)
	5 to 20
Peggi Spring (48)	Peggi Spring (36)
	20 to 50
Steve Ramos (63)	Steve Ramos (33)
	50 to 100
Neal Kleiner (79)	George Stinson (23)
	100 to 200
Jill Goodman (105)	Fred Swinth (44)
	200 to 300
Harold Goodman (109)	Mary Overby (45)
	300 to 500
Hank Sheehan (182)	Hank Sheehan (73)
	500 to 1000
Kim Wang (217)	Kim Wang (84)
	1000 to 2500
Alfred Lee (482)	Chiye Horiguchi (114)
	2500 to 5000
Bruce Horiguchi (780)	Bruce Horiguchi (201)
	5000 to 7500
John Jones (550)	Barbara White (81)
	Over 10000

Steve Mager (457)

Steve Mager (163)

West LA  
by candy

### TSB Unit Members Represent District 23 in North American Pairs

Five TSB Unit members will represent District 23 in the North American Pairs Finals at the Houston, TX NABC in March. This was accomplished by finishing in the top 3 at the District Finals recently. John Jones (partnered with Leo Bell) won the Flight A finals. Mary Ann Coyle (With a pickup partner she dragged in off the street) came in second in the Flight A event. In Flight C Steve Ramos (Partnered with Kevin Lane) finished second and Lisa Kuo (Partnered with Murat Veysoglu) nabbed the third spot.

### GUV Memorial Award

At the Palm Springs Regional Jackie Hess kibitzed me a few boards. Between rounds she related a story about a time she kibitzed Paul Ivaska. Paul held something like 10 Diamonds to the Jack and out. His LHO opened 1♣ and pard (Tony Kasday) doubled. Paul simply bid 1♦. Tony then proceeded to leap and start bidding majors at every turn. In each instance Paul bid the minimum number of diamonds. Finally when Tony insisted on a Major at the 5 level Paul tried 6♦ and Tony gave up holding a stiff ♦A. Well diamonds split 1-1 and 6♦ made.

After the hand Jackie asked Paul why he only bid 1♦ over the double. His accurate assessment of how to bid the hand was that he would let Tony get all the Major suit bidding out of his system till he finally would let Paul play a diamond contract. He apparently felt a leap to 5♦ would never land him in a diamond contract if Tony started bidding majors at a high level.

The reason I mention this story is that on the very next hand I picked up something like, ♠xx ♥x ♦KJxxxxxx ♣xx. I was playing with Claudia Valerie Gamio. 3♣ was opened by my LHO and CVal doubled. I thought about the story just related to me and bid 3♦. CVAL bid 3♠ and a case can be made for me to pass. However, having just heard this story I tried 4♦ and heard 4♥ by pard, so I tried 5♦. Apparently CVal hadn't been listening to Jackie's story and she tried 5♥. I bid 5♠ which was kicked by RHO. She went for the expected big number. I think 5♦ would have been down 1.

Na Zdrowie

March is a month in which we lose an hour sleep, on the next day we wear funny hats and masks and eat cookies with a long name for Purim, drink green beer in honor of a saint who invented the pest control company, and decide whether we want to celebrate the 1st day of spring or the Vernal Equinox. All this without one three day weekend. St. Patrick's Day had the bad timing to fall on a Tuesday, so throw the green beer in the pot with the corned beef and cabbage you got on sale, you've got to go to work the next morning. Marching right along....

The first day of the WLA Sectional falls on an equally important holiday. May Day was started as a fertility dance with a pole and ribbons. Seems, after all these years, all we've done is gotten rid of the ribbons. Friday night the 1st at the Barrington Bridge Club will be the KO's and Stratified Open Pairs starting at 7:30. Saturday and Sunday will be at the Kayne Eras Center in Culver City. Saturday will have Stratiflighted Pairs at 11:00 and Stratified at 4:00. Sunday at 11:00 will be Stratiflighted Swiss Teams.

For Saturday and Sunday Barbara Nusbaum and Beverly Cook will be making brownies. Unlike Bullwinkle, I've decided to have something new up my sleeve for my part of the goodies. All coffee and goodies are free.

This plus our September Sectional will determine the winners of the Jill Meyers, most points, and the Mary Jane Farell, most points by a 299er, trophies. Last years winners were Margie Michelin and Charles & JoAnna Kelley.

It seems there's a special on knee surgery this month. Both Becky Clough and Toby Green are going to be recuperating and hopefully back soon. Knowing those two, this column may not come out before they do.

Climbing the Stairway to Masterpoint Heaven.... Barbara Bereny not only is a new LM, but also a Bronze LM. Adrienne Green went over 5000 to become a Diamond LM. Other upwardly mobile people were Carol Slavin, Jr. Master, Lee Axelrod and Liz Anne Deforest, Club Master, Joan Klein, Sally Karbelnig, Marcia Meyerson, NABC Master, Ed Feldmann and Nancy Heck, Silver LM.

Thanks to Sandy Rink and Robin Thayer for my



on time club reports. Barrington - Club Champs "A" Beverly Rosenberg & Paul Smith, Herbert Ehrman & Brian Rose, Margie Michelin & John Cook "B" Connie Fishbach & Angelika Hederer, Charles Kelley & John Stokdyk, "C" Renee Wishengard & Mark La Vine. 70%ers Art Zail & Anita Levine, Susan Manuel & Rodger Harbin, Robert Carroll & Danny Kleinman. The Marina City Club also had a 70% game Amal Murad & Alyssa Kennedy.

I haven't been on the Unit Board for many years, but as Gene Autry sang, I'm back in the saddle again. Fortunately I wasn't on the board in January so the only committee I'm on is the Unit Column. My first committee report is that I'm late, my cat Morgan is eating my column material, my cat Dylan is sleeping on the keyboard and my next unit column will appear on April Fools Day. It's midnight and I'm running spell check, which means if Jennifer is awake, I'm two days late.

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

to write about some winners from District 23. Then comes the Swiss Teams Sectional on March 28 and 29. Our representatives for the Grand National Teams (to be held in Washington DC this summer), Flights A & C, will be decided in conjunction with this tournament.

Come out and compete. It's being held at the Barrington Bridge Club in West Los Angeles. And last, but not least, don't forget about Bridge Week, July 3-12 at the Pasadena Hilton. Lots of knockouts, plus two four-session events (Open Pairs and Swiss Teams), a Board-A-Match team event, and our Calcutta. Conditions of contest for the Calcutta are expected to be posted on our District website around April 1. We have received a request for a formal invitation to be issued to a team from China to come and compete in our regional.

Make your reservations at 1-800-Hiltons for this tournament. Rates are only \$129 per night.

# THE LAS VEGAS REGIONAL

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**BRACKETED KNOCKOUTS**

Monday-Tuesday	Monday	7:00 p.m.
	Tues	9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Wednesday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Thursday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

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Saturday Compact	Saturday	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

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Flight AIX 0-5000/5000+ B/C/D 0-750/1500/2500  
Strat A 2500+ B 750-2500 C 0-750  
Stratified Swiss Teams are stratified by average masterpoints of the team.

**NEWCOMER (I/N) GAMES**  
0-300 mp Pair Games Every Session Mon-Sat  
0-300 mp Sunday Swiss Teams  
All I/N Games are Stratified  
(0-20/50 mp & 0-100/200/300 mp)  
I/N Partnership Desk will be open before all games

ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY WILL BE IN PLACE  
Sanction R0906003

**MONDAY, JUNE 22**

Stratified Charity Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session): 1:00 p.m.  
Stratified Charity Stratified Pairs: 1:00 p.m.  
Newer Player Charity Stratified Pairs: 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (1st of 6 sessions): 7:00 p.m.  
*All Monday games other than KOs are single sessions*

**TUESDAY, JUNE 23**

Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session): 9:00 a.m.  
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (1st of 5 sessions): 9:00 a.m.  
Newer Player Stratified Pairs: 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Senior Pairs: 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (1st of 5 sessions): 1:00 p.m.  
Stratified Pairs: 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (2nd of 6 sessions): 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session): 7:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24**

Stratified Swiss Teams (1st of 2 sessions): 9:00 a.m.\*  
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (2nd of 5 sessions): 9:00 a.m.  
Newer Player Stratified Pairs: 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Senior Pairs: 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (2nd of 5 sessions): 1:00 p.m.  
Stratified Pairs: 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (3rd of 6 sessions): 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session): 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 25**

Stratified Swiss Teams (2nd of 2 sessions): 9:00 a.m.\*  
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (3rd of 5 sessions): 9:00 a.m.  
Newer Player Stratified Pairs: 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Senior Pairs: 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (3rd of 5 sessions): 1:00 p.m.  
Stratified Pairs: 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (4th of 6 sessions): 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session): 7:00 p.m.

\* single-session teams will be accommodated

**FRIDAY, JUNE 26**

Stratified Morning Side Game Series (4th of 5 sessions): 9:00 a.m.  
Newer Player Stratified Pairs: 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Senior Pairs: 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 5:15): 11:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.  
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (4th of 5 sessions): 1:00 p.m.  
Stratified Pairs: 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (5th of 6 sessions): 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session): 7:00 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

Stratified Morning Side Game Series (5th of 5 sessions): 9:00 a.m.  
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session): 9:00 a.m.  
Newer Player Stratified Pairs: 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Senior Pairs: 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 5:15): 11:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.  
Stratified Afternoon Side Game Series (5th of 5 sessions): 1:00 p.m.  
Stratified Pairs: 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Evening Side Game Series (6th of 6 sessions): 7:00 p.m.  
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session): 7:00 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28**

Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 4:15): 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.  
Newer Player Swiss Teams: 10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.  
Senior Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (playthrough): 10:00 a.m.  
Flight A Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (playthrough): 10:00 a.m.  
Strat B/C/D Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (play through): 10:00 a.m.  
*(All Swiss Teams play Finished by 5:00 p.m.)*

Card Fees are \$11.00 per session for dues paying ACBL members.

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**Special Presentation**

After the evening session on Wednesday, June 24, sleight-of-hand artist **Derek DelGaudio** combines unbelievable magic, classic conjuring and a quick wit to create a truly memorable experience. This **FREE** show takes place in the Club 373 Showroom, right in the bridge ballroom and comes with free beer, soda, and snacks. **Don't miss this GREAT SHOW!**

**District 23 Rank Changes 12/1/08-12/31/08****Junior Master (5 points)**

Patti Eisenberg  
Synne Hansen Miller  
Richard Hoffman  
Margaret Ota  
Peggy Tigerman  
Sarah Yort

**Club Master (20 MPs)**

Donna Castor  
Colleen Gardner  
Gregory Harding

**Sectional Master (50 MPs)**

Johnny Arceri  
Henry Koransky  
Stephen Massman  
Carolyn Mitchell  
Jojo Sarkar

**Regional Master (100 MPs)**

Eric Heilman  
Mohammad Savoji

**NABC Master (200 MPs)**

Carol Bloomfield  
Norman Bloomfield  
Margy Sievers  
Sue Ann Simon  
John Tyner

**Life Master (300 MPs)**

Charlotte Brackmann  
Mark Hartzell  
Barbara Jones  
Thomas Jones  
Richard Patterson  
Darlene Sluder  
Carol Stein  
Carolyn Taff

**Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)**

John Bell  
Dawn Kowalski  
Alan Schneider  
Sherie Schneider  
Gerri Soffa Carlson  
Carol Stein  
Helen Wang

**Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)**

Robert Abend  
Leah Coulter  
Helen Palmer

**Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)**

Charo Holdo

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# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

Panelists: Vic Chernoff, Mitch Dunitz, Jeff Goldsmith, John Jones, Tim Lolli, Marshall Miles, Rick Roeder, Bill Wickham, and Jon Wittes

# 1

EW vul  
MPs

North	East	South	West
pass	1♥	1♠	pass
?			pass

You, North, hold: ♠A2 ♥J87 ♦AQT9 ♣T863

What call do you make?

**CHERNOFF: 1NT.** 1NT is a little conservative, but ♥Jxx is hardly a solid stopper. If partner overcalls as I do, I don't want to "hang" him. If he bids again, of course I will bid more.

**DUNITZ: 1NT.** A little light on hearts but about right on values.

**GOLDSMITH: 2♠.** I hate raising partner's overcall with only two trumps, but this time, it seems to be the least of evils. At IMPs, I might try 1NT, because even if they run five heart tricks, I might still make it, but at matchpoints, that's not an acceptable strategy. Marshall, of course, will bid 2♠, thinking "what's the problem?"

**JONES: 1NT.** 2NT, 2♠, 2♥, 2♦, 1NT, and pass are possibilities, but none of them are even close to perfect. I am maximum for 1NT and don't quite have a heart stopper, but this is still the closest to an acceptable bid. As a stopper, ♥Jxx isn't horrible and may well leave us playing NT from the best side if pard has Ax or Kxx or the like. Raising to 2♠ is fine on values, but pard will compete to 3♠ on hands he should pass. And at matchpoints, NT is the highest scoring strain.

**LOLLI: 2NT, with 1NT a close second choice.** I want to be more encouraging than 1NT, and I hope this does it. Also, if I bid 1NT, and partner bids 3NT, I won't know if we have a true heart stopper. So there.

**MILES: 2♠.** What else? I must keep the bidding open for partner. A cue bid would show a strong raise. I have good high cards but skimpy trump support.

I'm not interested in notrump unless partner bids it voluntarily.

**ROEDER: 2♠.** I'm a bit heavy, but extras never hurt Dolly Parton, and it won't hurt you. Matchpoints harshly punishes those who convert a plus score into a minus score by overreaching. If the opponents compete to the 3-level, you can double to let pard know you have a world of defense in the context of your initial bid.

**WICKHAM: 2♥.** Several distortions are available. 1NT would have been unanimous on Ax QJx KT9x T8xx, so it is not totally unreasonable. 2♦ shows where I live and implies a doubleton spade but has the big disadvantage of being non-forcing. 2♥ overstates the spades, and 2♠ overstates the spades and understates the strength of the hand. Nothing fits exactly, but 2♥ provides the best chance to reach the right game and preserves the possibility of stopping in a reasonable partscore.

**WITTES: 2♠.** I'd like to have three trumps, but my extra values ought to compensate.

**BELL (moderator)** *A common theme in competitive bidding is whether to be aggressive or conservative. At matchpoints, it's usually right to tread carefully. If a pair plays transfer advances after an overcall, then I think this hand justifies a 2♣ bid and then a 2♠ rebid. This shows 5+ diamonds, a doubleton spade, and about 11 points. Absent this agreement, I would choose 2♠.*



2

EW vul  
IMPs

North

?

East

pass

South

pass

West

1♠

You hold: ♠--- ♥QT854 ♦AKQ ♣AT853

What call do you make?

**CHERNOFF: 2♠.** 2♠ shows 5-5 or more in hearts and a minor. I can't imagine bidding anything else. If it goes 3♠-P-P, I will reopen with a double. It is almost always better to show 2 features of your distribution with one bid.

**DUNITZ: Double.** The most flexible bid. Like a pigeon, I plan to double 4♠!

**GOLDSMITH: 2♠.** Michaels. I suspect they'll be at 4♠ by the time the auction returns to me, and I'd like maximum input from partner about bidding at the 5-level.

**JONES: Double.** I know losing trick counters will tell me that this is a 4-loser hand. Double will get pard involved and help me evaluate this hand. I expect competition most of the time. If pard bids hearts or clubs, I'll get encouraged, but if pard tries notrump or diamonds, I'll tread very lightly.

**LOLLI: Double.** Diamonds may turn out to be our best trump suit. Also, I am not unhappy if partner passes 1♠ doubled at this vulnerability. Could we miss a heart or club fit? You betcha, because I'm not bidding 2♥ over 2♦. Second choice is 2♠.

**MILES: 2♥.** My best chance for game. *[Only if partner has a good heart fit and, if so, wouldn't DOUBLE work just as well?]* 2♠ (Michaels) is too much. I don't want to force the bidding to the 3-level unless it goes pass pass Double, in which case I will bid 3♣.

**ROEDER: Double.** I have a lot of defense and an anemic heart suit. If the opponents compete to 2 or 3 spades, they may be in for a nasty surprise vulnerable. I think a Michaels bid is misdirected for 2 reasons: I have a ton of defense in my "off" minor, and I cannot be sure what to do over a minimum response to Michaels.

**WICKHAM: 2♠.** Double might find a diamond fit or

lose an 8-card heart fit. Furthermore, I don't have a spade to lead if partner passes and don't know what to do if he bids 1NT. 2♥ should show a better (or at least longer) suit. 2♠ gets the two-suited nature of the hand across, but would be bid comfortably at this vulnerability without the ♦KQ. I bid 2♠ and hope that partner will invite or bid a game with enough "in" cards. If partner bids 3♣ or 3♥, I shall pass. My partners all hold KJ98x J9 Txxx K9 and 3NT rolls. That is why I was dealt the rounded eights.

**WITTES: Double.** I'm a little too good for Michaels, and I'd like to keep diamonds in play with AKQ.

**BELL (moderator) I agree with the doublers. Not that actual hands always justify a bid, but on this hand, partner has KQxxx x Jxxxx xx, so a double will get you to diamonds, and 2♠ will get you to clubs, obviously a poor spot.**

## 2009 Santa Ana Unit 541 Sectional



Come Join Us!

ANAHEIM-SANTA ANA  
BRIDGE CLUB  
201 E. CENTER STREET  
ANAHEIM, CA

April 3rd  
thru  
April 5th

FRIDAY, APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS .....	1:00 pm
199 <sup>th</sup> PAIRS (Attendance Permitting) .....	1:00 pm
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS .....	7:00 pm
BRACKETED K.O.'S (Round 1) .....	7:00 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS .....	1:00 pm
BRACKETED K.O.'S (ROUND 2) .....	1:00 pm
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS .....	7:00 pm
BRACKETED K.O.'S (FINAL ROUND) .....	7:00 pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup>

(Play Thru w/Box Lunch)

STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS .....	10:00 am
0-199 <sup>th</sup> SWISS TEAMS (Attendance Permitting) .....	10:00 am

### CARD FEES

\$11.00/Person/Session  
\$12.00/Non-Members & Unpaid Members  
\$28.00/person for Swiss Teams on  
4/5/09, includes box lunch

### STRATIFICATION LEVEL

Flight A/AX - 3000+/0-3000  
Strat A - 1500+  
Strat B - 500 to 1500  
Strat C - 0 to 500

### DIRECTIONS

#### From the 5 freeway:

east on Lincoln,  
south on Anaheim Blvd,  
west on E. Center Drive.

#### From the 57 freeway:

west on Lincoln,  
south on Anaheim Blvd,  
west on E. Center Drive.

NON-SMOKING TOURNAMENT W/SMOKING BREAKS

FREE PARKING

SANCTION # S090411

Tournament Manager:

Sheila Wolff

(714) 417-1534

Partnership /Desk:

Audrey Wicks

(949) 559-5990

Hospitality Desk:

Anne Wynsen

(714) 637-9570

Nancy Tutor

(714) 997-1217

3

NS vul  
IMPs

North	East	South	West
	pass	pass	4♦
dbl	pass	4NT	pass
?			

You hold: ♠AT932 ♥AQT9 ♦K54 ♣K

What call do you make?

**CHERNOFF: 5♥.** I have 2 Aces, right? That's a joke, son! I think partner has clubs and a major and extras. Otherwise, he would just bid 4 of his major. I don't want to "hang" him because my ♦K is of dubious value. If he converts to 5♠, however, I might be tempted to bid 6.

**GOLDSMITH: Pass.** If partner had not been a passed hand, I think 4NT would definitely be natural, but it seems hard to come up with hands which want to bid 4NT naturally as a passed hand, and given my diamond holding, I very much doubt partner is on the same wavelength. What else can it be? A 5-1/2 club bid is also impossible by a passed hand; he would have opened 1♣ or 3♣ red on white. Even something like Qxxx xx x AQJ10xx shouldn't be driving to the 5-level. In either of those cases, 4NT is probably a good enough spot, so I pass. If partner has thrown a curveball I missed, next time he'll judge better and take the best result possible instead of trying for the best possible result.

**JONES: 5♦.** What does pard's passed hand 4NT mean? Clubs and hearts? Blackwood? No, I think that pard wants to play game and has long clubs and a 4-card major. I'm playing him to be 7-4 or 6-4 (so that a 4-3 fit might play very poorly), and I hope that my 5♦ bid tells him to go ahead and bid his major. I'll be absolutely stunned if the panel is in agreement about what 4NT means.

**LOLLI: 5♥.** Partner is announcing 2 or 3 places to play, so I bid my best lowest suit. If he's 2-suited with clubs and spades, he'll correct. By the way, if East opens 3♦ and South doubles, I play 4NT is 13-15 points with at least a stopper and a half in diamonds. Otherwise, there's no way to describe that hand.

**MILES: Pass.** I think partner's bid should be natural. He can hardly be strong enough to invite a slam. Maybe he has 3-3-3-4 distribution with poor clubs. We're less

likely to be doubled in 4NT than in 5♣. The opponents may think there has been a misunderstanding.

**ROEDER: 5♥.** Your diamond holding makes it clear that 4NT was not bid to play. 4NT cannot be Blackwood by any sane partner. Often, 4NT is bid as showing two possible strains to play. It appears that partner has clubs and a major. You can presume he has some extras since he did bid 4 of his major. If partner had both majors and extras, he would have bid 5♦, not 4NT. You have a clear minimum for your double; the ♦K screams value duplication. Bid 5♥ and trust partner to let you out at the 5-level.

**WICKHAM: 5♦.** I knew I should have passed 4♦ - at least I could get a plus score there some of the time. Now that my partner has delivered the noose (as usual), I must figure what to do. 4NT must be a slam try of some sort even though partner(?) is a passed hand. Did I promise the values for a 2NT opener with my double of 4♦? He must have a weird two-suited hand (maybe x KJxxx x Axxxxx) so I will bid 5♦ now to hear his major. I will bid 6♣ over 5♠ and pass 5♥. I may be at the partnership desk at the conclusion of the hand. Please don't try to tell me that 4NT is Botchwood or similar.

**WITTES: 5♥.** 4NT should show clubs and hearts with extra values and more distribution, otherwise partner would have simply bid 4♥. I don't feel I have anything extra for my vulnerable double of 4♦, so 5♥ should be sufficient. Partner can carry on if his hand warrants.

**BELL (moderator) Sigh... why does partner always make my life difficult? What hand can he possibly have? Some panelists feel that partner must have clubs and hearts. What if they have clubs and spades, but a hand too good just to bid 4♠ such as Qxxxx Kxx Axxxx? I think 5♦ should ask partner to clarify his hand whereas 5♥ may suggest you have more heart length.**

4

all vul  
IMPs

East	South	West	North
2♦*	pass	1NT*	pass
?		2♥	pass
*11-14 balanced, **Transfer to hearts.			

You hold: ♠J92 ♥AKQT98 ♦864 ♣5

What call do you make?

**CHERNOFF: 3NT.** What else? What would Marshall bid? Partner can always convert to 4♥ with a ruffing value in his hand. At matchpoints, I might go conservative with 3♥ or 2NT, but this is vulnerable at IMPs.

**DUNITZ: 3NT.** I'm going for the brass ring-still a pigeon.

**GOLDSMITH: 3NT.** I'll take a shot at a red game.

**JONES: 4♥.** If playing Texas transfers, I would bid 4♦ and pass. There is no way to find out what we need to know, where partner's cards are concentrated. If pard has xxxx xx Jxx AKQJ, then 2♥ goes down. If pard has Ax xxx AKQTx xxx then 6♥ is a favorite. There are lots of possibilities in between, including some in which 3NT is a better game, but the practical bid is 4♥.

**LOLLI: 4♥.** I play that as a mild slam try, so I would have preferred a 4♦ transfer on the first round. This is a hand where 4♥ can make opposite minimum values (KQx xxx AKx xxxx) or go down while 3NT makes (Axx xx Axx Axxxx).

**MILES: 2NT.** The singleton club won't take extra tricks; it is only good for a stopper *[only for the Godfather of NoTrump]*. My guess is that on a double-dummy basis, the odds are against your making game in either hearts or notrump, and hearts is obviously safer. But you may get a favorable lead at notrump, like a club into the ace-queen or a low club away from the ace, and you won't need much more to make 3NT.

**ROEDER: 3NT.** On many hands, it's easier to scramble 9 tricks on a right-sided 3NT than 10 tricks in 4♥ if pard has a doubleton heart or 4333 distribution. Partner still can cast his opinion to flip back to 4♥ if

he has a ruffing value. Point counters may just invite. Since your opponents may not play weak notrumps, you may already be ahead by right siding a potential heart contract – go for the jugular!

**WICKHAM: 3NT.** My opponents have no problem with this collection. They don't even bother with a transfer but instead bid 3NT directly. [What else?] I guess I will bid 3NT now, as that is the only game bid that is not a slam try. I can't recall the last time I was endplayed in a bidding contest. Of course, my partner holds Ax xxx AKQxx xxx, greedily elects to pass 3NT, and the opponents scoop the first six club tricks while 6♥ is cold. As is the case with most partners, he immediately forgets his own bidding decision and inquires why I did not drive to the 23 HCP slam with a 4♣ splinter.

**WITTES: 3♥.** Anything could be right. It might have even been right to bid 3NT over 1NT depending on where partner's values are. 3♥ seems like the right middle position to take on this hand, which could make anything from two hearts to four or maybe 3NT.

**BELL (moderator)** I don't know if there's any "right" answer, but isn't it more likely you'll take 9 tricks in notrump rather than 10 in hearts? As Bill notes, he's seen me bid 3NT directly over 1NT with a hand like this. The opponents usually need to find the right lead and may even track a heart when they think dummy won't have a 4-card major.

## 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)



5

no vul  
IMPs

East

South

West

North

3♠

pass

pass

?

You hold: ♠--- ♥9876432 ♦8 ♣AT542

What call do you make?

**CHERNOFF: Pass.** Reluctantly. If I need a good board, double could be a big winner (or loser). If I double, partner bids 4♦, and I bid 4♥, I may be going for a large number. Double is top-or-bottom bridge, which I try to avoid. I do not bid 4♥.

**DUNITZ: Pass.** Anything could be right, but I'll let them steal.

**GOLDSMITH: Pass.** Partner appears to have a penalty double of 3♠, because there was no raise. East likely has a penalty double of 4♥, so I'm out of here.

**JONES: Pass.** This is a weird hand to have on this auction. It's almost certain pard is loaded for bear in spades, but doubling for him could be dramatically good or dramatically awful, and I won't throw the ball into the air like that. 4♥ has absolutely no guarantees either; pard has values, not necessarily heart support. By the way Leo, I don't know where you found this set of problems, but bleep you and the horse you rode in on! On Problems 1, 3, and 5, we have no good bid, and on 2 and 4 the possibilities are too wide to cover. Mama told me not to come!

**LOLLI: Pass.** I wanted to pretend I forgot to answer this problem, because I have no flipping idea what to do. It looks like partner is champing at the bit to pass 3♠x, but he has to come up with four defensive tricks. If I bid 4♥, it could easily be the wrong spot or partner may bid on. If I pass, we'll be cold for 7♥ or miss a club slam. Woe is me! If I'm the only one who passed, burn this answer.

**MILES: 4♥.**

**ROEDER: 4♥.** With my 5 count and the HCP of both LHO and RHO limited by their initial actions, partner

likely has a penalty pass of 3♠. Still, I have only 1 defensive trick, and my heart length may compromise 1-2 tricks that pard thinks are likely defensive winners. 4♥ is clearly right if I could bar partner for the duration of the auction. My concern is that when hearts is a good contract, partner may bid to the stratosphere over my airy balance. If partner advances with 4NT (which should be to play), I shall bid 5♣ and pray. I am hearing Rick Nelson's "Fools Rush In where wise men fear to go" in my head as I decide. Aw, heck, Rick Nelson was underrated.

**WICKHAM: Double.** Partner is marked with an excellent hand that could (or would) not bid 3NT. I could pass like a wimp, bid a totally misguided 4♥, or double as partner expects (hopes) I shall.

**WITTES: 4♥.** This is another very difficult problem. Partner more than likely would like to penalize 3♠, but I'm just too weak and too distributional. 7-5s don't come along every day. Obviously, I'd like to have a better suit, but nothing is perfect. Hopefully, partner will give me a little leeway for bidding in the passout seat if he has lots of extras with a spade stack.

**BELL (moderator)** *It seems to me that either bidding 4♥ or doubling is an extremely risky action. If partner has a spade stack (which seems very likely), then he will need to take 4 tricks on his own after passing 3♠x. If I bid 4♥, I need to count on partner's passing even with a good hand.*

*My thanks to the panel for some great answers on a very difficult set of problems.*

*If you have a bidding problem on which you'd like the panel to weigh in, please e-mail it to me at leobell711@yahoo.com*