

Southern California Bridge News

Deliver by 1st of the Month

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bridge Talk

by Bill Schreiber
ALACBU President



Here it is, April 15th as I write this. Have you filed your tax return yet? My firm has prepared over 400 individual tax returns and has filed for approximately 100 extensions. That is not including partnerships, S-Corporations, Trusts, and Estates. I guess getting a year older really does have an effect on one's stamina.

Oh, well... on to bridge talk. We had the following high finishers in the recently completed NABCs in Houston. Jill Meyers came in 1st place in the Machlin Women's Teams and 4th place in the Lebhar IMP Pairs. Way to go Jill! Ann McClelland and Shiu-Ming Huang came in 3rd place in the Bean Red Ribbon Pairs.

Make your reservations now for Bridge Week at the Pasadena

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Five Year Strategic Planning



by Rand Pinsky
District
Director

During our Houston board meeting, the board spent some time discussing the ACBL Five-Year Strategic Plan as presented in 2004 and reviewed in 2006. We

wanted to review the goals, check our progress and introduce new goals for the future. Following are some of the highlights of our discussions.

Objective #1: Sanction Tournaments. This is and will continue to be a core business of the ACBL. Sanctioning through an online application process is still

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A Passion for Bridge

by Suzanne LeBendig

Alan LeBendig

April 17, 1948 – April 22, 2009

Alan LeBendig died Wednesday, April 22, 2009. He was 61 years old.

I first met Alan at the San Diego Regional in 1988. His smile was wonderful and his passion for bridge was evident. He stood me up on our first date while he did an appeals committee. Bridge always came first in Alan's life.

Alan was born in Cleveland, Ohio and the family later moved to Pennsylvania. He was the oldest of the three brothers, all of whom had the same loud voice. He learned to play bridge around 17 and was hooked from there on.

He was a "bad behavior" in his early years, delighting in wearing shorts and tank tops to the games and chewing on a cigar. Gradually, he decided

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being developed. The expansion of all club games continues to be a priority. The explosion of online sanctioned games has exceeded expectations and there is a demand for higher rated online games.

Objective #2: Provide Quality Member Services. Management has added staff to the “help desk” moving ACBL closer to the goal of being able to assist members in one day or less. The majority of live calls are technology related, (website or ACBLscore). The last annual survey of members showed a very high level of satisfaction.

As a side note, in 2007 the total hits for our website, acbl.org was 107,142,434. I do not have 2008 stats as of this writing.

Another goal was to investigate and develop a current rating for ACBL members. A Technology Committee has been created (which I have been appointed to) and we are doing research on this topic.

Any input of ideas would be greatly appreciated. The committee has received great assistance from Kevin Lane, our D23 webmaster. In Houston, Kevin made a presentation to the committee which was well received.

Objective #3: Expand Awareness of and Participation in Bridge. ACBL has for the past few years made a stage presentation at the AARP annual meeting. This will continue. We have also made presentations to the National Organizations of High School Math and Science Teachers. Also, this past year, a new marketing director was hired by management, and she is working to establish goals for the next few years.

Objective #4: Position ACBL as the Authority on Bridge in North America. This is an ongoing objective and it is clear that the ACBL is the first point of contact for anyone seeking information related to bridge.

Objective #5: Provide Professional Development for Teachers and Directors. There is a tremendous amount of information on the ACBL web site for teachers and directors. One point that is being worked on is to make it easier to navigate the website for this information. I will expand on what you can find as a source in a later column. Additionally, teaching manuals have been revised and the Youth North American Bridge Championships are in its second year. The success of this event is directly related to the teaching of bridge in our schools.

Objective #6: Maximize Organization Effectiveness and Efficiency. ACBL management is working on a reorganization of headquarters into three divisions: operations, finance, and bridge. This is still in its development stage.

It Is A Different View From Dummy

1. Relocation of headquarters. As of this writing, there is still no final purchase contract for our relocation.

2. The Team Game Sectional held last month at the Barrington Bridge Club showed an increase in attendance and raised almost \$2,400 for our Grand National Teams.

3. Finally, if anyone is going to Washington D.C. for the summer NABC, check out your congressman's website or Senator Feinstein website to sign up for special tours around the city.

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he wanted to give back to bridge in a positive fashion and became active on the Board of Governors in 1981. He was the vice-chairman in 1982-84, and chairman until elected District 23 Director in 1998. He served on the ACBL Board of Directors until 2006 when his health made it too difficult to continue representation of our District. He left the board in 2006. He was a Grand Life Master with over 15,000 masterpoints.

Alan served as co-chairman of appeals at Nationals for many years and took this job very seriously.

He and Jon Brissman made many changes in the appeals procedures, and set up procedures to improve the process. He also was active in getting the Zero Tolerance policy set up.

Alan and E'Anne Conaway ran the Barrington Bridge Club for many years. Alan felt very strongly that he wanted a great bridge club for West Los Angeles and worked very hard trying out new events and other additions to the club.

Alan suffered from Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis, a disease of slow degeneration that kept him from achieving many of

the things he wanted to do. The support the bridge world gave him in battling this disease certainly made his last years more enjoyable. Thanks to all who helped arrange cards, helped Alan at the table, picked him up when he fell and straightened him up when he got uncomfortable in his wheelchair.

I hope Alan is in a better place now, still playing bridge, but developing a new repertoire of bridge jokes—I'm voting for dumb male jokes rather than the standard fare all bridge ladies have listened to for years! May he rest in peace or perhaps 7NT.

In Honor of Alan LeBending

By Karraine Murray

"B l o n d s . . . c a n ' t . . . b i d . . . s l a m," comes the slow drawl from Table 10 Section A near the director's desk. I shoot him a look of pretend annoyance. He grins, clearly pleased with himself. "A n d . . . e v e n . . . i f . . . t h e y . . . c o u l d - t h e y . . . w o u l d n ' t . . . m a k e . . . i t !" He laughs and his alert bright eyes twinkle. Everyone at the table wants him to hurry up and get his cards into the cardholder, a progressively daunting task. This is the way of Alan LeBendig. His nonstop onslaught of blond and somewhat misogynous comments is not meant to offend. It is meant to say: take me for my personality, take me for my thirty-five years of bridge expertise and my ten thousand masterpoints, take me for my humor and love of the game, take a seat and let's have a good time, but whatever you do, do not take pity on me. The comments are meant to divert attention from the wheelchair and the fact that Alan LeBendig is suffering from an incurable muscular degenerative disorder that continues to worsen at an alarming pace.

When I first met Alan six or seven years ago, he could still get out of his bridgemobile and maneuver for short periods of time on special crutches. He would sub in the little room at Barrington and fill in for the 199er teacher. Always eager to teach, he would prop himself up against the board, marker in hand, and

project his voice, still able to boom with its weakening vocal chords, ready with information, prepared for questions, seeing the promise in the newest of bridge players. Plus, they were fresh meat for his jokes. It was completely Alan's doing that I started the Kibitz with Karraine/199er Column for the Southern California Bridge News. I had just started to feel comfortable with my new 199er friends and was thrilled with all I was learning and my discovery of the world of bridge. I approached Alan with the idea of writing a few lines about the 199ers in the monthly paper. I really meant a few lines. Without a moment's hesitation he flashed that infamous grin and said, "I'm gonna make you a star! You will write a whole column!" He emailed the powers that be and the next day I had a deadline and a byline. His unwavering confidence, support and enthusiasm helped to instill newfound confidence in myself, and for that I will always be grateful.

Despite the hardships he faced every day, Alan LeBendig never whined or complained. He came whizzing into the club in his bridgemobile and later his wheelchair (negotiating the public bus system on his own) always smiling and joking. He asked for help matter-of-factly and only when he needed it. At the end of the day he would wheel himself to the back of

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley Santa Clarita by Gin

How time flies when you are trying to meet deadlines! Coincidentally this column and the '08 taxes are due on the same day and a timely compliance is in jeopardy. Feels like the good old college days when cramming for finals all night was the norm.

The trip from Arizona was without incident but the winter type weather was a surprise. It is a very cold spring that compliments a very cold winter. It is nice to be back in the Valley.

Have you noticed the stunning Lola Messiha? She is back from her Hawaiian vacation looking sensational.

We are sadly mourning the death of Jan Gibson. Jan is missed very much. Her demise has left a huge void. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to family and friends.

Marlene Gasper is in Fresno visiting a seriously ill cousin. Joan Adams with the help of her daughter Brenda is caring for her youngest daughter Bridgette as she recovers from a double mastectomy. Bridgette is in great spirits and appears to be well on her way to recovery.

Twenty-seven bridge games were played in Unit 556 last month. Thirty game results posted results of 60% or higher. Perhaps this is not an anomaly, but it is the first time it caught my attention.

Top Five

Lamont Johnson and Basant Shah posted a 75.76% game for first place, they were followed by Marlene and Dave Gasper and Brad Ward and Marlene Gasper with 67.5% games. In fourth place were Brad Ward and Rozalin Bandish with 67.36% and fifth place went to Mary Stauff and Henry Roediger. Great job and congratulations to all.

Because of the ongoing Knockout competition in progress there were no special games in March. There are four Knockout teams still in competition.

Please check the Bulletin Board for coming events. This board is kept very nicely and accurately current by Dave White. Thank you Dave.

A parting thought....The only reason anyone would hate you is because they want to be like you.

Downey – Whittier by Bernice Crelia

It won't be long now until the usual sunny days of our typical California spring and summer season are here once again. That is the time of the year I most enjoy.

Our unit game in May will be the occasion to once again honor our Ace of Clubs and Mini McKinney winners from 2008, so be sure to plan on attending. We will also serve lunch and give you the chance to earn lots of points while you enjoy this special day.

You have probably heard of the skiing accident which severely injured Mort Futterman, and of the extreme illness of Mary Graef's youngest daughter. This is the kind of news we wish we did not have to report but we want you both to know you are in our thoughts and prayers as the days go by.

Glendale Verdugo by Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game: 1:00 p.m. Saturday May, 9
12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch

Now that the April tax-time part of springtime is over with, we checked back on more pleasant activities amongst some of you, and lo and behold: Nancy Lyon attended a few games at the Indian Wells Tennis tournament and came away inspired, especially by Amélie Mauresmo, one of France's top women players. Carolyn Cohen shared Spring Break with her two

grandchildren, sighting sea shells by the seashore at Laguna Beach. Steve Guerrero flew from sea to shining sea, touching down in Florida to reunion with family members. Pat Abbey celebrated her early April birthday with a mini-visit to Las Vegas, returning to our tables for d.o.b.-sharing game with Joe Hasencamp.

It was nice to have Dick Sands back at the Regency, although his raison d'être for being in the neighborhood was to help good friend Steve Licker recuperate from serious surgery on a damaged Achilles tendon. Feel better, Steve, and come back soon, hobbling or not.

Phil Dessert has been flagging a bit lately, and his medicine men have not come up with a relieving prognosis, although they have ticked off a few things that are not the problem. 'Tis a worrisome puzzlement, and we hope some respite is provided Phil by the hours of distraction provided by your bridge games.

We have missed Barbara McKissick at our tables, not

only because she is a wily contender, but also due to the tasty additions she brought for the snack bar, and her capable chef chores at our Unit Games. We hope that back pain subsides enough, Barbara, so you can give attention to activities you enjoy...

With summer fast approaching, preliminary work has begun on our Unit's Sectional Tournament which is scheduled to be held on the August 14-16 weekend, so mark your calendars, and come and win some Silver Master Points.

We all enjoyed Calvin Smith's baked beans at the April Unit Game. No, he didn't have to juggle them while maneuvering his electric bicycle through the traffic from his home in Studio City to Glendale. Merry Besvold drove him while toting her contribution of baked ham. Added there too were salads, potato by Eva and greens by Sharon, followed by cakes, cheese and carrot, furnished by Margaret. Much as we admired the

- Friday, May 22nd
 - 7:30 p.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - One Session Stratified Swiss Team
- Saturday, May 23rd
 - 10:30 a.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
 - 3:00 p.m.
 - Compact Knockouts #1 – Rounds 1 & 2
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
 - Compact Knockouts #1 – Rounds 3 & 4
 - 7:30 p.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
- Sunday, May 24th
 - 10:30 a.m.
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
 - 3:00 p.m.
 - Compact Knockouts #2 – Rounds 1 & 2
 - Stratified Open Pairs
 - 199'er Pairs Game
 - Compact Knockouts #2 – Rounds 3 & 4
- Monday, May 25th
 - 10:30 a.m.
 - Swiss Team – First Session
 - TBD
 - Swiss Team – Second Session

Torrance – South Bay Sectional (Unit # 568)

May 22nd, 23rd, 24th & 25th

(Sanction No. S 0905131)

- Tournament Director ***Peter Knee***
- Tournament Manager ***Ray Mack***
 - ***Telephone Number*** ***310-374-4906***
- Partnership Chairperson ***Gabby Jackson***
 - ***Telephone Number*** ***310-831-8727***
 - ***Cell Number*** ***310-720-8177***
- Card Fees
 - ***ACBL Members*** ***\$10.00 per session***
 - ***Non-ACBL Members*** ***\$11.00 per session***
 - ***Individuals 18 and Under*** ***Play for free***
- Stratification Pairs
 - ***A = 1,500+; B = 500 – 1,500; C = 0 – 500***
- Swiss Teams
 - ***A = 2,000+; B = 500 – 2,000; C = 0 – 500***

- Location Hollywood Park Casino
- Address 3883 W. Century Blvd., Inglewood, CA 90303
- Parking Self Parking - Free
Valet Parking - \$2.00 (with validation)



Venue Location
3883 W. Century Blvd.
Inglewood, CA 90303

Note: All Open Pairs are single session events.

buffet lunch, we can also applaud the following players who made the game challenging:

North/South

A1	B1	Patrick Cardullo & Michael Doll
A2		Joe Hasencamp & Bob Tayrien
A3	B2	John Villalobos & Don Howell
A4		Carolyn Cohen & Melina Stevens
A5	B3	Sedwyn Glick & Sanford Glick
B4	C1	Georgiana Bierman & Joe Horn
	C2	Edward Hsi & C. C. Fang

East/West

A1		Tim Lolli & Dan Oakes
A2	B1	Arthur Chacanas & D. LaMaie
A3	B2	Gerry Belcher & Brad Beland
A4		Weezie Reich & Amr ElGharmy
A5		Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
	B3	Harold Knowles & Zach Vedro
	C1	Tracy Boys & Glen Eddy

A good tournament and interesting results. So now come and hone your skills at the May game on the 9th, and bring an extra dollar to meet the raise to \$10 for the session - our government bail-out plea was turned down! Take care, everybody...

Long Beach

www.acblunit557.org

www.longbeachbridge.com

by Jon Yinger

A RARE MONTH with no unit game. The last unit game was March 15, results reported in the last newsletter, and the next unit game is the big Awards Day game April 19 which is after my deadline. Y'all come.

70+% GAMES 3/16 through 4/15: In open games three pairs had 70+% games during the past month.

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

Food for Sale

Box Lunches
on Friday and Saturday

- Free Parking
- Non-Smoking Tournament

Sanction No.: 0906067



2009



Unit 515 Sectional

June						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Friday, June 5th

10:00 AM

- Stratified* Open Pairs
- 299er Pairs
- Compact K.O.s (Rounds 1 & 2)

3:00 PM

- Stratified* Open Pairs
- 299er Pairs
- Compact K.O.s (Rounds 3 & 4)

Saturday, June 6th

10:00 AM

- Stratified* Open Pairs
- 299er Pairs
- Compact K.O.s (Rounds 1 & 2)

3:00 PM

- Stratified* Open Pairs
- 299er Pairs
- Compact K.O.s (Rounds 3 & 4)

Sunday, June 7th

10:00 AM

- Stratified Swiss Teams (2 Sessions Only)
- 299er Swiss Teams (1 or 2 Sessions; declare at signup)

* TBA

Second Session

Flight A 5000+
Flight AX 0 -> 5000
Strat B 1250 -> 2000
Strat C 750 -> 1250
Strat D 0 -> 750

Let's
Play
Bridge
at:



Concordia University
1530 Concordia West
Irvine, CA

Directions

South of 405 Fwy
Between Culver and
Jeffrey / University
Take University to
Ridgeline
Take Ridgeline to
Concordia East



In the evening game March 16 Vincent Remedios/Sue Fardette had a 71% game; in the April 10 evening game Jo and Lohn Melis had a 71.38% game; and on April 15 Irwin Bender/Gary Paugh had a 71% game. In NLM and Easy Bridge games three pairs met the threshold: In the 299er game March 17 Monica Gettis/Claudette Barrack had a 72.02% game, in the NLM game March 27 Neal Kleiner/Kathy Randolph had a 69.64% game (rounds off to 70%), and on April 11 in the Easy Bridge game Mike and Karen McKittrick had a 73.75% game. Congratulations to you all!

BIG MASTERPOINT AWARDS: Big points for 1st overall in big games: In the March 17 afternoon game Lois Abramson/Walter Rothstein won 5.24 mp; in the evening game Gayle Grubb/Bob Lavery won 4.00 mp; on April 2 Irma Johnson/George Welsh won 4.53 mp; on April 13 Rich Wasser/Lois Abramson won 3.14 mp, on April 14 Larry Slutsky/Verna Baccus won 3.68 mp, and on April 15 Gary Paugh/Irwin Bender won 3.25 mp. Big master point awards for 2nd over-all: March 17 Jean Matz/Betty Dyke won 3.93 mp and on April 2 Bruce Horiguchi/Joan Culterton won 3.40 mp. Congratulations to all!

NEW MEMBERS and NEW STATUS: We issue a warm welcome to new members Alan and Sally Gordy and transfers into our unit Judith Jones and Mark Novisoff. Status changes: New Junior Masters: Mihir K. Das, Donna Kupfer and Kathleen Pecarovich. New Club Master: Doreen Maes. And New Regional Master: William H. Smith. Congratulations to you all!

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS AT THE CLUB: Unit Game Awards Day Sunday April 19; lunch at noon, awards at 12:30 and game at 1 p.m. STaC week May 4 through May 10. Hand records and analysis; all games \$10. Stratified open team game Monday evening, May 4 at 7 p.m.

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Joyce Siegel and Joyce Jung, both of whom passed away last month.

GET WELL WISHES to Christy Mangum and Frank Bartlett.

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 jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena
San Gabriel Valley
www.darbonne.com/bridge
 by Jan Wickersham
 and Roy Wilson

No Pasadena San Gabriel Valley column this month.

Pomona Covina
 by Vic Sartor

Unit Game Saturday, May 16, 11:00 a.m.
 Lunch break at approximately 12:30
 (menu being negotiated with Wolfgang Puck)

As promised in last month's column, here's a report on the newly rescheduled unit game: The Saturday morning time seemed to be a hit with unit members who had not been playing at the previous Sunday time. Attendance doubled from February, and the buffet lunch was apparently also a culinary success. The board is hoping to build on this initial success to make the unit game consistently well-attended. It would be helpful if all participants who enjoyed the event would pass the word on to their friends and start scheduling dates for the third Saturday of the month.

As for results, the overall winners were Dave and Susan Ruoff, followed by Tom Lill/Lulu Minter and Bill Papa/Rosalie Roberts. Georgiana Bierman and Paula Ford won E/W (A, B & C), followed by Eileen and Tim Finlay and Sandy Jones/Vito Sartori. Margaret Merritt and Kerry Tillman took Class C honors.

In club results, top game of the month was a nice 76% posted by Clint Lew and Walt Otto. Other winners were Dave Ruoff, Lary Alba, Richard Patterson, John Tyner, Herman Helber, Kathy Helber, Penny Barbieri, Sandy Jones, Edwin Kelly, Donald Naf, Bill Papas, Vic Sartor, Fred Minter, Lulu Minter, Genise Hasan, and Lynne Parker.

Our hand of the month presents some interesting problems in both bidding and play. How would you handle the following beauty? ♠AQ ♥KQJ1098754 ♦7 ♣10 First, do you open 1♥? 1♣ (strong) or 2♣? 4♥? 4NT? Depending on the other 3 hands, you could be cold for 7♥ or needing to take a sacrifice against a making 5 or 6 spades. Your first problem is just buying the contract—

your bid? If you choose to walk the hand slowly with 1♥, you get a double from LHO and a 1♠ bid from RHO. If you now bid 4♥, LHO bids 4♠. If you open 4♥, you get a nice scroll from the AI Roth Sound Values For Your Bid Society and a sneer from a kibitzer, but the opponents still get to 4♠. If you open a strong 1♣ or 2♣ on the basis of your playing strength, you probably still get a double on your left, but you may at least make them think a little before bidding 4♠ (I actually got to buy it at 4♥). If you are an optimist and opened 4NT, on the assumption you might still be safe at the 5 level even if there is no slam, you probably shut out your opponents, but wind up doubled at 5♥ by a disgruntled LHO, who has a big hand. -300 is the common result your way.

Speaking of disgruntled, that's probably what you will be when you behold this lovely dummy: ♠xxx ♥—♦109xxx ♣KJxxx

LHO leads A and then K of diamonds, which you

ruff. Do you see any way to make ten tricks?

You obviously can't do it against perfect defense, but you may be able to induce a mistake. After all, the opponents don't know you have 2-9-1-1 distribution. If RHO has the A of hearts, K of spades and the A of clubs to go with his AK of diamonds, you have a slight chance. Lead the 7 of hearts. If LHO has Ax, he'd have to be Clark Kent to go up with his ace. Next lead another heart. When RHO wins (he had Ax), he's at the crossroads. If he started with 3 diamonds, he'd better cash his club ace now. If he gets out with a diamond, he's going to be most uncomfortable discarding as you reel off the rest of your trumps. He'll likely end up coming down to the A of clubs and the Kx of spades. When you lead your stiff club, he'll have to take his ace and lead into your spade AQ. Of course, if he's good enough to stiff his K of spades, save Ax of clubs, and duck your club lead, you still have no problem. You'll rise with the

THE LAS VEGAS REGIONAL

JUNE 22-28 2009

Tournament Chairman
Tom Shulman
702 367-2057
Tom@LVRegional.com

Riviera Hotel & Casino "on the Strip" • 2901 Las Vegas Boulevard • 800 634-6753 or 702 734-5110

Bridge rates: \$79 Sunday-Thursday \$99 Friday-Saturday • Reserve before May 29, 2009 (Hotel will sell out)

JUNE 22-28 2009

New KO's Starting Every Day!

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.

BRACKETED COMPACT KNOCKOUTS

Weekend Compact	Fri-Sat	9:00 a.m.
Saturday Compact	Saturday	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

Famous Vegas Hospitality

▲ Partnership Desk Opens One Hour Before Game Time for All Events

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 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 KO's 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!**

ace and then come back to your spade ace, dropping his king and making 6. Does he think he's dealing with a child? See you at the unit game.

SFVunit561@aol.com or calling Jimmie Swan at (818) 893-7108.

Carpe diem!

San Fernando Valley

sfvunit561@aol.com

by Jimmie Swan

Congratulations to all these players for their recent successes at the bridge tables!

The team of Norm Bloomfield, Jim Gardner, Michael Klemens, and Allan Palansky qualified for the Grand National Teams, in Flight C, in March. Their team will be in Washington, D.C. at the Summer Nationals to represent District 23.

70% games the last month through April 15

75.60%	Al Smith & Herb Van Brink
72.00%	Sue & Chuck Sarture
71.99%	Carol Diamant & Tom Wylie
71.50%	Al Mucha & Bob Seltzer
71.25%	Ann & Lawrence Trygstad
70.00%	Bill Morton & Sue Sarture

Top Players in March

The top ten players in the 0-1000 games during March were led by Ron Malkin, earning 5.33 points, followed by Herb Zweig, Ed Berliner, Mary Lou Young, Bernie Davidorf, Dave Sievers, Gloria Malkin, Carol and Norm Bloomfield in a tie, and Margy Sievers.

The top ten players in the open games were led by Gil Stinebaugh, earning 24.82 points, followed by Gary Frans, Andy Vinock, Sheila Bozin, Freddi Straus, Sy Zemlyn, Marty Blain, Leda Danzig, Marta Peltz, and Armand Szulc.

The top ten players with less than 299 points were led by Allan Palansky with 5.93 points, followed by Samy Antoun, Eric Heilman, Fran Cohen, Al Smith, Herb Van Brink, Miriam Bental, Roz Glazer, Jim Gardner and Pushpa Comar.

Clarification: Ace of Clubs masterpoints considered are earned in any ACBL sanctioned game at a club in your unit. Mini-McKenney masterpoints considered are earned in any ACBL sanctioned game.

Column News: Insure your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to

Torrance South Bay

Unit Website:

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

SBBC Website:

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

by Steve Mager

Torrance South Bay Sectional

The Torrance South Bay sectional will once again take place over the Memorial Day weekend May 22-25. Team games include a single session Swiss on Friday evening, Compact KO's on both Saturday and Sunday and Swiss teams on Monday. There will be pair games Friday evening, Saturday morning, afternoon and evening, Sunday morning and afternoon. Morning sessions start at 10:30 a.m., Afternoon sessions at 3 p.m. and evening sessions at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Upgraded Club Championship: Friday,
May 1, 11:30 a.m.

Western Conference STaC: Monday, May 4 thru
Sunday, May 10

STAC Handicapped Swiss: Tuesday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.

STAC Handicapped Swiss: Sunday, May 10, 1:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Monday, May 11, 7:00 p.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams: Sunday,
May 17, 1:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Tuesday, May 19, 11:30 p.m.

NLM Club Championship: Wednesday,
May 20, 6:30 p.m.

The South Bay Bridge Club will be closed during the Torrance South Bay Sectional, Memorial Day weekend May 23-25.

There are Handicapped Swiss Teams every Tuesday night at 7:00 p.m.

There will be Friday Night games on May 1 and May 15.

Club Championships

The March 17 Club Championship was captured by Dorothy Laird/Dick Jones in both Flights A and B. On March 20 the Club Championship was won by Brian Richardson/Kim Wang in Flight A with Arlene and

Stanley Greengard taking Flight B.

The April 13 Club Championship was captured by Wilma Brickley/Alice Yacoubian in both Flights A and B with Linda Henson/Bill Lama on top in Flight C.

Team Winners

The March 10 handicapped Swiss teams was won by the foursome of Luis Gamio, Jon Szeps, Jim Dutton and Bronek Felczer. The March 15 game saw Hank Sheehan, Henry Crowder, Masae Kato and Bob Bacharach coming out on top. On March 17 Mary Ann Coyle, Jackie Hess, John Farr and Bo Bogema brought home the Bacon. On March 24 the quartet of Lise Cote, Gabriela Jackson, Dann Habberfield and David Peim led the way. The March 31 game saw the foursome of Kim Wang, Al Blinder, Andy Anderson and Jeff Strutzel winning. On April 7 Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton and Bronek Felczer were the champs. On April 14 Bea and John Brailliar, Andy Anderson and Al Blinder led the way.

Houston Heroes

At the recent NABC in Houston, Texas some TSB Unit members placed in the overalls of National events. Steve Ramos partnered with Kevin Lane finished 7th overall in the North American Pairs Flight C Open Pairs. Bruce Horiguchi carried Lucy Tredennick to a 35th overall finish in the Mixed Pairs. West LA unit member Mike Mikyska picked up somebody from the TSB Unit and carried him to an 8th overall finish in the Silver Ribbon Pairs.

TSB overall finishers in District 23 STaC

GUV Memorial Award

Maybe a hand from the Houston NABC deserves some sort of GUV Award mention. Mary Ann Coyle and I took a top on this hand playing North/South. An East-West near top was taken by the pair of Rick Roeder and Ifti Baqai from District 22. The West Hand held ♠ AKQTxxx ♥KQxxx ♦— ♣K. East Held ♠— ♥x ♦KQxxxxxx ♣ AJxx.

Mary Ann as South held most all the remaining assets and opened a Kamikaze (10-12 HCP) 1NT in front of West. He chose to double. As North I was a bit nervous holding two Jacks Vulnerable vs Non Vulnerable. I passed and East saved us by jumping to 6♦. West bid 6♠, East bid 7♣ and West took a preference to his void and bid 7♦. Mary Ann couldn't stand it any longer and doubled...down 3.

That evening in the hotel bar Rick told us his story playing East-West. South opened 1♦ in front of West. Their partnership agreements were that a 4♦ bid showed a monster Major two-suiter so that's what Rick bid. Ifti chose to pass and the contract made. With Spades being 4-2 no major game made East-West and 4♦ making had to be a top or near to it.

I think my partner would like to nominate me for the GUV award for this hand from the Silver Ribbon Pairs qualifying. I held ♠QJT9x ♥AKQx ♦Kx ♣AJ and opened 1♠. Pard responded with a Jacoby 2NT showing a game force bid with spades. Slam was on my mind as I bid 3♠ showing extras. Pard bid 4♣ showing a control. I tried 1430 Blackwood and found out we were off one control. I was bidding slam for sure but it was matchpoints so I thought about it awhile and tried 6NT. It then all of a sudden occurred to me that pard was the NoTrump bidder and my hand would be dummy. I prayed please no Diamond lead or Diamond Ace Onside. No Luck. Out came a Diamond, down 3. Of course 6♠ is cold from my side.

Na Zdrowie

West LA

by candy

May has all these holidays with "M"s in them, May Day, Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, Memorial Day and My brothers birthday (OK the last one's pushing it, but I still have to remember it). So leaving the matzo behind from last month's cuisine, it's time to break out the M&Ms.

While I'm on the subject of chocolate (a favorite subject of many) there will be homemade sweets to make your Saturday and Sunday at the sectional a real treat. Friday night there will be KO's and a pair game at the Barrington. Saturday (pairs) and Sunday (Swiss) at the Kayne Eras Center on Machado Rd. in Culver City. Coffee and goodies free.

Other unit games are a Unit Wide Championship on Tuesday afternoon May 26. Coming up in June is the Pro Am game on Sunday June 7 at Barrington at 7:00 p.m. Sign-ups are at the clubs. Jeri Berger is in charge of this, so don't disappoint her and not show up. This has been a fun event for all!! So let's shake off the June gloom and party.


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


Tournament Features

Pre-duplicated Boards for All Pair Games
 Barometer Finals for Selected Events
 Team Games Daily
 Four Session Open Pairs
 Four Session Swiss Team Game
 Free Coffee before Morning Sessions
 Daily Speakers
 299er Games Daily at 10:00 & 3:00
Gold or Red Points Awarded in All Events



Friday, July 3rd
 Entries close at 7:00 p.m.
 Auction begins at 7:15 p.m.
 Prize Pool determined after Auction
\$\$\$\$\$PRIZES\$\$\$\$\$
 No Masterpoints Awarded

CLASSIFICATIONS

Stratified & Flighted
 A/B/C = UNL/2000/750
 Stratiflighted: A= Unlimited
 AX/B/C/D=5000/2500/1000/750

ENTRIES

\$12 Per Session (All Events)
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\$8 Juniors (under 25) under 19: FREE
CALCUTTA \$50 (Starting Bid)
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CONTACTS



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BRIDGE WEEK 2009 DAILY SCHEDULE

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

AROUND THE UNITS *continued from page 10*

Two new Life Masters to report: Sharon Aronson and Pete Menotti. Pete and I are Godparents to Paul and Liz Ryan's youngest son, Johnny. With Pete being the good Catholic, I seem to have influenced him. The Jews took 40 years to get to the Promised Land and so did Pete. Sharon seems to take a woman's approach: asked directions and got there quicker.

Other rank changes are: Junior Master - Nan Ship, NABC Master - Laurie Rubin, Bronze LM - Colin & Nelly Gordon, and Gold LM - Melina Stevens.

We have quite a few players taking vacation in our local hospitals. Here's hoping you all get a better travel agent, Earle Ziskin, Meril Graf, Marshall Wengrow, Dick Ryder, Vic Chernoff and Charlotte Ukra.

We are also sad to report the passing of Alan LeBendig. Alan's activities in bridge were local, national, and international, but what made him I think the most proud was running a friendly game of bridge that all who shared his love of bridge could enjoy. Suzanne, I hope that all those whose lives Alan touched will help you through these hard times. There will be many articles about Alan in the local and national papers, but beyond that was his smile and the twinkle in his eyes.

Another of our unit players died in April. I was writing the Culver-Marina unit column when I heard that Leo Mikowski had six months to live and was going home to Puerto Rico to live out his last months. Missing LA, he came back five years later and continued playing bridge and telling his favorite bad jokes to all. That was at least 20 years ago. Leo was 94 when he died.

My illustrious list of 70%ers are Judi Friedlander & Tom Lawrence (So close to an 80% game), Sandy Rink & Rodger Harbin, George Wagner & Steven Yaffe, Jill Richmond & Steven Yaffe, Rodger Harbin & Chuck Maltz, Ed Feldmann & Rahim Israel (with Rahim playing 3NT only once) and at the STaC Margie Michelin & Jordan Chodorow.

Barrington's Club Champs were: in A - Art Zail & Connie Fishbach, Lois & Eli Borok, in B - Lee Reinman & Chuck Maltz, Sally Aminoff & Angelika Hederer, and in C- Elizabeth Pasternak & Irene Wantuch, Ellen Seidman & Frank Miller.

One of my long time bridge partners BC Barnett and her husband Jeff have retired and moved to Albuquerque NM. Fortunately armed with her email and phone number, she's are not far enough away to get all the "you holds" she got when she lived in Culver City.

On that note I'm signing off, wishing you a month of "you holds" in which the majority agrees with you.

Upcoming Tournaments in the West

Culver City Sectional
May 1 -3

San Diego Sectional (non life masters)
May 15-17

Irvine Sectional
June 5-7

Oceanside Sectional
May 1 -3

Inglewood Sectional
May 22-25

Ventura Regional
June 8-14

STaC
May 4-10

San Diego Sectional
May 22-25

San Francisco Sectional
June 13-14

Anaheim Sectional
May 14-17

Temecula Sectional
May 29-31

Big Bear Lake Sectional
June 19-21

Marina Sectional
May 15-17

Las Vegas Regional
June 22-28

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, David Chechelashvili, Ross Grabel,
David Sacks, Michael Shuster, John Swanson, and Kit Woolsey

1

Vul vs. Not
IMPs

RHO	you	LHO	Partner
3♦	pass	pass	3♥
pass	?		

You hold: ♠KT53 ♥T ♦Q4 ♣KQJ872

What call do you make?

Some panelists bid their longest suit.

GRABEL: 4♣. This hand is too good to pass and anything else is misdirected.

BARE: 4♣. This is not forcing as I am a passed hand

SWANSON: 4♣. The parlay of being far from certain that partner can take nine tricks in hearts plus the outside chance of being able to bid and make a club game merits raising the level.

WOOLSEY: 4♣. Spades is out, as partner didn't double. 3NT is possible, but partner might not have help there. I'm too strong to pass. 4♣ or 5♣ might be where we belong, and partner should be able to make a reasonable choice.

BARTUSEK: 4♣. This is really a guess. I initially wanted to bid 3NT since the opponents are non-vul and LHO didn't raise diamonds, but even when partner has something in diamonds I probably need to have 9 running tricks. Minimum hands like ♠Axx ♥AQJxxx ♦Ax ♣xx or ♠Qxx ♥AJ10xxx ♦Ax ♣Ax aren't enough, although Axx or Kxxx in diamonds would probably be sufficient. Needless to say, 3NT could be a very silly contract (and expensive vulnerable). If partner has a minimum, then I will probably wish I had passed. At least 4♣ keeps the ball rolling and could easily be the last (only?) making contract.

One panelist puts a club in with his spades.

CHECHELASHVILI: 3♠. I am willing to distort the length, with the hope that pard will bid 3NT. There is simply no other way of reaching 3NT other than my bidding it, but I would rather have pard bid and declare it. After all, he can have ♦Ax and no ♣A. I will hate to hear 4♠ from pard, but the chances are good that if 4♠ goes down, 5♣ will go down too, and I just don't see any better bid than 3♠.

SHUSTER: 3NT. Partner's failure to reopen with a double strongly suggests some diamond length. The diamond suit is more likely to be trouble in clubs, where we could suffer a ruff or trump promotion. The most likely game is 3NT, where even Txx of diamonds opposite could block the suit.

SACKS: 3NT, in tempo. When can they ever run diamonds when they pre-empt white versus red? A good partner will have something in diamonds and the ♣A. We could be cold for 3NT and go down in 3♥. 3♠ could work out if partner bids 3NT. 4♣ just seems too boring, though it may well be the best chance for a plus score.

Sacks makes a good point. Bid 3NT confidently, and the opening leader won't have a clue that you don't actually have a diamond stopper

This problem was given to me by college superstar Roger Lee. I answered "3NT, I have a diamond stopper and solid clubs. What more could I want?" Seriously, who has a great suit at white versus red these days? Roger said that most people had passed. I don't like pass at all. If you find 3NT or 3♠ too exotic, 4♣ has to be preferable to pass; it's likely to improve the strain.

2

Vul vs. Not
IMPs

Partner	RHO	you
1♠	6♥	?

You hold: ♠J963 ♥A85 ♦K8 ♣K942

What call do you make?

Some panelists think double is easy.

SHUSTER: Double. Should be a universal choice. RHO has at most 10 hearts, so there is no danger they will make it. Bidding 6♠ would be a serious error. Just because RHO thinks you can make it doesn't mean you can. LHO has yet to call in this auction and could still hold a fine hand.

WOOLSEY: Double. Even if RHO has the remaining 10 hearts he has three other cards, and they aren't all going to be winners. I have no reason to expect to make 6♠.

GRABEL: Double. I have no reason to think that they can make or that we can make. I have little more than a limit raise. Why should I think that we now have a slam? If this is not unanimous, I will be very surprised.

BARE: Double. The ♥A is not as valuable as another ace for offence. Also a heart may get ruffed. This is a total guess, but with no opposing bidding, you would not make a move toward slam without a strong push from partner.

One panelist searches for a calendar.

BARTUSEK: Double/6♠. The only options are 6♠ and double since the auction will almost assuredly end otherwise. Double is probably the mainstream action, but we could easily miss a slam that way. It really is a guess since 6♠ could be right opposite something like AK10xxx - Axxxx xx (partner rates to have a heart void), but horribly wrong opposite a lot of other hands. This is why preempts work! I'm going to bid 6♠ on even days of the month and double on odd days of the month. (On which day was this?).

*I looked it up; the hand was played on Wednesday,**April 1st. No fooling!**Some panelists ponder whether pass is forcing.*

SWANSON: Double. I haven't heard a preempt like this in a number of years. But I play with a more senior group these days; they don't jump around a lot. I am not going to be able to rely on experience. 6♥ didn't improve my hand; it simply made it difficult to show. Partner needs to cover a lot of holes for slam to make, and the ♥A could well be essentially worthless opposite a void. Double shows values with the expectation that partner will pass, but he is allowed to bid slam with an exceptional playing hand. I have a theory that a pass by responder after a preempt to the five level (or the unknown six level) is forcing (the same as if partner opened a forcing 2♣, and there was a preempt to the five or six level - those are rare also). With that agreement, this hand is a pass, encouraging partner to bid. Double is an easier choice at matchpoint scoring where the loss won't be so great even if partner passes and slam is on.

SACKS: 6♠. I am probably not getting enough versus 6♥ to not take the plunge. Pass should be forcing, but can we really trust partner to take it that way?

One panelist is certain pass is forcing.

CHECHELASHVILI: Pass. 100% forcing at this vulnerability. I am hoping pard will bid 6♠ with a heart void. With a singleton heart (in which case LHO most likely is ruffing hearts), pard should double unless he has a very good hand, something like ♠AKQxx ♥x ♦AQxxx ♣Ax.

This was a real hand. I doubled. The 6♥ bidder had ♥KQJTxxxxxx and little else. 6♠ was on, as my partner had a 5-5 hand with a little extra. Only one pair reached 6♠, but we got a bad board because our +300 was less than the +680 scored by most pairs.



RHO	you	LHO	Partner
pass	pass	1♠	dbl
3♠	pass	pass	dbl
pass	?		

You hold: ♠Q85 ♥K853 ♦7432 ♣9

What call do you make?

One panelist wants to hang onto his plus score at matchpoints.

SACKS: Pass. It's matchpoints, so plus scores are good scores.

Most think they can make a game.

CHECHELASHVILI: 4♥. There is no way to accurately apply the law here. Pard can be void in spades, and/or have five hearts. I am not willing to risk a pass even at matchpoints.

SHUSTER: 4♥. Partner has described a very good hand with spade shortness. I don't see an alternative action.

BARTUSEK: 4♥. "Take out takeout doubles." (Edgar Kaplan.) I believe this second double should guarantee 4 hearts. (Partner could have bid a suit which really doesn't have to be a single-suited hand.)

GRABEL: 4♥. Partner has asked me to bid, and I have values that should not disappoint.

BARE: 4♥. This is a guess, but the payoff is a vulnerable game.

WOOLSEY: 4♥. I have no idea what will or will not make, so let's give the opponents the last guess.

SWANSON: 4♥. The answer here is to bid optimistically enough so that LHO will take the save in 4♠.

The last two panelists repeat an important theme. If you bid a game confidently, the opponents might save.

Partner held ♠AJ ♥A96 ♦A864 ♣AKT6. 4♥ was touch-and-go. The player who held this hand at the table bid 4♥, made a tiny slip in the play, and went down. Best play appears to bring it home.

Need District 23 Info?

Check:

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you	LHO	partner	RHO
1♦	pass	1♥	1♠
2♥	2♠	3♣	pass
?			

You hold: ♠A653 ♥KJT6 ♦QT8 ♣Q5

What call do you make?

One panelist takes a conservative route.

BARE: 3♥. Your points are all working but you only have 12 or 13.

Many panelists like their minimum hand in light of where their high cards are.

BARTUSEK: 4♥. Vul at IMPs, no spade wastage, good trumps, and third-round club control: WTP? (What's The Problem, meaning this is easy, a phrase popularized by Al Roth.)

CHECHELASHVILI: 4♥ - 3♣ is a help suit game try, and I have no second thoughts accepting invite for a vulnerable game.

SHUSTER: 4♥. My black suit holdings are golden and the internal trump spots solidify the deal. Even ♠x ♥Axxxx ♦xx ♣Kxxxx makes game pretty good.

SACKS: 4♥. All my cards should be working.

GRABEL: 4♥. I like my hand but not enough to bid 3♠.

SWANSON: 4♥. The auction has upgraded this pile of junk to a game try accept. If partner has almost any five-five hand worth a move we should be favorites. Even with lesser distributional hands, as long as he has a singleton spade, there should be a play for game.

WOOLSEY: 4♥. It looks like my cards are working well. No reason to beat around the bush.

Australian champion Ron Klinger once told me always to accept game tries with Kx or Qx in the help suit.

PROBLEM SOLVERS' PANEL *continued on page 18*



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.

Want to place an ad in
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full page (7.5x10) \$100

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District 23 Rank Changes 3/1/09 - 3/30/09

Junior Master (5 points)

Charles Gail
Martin Goldman
Alan Gordy
Sally Gordy
Susan Kodish
Peter Lifland
Judith Tomic
Barbara Wellisch
William Zanger

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Zulmira Faris
Joel Gillis
Richard Gliksman
Robert Krause
Marie Lynch
Thelma Maltz
Moheb Mansour
Stanley Tseng
Amedeo Ursini

Life Master (300 MPs)

Jimmie Swan
Laura Waisler

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Lamonte Johnson
Walter Otto
Brian Rose

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Andrew De Sosa
Oliver Norsworthy
Mike Twiehaus

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Arif Shah

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

B Horiguchi

Club Master (20 MPs)

Steven Anderson, Clara Beene
Mona Brandler, Joan Buhl
Susan Genta, Eleanor Goldman
Phyllis Greenstein
Tom Lawrence
Jacqueline Moor
Harry Wang
Gail Windisch
Mary Young

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Linda Camras
Joan Feldman
Alyssa Kennedy
Marilyn Morton
John Stokdyk

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Ellen Korney
Gary Swinhart

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

Hilton, July 3-12. An exciting schedule, including the money Alan LeBending Calcutta on Friday evening, July 3 awaits.

A few years ago, we were fortunate to receive an anonymous contribution to the ALACBU Scholarship Foundation. This has provided scholarships to exceptional college students who have some attachment to bridge, be it the child, grandchild, nephew, niece of a bridge player or even someone who has caddied or played at one of our tournaments. They must meet grade requirements each year to earn the \$1,000 per year scholarship.

If you want to help, please donate to the ALACBU Scholarship Foundation. It is a qualified 501 (c)(3) organization, so your contribution is fully deductible from your taxes (notice the segue from the opening paragraph). This looks like the year that I might get a new car. If I do, I will donate my car through one of the organizations that helps qualified organizations, such as ours. You might want to do the same.

LeBENDING *continued from page 3*

the room where the cookies were left out. On a recent afternoon I noticed how he struggled with difficulty to reach the container. I approached too late as the cookies went flying onto the floor. He thanked me as I cleaned up the mess. "It's no big deal," I said sadly. "N o — t h a n k . . . y o u . . . f o r . . . b e n d i n g . . . o v e r ."

It is not my place to say what is, or is not, a blessing. I know the last day of Alan's regular life I witnessed him playing the game he passionately loved. And that is how I will remember him. It would have broken my heart to see that taken away from him, but it was not. I know wherever Alan is, he is playing stellar bridge and telling irreverent blond jokes. Well, Alan, I have a secret for you. A parting gift — just between you and me. I'm not really a blond.

Rest in peace.

With love and admiration,
Karrain



Partner	RHO	you
2♣	5♣	?

You hold: ♠J5 ♥AQT7 ♦AQT6 ♣853

What call do you make?

Some want to pass, hoping to either transmit or receive information.

SWANSON: Pass. This one is easy. Over partner's bid or double I am calling 6♣ and thanking RHO for not preempting to the six level. The delayed cue bid should not promise a club control.

CHECHELASHVILI: Pass. Forcing and showing values.

WOOLSEY: Pass. I might as well get as much information from partner as possible.

BARTUSEK: Pass, followed by 5NT after partner's re-opening double. This will show two places to play, although partner can override with a self-sufficient spade suit. I assume normal partnership understandings treat this as a forcing pass situation. Thus, my only decision is whether to bid 5NT immediately or delayed. Generally pass-and-pull is the stronger action, so that is what I'll do. I will assume that partner has a stiff or void club for follow-up bidding. Obviously there is no grand slam if partner doesn't cuebid 6♣ over my 5NT.

Some bid immediately, possibly hoping to get to a grand.

SACKS: 6♣. Over 6♣, I will bid seven. I cannot visualize a 2♣ opener that does not include the ♠AKQ.

GRABEL: 6♣. They have kept us from investigating for what may be a cold grand, but preempts work.

BARE: 5NT. If partner bids 6♣, I'll bid 7♣. It's hard to imagine a 2♣ bid with 1st round control of clubs that won't make 7 of something, especially if the club control is a void.

One panelist makes the big bid right now.

SHUSTER: 7NT. Partner can't have only one ace to open 2♣, so we are going to the grand that RHO thinks we can make. It is close to bidding 6♣ first to try to get to 7 of a red suit, but putting LHO on lead could be necessary, and all my initial constructs make 7NT better anyway. For example, ♠AKQxx ♥KJxxx ♦x ♣AK could benefit from a spade ruff or go down on a club ruff, but you have an automatic double squeeze to make.

It's remotely possible that partner holds ♠AKQTx ♥KJx ♦KJx ♣KQ or possibly ♠AKQTxxxx ♥KJxx ♦K ♣ — depending on opener's style. But at BAM scoring, where 7NT will beat 7♠, 7NT will often be the best contract.

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