

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 45, #4

April 2010

Published By ALACBU



Report from Reno

by Rand Pinsky
District Director

*Reno Grand Sierra Hotel, Room
1965, Monday 1 a.m., March 15,
2010*

The National Board of Directors meeting ended on Thursday, the Board of Governors was yesterday, and Kathy and I have just returned from the Patron's Reception. Here are some of the highlights of our meetings.

Charity games in clubs: This is a very important regulation for all of our clubs that run local charity games. Management was concerned that some clubs that run charity games for local charities may not present the donation to the local charity. Therefore, any club that in any calendar year runs special local charity games that are sanctioned for extra masterpoints must make for public inspection an accounting of all funds raised in such games no later than February 28 of the following calendar year.

Regional events boards: This motion attempted to require that at a regional event held at a NABC, a

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~ See page 12 for
GNT information ~

VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Cell Phone Policy

By Mark L. Raggio
ALACBU Vice President

The ALACBU Board has adopted and will immediately implement a cell phone policy for all district-sponsored events such as regionals and qualifying games for the North American Pairs and Grand National Teams. During the events, there is to be no cell phone usage, which includes receiving or making calls and/or receiving or sending text messages. The penalties for violating this policy are as follows:

- **Match Point Events:** 25% of the maximum points awarded on any board of the current event
- **IMP Team Event (Swiss or KO):** 2 IMPs for every six boards (or proportion thereof)
- **IMP Pair Event:** 7 IMPs for up to 30 boards in a session
- **Board-A-Match Team Event:** .25 points from the team's final score

Before events commence, the directors will make announcements reminding players of the policy. Please go to the district website (www.acbldistrict23.org) for additional information about the policy.

The fiscal year for ALACBU ends on October 31. This past October, the district ended the year with a net income of \$6,473.37. This is primarily due to the increased participation during Bridge Week Regional in the month of

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pair game must play at least a 26 or 27 board minimum per session and at a team event at least 52 boards in a two-session team game. I voted for this motion but it was defeated by the full board.

Games at clubs: All sanctioned games held at clubs, with the sole exception of STaCs, are to be counted in Ace of Clubs masterpoint races at unit-, district-, and ACBL-wide levels.

Fall 2017 NABC: The board unanimously voted to recommend to management that the Fall 2017 NABC should return to the San Diego Manchester Grand Hyatt.

ACBL senior age: A motion to

raise the age for ACBL senior events to age 60 was defeated.

Super senior pairs: The board voted to establish a Super Senior Pairs (age 70+) as an NABC event to be held on the last two days of the Fall NABC. The masterpoints earned will not count towards senior masterpoint races and this event shall not qualify for Grand Life Master eligibility.

Conventions: There were two motions that were referred to the Competitions and Conventions Committee. The first was to eliminate the pre-alert requirement for short (5-card weak 2's and 6-card 3-level pre-empts) and undisciplined (less than Q high) pre-empts. Replace the pre-alert with an

alert upon occurrence. The second motion was to amend the General Convention Chart to allow that a defense over a natural notrump and overcalls to allow a bid of two diamonds which does not show at least one known suit.

Special games at clubs adjustment: The month of February is reserved for Junior Fund Games, the month of April is reserved for charity games, and the month of September is reserved for International Fund games and in those months any and all ACBL sanctioned club sessions may be special games for the named funds. In the remaining nine months of the year, one game per month per sanctioned session may be a special game for either the Junior Fund, International Fund, Educational Foundation or charity. The masterpoint ratings for all of these special games will be 70% of Sectional Rating maintaining the current cap of 6.00 masterpoints.

This summarizes the most important motions that were before the board. I will report on other motions next month and will again highlight some of our junior players.

Remember you can always reach me at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net.

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email bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Editors/Designers..... Jennifer Einberg & Lisa Hasegawa
Managing Editor..... William Schreiber
Contributing Editor..... John Jones

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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley/Santa Clarita

By Gin

As spring approaches activities increase and it becomes hectic trying to keep up with the wave. Although I am not a candidate, my involvement in the election of officers in our winter residence has been intense. Fortunately the campaign is over and the voting will take place within hours. In addition to this first time involvement in Fiesta Resident Association Board Election, a short trip to Lancaster was necessary. It is not wise to ignore the April 15 deadline.

Regretfully I missed Ron Oest's 70th birthday celebration. It was reported to have been a great success. It is just not fair that Ron looks the same as he did the first time I met him some fifteen years ago.

Joanne Freatman underwent successful cardiac bypass surgery and is recovering well. Nan Newland missed a few games due to a health problem but is now recovered and back in the game. Sid Zalk is missed at bridge games. Sid is experiencing an unidentified malaise. George MacDonald's knee replacement surgery is over and he, too, is recovering successfully. Onorita Pallanti is experiencing difficulties raising her arms. At last report the cause of her problem was unknown. We do wish her a complete and speedy recovery.

Current events are posted on the white board in the clubroom in Lancaster. The white board is generally the most accurate source of upcoming events.

The game winners of the month had some rather high-scoring games. The Sunday highest game was 68.28% posted by Marlene and Dave Gasper. A 68.58% game was posted by Brad Ward/Marlene Gasper in a Tuesday noon game. Tuesday evening game at Valencia was won by Hugh Bartlett/Gary Grey with the high score of 70.2%. Brad/Dave Gasper paired up on Wednesday evening winning the highest game with a game of 82.94%. Thursday morning, in Castaic, Hugh and Roshen Hadullah won their game with 65.63%. Thursday night at the 99er game an impressive 68.76%

game was won by Sonya Plahn/Sharry Vida. The Friday game was won by Marlene/Lola Messiha with 67.71%. For the first time this season at the Tuesday game at Ginn/Betty Zarling posted first place back to back wins. The wins were not spectacular but they were a welcome change from placing fourth most of the season.

Unit Game January 17

	A	B	C
Kathy Swaine/Rand Pinsky	1	-	-
Earlene DeHaas/George Lewis	2	1	1
Sandi and Ron Oest	3	2	1
Bill Brodek/Pat Juenemann	4	-	-
Doris Thompson/Lola Messiha	5	-	-
Mary Stauf/Henry Roediger	-	3	-
May Abagi/Colin MacDougall	-	4	2
Russ Buker/George MacDonald	-	-	3
Carol and Hal Underwood	-	-	4

A parting thought... the latest sport is solo wrestling, for people who need to get a grip on themselves.

Glendale-Verdugo

By Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game - 1:00 p.m. Saturday, April 10
12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch

Spontaneity is a wonderful thing, and one of the advantages of our game is contemplating the great unknown when picking up a partner at tournaments. I won my first red masterpoints by doing so, and have enjoyed "firsts" and "scratches" subsequently. Of course, disappointments occur, but those also occur with tried and true partners, *n'est-ce pas?*

At the club level it's wise to come in or phone well ahead of game time, which also applies to last minute cancellations. This allows our directors to do whatever juggling is necessary to set up and start the games on

time and end early enough to accommodate players who need to beat “rush hour traffic.” We welcome spontaneous “urges,” especially when they occur at an early enough minute...

Jim Looby must have had a lot of tried and true partners as he earned 998 MPs and placed #79 on the Barry Crane 2009 Top 500 ACBL Players List. Also, our former unit member, Wafik Abdou placed #438 with 515 MPs (he left us to practice medicine in Bakersfield many years ago).

Elaine Moore's MPs are very limited in number (she won the Mini-McKinney 20 to 50 MP Bracket last year) but some she earned last month were choice as a result of the 75.91% game she turned in with good partner Thomas Shudic. Accolades are due and given herewith to both of you.

Brad Beland bounded over the 1,000 MP level and is now a Silver Life Master, so more kudos and, to show that he merits them, he recently scored a 71.50% game with the sterling quality support of Dennis Semain.

After citing all the above good bridge playing, here's a tug of war hand to ponder (Dealer W):

♠AJxxxxx	♠--
♥10xxxx	♥Ax
♦x	♦8752
♣--	♣AKJ9632

Contracts Results N/S E/W

4♦S -3 150
3♠*W +3 530
3♠W -1 50
6♣E -5 250
5♣E -3 150
4♠W -3 150
5♣E -4 200
3♠W -1 50

Even holding 5♥, apparently opening 3♠ was the best bid, although a heart contract might have been interesting...

Temo Arjani took an extended winter vacation from his CPA business, exploring Egypt, attending a Zoroastrian Congress in Dubai, and finally visiting family and friends in Bombay, India. I forgot to ask: Was it around the world 30 days, Temo? Tracy Boys and Glenn Eddy were also extensive in their flight to Sydney and Cairnes, Australia where they did some

snorkeling in the Great Barrier Reef before heading for New Zealand. They even got to play some bridge along the way with “all those nice people: ‘Scheduling did not allow acceptance of an invitation for dinner in our home’” – How's that for a welcome to their world!

Sharon Wolf had a March Birthday to celebrate, so she missed our Unit Day Game. However, entertainment of another kind was available. As she and a friend opted for several days in Las Vegas. We hope that any Las Vegas gaming forays proved as successful as most of your bridge ones, Sharon...

As for the aforesaid Unit Game, our primary chefs Eva, Merry and Pat opted for corned beef, cabbage, and boiled potatoes, with Betsy tossing the salad. Special thanks go to Margaret Mataga's daughter-in-law for those homemade cream cheese rolls, dainty and delicious. As evidenced by the following, some of our players opted for winning ways in our *raison d'être* gathering:

North/South

A1	B1	C1	Leon Alexander/Frank Rubin
A2			Steve Licker/Bob Gish
A3	B2		Pat Abbey/Mike Doll
A4			John Villalobos/Don Howell

East/West

A1			Jake Frenkel/Herman Helber
A2	B1		Art Chacanas/D. LaMaie
A3			Tim Lolli/Dan Oakes
A4	B2		Louise Reich/Amr Elghamry
	B3	C1	Betty Josias/Eva Seri

Hope to see you on the 10th if not before. Take care everybody and enjoy springing forward...

Long Beach Unit

by Jon Yinger

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org

Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

March 14 unit game: Overall results: 1st in A: Aaron Jones/Jerry Cassady, 2nd Eileen Niesen/Kaye Amdon, 3rd Hashim Mahmood/Thambu Nadarjah, 4th Baum Harris/Steve Skinner, 5/6 Carol Murakoshi/Tom Ludwig tied with Bee Kinman/Janet Logan. B Flight in the overalls: 4th Kim Wang/Chien-San Han, 5th Kay Tseng/Cory Hand, and 6th Sherry Troeger/Judith Jones.

C flight: 3rd Dick and Linda Stein, 4th Bettyanne Houts/Annete Sincock and 5th Lynn and Curtis Johnson. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master game were: 1st in A: Karen and Mike McKittrick, 2nd Carmela Chiurazzi/Sharon Biederman, 3rd Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson, and 4th Yolanda Medina/Peggy Spring. Congratulations to all!

70+% games 2/16 through 3/15: Jackie Hess/John Jones had 74.32% in the open game on Thursday, Feb 18. In NLM games Carmela Chiurazzi/Sharon Biederman won 75.54% on March 1, and Sally Gordy/Ruth Roe won 71.61% on March 15. Congratulations to all three pairs!!

Big masterpoint awards: 1st overall in special games Feb 16 through Mar 15: Feb 22 Walter Rothstein/

Bill Wilson won 4.50mp; Feb 23 Collen Cody/Eileen Niesen won 6.00mp in the afternoon game, Carol Ramseyer/Marty Bolling won 3.20 in the 299er game, and Mike Daley/Earl VanDerVord won 3.50mp in the evening game. Feb 24 Cecil Cook/Irwin Bender won 4.67mp in the afternoon game and Keith Hafen/John Melis won 3.33mp in the evening game. Feb 25 Betty McClellan/Bev Shafer won 5.67mp. Feb 26 Wayne Otsuki/Jackie Hess won 6.00mp in the afternoon game, and Jo and John Melis won 3.33mp in the evening game. Feb 27 John Melis/Keith Hafen won 4.50mp. Feb 28 Marcie Evans/Betty McClellan won 4.17mp. In the Unit Game March 14 Aaron Jones/Jerry Cassady won 4.82 for 1st overall. Big awards for 2nd overall: Feb 22 Bruce Horiguchi/Len Beck won 3.38mp; Feb 23 Bob Lavery/Betty McClellan won 4.50mp, Feb 24 Paul Pettler/Bob

The Las Vegas Regional

June 7-13, 2010



For room reservations call
800 634-6753 or reserve
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Bridge room rate \$65.00

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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.

Flight A/X 0-5000/5000+ B/C/D 0-750/1500/2500
Strat A 2500+ B 750-2500 C 0-750

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

The Partnership Desk at the Tournament Opens One Hour Before Game Time for All Events

Special Program for Newer Players

On the Road to Life Master? We want YOU in LAS VEGAS

The Great American Bridge Tour will put you on the road to **GOLD POINTS** with a **FREE** interactive and **FUN** program that includes:

- ▲ **Friendly** discussion and practice with bridge professionals in small groups
- ▲ **Friendly** bridge professionals available to review the play following afternoon tournament sessions
- ▲ **Informative** lectures with **helpful handouts** and audio-visuals

This program will be hosted by bridge professional Jade Barrett who has coached and mentored U.S. Junior teams and has been a driving force in support of the ACBL Junior program. He is a frequent lecturer at tournaments.

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

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LVRegional.com

Card Fees \$11.00 for paid acbl members \$13.00 for all others
Zero tolerance policy will be in place • Thank you for not wearing fragrance.

MONDAY, JUNE 7

Stratified Charity Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session)1:00 p.m.
Stratified Charity Pairs1:00 p.m.
Newer Player Charity Stratified Pairs1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday KO's (1st of 4 sessions)7:00 p.m.
(Continuing Tuesday at 9:00, 1:00 & 7:00)
Stratified Mon-Wed Side Game Series (single session or 1st of 5)7:00 p.m.
All Monday games other than Kos are single sessions.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 1st of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday KO's (2nd, 3rd, & final sessions) 9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Wednesday KO's (1st & 2nd of 4 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Mon-Wed Side Game Series
(single session or 2nd & 3rd of 5)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

Stratified Swiss Teams (1st of 2 sessions, Wed-Thu)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 2nd of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday KO's (3rd session & final session)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Wednesday KO's (1st & 2nd of 4 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Mon-Wed Side Game Series
(single session or 4th & 5th of 5)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

Stratified Swiss Teams (2nd of 2 sessions)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 3rd of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Thursday KO's (3rd session & final session)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday KO's (1st & 2nd of 4 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Thu-Sat Side Game Series
(single session or 1st & 2nd of 6)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Morning Compact KO's (1st of 2 sessions, Fri-Sat)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 4th of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday KO's (3rd session & final session)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday KO's (1st & 2nd of 4 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Thu-Sat Side Game Series
(single session or 3rd & 4th of 6)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

FREE COMEDY SHOW!



After the evening session on **Wednesday, June 9**, Dana Daniels will team up with his **Psychic Parrot Luigi (yes a Psychic Parrot)** to perform incredible magic blended with rapid-fire comedy to create truly Memorable entertainment.

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!

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Morning Compact KO's (2nd of 2 sessions)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 5th of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday KO's (3rd session & final session)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Saturday Compact KO's (2 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Thu-Sat Side Game Series
(single session or 5th & 6th of 6)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

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

District 17 GNT Finals

Play begins Friday June 11 at 1:00 & 7:00 p.m. for all flights and continues through Sunday, June 13, for the Championship flight and Flight A. Flight B and C will play Friday and Saturday.



LVRegional.com

Sanction # R1006012

Santen won 3.50mp, Feb 25 Lina Cheng/John Wong won 4.25mp, Feb 26 Ann Croul/Arne Lier tied with Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger, each winning 3.94mp. Feb 27 Paul Pettler/Elinor Baratelle won 3.38mp. Feb 28 Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi won 3.13mp. In the March 14 Unit Game Eileen Niesen/Kaye Amdon won 3.62mp for 2nd overall., and in the afternoon game Feb 25 Sherri Held/Larry Topper won 3.19mp for 3rd overall. Congratulations to all!

New members and new status: We issue a warm welcome to new members Barbara Zarzycki, Pamela Cronn, and Kay Hyland. Welcome all! Status changes: Junior Master: Richard Barrack; Club Masters: George Alemshah, Bernard Hader, and Donn Kupfer; NABC Masters: Fay Beckerman and Michael Daley; New Life Masters: Tish Kernochan, Betty Stewart, and Mike Ullman; Silver Life Master: Shirley Andrews; Gold Life Master: Mark Tang. Congratulations to you all!!

Upcoming special events at the club: Sunday, April 11 Unit Game, lunch at 12:30, game at 1 p.m., non-life masters play for \$5. April 12-18 a week of club championship games. A special, unit-rated game on Wednesday, April 21 in honor of John Muir's birthday. All special games are regular prices, extra points.

Condolences: to family and friends of Frank Bartlett who passed away last month. Frank was a founding member of the Long Beach Bridge Center and a major figure in local and regional bridge events for many years. He was also a mentor and teacher to many current members of the club. He will be missed.

Get well wishes: to Betty Barton, Ed Neuroth, and Joy Rosenthal.

Get on the email list for the newsletter: If you miss getting the newsletter by snail mail (it's been more than a year since the district quit mailing them out), you can have me send you a copy by email. Send me your

District 23 Rank Changes 2/1/10 - 2/28/10

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Elizabeth Beagle
Michele Brucks
Bonnie Butler
Carmela Chiurazzi
Susan Cohen
Renee Dorret
Fabian Fang
Carole La Caze
Muxin Li
Sandra/Sandy Meyer

Club Master (20 MPs)

Henry Ralph Abouaf
Wayne Beagle
Elizabeth Biggins
Michel Brand

Richard Dickens
Ilene Feinstein
Joseph Hooker
Minerva Krevoy
Margaret Merritt
Linda Schlesinger

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Temo Arjani
Linda Barnard
Ginger Boykin
Donna Castor
Pamela Cole
Joyce Henderson
Peter Woodruff

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Stephen Wachtel

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Mark Gersh
Alyssa Kennedy
Mary Miller
Abby Triback

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Beverly Bradshaw
Nancy Conger
Norma Simpson
Harish Singh

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Reese Milner

email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

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

Greetings, once again bridge players of Unit #559. If you missed the Election Party, you really missed a great day, despite the torrential downpour. We were nestled inside enjoying ourselves immensely.

Sandra Franciscus and Robert Wang put this one together. When you entered the room, it was transformed into a lovely spring garden with gorgeous daffodils, daisies and baby's breath on each of the tables. Karen Arase and Joanne Sasaki lent their talents to helping with the arrangements, and the room looked fabulous!

It was most appropriate that Weezie Reich won first prize for the Open Pairs game since it was the day before her 70th birthday. She couldn't have given herself a better birthday present. By the way, Amr Elghamry did contribute to the win - they were first in A and B. First in C were Morris Jones/Tom Miyake. Karen Arase, Gitta Earll, Jake Frenkel, and Miriam Harrington walked off with top honors in the Swiss placing first in A and B. First in C were Mary Falvey, Jon Harvey, Meg Yacawych, and Wayne Phillips. Peter Szecsi is the luckiest member of our unit when it comes to the 50/50 drawing. He had the lucky ticket again!

We want to thank Georgiana Bierman and Kim Horn for their great contributions as board members. They have served our unit well, and we all extend a BIG THANK YOU for all the hard work. We did have lots of laughs, too. You will be greatly missed. Karen Arase

District 23 - Team Game Sectional

Saturday May 22 and Sunday May 23, 2010

San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy

Saturday, May 22

10:00 am -

Swiss Teams - Strata Flighted

First Session of Two

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

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

Open Pairs- Stratified (Single Session)

3:30 pm

Open Pairs - Stratified (Single Session)

Swiss Teams - Second Session of Two

**GNT QUALIFYING FLT. A AND C
 WILL BE HELD TODAY**

Card Fees:

ACBL Members

\$10 per person/per session

Non-Members

\$11 per person/per session

Director in Charge: Peter Knee

Location:

San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy

6733 Variel Ave. Canoga Park

2 blocks W. of DeSoto, just S. of Vanowen

Exit DeSoto from the 101 or 118 Freeway

(818) 999-9131

FREE PARKING



Sunday, May 23

10:00 am -

Compact Knockouts

(Rounds 1 & 2)

3:30 p.m.

Swiss Teams (One Session)

Stratified

Compact Knockouts

(Rounds 3 & 4)

For Stratified Swiss

Stratified A: 2500+ masterpoints

Stratified B: 500-2500

Stratified C: 0-500

Partnerships & More Information:

Rand Pinsky

District 23 Nat'l Board of Directors

Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net

(661) 253-1105

OR

Howard Einberg (310) 475-9784

Grand National Teams Coordinator

*****All profits from this tournament will be given to our GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS to help support their expenses as they represent our District in the GNT National Competition *****

and Joanne Sasaki join us in their place. Other returning board members are: Sandra Franciscus, Mark Hartzell, Mike Marcucci, Marie Nimmrich, Peter Szecsi, Mary Falvey, Miriam Harrington, Amr Elghamry, Robert Wang, and Jan Wickersham. We elected new officers at the board meeting, and they are as follows:

President	Sandra Franciscus
Vice President	Peter Szecsi
Secretary	Mary Falvey
Treasurer	Miriam Harrington
Reps to ALACBU	Sandra Franciscus, Mike Marcucci, and Peter Szecsi

Some of our members have been cleaning up in the "Sectional" department. Connie De Rosa, Sandra Franciscus, Abbey Tribeck, and Julio Cervantes were first in B in Palm Springs. Yours truly finished first in X and second in A. And in Thousand Oaks, Rae and Jerry Murbach, Joe Viola and Robert Schorr were first in A and A/X. Congratulations to you all.

Pomona-Covina

By Vic Sartor

Unit Game
Saturday, April 17
Lunch 11:00 a.m.
Game follows

For those of you who have always assumed that the "Fountain of Youth" was just a fairy tale pursued by gullible Spanish explorers (probably dreamed up by 16th century Florida real estate agents with swampland to peddle), you may have to revise your opinions.

We have in our midst some pretty convincing evidence that there might be something to the story after all. Last month three of our members were honored with a special recognition of their natal days- all of which fell in the same week. Marcella Scott and Marvin Saltzburg both turned 90 and Ginger Saltzburg, the baby of the trio, turned 89. They can all still hold their own at the table and are as sharp as players 30 or 40 years younger.

Luckily, thanks to modern medicine, we can all aspire to such longevity. When something wears out we can just have a new body part installed. Exhibits A and

B- Herman Helber, now rehabbing on a new artificial knee, and Gino Barbieri, with his titanium shoulders- our very own bionic men. If it's true bridge helps keep your mind sharp, maybe we can just renovate our bodies every few years and keep shuffling along forever.

While we're on the subject of scientific wonders, all of you who have computers should be sure to check out a really neat feature now offered on the ACBL home page. When a local game is scored on a computer, the info can be transferred directly to ACBL headquarters and entered into a database. The computer not only posts the complete overall results, it also displays your result on every individual board and who you played it against. This is great for anyone trying to improve his game. You can analyze why you did well or poorly on any specific board and compare yourself to the players who outscored you. Just click on "club game results" and enter the city and state. Then click on "La Fetra" or "unit game" and enter the month and year. A calendar will appear. All game dates are highlighted in purple. Click on the date and the results magically appear.

Speaking of results, the February unit game was won by Mark Raggio and Raymond Mack, visiting ALACBU board members. Lulu and Fred Minter took opposite direction honors. Hans Hehnke and Vito Sartori took Class B, followed by Rosalie Roberts and Penny Barbieri, 2nd in B and 1st in C. Tom Lill and Michael Horn were 2nd in C.

The monthly individual was won by Clint Lew, followed by Norma Appley, Helen Wang, Roger Boyar, Tom Lill, and Albert Lax. Top game of the month was a 70% by Milt Kalikman and Barbara Papa. Maybe Barbara can help Bill with his game.

Club game winners were Penny Barbieri, Helen Wang, Linda Ananea, Val Fletcher, Marion Miller, Kurt Trieselmann, Clint Lew, Milt Kalikman, Barbara Papa, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Richard Patterson, Jan Wickersham, Lary Alba, Dave Ruoff, Charlotte Capelle, Jacquelyn Fehrenbach, Teri Atkinson, and Marion Miller.

Our hand of the month illustrates the wisdom of the bromide "six- five, come alive." If 6-5 is good, 6-6 must be even better, no? You hold : ♠T98432 ♥AJ8754 ♦4 ♣--

Both sides are vulnerable. Your RHO opens 3♣. Your call?

If your instinct is to look at your 5 HCP and hold

your nose, of course you pass. Who in his right mind bids at the 3-level vulnerable with such garbage? If you have red blood in your veins, however, you have an obvious 4♣ bid. Your distribution makes your five points worth more like 15. The hero of this story not only bid 4♣, he subsequently raised his partner's 4♥ to 5♥ over the opponents' 5♣, doubled naturally. Did he manage to hold his loss to 200 or 500 for a good sacrifice? Sadly, no. He made 6! Pard showed up with ♠5 ♥K9xx ♦A10754 ♣873, giving the partnership a grand total of 12 HCP. With hearts 2-1 and spades 3-3, 6 rolled home easily, but even 4-2 spades makes 5 a cinch. When you have wild distribution, bid 'em up! Til next time...

San Fernando Valley

By Fran Kern

Upcoming unit events: The San Fernando Valley Sectional is scheduled for April 2010.

Friday, April 16 games at the 750 Bridge Club at the Prince of Peace Church, 5700 Rundnick Ave, Woodland Hills. Games at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for Open Stratified Pairs, 750 Stratified Pairs, and Compact Knockouts.

Saturday, April 17 games at the Bridge Academy at 6733 Variel Ave., Canoga Park. Games at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for Open Stratified Pairs, 750 Stratified Pairs, and Compact Knockouts.

Sunday, April 18 games at The Bridge Academy Games start at noon and are limited to Swiss Teams. Call 818-815-8826 for Friday game reservations and 818-999-9131 for Saturday /Sunday game reservations.

D23 NAOP Results at Reno NABC

Mike Marcucci

Our district folks fared well in Reno this year. Not much luck in A, but B and C were a different story! Last year's A Team winners, Matt Klimesh and David Kempe, racked up a 6th place in B pairs. Outstanding! Then in C pairs, after all three of our D23 pairs qualified to the 2nd day, Lisa Kuo and Murat Veysoglu fought to an NAOP 2nd place, while Steve Ramos and Neal Kleiner came in close behind in 6th! Less than eight points separated one through six! Wow! Congrats to all. Great going!

VICE PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

July 2009. The final cash on hand was \$22,031.20. This is a 91% increase from the previous year's balance of \$11,514.47.

Keep in mind the following district and unit events:

- **Regional Events**

- April 24-25: GNT, Open and Flight B – Canoga Park
- May 22-23: GNT, Flight A and Flight C – Canoga Park
- July 5-11: Bridge Week in Pasadena

- **Sectional Events**

- April 30-May 2: West LA (Unit 557) Spring Sectional
- May 22-23: District 23 Team Game Sectional, takes place at the San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy
- May 29-30: Torrance-South Bay (Unit 568) Sectional
- Sectional Tournaments at Clubs (STaC) for District 23
- March 22-28: Just completed – go to the district website (www.acbldistrict23.org) for final results
- July 19-25
- September 20-26

Once again, we encourage you to access the district website where you will find additional information on each of these events. While you are there, we also encourage District 23 members to register their email addresses. By doing so, you will receive periodic notices of upcoming regionals and sectionals, as well as notices of the monthly bridge news.

Plans have been finalized for the District 23 Fall Regional. This event will be held at the Marina del Rey Hotel which is located at 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey. The dates of the tournament are October 11-17, 2010. Please stay tuned for further details concerning this event.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for February:

750 Bridge Club: Paul Endler 7.17, Donald Witmeyer 7.12, Curt Darden 6.53, David Posley 6.28, Ronald Malkin 5.47, Douglas Timmer 5.46, Gary Baxley 5.24, Alene Friedman 4.83, Samy Antoun 4.72, Jimmie Swan 4.66.

Bridge Academy 299 Game: Sam Antoun 5.82, Joan Farrar 3.54, Ellen Carrier 3.17, Rochelle Lotto 3.17, Jim Gardner 3.13, Wayne (Doug) Beagle 2.47, Carol Winston 2.30, Marge Bulmer 2.27, Ira Robinson 2.24, Shirley Klein 2.14.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Gilbert Stinebaugh 23.29, Andrew Vinock 18.42, Gary Frans 16.15, Marta Feltz 15.12, William Carlson, Jr. 14.70, Tom Wylie 14.01, Allan Palansky 13.71, Armand Szulc 13.57, Sheila Bozin 13.57, Leila Greenfield 13.35.

70% Games for February: Michael Klemens/Leila Greenfield 70.58. Billy Blanchard/James Hoose 72.54 Alene Friedman/Mel Lerner 73.94.

In Memoriam: Unit members note the empty chair left by the recent loss of Myra Gurian.

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

**Club Championship - 11:30 a.m.
Friday April 2**

**Club Championship - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, April 15**

**Club Championship - 11:30 a.m.
Monday, April 19**

**NLM Club Championship - 10:30 a.m.
Thursday, April 22**

**Club Championship - 7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 26**

Club Championships: The NLM Club Cham-

pionship on February 17 was won by Joanna Wallis/Tom Barna in Flight A with John and Sheila Bray taking Flight B honors and Jamila Malikyar/Lake Ellstrom leading Flight C. At the February 19 Club Championship Julia Juul-Dam/Brian Richardson took Flight A honors and Dolly and Bruce Weiner led both Flights B and C. On March 2 the Club Championship was led by Dolores Nawa/Jim Jensen in Flight A with Suzanne Kuuskmae/Fred Swinth ahead in Flight B and Toshiko Saito/Christine Uriu winning Flight C. The March 8 Club Championship saw Betsy Amador/Harry Wessells leading Flight A, Dolores Nawa/Masae Kato ahead in Flight B with Emily and Jon Rankin winning Flight C.

Team Winners: On February 16 the winning team was Gerri Carlson, Ron Carlson, Neil Kleiner, and Ed Srenco. The February 23 game was led by the quartet of Marie Willis, Joan Johnson, Sheryl Kohlhoff, and Carole Mason. On March 2 Jackie Hess, Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, and John J. McDermott took top honors. The March 9 game was headed by the team of Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer, and Jim Dutton.

Charity Game Winners: On some recent Saturdays the South Bay Bridge Club has held charity games with the proceeds going to the Haiti earthquake relief fund. The winners of this game on January 30 were Masae Kato/Hank Sheehan in Flights A and B. On February 13 Linda Henson/Bill Lama won both Flights A and B. On February 27 and March 6 Mary Ann Coyle/Lucy Tredennick took Flight A honors with Karen and Mike McKittrick leading Flight B on March 6.

2010 Torrance South Bay Sectional: There will be a Torrance South Bay Sectional this May at a new location. Details to come in the May column.

GUV Memorial Award: If you have played bridge long enough you probably saw a hand where the opening lead against a NoTrump contract was won by the 5 of a suit. It is a lot less likely that you saw a hand in a suit contract where the first time a suit was led, the 5 won the trick.

Well I can personally vouch for this happening and I was the one who ended up with egg on his face. At the recent Thousand Oaks Sectional I held ♠AQJT94. The opponents were in 4♠ and dummy came down with the singleton ♦5. Somewhere in the middle of the hand declarer holding ♦K8762 led the deuce toward dummy.

I wanted my partner in real bad on this hand to avoid being end played and smoothly put in the ♦4. When partner produced the ♦3 I almost fell off the chair.

The good news was that having avoided the end play we still managed to beat 4♠ a trick.

Na Zdrowie

West L.A. by candy

An ancient tradition was dancing around the May Pole. The updated version is the Stripper Pole. So on May 1 the WLA Unit gets people to dance around the Kayne Eras Center (players go to heaven, boards go to hell, do-si-do and allemande left) for its spring sectional. Two pair games at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The Friday night KOs will be ending and the Compact KOs will be starting. On Friday night the Barrington Bridge Club

will host the first session of the KOs and a pair game. The Swiss Teams and a 99er game start on Sunday at 10 a.m. At 3 p.m. a second 99er game and the second session of the Swiss TBA. The unit will be providing free(!) coffee and homemade goodies on Saturday and Sunday so you can keep your energy up.

This Sectional is the first leg in the race for the Jill Meyers and Mary Jane Farell Trophies. The second leg will be at our Fall Sectional September 3-6. Last year's winners were Margie Michelin, Alyssa Kennedy, and Rick Turner.

More info elsewhere in this paperless paper, including directions, or call our tournament manager Pete Benjamin at 310-558-0888.

Our annual Pro-Am Pair game will be June 27, so hold that date. It has always been a lot of fun with a great supper and friendly bridge. This year it will be at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club at 5:00. This is the first in a

WEST LOS ANGELES SPRING SECTIONAL

KAYNE ERAS CENTER
5350 Machado Road
Culver City, CA 90230
APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2010



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club
11502 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310) 966-4144

FRIDAY, APRIL 30th
7:30 pm

BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

SATURDAY, MAY 1st

10:00 am

**STRATIFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS IN HONOR
OF WEST LOS ANGELES**

PLAYER OF YEAR EDDIE KANTAR

Flight A/X (approx. 35% of field) 0 - unlimited
Flight Strats B, C, D 0 - 2,000 MP

COMPACT KNOCKOUT TEAMS 1st & 2nd matches
BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS - 2nd Session

3:00 pm

BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS - Finals
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
COMPACT KNOCKOUT TEAMS 3rd & 4th matches

Masterpoint Limits for all Stratified Events
unless otherwise noted

- Strat: Flight A/X 0- Unlimited
- Strats B, C, D 0-2000, 0-750, 0-300

KNOCKOUT TEAMS

Not handicapped unless only 1 bracket

1st Round	Friday, April 30	7:30 pm
2nd Round	Saturday, May 1	10:00 am
Final Round	Saturday, May 1	3:00 pm

WEST LOS ANGELES UNIT BOARD

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

SUNDAY, May 2nd

10:00 am and TBA

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS TEAMS

Flight A/X 0 - Unlimited MP
(approximately 35% of field)

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

COMPETE FOR TWO TROPHIES

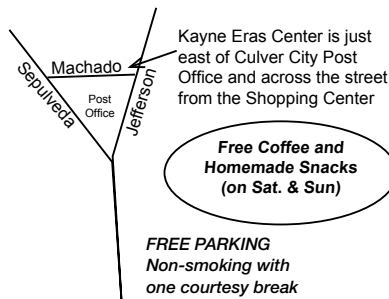
The West Los Angeles Unit player winning the most master points combined at the two 2010 West Los Angeles Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Jill Meyers Trophy. The 299er player winning the most master points at the West LA Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Mary Jane Farell Trophy. The 2009 winners were Marjorie Michelin and Alyssa Kennedy & Rick Turner.

**CARD FEES \$10.00 PER PERSON
PER SESSION**

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

Students under the age of 19 play free!

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



DIRECTIONS FROM 405

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

Be sure to hold the date for our Fall Sectional • Sept. 3 - Sept. 6

series of fun events the unit will be holding at the clubs. Sign-ups will be at the clubs.

A little dancing in the streets for our two new Life Masters: Kathy Harouche and Diane Licht. Shake your booty, cuz you deserve it. Margaret Kahn is a new Junior Master; James Nathan: Club Master; Michael Keston: Regional Master; and Richard Cutler and Audrey Pauly are new Bronze Life Masters.

And because I can, two more lists of names starting with the 70%ers: Beverly Rosenberg/Denny Seltzer, Richard Cutler and Paul Gordon, Susanne Menck/Zalman Perelman, Ed Feldmann/Rahim Israel. Jill Richmond/Paul Smith hit this list twice, as did Jordan Chodorow, but he needed two people to carry him, Chuck Fonarow and Margie Michelin.

On to Club Champs at Barrington: A: Beverly Rosenberg/Denny Seltzer, Maria Pendergast/Robert Levy, and Adrienne Greene/Mim Spertus; B: Lilly/Sally Aminoff/Sue Ann Simon, Jane Felixson/David Joseph, and Marcia Meyerson/John Campbell; C: Mudi/Amedeo Ursini/Victoria Berck, Ellen Seidman/Jeff Liebowitz, and Debra/David Stern. BHBC: Nourit Chowaiki/Jeri Berger, Ed Feldmann/Rahim Israel, and Rhoda and Lew Himmell.

By the time this hits the internet, Passover is almost over and bread and better wine is in your future. The traditional Peeps and bunnies are hopping into homes. Those who celebrate both are now washing down Peeps, Chocolate Matzo, and bunnies with a Concord Grape. Fortunately this too will pass. This column is due out on April Fools' Day, so it's up to you to decide whether is this all a joke or the real thing.

2010 Grand National Teams Location and Dates

Flight	Dates	Player Masterpoint Limits
Open Flight	April 24-25	0-unlimited
Flight A	May 22-23	0-5000
Flight B	April 24-25	0-2000
Flight C	May 22-23	Non Life Master under 500

Masterpoint limits based on recorded points as of 9/1/2009

All Events:

- Take place at the San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy 818-999-9131
6733 Variel, Canoga Park 91303
- Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5 or 6 players
- Game Times: 10:30 a.m. and TBA
- Players can enter more than 1 event (on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in New Orleans this summer
- Winning teams to receive partial refund of expenses for trip to the finals
- For complete conditions of contest see the ALACBU website at www.acbldistrict23.org
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg 310-475-9784 or Bill Wickham 310-234-3238

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

Panel: Jeff Goldsmith, Ross Grabel, Mark Itabashi, John Jones, Marshall Miles, David Sacks, Jon Wittes and a special appearance by Horrible Hog (H.H. – any resemblance to the moderator is pure speculation)

1

IMPs
EW Vul

West	North	East	South
pass	1♠	pass	1NT
pass	2♥	pass	2♠
pass	3♣	pass	?

You, South, hold: ♠Q7 ♥852 ♦K642 ♣QJ42

What call do you make?

Goldsmith: 3♠. Partner's core hand is a 5-4-1-3 17 count. Let's build a few:

- a) ♠AK10xx ♥AKxx ♦x ♣Kxx — 3♠ looks right, but it's not cold.
- b) ♠AKJxx ♥AJxx ♦x ♣Axx — 3NT is on a little more than a hook.
- c) ♠Kxxxx ♥AKJx ♦x ♣AKx — Nothing's particularly good.

If we were red, I'd bid 3NT, since that's clearly the best game, and it'll have a shot reasonably often. White, I think we get the most expectation from 3♠, though it could be a silly spot. It will make much of the time, and 3NT won't and will be doubled less often when it is wrong. Partner might bid 4♠ instead of 3NT with a 5-4-1-3 20-count, but should bid 3NT, just in case I have this hand.

Grabel: Pass. Partner is patterning out. This could be our last plus score.

Itabashi: Pass. It is hard to imagine a game here, especially with the poor heart holding. I might try 3♠ at matchpoints.

Jones: 3♥. Hearts, spades, clubs and maybe NT could be the best strain. (*Lions & tigers & bears, oh my!*) We could belong in game or part score. I don't believe that 3♥ is forcing, but I don't recall ever hearing much discussion of this auction. Partner's shape could be 5-4-1-3, 5-4-0-4, 5-5-0-3, or 6-4-0-3. 3♥ is low and flexible. If partner bids 3♠ or 3NT, I will bid 4♣.

Miles: Pass. Partner's hand is limited by his non-forcing 2♥ bid. I think he is showing 5-4-0-4 distribution, which could easily make game if my king were in hearts rather than diamonds.

Sacks: Pass. Partner is either 5-4-0-4 with 14-18 HCP (*I wouldn't expect partner to have as little as 14 HCP*) or 5-4-1-3 with around 17 HCP. While I might catch partner with semi solid spades and two aces (cold 3NT with diamond lead, club hook without) I'm probably more likely to find him a ton of other varieties that are a poor play for 3NT. If partner is 5-4-1-3, clubs rates to work well enough with the short hand taking the tap.

Wittes: 4♣. Great problem to start the set! Partner is either 5-4-0-4 or 5-4-1-3 with just under jump shift values. If the former, we should have a good play for 5♣. If the latter, I may have gotten us too high. Regardless, 3NT will probably fall at least a trick shy with a diamond lead, and even though this is not a great hand, I feel I owe partner one more bid.

H.H.: You passers are all wimps. I wouldn't dream of letting my partner play the hand, so I'm bidding 3NT so I can play the hand. There don't rate to be nine tricks, but I'll add one or two for my declarer ability.

2

IMPs
NS Vul

West	North	East	South
2♠	pass	6♠	?

You, South, hold: ♠A ♥AKQ ♦AKQJT ♣KQJT

What call do you make?

Goldsmith: Double. 6NT requires either the ♠A or the ♠K from partner. The ♠K is pretty unlikely, and the ♣A is probably less than 33%. If partner bids, so be it, but I'm not taking 50 a throw for my red slam.

Grabel: Double. Interesting problem as IMP odds may dictate bidding 7♦ (rather than 7NT in case I'm going down) as I expect to get this for about 1100-1400 vs. scoring 2220 or -200. While it is almost inconceivable that RHO has the ♣A, there is about even money chance that LHO has it. Partner, who probably has a stiff or void spade, has more room as he is likely to be long in clubs. This is offset by the fact that opener could easily hold it. I rate this about 50%.

Itabashi: Double. This is not a problem - how can one randomly place partner with the club ace? Only a true craps player would bid 7NT here.

Jones: Abstain. Where's the Rabbit? Before I can possibly know what to do, I must know where the Rueful Rabbit is seated. If he is my opponent, I believe there is a massive crossruff coming, and 6♠ will score +980. So if the Rabbit is my opponent, I will save in 6NT, which can only be beaten -800. But if the Rabbit is my partner, then lucky me. I'll bid 7♦ catering to the Rabbit having diamond support and a void in clubs. If my RHO is void in clubs and the Rabbit has the Ace of Clubs, then he will bid 7NT (he'll think 7♦ is a convention or something).

Miles: 7♦. I think the opponents' bidding indicates that partner has ♣A. However, if he doesn't, I don't want to go down six.

Sacks: Double. I sympathize with bidding on as partner is probably about 2/1 to have the club ace. If I was down in a match or starting versus a

heavily favored team, then I would bid 7♦, though at matchpoints, I would just take the plunge and bid 7NT.

Wittes: Double. This looks like a hand straight out of *Bridge in the Menagerie*. The oldest adage in bridge is "When fixed, stay fixed." What are the odds that partner has the ace of clubs? With only 11 high cards missing, surely not better than 50-50. Even with the wildest distributions, 6♠ doubled should net us no worse than 800, and more likely 1100 or 1400, so let's take the sure plus score rather than attempting to mastermind.

H.H.: I believe Mr. Jones has seen through the Rabbit's subterfuge here.

The East/West hands are as follows:

West: ♠KQ5432 ♥JT732 ♦-- ♣A4

East: ♠JT9876 ♥-- ♦765432 ♣8

Rabbit holding the west hand was bending over to pick up his dropped cookie and mistook his partner's 2♠ opener as 5♠. Counting 5 for the void, 3 for the singleton, 3 for the 6-card side suit and 3 or 4 for the extra trumps, he had an opening hand so bid the slam. 6♠ is cold of course since, alas, poor Yorick can't lead a trump so declarer can merrily crossruff until such time as you overruff with the ace of trumps and then send the opponents back on the yellow brick road. So, naturally you must bid 7♣ as your sacrifice as this will only go down 3 with a heart lead.

News for the Bridge News?

Send your story to

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org



West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

3♣

dbl

pass

1♠

?

You, South, hold: ♠KJ973 ♥A74 ♦AQ3 ♣53

What call do you make?

Goldsmith: 3♦. Anything could be silly, but if partner now bids 3NT, I'll feel OK. If I bid 3♥ and he bids 4♥, I won't be at all confident that we're in the right spot. Pass won't keep teammates very long.

Grabel: 3♦. 3♥ may get partner to push too hard. Admittedly we could lose the heart suit.

Itabashi: 3♦. Partner couldn't bid 3♥, so unless he has a perfect hand, game is unlikely. Bidding 3♥ might tempt partner to bid game on a hand that is as likely to go for a number than to make.

Jones: 3♥. No bid here is great but I feel strongly that 3♥ is the best shot. Partner's negative double shows hearts and I have heart support. I like 3♥ much better than 3♦, because partner is more likely to have longer hearts than diamonds. I am very much against passing at IMPs on problems of this variety, so my third choice would be to bid 3♠.

Miles: 3♦. Partner is less likely to raise diamonds than hearts with a four-card length.

Sacks: 4♣. Hard to imagine partner having a hand that does not have a good play for at least a small spade slam. On the off chance we are off two clubs, perhaps my cue will discourage a club lead from west after I have bid spades. *(Maybe you have much more rigid requirements for a negative double at the 3 level than I do.)*

Wittes: 3♥. The most flexibility for a possible game. Partner doesn't rate to have a dead minimum for a 3-level vulnerable negative double, so game is a distinct possibility, but I'm not good enough to insist on one.

H.H.: 3♥. I open so many bad hands, this feels like a mountain! Why should I discourage partner from bidding again. Would I not be happy to see a dummy of ♠Qx ♥KQJx ♦Kxxx ♣xxx? Besides, the worst thing possible might happen if I bid 3♦ — my partner could be the one to bid hearts and I'd have to let them play the hand.

Your ad here:

only \$40/month

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4

IMPs
EW Vul

West	North	East	South
	1♠	pass	2♥
pass	2♠	pass	3♣
pass	3♠	pass	?

You, South, hold: ♠--- ♥AKQT765 ♦A ♣KQJT9

What is your call and what is your plan after partner rebids 4♠?

(Note: when I sent this problem originally, it had a 6th club thereby creating a 14-card hand. Some panelists did not see the corrected version.)

Goldsmith: 4♣. Over 4♠, there are three reasonable choices: 5♥, 5NT, and 6♣. 5♥ should be a forcing 7-5 (forcing, because I have to be able to handle a preference to 6♣, which means I think I can make 12 tricks, so 5♥ is effectively a reverse). But 5♥ doesn't emphasize clubs enough; those are really good ones. 6♣ is too much about clubs; he'll think I'm 6-6. 5NT lets spades back into the picture, which could be right vs. ♠KQJ10xxx ♥x ♦Kxxx ♣A. I think partner should bid 4♠, not 3♠, with that hand, but people don't always bid the way I think they ought. The problem with 5NT is that he'll bid 6♠ with ♠KQ109xxxx ♥x ♦Kxx ♣A, when I want to be in hearts. (I don't know how to find 7♥) It's also possible just to pick myself and bid 6♥, but then I deserve to buy ♠KJ10xxxxx ♥--- ♦Kx ♣Axx. Since my hearts are playable vs. a void, I think I'll emphasize them with 5♥. If partner bids 5♠, I'll bid 6♣. We might be too high, but he should now know I have seven good hearts, five very good clubs, and one other card, which is probably not a spade. He'll get this one right.

Grabel: 6♣. Important to play clubs if partner is O-2 in hearts and clubs and my clubs are solid enough to handle a bad split as there is no tap suit.

Itabashi: 4♦. To be followed by 6♥ over 4♠. If that doesn't get partner to bid 7 with the ♣A, then nothing will.

Jones: 4♣. I will follow up most responses by bidding 5NT, pick a slam. There is no way to find out for certain if partner has the ♣A, so I will give up on a grand unless partner does something exciting. 5NT will focus on partner selecting the best strain between spades, hearts and clubs. I'll abide by his decision.

Miles: 6♣. Partner won't have a chance to bid 4♠. I think that is the best way to reach a grand slam if partner has the ♣A.

Sacks: 6♥. Partner is not getting the chance to bid four spades. I am a 6♥ bidder. On this auction, if partner is staring at the club ace and at least one heart, he can bid 7. What is with the one loser hands? I think I may have seen one in my lifetime. (*Sigh, my partners never let me bid either.*)

Wittes: 4♣. What a diabolical set of problems! Over 4♠, I will reluctantly pass. Not worth it to push for the nonvulnerable slam. If partner has something like ♠KQJxxxx ♥J ♦xxx ♣Ax, we've just missed a grand. If partner has something like ♠AKJxxxx ♥x ♦Kxx ♣xx, the five level may very well be too high. My partners usually have the latter hand.

H.H.: 4♣. I want to be sure partner will slowly and surely receive the message that they can take their spades and shove them up their bidding box.

5

IMPs
NS Vul

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	1♥	?

You, South, hold: ♠A ♥AKQJT75432 ♦A3 ♣---

What call do you make?

Goldsmith: 6♥. We might be cold for seven, but let's try to blow the bad guys out of the auction and buy it for six... +1460 is way better than +500.

Grabel: 6♥. How can I ever find out about the diamond king? Even though the joker on my right has put in his 2 cents worth, it's still 2-1 against partner having the diamond king. I can't count on finding an entry to partner's possible 13th trick.

Itabashi: 6♥. I haven't developed the bidding method to find the

diamond king with this hand. Partner might bid 7 with the club ace and a king, but if it is the spade king we will be out of luck.

Jones: Pass. Yes, I would pass in tempo at the table! When given the problem I took less than a second to say pass. Having thought about it I still like pass. If partner overcalls diamonds or finds a delayed takeout double then I will bid 7♥. Otherwise I will only bid 6♥. Note that RHOs well-timed psych didn't really harm us much. Other than opening 2♣, having LHO remain silent, and have partner respond 3♦

is about the only way I was going to get any real info before I had to jump to some level of hearts.

Miles: 6♥. Isn't this bid the best chance to play it in hearts? (*Unless your partner thinks this is some kind of asking bid*)

Wittes: 7♥. I amend my earlier analysis. This is not a set out of *Bridge in the Menagerie*, it is a set out of *Through the Looking Glass*. This one is worth the gamble. Partner has one chance in three of having the ♦K. If not, the ♣A or ♠K will do with the ♥9, or even probably a doubleton heart.

H.H.: 7♥. Never have I seen a problem where the panel responses differ by 13 tricks. Our fine panel ranges from pass to 7♥! Once again, I will add a trick, but this time it's for my opponents' poor leads.

COWABUNGA DUDE



DON'T FORGET

THE BALBOA SECTIONAL

July 16 th	July 17 th	July 18 th
Friday	Saturday	Sunday

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

