Southern California Bridge News

Volume 44, #11 November 2009 Published By ALACBU

New Life Master Requirements and Board Motions

by Rand Pinsky
District Director

Calling All Clubs, Teachers, Directors, Units and Players… Only 60 Days Left

New Life Master Requirements: That is right!!! Effective January 1, 2010 the new requirements for Life Master take effect. Therefore, we must make a strong effort to recruit as many new members as well as inactive members to become ACBL members by the end of the year. The consequence of not being an active ACBL member as of December 31 is that the non-member will be required to fulfill the new Life Master requirements. As of January 1, 2010 the requirements for attaining Life Master will be 500 total points of which 50 must be gold or platinum; 50 red, gold or platinum; 75 silver and 75 black. If you are an active member on December 31, the old Life Master still applies.

Board Motions for San Diego:

1. North American Pairs

The most interesting and player friendly motion has to do with adding a fourth flight to the North American Pairs. Presently there are three flights with the Open Flight set at 2000 MP and above. Many members of the board, myself included, believe that this range of the Open Flight discourages many members from participating in this flight. The Grand National Teams, which has four flights, has a Flight A with a cap of 5000 MP and then an Open Flight. The board motion will be to establish a fourth flight, namely Flight A with a 5000 MP cap and keep all of the other flights of Flight C of non life master, Flight B less than 2000 MP and then the Open Flight. From the discussions I have had with other board members there is a good chance

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President's Message

Upcoming Events

by Bill Schreiber
ALACBU President

Ah, Fall is upon us! The leaves are starting to fall and temperatures are dropping…but not here in Southern California. In Los Angeles it is time to talk about BRIDGE!

First of all, our **Winter Regional**, sponsored by the **Long Beach Unit**, is being held from December 31 through January 3. For those of you who want to escape football and parades, come play bridge for **RED POINTS**. The schedule is advertised in this paper and on our website (acbldistrict23.org) as well.

Next up on the schedule is the Swiss Team Sectional, which we are trying to turn into a Regional Tournament as well. This tournament also serves as our qualifying tournament for the Grand National Teams, which will be held in New Orleans next summer. New Orleans: great food (bread pudding and bananas foster, my two favorite desserts) and plenty of bars to satisfy all the bridge players.

Finally, BRIDGE WEEK 2010! The schedule has been completed and even though we are going back to seven days because the hotel could not accommodate us over the

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DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

for this motion to pass.

2. Changes in the General Conditions of Contest

Management has requested that there be some changes to the Conditions of Contest. For example, they want it stated that each contestant agrees that all or portions of an event may be filmed, recorded or publicized at the discretion of the ACBL and that this documentation can be used without charge. Second, management has asked that "when exiting the room (playing area) or on an errand within the room, a player must avoid wandering about within the room." Finally, management has requested a statement that "the playing conditions at all tournaments shall be substantially equal for all players in one event insofar as possible given space and other considerations." These last two requests will assist management in dealing with a relatively few players who felt they had special rights and will also put into writing how tournament directors are to deal with players having special needs.

These requests seem reasonable to me and I do plan to support management with their motion. However, if any of our district members have any comments on these changes, please contact me.

I believe that these are the two most interesting items on our agenda. I will report next month on other activity by the board.

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It's a Different View From Dummy

The San Diego North American Bridge Championships are just a few weeks away. If you have not made plans to attend, I would urge you to try to attend for just a few days. Attending a national tournament is a truly unique experience and you should try to attend at least one during your bridge career.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

July 4 weekend, we have retained all of our major events, including the Mary Jane Farrell 4-session Open Pairs, the Marshall Miles 4-Session Swiss Teams, and our signature event, the **CALCUTTA** (conditions of contest will be published in the *Southern California Bridge News* in February), a non-masterpoint event. Evening sessions will be offered this year with half price card fees and in order to help out our players who stay at the Pasadena Hilton, we will be issuing one-session free plays after the tournament for future play for each room night paid for.

Next month, we will talk about the financial health of ALACBU.

Second NAOP Semi-Final

by Mike Marcucci
District 23 NAOP Coordinator

The second NAOP semi final will take place on November 22, 2009. Please see ad on page 12 for more information. Please call Mike Marcucci with questions at (818) 903-2471. Our D23 teams did an outstanding job at the Washington NABC this year and we wish our pairs the same success in Reno.

Around the Units in District 23

Downey – Whittier

by Bernice Crelia

This year is going by very quickly and our unit, as always, is holding the usual Wednesday and Friday morning games. Our many guests from all over the area who enjoy visiting with us whenever possible are always welcome.

Since we will soon be into the holiday season, we want to inform you of our plans for celebrating this year, so that you can mark your calendar to come out and join us. We always look forward to seeing you. Because our economy has kept us all from planning very lavish parties, we have decided to hold a holiday potluck on Wednesday, December 9, which is our regular meeting date. Along with your luncheon dish we are asking you to contribute $10, which we will donate to feeding those who desperately need help for the holidays. We will appreciate your making a reservation with our Co-Chairmen Marcie Evans or Mary Kiechle by contributing your $10 donation to them, so we may plan accordingly. Please join us. We will look forward to seeing you for a fun day of great food and good bridge. This is our way to say thank you for a wonderful year with outstanding friends.

Glendale-Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game – 1:00 p.m. Saturday, November 14
12:15 p.m. buffet lunch

Hi-ho, everybody! First off, we have some congratulating to do in the Player's Progress Division of our game, i.e. Tracy Boys made Life Master; Patrick Cardullo moved up a notch to Silver Life Master; and Jerry Murbach can now claim the Gold. A question posed to me occasionally by non-bridge players, "Does that mean you've mastered life?" Here and there along the way. *N'est-ce pas?*

John Villalobos and Bob Tayrien certainly mastered their bridge lives recently with an NABC District 23 win overall in a STaC game at the Regency, gathering in 13 MPs of whatever hue - quantity and quality will out… Also in one of the few games I've played with Temo Arjani, he mastered this 6♠ contract well, holding this 5 HCP hand: ♠J9xxx ♥Axxx ♦xxx ♣x. The bidding had proceeded with 2♣-P-2♦-3♥; 4♣-P-4♠-P; 4NT-P-5♦ (Backwood)-P; 6♠. A small spade was led by the heart bidder and partner's hand came down: ♠AQxx ♥--- ♦KQJ ♣AKQJxx.

The spade lead placed the king off side, so Temo popped up with the ace, and then tanked for a while before taking the plunge, A-K-Q of clubs, discarding two diamonds. He over-ruffed ♣J, ruffed a heart, another club took his third diamond, giving up only the ♠K. A diamond lead would have been fatal, but with any other lead it makes, providing you do it Temo's way! As I recall, the very experienced Gary More did…

Mike Doll and Patrick Cardullo pulled in lots of MPs for a first overall in the opening round at the Las Vegas Sectional, as well as "scratching" points in the subsequent pair events. Zeke and Yosh Mataga placed C-1 in a pairs game. They joined Patrick and me in Sunday's Swiss winning 6 of 8 rounds, scoring a C-3/4 tie. Margaret's team placed 4th, also in a Swiss, and Mike Marcucci and I picked up a pair and placed A2 and B1 in Saturday's Swiss. No, I didn't hear any yodeling! Brief encounters of former unit members now living in the area included Mae Koh, Jill Toth Stocke, and Gary Mc Gough. I was pleased to thank Gary (again) for the wonderful cassette he gave me years ago of famous Opera Arias which I had just played on the drive over (along with another "gifted" tape of "The Prairie Home Companion." Such are my Catholic tastes!

Shortly after returning home from his annual visit with his family in Sweden, Sixten Ohman received the sad news that his brother had died suddenly from a heart attack. Our condolences, Sixten, and we hope you have some good, strong sibling memories to sustain you at this difficult time. As you know by now, "our game" also helps, especially when you perform well -

just reflect upon what you did in this October's Unit Game!

East/West

A1	B1	C1	Sixten Ohman/Temo Arjani
A2			Harold Gordon/Tom Wan
A3	B2	C2	Harold Knowles/Zach Vedro
A4			Charo Holdo/Mike Marcucci
	B3		Sedwyn/Sanford Glick

North/South

A1			Ann Banta/Ron Moeckle
A2			Carolyn Cohen/Melina Stevens
A3	B1		Susan Rhoades/Dan Oakes
A4	B2		Pat Abbey/Sherry Strube
	B3		Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo
		C1	Merry Besvold/Betty Stenbom

Pomegranates to all of you! Now come back and vie some more at the November Unit Game on the 14th. Also, in the event you're starting to fill in that very socially-inclined December calendar, please note that our Holiday Party/Unit Game is scheduled for Saturday, December 12.

Take care everybody and continue to enjoy…

Long Beach

Unit Website: www.acblunit557.org
Club Website: www.LongBeachBridge.com
by Jon Yinger

September 20 unit game: Overall results: 1st in A: Earl Van Der Vord/Jon Yinger, 2nd Kay Tseng/Kim Wang, 3rd Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle, 4th Kaye Amdon/Eileen Niesen, 5th Irma Johnson/Cory Hand and 6th George Thompson/Steve Skinner. Overall

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March 1-5, 2010

Monday, March 1
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd. 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd. 2 of 3

Tuesday, March 2
9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Final Rd.
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd. 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd. 2 of 3

Non-smoking Tournament with Hospitality Breaks

Wednesday, March 3
9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd.
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd. 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd. 2 of 3

Thursday, March 4
9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Final Rd.
Bracketed Compact KOs 1st session of 2
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Board-A-Match Teams
Bracketed Compact KOs Final Session

Friday, March 5
10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 4:15p.m.) (This is a 2-session event, but single session entries will be sold at the director's discretion.)
10:00 a.m. Stratified Swiss Teams (2-session play-through no break)
Swiss Teams will finish by 5:00 p.m.
There will be a snack bar in the playing area all day Friday

All open stratified events are stratified by average masterpoints of the team or pair.

Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750
I/N: 0-20/50/100/200/300

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winners in the B flight included: 2nd John and Suzie Hand, 3rd Carol Murakoshi/Tom Ludwig, 4th John Killian/Cayce Blanchard, 5th Susan and Keith Hafen, 6th Dottie Thompson/Elinor Baratelle. Overall winners in C included: 3rd Alice and Ted Nicholas, 4th Al and Sharon Appel and 5th Aaron Jones/Jerry Cassidy. Congratulations to all!

70+% games 9/15 through 10/15: Please tell me if I've missed someone, but I could find only one 70%+ score in an open game at the club for Sept 15 through Oct 15: On October 5 Mike Daley and Earl Van Der Vord had a 70.39% game. In an Easy Bridge game on October 4, Diane Elliott and Kathy Shinkle had a 72.34% score. Congratulations Mike and Earl and Diane and Kathy!!

Big masterpoint awards: Big point awards for 1st or 2nd overall in big games: In the Sept 20 Unit Game Earl Van Der Vord/Jon Yinger won 5.95mp for 1st, Kay Tseng/Kim Wang won 4.46mp for 2nd, and Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan won 3.35mp for 3rd. Oct 4 Marcie Evans/Betty McClellan won 3.00mp. Oct 5 Earl Van Der Vord/Mike Daley won 4.83mp for 1st and Phil Schuster/Sibyl Slutsky 3.62mp for 2nd. Oct 6 Dick and Linda Stein won 4.33mp for 1st and Fern Dunbar/John Melis 3.25mp for 2nd. In the Oct 6 evening game John Killian/John Wong won 3.00mp. Oct 7 Gerri Carlson/Steve Mager won 4.67mp for 1st and Kimi Matsumoto/Mark Teaford won 3.50mp for 2nd. In the Oct 7 evening game Betty Barton/Linda Carder won 3.50mp. Oct 8 Marcie Evans/Steve Skinner won 4.67mp for 1st and Kay Tseng/John Melis 3.50mp for 2nd. Oct 9 April Berg/Steve Warner won 7.50mp for 1st, Eddie Gruber/Diane Starbuck 5.63mp for 2nd and Sharon and Al Appel 4.22mp for 3rd. Oct 10 Mike Daley/Earl Van Der Vord won 3.53mp. Oct 12 Steve and Charlotte Sturm won 4.68mp for 1st, George Thompson/John Crabtree 3.50mp for 2nd. Oct 14 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger won 3.97mp for 1st and Baum Harris/Steve Skinner 2.98mp for 2nd. Congratulations to you all!

New members and new status: We issue a warm welcome to new members Molly and Norma Jean Belenky, and Kathryn Kuhlman who transferred into our unit. Status changes: New Junior Master: Pamela Cole and Joyce Henderson; Club Master: Betty Scharf; Sectional Master: Peggy Graue, Aaron Jones, Miriam Kelley, Paul Langerman, and Carol Ramseyer; Regional Master: Yolanda Medina. Congratulations to you all!!

Upcoming special events at the club: Sunday November 1 at 1 p.m., membership game. Monday, November 2 at 7 p.m., team game. November 7-9 is the Unit 557 Long Beach Sectional. The Long Beach Bridge Center will be closed Saturday and Sunday (November 7and 8), but will be open Monday for the 9 a.m. and 12:30 games. Saturday, November 13, 12:30 p.m., unit-rated game. Sunday, November 15, Unit Game: dinner at 12:30, game at 1 p.m. Friday, November 20 both the 12:30 and 4:15 will be membership games. Sunday, November 22, NAOP (North American Open Pairs) qualifying games. Tuesday, November 24, both the 12:30 and 4:15 games will be membership games. Special games November 1, November 13, November 15, November 20, and November 24 are at regular prices but pay extra points. A reminder: all **Monday morning** games are sectionally rated, pay extra points, and include a very nice breakfast. All for $10.

Condolences to: family and friends of Christy Mangum and Irma Johnson, both of whom passed away recently. Irma was instrumental in establishing the Long Beach Bridge Center in its present form; she, together with four other early members, bought the club over 30 years ago and was an active member of the Board of Directors from that time until her death. Both Christy and Irma will be sorely missed.

Get well wishes to: Joy Rosenthal and Dann Habberfield.

Help the columnist: If I have missed an award or status change please let me know. If you have any news items you would like to see in the column, my email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

www.darbonne.com\bridge\

by Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

Next Unit Game - November 1

San Marino Bridge Club

There was a lot of activity in the unit last month and our unit game was well attended. We had 22 tables in all. As always, the food was delicious! Mary Falvey was in charge of the menu, and she wisely elicited some help from Karen Arase. The spaghetti and all the trimmings were wonderful. (The secret's in the sauce!) Thank you, ladies, for your fine culinary efforts. Dominique and Art Moore took the honors with an outstanding 76.4% game - it's hard to do any better than that. Sofia Pinada

ATU *continued on page 7*

District 23 Rank Changes
9/1/09 - 9/30/09

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Shirlee Bouch
Herb Garfinkel
Marilyn Henschel
Larry Kussin
David Lyons
Kiyo Nagaishi
Jerry Reid
Karyn Shatzkin
Sandy Slotkin
Ronnie Stabler
Marion Weis
Beatrix Wilbur

Club Master (20 MPs)

Beth Benson
Genevieve Collopy
Lynn Dotts
Gloria Frankel
Mimi Kaufman
Carole Slavin
Nancy Spelke
Karen Tucker

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Jack Chang
Ellen Davidson
Phyllis Greenstein
Charles Kennedy-Ross
Doreen Maes
Mike McKittrick
Marcia Meyers
John Opdyke
Julie Osborne
Kerry Sartor
Roberta White

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Michael Camras
Elaine Moore
Yokuko Sheehy
David Solin
Arlene Spatz
Bob Turansick
Berry Wilkinson

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Anne Andres
James Gardner
Thuan Pham Gwynn
Mona Kattar
Karen McCarthy
Rashmi Shah
Kris Sommer
Richard Stevenson
Joe Unis
Zachary Vedro

Life Master (300 MPs)

Carol Bloomfield
Janet Cooper
Amr Elghamry
Bee-De Lim
Mary Overbey

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Vicki Ebin
Charles Kelley
Jo Anne Kelley
John Van Egmond
Vern Vanderpol

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

William Morton
David White

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Ed Barad
Joseph Viola II

www.acbldistrict23.org

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and Ann Croupe finished first in B, and Jack Chang and his son, Nolan, were first in flight C. Congratulations to all of you. Peter Szecsi was the big winner of the 50/50 drawing, and I believe he tucked away $38.

Mike Marcucci has been hard at work on the North American Open Pairs semi-finals. The first round was held on October 11, in Canoga Park and members from our unit who qualified were Art Gubrandson and Mike Spero in A, Robert Wang and Frank Shih, first overall in flight B, and Amr Elghamry and Mark Hartzell, who were second overall, also in B. Four members from our unit won in flight C. Carole Collins and Ana Williamson, as well as Robert Verhoeuf and Robert Novell (first overall in C) also qualified. They earned the chance to play in the next round. If you played in this event and did not qualify, The ACBL says you will not be able to play in the same event on November 22 in Long Beach. Those of you who missed it can still earn a spot to represent our district, though.

Our next unit game will have some special dignitaries, so make plans now to attend on the first Sunday in November.

The Arcadia Bridge Center will be closed for Thanksgiving, but they will have the usual special games in November – Winners/Losers on Sunday the 22nd, and Beat the House night on the 20th. There will be two Open Swiss Team games, too. The first Swiss will be on November 8, and the second one on the 15th.

What's the best score you ever had? Jim and Ella Cowen had a terrific 81.15% score on a Saturday morning at the Bridge Center. Maybe it's time they moved out of the rookie game, eh?

Did you know that 4-4 trump fits are almost always preferable to 5-3 fits? You will often gain one, or sometimes even two, extra tricks if you play in the 4-4 fit. Take a look at the hand below and decide if you would prefer to be in six hearts or six spades… (With any lead.) Lay it out and play it, if it helps you.

♠ KQxx
♥ AQTxx
♦ AJ
♣ xx

♠ AJTx
♥ KJx
♦ xxx
♣ AJx

Of course, there are always exceptions, but bridge is a game of percentages and your best contract with the above hand is six spades. If the trumps break 3-2, which is a 68% probability, you can discard two losers on the heart suit and make your slam. If you play in hearts you won't be able to discard any losers on the spade suit and you only have 11 tricks. (Although you might still be able to make a heart slam if there is a minor suit squeeze available.)

Another advantage of 4-4 fits is that many times you can let either hand have the "Short Trump Suit." You probably already know that you gain tricks when you are able to ruff with the short trump holding, but unless you have a "Dummy Reversal" play you might not have a choice of which hand becomes the short suit when you have a 5-3 fit. (Dummy Reversal: Trump in the long hand until it holds fewer than the short hand and then draw trump with the short suit.)

See you at the table!

Pomona – Covina

by Vic Sartor

Unit Game- Saturday, November 15
11:00 a.m. - lunch served

October's two-session event was successful on three fronts: Gino Barbieri's culinary skills provided a wonderful dinner, we enjoyed some good bridge, and the new unit board was elected without our having to use waterboarding or sleep deprivation to fill vacant positions. The lucky (or too-slow to duck) winners were: Vic Sartor, Penny Barbieri, Clint Lew, Tom Lill, Richard Patterson, Rosalie Roberts, Roger Boyar, Lynne Parker, and Margaret Merrill.

A big tip of the hat to two C players— Margaret Merrill/Kerry Sartor— who took first place overall in the September unit game. We had to omit their triumph over all the A and B pairs from last month's column because of our publishing deadline, but I wanted to make sure they got proper notice for their accomplishment. Lary Alba/Cordell Goode took opposite direction honors, and Clint Robertson/Tom Lill were second overall. Clint is also a C player, so he and Tom also rate a "well done." The monthly individual was won by Tom Lill, followed by Genise Hasan, Milt Kalikman, Lynne

Parker, and Karen McCarthy.

Top game of the month was a 70% effort by Dave Ruoff/Lary Alba, edging Roy Wilson/Jan Wickersham's 69.8%. Other winners were Walt Otto, Ken Bloomfield, Kurt Trieselmann, John Tyner, Richard Patterson, Pat Radamaker, Clint Lew, Herman Helber, Kathy Helber, Sue Rottner, Milt Kalikman, Lulu Minter, Fred Minter, Karen McCarthy, and Karen Olin.

In non-bridge items, Mike and Susie Emminger recently received some great news. His latest medical tests have shown him to be cancer-free. That news comes just as they are ready to embark with Ron and Carol Purkis on a three-week adventure to Europe, West Africa, and Brazil. Quite a bon voyage present! The Emmingers also report their daughter-in-law has opened a new bakery in Rancho Cucamonga called "Baking Nirvana." I can personally testify that her concoctions are incredibly delicious, so give her a try the next time you feel like breaking your diet.

In further travel news, Denise Morgan just got back from a great "brother-bonding" trip to the Balkans, Scandinavia, and Eastern Europe. The tour included stops in East and West Germany, Estonia, Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Estonia. She especially enjoyed the Hermitage and Peter the Great's palace in St. Petersberg.

This month's hand of the month is a beaut. You hold:

♠AKQ ♥Axx ♦Axx ♣Axxx That's more points than I usually get in a whole session, but that's another story.

LHO opener opens 3♣, and your pard overcalls 3♠! What's your plan? If you can come up with a sensible series of bids to find out what your pard has in his hand, I want to shake your hand. I stared at it for three or four minutes and came up with nothing. It seems like this problem is better solved by trying to visualize partner's hand. Unless he is a recent escapee from the state home for the feeble minded, he almost has to have 6+ spades to the jack. That's 1 point. What else would he need? If he doesn't have both kings plus some extras in the red suits, you should probably get out a butterfly net and subdue him before he hurts himself or some innocent bystander. The most reasonable bid? 7♠! Sure enough, his hand is: ♠J1098xxx ♥KQx ♦KJx ♣-- Sometimes logic pays off. Til next time…

San Fernando Valley

by Terry Morton

Unit events and news: There will be a holiday party and election for new board members in December. Plans for each of these upcoming events are detailed below.

Upcoming Unit Events: Holiday party, Sunday, December 6 at Warner Center Marriott, 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, (818) 887-4800. There will be two sessions of junior and open games beginning at 1:00 p.m. Advance ticket price of $30 includes two bridge sessions, self-parking, snacks, and dinner. Beginning October 10 tickets can be purchased from board members Bill Morton, Fran Cohen, Jim Gardner, Gloria Malkin, Larry Gordon, Eric Heilman, and Fran Kern. Ticket price at the door is $40.

Board member election candidates: Margie Blumer, William Carlson, Arlene Dick, Mike Fierman, Mike Gosnell, Mo Mansour, and Karyn Shatskin. Voting for the new board will be conducted at the holiday party! Procedure for Absentee Ballots: Absentee ballots will be available beginning November 15th. Ballots can be obtained from Bill Morton or Jim Gardner. The completed ballot will be sealed in an envelope with the voter's signature across the flap. The absentee ballots will be opened and counted with the ballots from the holiday party.

The top ten masterpoint winners for September: *750 Bridge Club:* Ronald Malkin 7.23, Eric Heilman 3.73, Bob Williams 3.64, Gloria Malkin 3.43, Rita Hersh 3.37, Carol Lang 3.34, Gary Baxley 3.24, Samy Antoun 3.20, Ellen Sue Sarture 3.06, James Gardner 3.05, and E.J.(Jim) Lechner 3.05.

Bridge Academy 299 Game: Michael Klemens 9.99, Jim Gardner 4.42, Robert Glasser 4.14, Nancy Klemens 3.85, Marge Bulmer 3.52, Ellen Carrier 3.39, Rochello Lotto 3.39, Joan Farrar 3.36, Joan Marks 3.03, and Elaine Moore 2.78.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Mary Dougherty 16.67, Gilbert Stinebaugh 16.13, Sheila Bozin 15.48, Andrew Vinock 13.90, Armand Szulc 13.15, Marta Peltz 12.87, Leila Greenfield 12.63, Judith Rosenstiel 12.59, Tom Wyle 12.00, and Joan Rubin 11.87.

70% Games for September: Craig Kevin/Robert Kerr 79.17 and Gloria and Ron Malkin 70.25.

ATU *continued on page 10*

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Column news: Make sure your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com

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
Club Championship: Monday, November 2, 7:00 p.m.
Club Championship: Friday, November 6, 7:00 p.m.
Unit Game/IMP Pairs: Sunday, November 15, brunch at noon
Club Championship: Tuesday, November 24, 11:30 a.m.

Club championships: The NLM Club Championship on September 24 was captured by Lorna Wallace/Karen Tucker in Flights A and B with Jan Cofer/Jeanette Betts taking Flight C honors. On October 9 the Club Championship was won by Jackie Hess/Wayne Otsuki in Flight A and Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder in Flight B. The Club Championship on October 12 saw Ray Mack/Gabriela Jackson taking Flight A honors with Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder leading Flight B and Karen Tucker/Ed Srenco on top in Flight C.

Team winners: The STaC handicapped Swiss on September 22 was captured by the team of Adelia Horton, Gabriela Jackson, Beverly Narahara, and Fran Israel. On September 29 the quartet of Jackie Hess, Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, and John J. McDermott took top honors. There was a tie for top honors on October 6 between Gerri Carlson, Ron Carlson, Neal Kleiner, Steve Ramos, and MaryAnn Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, and John J. McDermott. That same Coyle aggregation was the undisputed winner on October 13.

District 22/23 STaC Overall finishers at TSB Clubs: The following lists overall finishers in games played at Torrance South Bay clubs during the recent District 22/23 STaC.

Monday Morning, September 21, SBBC

1A			M. Suhre/John J. McDermott
2A			John Brailliar/Richard Cheng
6A			Ted Gibbs/Gary King
	6B		Claire Hulett/Lutrell Long
		1C	Lorna Wallace/Ed Srenco
		4C	Barbara Davis/Norm Imberman
		5C	Kathy Rudolph/Pam Gudish

Monday Evening, September 21, SBBC

3A	1B		Lorna Wallace/Lutrell Long
		1C	David Peim/Steve Ramos
		3C	F. Victor/M. Daeschner

Tuesday Morning, September 22, SBBC

4/5A			Ray Mack/Dick Jones
		2C	Carole King/Mary Overbey

Tuesday Morning, NLM Pairs, SBBC

1A	1B	1C	Juanita Smith/Linda Bernard
4A			Setsuko Miyasaka/John Fashing
		3B	Joan and Robert Stillwell
	4B	3C	J. Betts/M. Lieman

Wednesday Afternoon, September 23, Veterans Park

7A	3B		Jack Freeman/Bill Malcolm
8A	4B		Jeffrey Allen/Norm Imberman

Wednesday Eve, September 23, 299er Pairs, SBBC

3A	2B		S. Miyasaka/G. Stinson
4A			Anne Andres/Alain Fleurot
	4B	3C	Marie and James Lynch
		5C	Phil and Ramon Alfandary

Thursday Morning, Sept. 24, NLM Pairs, SBBC

1A	1B		Lorna Wallace/Karen Tucker
2A			Anne Andres/Marilyn Morton
3A	2B		G. Stinson/S.o Miyasaka
4A	3B	1C	Jan Cofer/Jeanette Betts
5A			Arthur Rue/Elaine Bleiweiss
6A			Harold Karp/Randy Berler
	4B		S. Kuuskmae/S. Rahimtoola
	5B	2C	Elizabeth Biggins/Lynn Evans
	6B		Robert Stillwell/Paul Green
		3C	C. Brown/C. Iacopino
		4C	M. Marti/H. Remstein

Thursday Evening, September 24, SBBC

5A	2B		Ed Piken/Steve Ramos
		4C	Ron Carlson/Martin Cooper

		6/7C	Linda Henson/Bill Lama
		6/7C	Gerri Carlson/Neal Kleiner

Friday Morning, September 25, SBBC

4A	2B		BeverlyNarahara/Carole King
		1C	Ed Srenco/Lorna Wallace

Friday Afternoon, September 25, Beach Cities BC

1/2A	1B	1C	Gayl Ettinger/Jean Arnold
		4C	Elaine Godin/Sandy Slotkin

Friday Night, September 25, Beach Cities BC

3A	2B		Audrey Ellis/Ernie Frank

TSB at Sao Paulo: Claudia Valerie Gamio (CVal) and John Jones traveled to Sao Paulo, Brazil to play in the Transnational Teams at the World Bridge Championships last month. John sent the following note about this event:

> "Normally I don't contribute to the South Bay Unit Bridge News, but world championships are something special. Valerie Gamio and I, along with Miguel Reygadas and Nancy Lira (both of Mexico) finished 23rd out of 70 in the World Transnational Championships in Sao Paulo in September. We were also 11th in the Board-a-Match Sao Paulo Cup. Val had about four or five hands where she lost her mind (always an interpretation of bidding) and completely blew a board. Beyond that, she played quite well, maintaining good focus and solid card play throughout the five days. Her competitive bidding was especially good making several tough decisions successfully. The tournament was the best-organized event I have ever played in. The closing ceremonies were dignified and fun. Hope this is helpful. p.s. Val's US Citizenship came in while she was in Brazil. "

GUV Memorial Award: With no tournaments this past month I am grasping at straws to find an award winner. Our Thursday night director Ginnie Blitzman offered the following: she was sitting in as a partner with an inexperienced player. She pulled out the STOP card and made a forcing bid. Her partner passed. She asked why he had passed the forcing bid. He replied "You told me to stop bidding." Some of my partners probably wish they could use the STOP card for that purpose.

Na Zdrowie

West LA
by candy

Last month I left you with silver, brown, and rust candy kisses. Well, they're now red, green and silver. Hating to be the one to skip over a holiday and its candy treat, remember that along with the Nationals in San Diego, there's candy corn and Thanksgiving this month. Before we celebrate that, we have Veteran's Day, which has no candy or mail. Since this column is due to appear on November 1, the day you run around making all your clocks fall back, a day which pretends to be an extra hour of sleep - get real! One hour more to shop, watch football, and discover how many time pieces you own.

October is the season of the witch, November is the season of the which, as in who won the elections. The new unit board will be announced at the unit holiday party.

As I neatly dance into the unit party, this year's theme is a black and white party, which makes me think of "Putting on the Ritz." Unfortunately I don't go down the Fred Astaire/Ginger Rogers route, I tend to think of "Young Frankenstein." While the "My Fair Lady" day at Ascot is probably the ultimate in black and white parties, it's tough to eat and play bridge in those outfits. Starting with a little nosh at 11:00, and at 11:30 music, dancing, and more noshing. At noon it's time for serious eating with the buffet brunch followed by more music and King Howard and his "brevity is the soul of wit" announcements. On to bridge, and since Silver Points goes so nicely as an accent to a black and white theme, we will be part of the Western Conference STaC. Hope you saved room for dessert. Fees will be $35 per person. Flyers will be mailed and at the clubs. If you don't get a flyer call me at (310) 652-6116. Reservations are due by December 5 (we don't want to run out of food).

Movers and shakers this month were… Junior Master: Edwin Bernstein, Joe Hooker, Dorothy Lank, and Anne-Lise Scott. Club Master: Malka Fogel, Sandra Nagler, and Roman Sydorak. Sectional Master: Joan Abrams, Margaret Flowers, Linda Garfinkle, and Dan Garner. Regional Master: Richard Glickman and Stephen Massman. NABC Master: Debra Stein. Silver Life Master: Patrick Cardullo. Diamond Life Master:

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District 23
RENO - HERE WE COME!

RENO NABC 2010
MARCH 11-21

North American Pairs

Semi-Final #1

11 Oct 09, 11:00 AM

San Fernando Bridge Academy
6733 Variel Ave, Canoga Park

Semi-Final #2

22 Nov 09, 11:00 AM

Long Beach Bridge Center
4782 PCH, Long Beach

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks ◎ Sodas ◎ Coffee ◎ Gold/Red Points

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Joanne Minken-Levy.

Sad to announce the passing of Barbara Shields. She was a gentle spirit at the table, but no pushover. She's going to be missed by a lot of people.

Tuesday night at the Marina City Club Anne Bazil/Mori Taylor won the Western Conference STaC. At Barrington the Club Champs were A: Aram Bedros/Art Zail, Susan Somogyi/Marshall Cherkas, and Robert Brogan/Joe Hooker. B: Herbert Ehrmann/Brian Rose, and Ken Bishop/Mauricio Epelbaum. C: Bella Feniger/Robert Martin. 70%ers: Aram Bedros/Art Zail (2x), Gary King/George Wagner, and Jackie Hatfield/Ellie Lederman.

Who knew turkeys flew south for the fall. Actually I think ducks waddle and turkeys trot. So see you in San Diego for the Nationals. If you guys do well it will give me less space to ramble on about candy wrappers (wasn't that a name of a stripper?)

Lunch and Bridge at the West Los Angeles Unit Year-End Party

by Mario Mory

Come December it's time to celebrate the holidays with your bridge friends at the West Los Angeles year-end party. As usual, Candy Scott has done a fabulous job of organizing the festivity. The action starts at 11:00 a.m. with appetizers and music by the Westside Voices. At noon we'll line up for a scrumptious buffet, which is the signature of this yearly party. This will be followed by more music from the Westside Voices and announcements and presentations of "Player of the Year" and "Volunteer of the Year." After dessert and beverages, we will play bridge for silver points since the game will be part of the Western Conference STaC.

The theme of the party is "Black and White Holiday." So, to get in the swing of things, try to wear a casual black and white outfit and come ready to party on Sunday, December 13 at the Kayne Eras Center. If you haven't been there before, the address is 5350 Machado Rd., Culver City, 90230. Machado Road runs between Sepulveda and Jefferson Boulevards, just north of where these two main arteries intersect. There is ample free parking at this facility, but in the event of an unusually large turnout, the parking lot of the neighboring shopping center will take care of the overflow.

The fee of $35 per person takes care of food and bridge, so hurry up and make your reservation before December 5 by sending a check to:

Howard Einberg,
2620 Kelton Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Please indicate the name of your partner. If you wish additional information please call Candy Scott at (310) 652-6116.

2009 District 23 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Race, Updated 10/06/2009

Over 10,000 MPs

1	Ellen Anten	Encino	991.87
2	Jim Looby	Burbank	750.72
3	RebecClough	Culver City	677.17
4	Steve Gross	Westlake Village	567.82
5	Steve Mager	Hermosa Beach	511.66
6	Jill Meyers	Santa Monica	459.52
7	Michael Shuman	Pasadena	309.70
8	Pam Wittes	Venice	237.47
9	Ed Davis	Seal Beach	129.93
10	Mary Jane Farell	Los Angeles	106.31

7500 to 10,000 MPs

1	Marjorie Michelin	Los Angeles	730.46
2	Roger Clough	Culver City	579.19
3	Mitch Dunitz	Sherman Oaks	398.04
4	Mike Savage	Signal Hill	173.07
5	Walter Schafer Jr.	Buena Park	122.32
6	William Wickham	Los Angeles	111.53
7	Robert Kerr	Los Angeles	81.83
8	Bill Sides	Burbank	27.83

5000 to 7500 MPs

1	Gilbert Stinebaugh	Van Nuys	387.39
2	John Jones	Hacienda Heights	334.95
3	Jeffrey Goldsmith	Tujunga	319.21
4	Ellen Kent	Marina Del Rey	258.32
5	Jill Richmond	Los Angeles	217.84
6	Leo Bell	Long Beach	206.79
7	George Wang	El Monte	174.78
8	Aram Bedros	Santa Monica	171.37
9	Adrienne Green	Los Angeles	157.11
10	Phyllis Parker	Long Beach	146.25

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

Panel: Leo Bell, David Chechelashvili, Vic Chernoff, Mitch Dunitz, Mark Itabashi, John Jones, and Rick Roeder

1

no vul
IMPs

pass	3♦	4♣	4♦
?			

You hold: ♠Q87 ♥KJ ♦9765 ♣A976

What call do you make?

Jones: 5♦. I'll force to 6 and try for 7 if pard has the right hand. I have a mountain for a passed hand.

Chechelashvili: 5♣. We might miss a slam, but preempts work. I am taking my plus score. If we were red vs. white, I would try 6♣, hoping they would save, but that is unlikely at the given vulnerability, particularly since I have four diamonds.

Itabashi: 6♣. If partner is void in diamonds, he is a favorite to make 6. Even with a stiff he may have a play, but he'll probably need the perfect hand to make if that is the case.

Chernoff: 5♣. We may have slam, but there is no way to find out. If there is more bidding, I'll keep my options open.

Roeder: 6♣. Drat your RHO for stealing your 4♦ cue bid! So we guess. Since it is possible that a grand is on, I won't bid only five.

Bell: 6♣. I can't envision a hand with which partner would overcall 4♣ vulnerable at IMPs and slam won't make. My only worry is that partner has something like ♠AKx ♥Axx ♦-- ♣KQJxxxx where a grand is laydown. I also worry that partner could have the same hand without the ♠K or the ♥A, and the grand has no play. If 4♥ would be understood as a cuebid, I'd make that bid, but partner might expect me to have first-round control and I don't want to have a major accident.

Dunitz: 6♣. This wouldn't be the first time I punished partner.

SACKS: It seems as if most were agreed with my position as I bid 6♣ in a random Bridge Base IMP pairs game. Thinking afterwards, perhaps, as a passed hand, 4NT should be a super raise to five clubs. Mitch felt that 4NT should be to play, but it is hard to build a hand that merits that.

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2

all vul
MP

1♣	pass	1♦	pass
1♠	pass	2♥	pass
?			

a

You hold:
♠KJ73 ♥85 ♦9 ♣AKJ832
What call do you make?

Jones: 3♣. I know some partnerships play that 2♠ is an artificial minimum, but to me, 2♠ shows five spades and six clubs.

Chechelashvili: 3♣ - showing shape. In my regular partnerships, 2♠ is a waiting bid. It denies 4-5 or a stopper in hearts, therefore something like 4(23)4 with concentrated values and no heart stopper.

Itabashi: 3♣. No need to jump in a forcing auction with no extras.

Chernoff: 3♣. What's the problem?

Roeder: 3♣. If partner bids 3NT, I'll pass.

Bell: 3♣. Forcing and descriptive.

Dunitz: 3♣ and pass 3NT.

b

You hold:
♠KJ73 ♥A8 ♦9 ♣AKJ832
What call do you make?

Jones: 3♣. I'll bid 3NT over 3♥, but if pard bids 3NT, I'll show extras by raising to 4NT (quantitative).

Chechelashvili: 3♣ - showing shape. Over partner's 3NT, I shall rebid 4♣.

Itabashi: 4♣. With the extra club and the heart ace, this seems like a better description than 3♣.

Chernoff: 4♣. Willing to go past 3NT with extras including the heart ace.

Roeder: 3♣. If partner bids 3NT, I'll try for slam with 4NT. It's close, but the 9s sway me.

Bell: 3♣. No change here. We're in a forcing auction, but I'm going to bid more strongly the next time around. No reason to bid notrump now, because it should be played from partner's side.

Dunitz: 3♣. And make a forward-going bid of 4♥ over

c

You hold: ♠KJ73 ♥85 ♦9 ♣AKJ832
What call do you make?

Jones: 3♣. 4♣ would show a solid six-card suit and extras. I need one more club to jump to 4♣.

Chechelashvili: 3♣ showing shape. Over partner's 3NT, I'll bid 4NT.

Itabashi: 3♣. I intend to bid again to show extras, probably a raise to 4NT if partner bids 3NT.

Chernoff: 2♠ if forcing, otherwise a heavy 3♣.

Roeder: 3♣. Then 4NT over partner's 3NT.

Bell: 3♣. Yet again, I'm showing where I live.

Dunitz: 3♣ and raise 3NT to 4NT.

SACKS: I was trying to ascertain what 3♣ and 2♠ mean in this auction. I think 3♣ cannot be the right bid to describe three such different hands. Looking at the panel's answers now, I find a few interesting ideas. Since everyone was going to bid again on hand 2b, why not just show our shape and strength with an immediate 4♣ bid? I think Mark has it right. Furthermore, I think you should have a singleton diamond to bid 4♣. On #2b, I think 3♣ should at least guarantee six clubs or extra values.

3

no vul
IMPs

-	-	1♥	pass
1NT	pass	2♦	2♠
?			

You hold:

♠865 ♥9 ♦AKQ863 ♣853

Playing 2/1 Game Forcing, what call do you make?

Jones: 3♠. The overcall took our 2♠ bid away, but made the problem easier.

Chechelashvili: 3♠ – asking partner to bid 3NT with a spade stopper.

Itabashi: 3♠. Cuebid to show a big diamond raise. If partner bids 3NT to protect a spade holding, I'll pass. I'll pass 4♦, because partner can probably judge his losers better than I can.

Chernoff: 3♦, for the time being. Too many low spades to bid more.

Roeder: 3♠. I'm delighted if pard can bid 3NT. My tripleton spade worries me, because a spade ruff might beat 5♦. Thus, the real problem is what to do if pard rebids 4♦ over 3♠. I will guess to pass.

Bell: 4♦. Trying for notrump is likely a waste of time because partner has at most four black cards.

SACKS: In real life, my partner bid 3♦, the opponents bid 3♠, I bid 4♦, and partner raised to 5. My hand was ♠Ax ♥A9852 ♦9752 ♣Ax. 5♦ was a good contract but did not make because LHO had all three diamonds and a doubleton club. I was left thinking about how could we get to 3NT. 3♠ is the obvious way, but perhaps a double of 2♠ should show a super raise to 3♦ rather than be an offer to play for penalty.

4

vul vs nv
IMPs

-	-	1♦	1♥
2♣	2♥	3♦	3♥
?			

You hold:

♠AK9 ♥7652 ♦K9 ♣KJ83

What call do you make?

Jones: 4♦. Freely supporting diamonds should be 100% forcing. If I'm playing with someone who considers 4♦ passable, then I bid 4♥. 4♦ is superior, because if pard bids 4♥, then I can cue 4♠.

Chechelashvili: 3♠. This is the toughest problem in this set. Since 4♦ is non-forcing, 3♠ seems to be the bid that gives us most room to explore the right contract. The second best alternative is double.

Itabashi: 3♠. Followed by 6♦. Seems like the best way to describe the hand. If partner has a perfect hand with a heart void, seven diamonds, and the club AQ, we will be cold for a grand.

Chernoff: No answer. Partner is short in hearts unless the opponents are fooling around. We may have a small or grand slam, but I'll pass if partner signs off.

Roeder: 4♦. I have a potentially fantastic hand for slam. If pard thinks that 4♦ is passable in this auction, vul at IMPs, I will need to raise my rates! I hope pard can control bid 4♥. I will then bid 4♠ and not stop short of slam. 7♦ has reasonable play opposite as little as ♠Qxxx ♥-- ♦AQxxxxx ♣Ax and is virtually cold opposite other hands where the queen in the above hand is in clubs.

Bell: 3♠. I hate the 2♣ bid. I would have made a negative double. 3♠ establishes a game force and allows for slam exploration at a fairly low level.

SACKS: I disagree with Leo's distaste for 2♣. Let's say that we make the suggested negative double, and then the auction procedes the same. Am I really better placed now than having made a negative double? 3♠ would not be forcing. There would not even be an argument whether 4♦ was forcing. About which: while I think that 4♦ should be forcing (but I play the 2♣ bid was an absolute game force, with 3♣/1♥ being invitational), I am quite sure that a substantial minority of expert partners do not consider it forcing. That said, I think 4♥ is the best choice to make move toward. Of course this was on Bridge Base, so I essentially bid 6♦ and my "expert" Turkish partner had ♠10xx ♥K ♦AQJxxxx ♣xx.