

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 45, #8

August 2010

Published By ALACBU

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Bridge Week Results

by Bill Schreiber  
ALACBU President

WOW! What a turnout we had at Bridge Week! Attendance was 1504 tables, an average of 215 tables per day... up from 180 tables per day in 2009. BRIDGE WEEK IS BACK!

Winners of the major events were as follows: Mary Jane Farrell 4-Session Open Pairs: **Roger Lee/Mitch Dunitz**; Marshall Miles 4-Session Swiss Teams: **Jeff Fang, Mike Savage, David Chechelashvili, and William Wickham**; the Calcutta: **Stephen Goldstein/Gary Brown**; Mark Schreiber Memorial 299er pairs: **Karen McKittrick/Mike McKittrick**. Congratulations to these and all the winners at Bridge Week.

A report on high finishers at the NABC in New Orleans will be in my September column.

The next two regional events are **1 if by Land, and 2 if by Sea**. If this seems a little cryptic, next October 11-17 will be our Regional at the Marina del Rey Hotel. Starting approximately April 30, 2011 will be a Regional on a Cruise Ship - a Princess cruise ship sailing to three destinations along the Mexican Riviera, hosted by the renowned Larry Cohen.

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## New ACBL Headquarters

by Rand Pinsky  
District Director

**Congratulations District 23 on a Great Pasadena Regional:** With 1504 tables in play during our regional, I wish to thank everyone who came out to play to make our regional a success.



*District 23 Director Rand Pinsky at the new ACBL headquarters in Mississippi*

**Grand opening of the new ACBL Headquarters:** I was honored to represent our district at the grand opening of the ACBL headquarters in Horn Lake, Mississippi last month. The new facility is environmentally friendly and the staff's comments were all positive. The highlight of the new facility is the Bridge Museum, which is now home to the "History of Bridge." The ACBL website has a very detailed tour of the museum. You should check it out. In 2012 our Spring NABC will be held in Memphis; this would be a great time to visit.

**New Orleans board meeting:** By the time you read this report, the New Orleans board meeting will have been completed. There are some interesting motions for

DIRECTOR continued on page 2

**DIRECTOR** *continued from page 1*

the board to consider. Following are some of these motions.

**Regionals at Sea:** This motion seeks to regulate who may sponsor a Regional at Sea (RAS). The motions sets mileage limitations and requires that 50% of all profits go to an ACBL Fund or a 501(c) (3) organization. I am the chair of the committee that will review this motion. As written, I am against it. I believe that a district that wants to run a RAS should have that option.

**Preempt Pre-Alert Elimination:** This motion will eliminate the requirement for a pre-alert for short 5-card weak 2's and 6-card 3-level preempts. The board is waiting for input from the Competitions and

Convention Committee as to this motion.

**Mini-Spangold Flight II (0-1500) Knockouts:** This motion eliminates the requirement that the event must conclude in five days. By eliminating the five-day rule, more teams will be able to survive past the first day.

**Senior Mixed Pairs:** This motion would establish a Senior Mixed Pairs at the Fall NABC. Presently there is only one senior event at the Fall NABC, the senior KO, and there are no mixed NABC championships.

**Oil Leakage Disaster Charity Day:** Just after the BP oil disaster began, I suggested to the board in an email that since we were going to have the Summer NABC in New Orleans, we should make a donation to some

charity organization associated with helping with the problems. I felt that it would be a good thing to do and would garner positive publicity for bridge. After much discussion, this motion was made to make September 13, Oil Leakage Disaster Charity Day.

### It Is A Different View From Dummy

Finally, I wish to congratulate Bill Schreiber for his election as First Alternate to the Board of Directors and Roger Clough as Second Alternate. It makes me very comfortable to know that if I cannot attend a Board Meeting I have two capable people to substitute for me.

Next month, "What took place in New Orleans."

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### Southern California Bridge News

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

16430 Ventura Blvd. suite 108, Encino, CA 91436 Phone: 562-492-6693

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Subscription Rates: \$12.00 per year, private; \$2.00 as portion of District 23 dues; \$3.00 Units outside District 23 if subscribed by entire unit. Copy deadlines: advertising and editorial material by 10th of month; unit columns by 15th of month. Classified ads are payable in advance and only for a 6-month period or more with no changes in content. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.



# Around the Units in District 23

## Antelope Valley by Gin

The Pasadena Regional Tournament is now history. History was also made by the KO Team of Marlene and David Gasper, Willo Phillips, Roshen Hadullah, and Brad Ward when they won their first ever Bracket One event. In Bracket Three the team of George MacDonald, Russ Buker, and Barb and Tom Jones also won first place. Other gold point winners were Viviane Dinehart, Lola Messiha, Sandi and Ron Oest, Joan Adams, May Abagi, and Onorita Pallanti. Many other players from Unit 556 also participated at this tournament but positive results were not reported.

The Pasadena Regional Tournament was a roaring success. Eighteen hundred tables competed in the seven-day event. It was also reported that bridge is on the upswing at university campuses. There is much more interest in the game than in the past, possibly not as high as in our college days but it is on the rise. Free bridge lessons are available at the AV Club. Call 661-940-8522 for more information or look for postings of upcoming lessons.

Another bit of good news is that Colin MacDougal is home and recovering well from a bout of pneumonia. He responded well to treatment and is expected to make a complete recovery.

The white board on the north wall of AVBC is dedicated to a current calendar and to post new events with detailed information. Make it a habit to check out that particular white board every time you are in the clubroom. Unit games are scheduled every third Sunday of the month. Lunch is served at 12:30 and the game begins promptly at 1:00 pm. The regular unit game is scheduled for August 15. September 16 will be an Instant Match Point awarding a minimum of one gold point to the winner. October 17 is also a unit game featuring Eight is Enough. Eight is Enough is a Swiss Team event featuring four rated players totaling eight or fewer points. The rating scale is 0-750 = 1 point,

751-1200 = 2 points and 1201-to infinity = 3 points. It is a rather interesting team game and the results are unpredictable. Regular card fees will apply.

The top game of the month on Sunday was won by Dorrie Deston/Ann Schreick with 68.86%. Tuesday afternoon game of the month was won by Brad Ward/Marlene Warren-Gasper with 68.06%. At Valencia the Tuesday night game was won by Roshen Hadullah/Basant Shah with 65.79%. Wednesday night Marlene partnered with Doris Thompson for a 64.58% game. The Castaic Thursday game was won by Donna Davidson/Paul Kushner with the high score of 72.4%. The beginner game on Thursday night was won by Debbie and Robert Powell with 75%. Brad Ward/Willo Phillips won the Friday game with 68.75%.

### Unit Game 6/20

	A	B	C
Lola Messiha/Viviane Dinehart	1	1	-
Bill Brodek/Pat Juenemann	2	-	-
Brad Ward/David Gasper	3	-	-
Henry Roediger/Mary Stauf	4	2	-
Sandi and Ron Oest	-	3	-

### Club Championship 6/23

Lola Messiha/Brad Ward	1	-	-
Charles Morrin/Pat Juenemann	2	-	-
Mary Stauf/Stefania Benveniste	3	-	-
Leah Levitt/May Abagi	4	1	-
Beth Morrin/Ann Schreick	5	-	-
Betty Reed/Ron Oest	-	2	-
Mary Ellen Downs/Gin	-	3	-

### Club Championship 6/25

Russ Buker/Barbara Shuping	1	1	-
Brad Ward/Willo Phillips	2	-	-
Mary Shaw/Hal Roberts	3	2	-
Marlene/Lola	4	-	-
Sandi and Ron Oest	5	3	-
Carol and Rich Kemmerer	-	4	-



**Club Championship 6/27**

Hal Roberts/Mary Shaw	1	1	1
Sandi and Ron Oest	2	2	-
Beth Morrin/Onorita Pallanti	3	3	2
Marlene/Dave	4/5	-	-
Dorrie/Nan Newland	4/5	-	-

A parting thought... Why does it always seem that those who know the least are always the most fluent about it?

## Glendale-Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

**Unit 553 Sectional Tournament - Aug 13-15**  
**Scottish Rite Temple**  
**150 No. Madison Ave., Pasadena**  
**Partnership Desk - Karen Alpert 818-441-2424**  
**Emergency No. 818-400-0755**

We hope you can join us for this annual event. Also, while we're in a welcoming mood, the mat is in place at the Regency Bridge Club (818-500-8669) for new members Mary Lou Montans and Donald Zachary.

Last month's column turned out to be a travelogue of sorts, but this month we have the travelogue of the ALACBU Regional Tournament to report. As reflected in the following, some of you handled those problem hands better than others, but we hope you all had fun and learned lots along the way...

**Monday: Open Pairs:** A-7 (OA) Dan Botoaca/Milton Kaliksmann; A-9 (OA) Paul Nason/Diane Borgatti; A-12 (OA) Lorraine Adams/Ted Maki; C-3 (OA) Harold Knowles/Zachary Vedro; B-5 Carol Frank/Sean Lui. *Side Game:* (10 am) A-1 (OA) Susan/Rufus Rhoades; (3 pm) A-2 (OA) Phil Dessert/Ron Meckel; A-4 (OA) Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo; A-5 (OA) Sharon Wolf/Art Chacanas; C-3 Sixten Ohman/Temo Arjani. *Compact KO Bracket II:* Elaine Moore/Thomas Shudic. *Bracket IV:* Lyle Wiederman/Ramesh Sawhney. *Compact KO Consolation Bracket II* won by John Villalobos, Karen Arase, Bob Tayrien/Marel Bates.

**Tuesday: M. J. Farrell Open Pairs Final Sessions:** 4th (OA) Mike Spero/Art Gulbrandsen; 14th (OA) Carol Frank/John Langer. Of the 28 tables in play in the Qualifying round Paul Nason/Shiu-Ming Huang placed

21st and Margery Gould/Paul Gelb 22nd. *Side Game:* (10 a.m.) A-2 (OA) Joe Hasencamp/Bob Zappatereno; B-5 (OA) Sharon Wolf/Art Chacanas; C-3 (OA) Eva Seri/Patrick Seal; B-4 Lorraine Adams/Ted Maki; C-4 Temo Arjani/Nancy Spelke. (3pm) B-3 (OA) L. Adams/T. Maki; C-6 (OA) S. Wolf/A. Chacanas. *299er Pairs:* D-5 tie L. Wiederman/Carroll Robinson, *Side Game:* (7:30 pm) B-3 tie Dorothy LaMaie/P. Cardullo. *Mon-Tues Compact KO* won by Amr Elghamry's team.

**Wednesday: Open Pairs:** (2 Sessions) C-4 (OA) S. Wolf/A. Chacanas; A-1 Bob Tayrien/Jack Futrell; A-4 Louise Reich/A. Elghamry. *299er Pairs:* (pm) D-2 (OA) L. Wiederman/M. Kakada. *Compact KO Consolation 3:* 1st Glenn Durfiner, T. Arjani, E. Moore/T. Shudic. *Consol 4:* 1st Alene Friedman's team. *Side Game:* A-2 (OA) A. Friedman/C-H Wu; B-3 D. Botoaca/Mike Marcucci.

**Thursday: Stratiflighted A/X Pairs:** A-3 Peter Szesci/Roy Williams; A-7 P. Gelb/Cliff Goodrich. *B/C/D Pairs:* (2 Sessions) B-4 L. Wiederman B-4 L. Reich/A. Elghamry; B-3 Maureen Peterson/Arlene Johnson. *2nd Side Series:* A-4 (OA) Dennis Semain/John Waken; A-2 Phil Dessert/Dominique Moore; A-4 M. Doll/P. Cardullo. *Board-A-Match Teams:* C-1 T. Maki/Gary Grey team. *Side Game:* (7:30 p.m.) A-2 (OA) William Ng/J. Waller; A-6 (OA) Alene Friedman/Carol Lessin; B-6 (OA) tie D. Botoaca/M. Marcucci.

**Friday: IMP Pairs:** B-4 (OA) Wm Ng/J Waller; B-5 (OA) T. Maki/G. Grey; A-2 J. Villalobos/P. Nason; B-3 D. Botoaca/Alfred Lee; B-4 M. Peterson/Lynn Ryan. *Knockout Teams: Bracket IV:* 2nd T. Arjani's team. *Compact KO Bracket 2:* - 4th Sixten Ohman, Karen Alpert, Margaret Mataga/Tom Miyaoka. *Side Game* (7:30 p.m.) A-4 tie A. Elghamry/M. Marcucci.

**Saturday: Open Pairs:** (2 Sessions - 44 tables): B-5 (OA) D. Botoaca/A. Elghamry; B-7 (OA) R. Tayrien/J. Futrell; C-4 (OA) H. Knowles/Z. Vedro; A-5 T. Arjani/Alan Durkin; A-6 Wm. Ng/S-M Huang; A-3 M. Doll/P. Cardullo; A-6 S. Wolf/A. Chacanas. *Side Game:* A-2 Ann Banta/R. Moeckel. If you had a good result in *Sunday's Swiss Teams* event, please let me know.

Congratulations to all of the above winners, especially to Sixten Ohman who won 3.05 golden Master Points in a KO; however, there's a bittersweet aspect to the victory: he just missed his Life Master accreditation by 0.99 points! Oh well, the irony of it all makes for a good

story to relate to family members in Sweden during his two week July visit.

Due to Bridge Week our July unit game was postponed until the 17th, too late for this issue; besides, there's no more space left! Take care, everybody...

## Long Beach Unit

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

Club website: [www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

by Jon Yinger

Unit game: A rare month with no unit game. Our last unit game was June 13, and the next unit game will be July 18. But... look at all of the 70+% games over the past month:

**70+% games 7/16 through 8/15:** June 16 in the open game Cecil Cook/Eugene White had 73.63%; June 21

in the open game Bruce Horiguchi/Mark Teafor had 71.30%, and in the NLM game Jane Okimoto/Darlene Harrison had a phenomenal 78.75% game. June 24 in the 99er game BonnyWalsh/Karen Watson had 73.02%. June 28 at Leisure World Jaye Woodington/Verna Becker had 75.69%. June 29 in the open game Doris James/Cecil Cook had 70.83% and in the 299er game Sally and Alan Gordy had 70.02%. July 1 in the 299er game Jerry and Melaine Smith had 69.58%. July 3 at Leisure World Jaye Woodington/Verna Burns had 72.04%. July 5 in the afternoon NLM game Rosemary Ford/Sue Boswell had 71.25% and in the evening game Peggy Waite/Jean Batten had 70.09%. In the open game July 9 Audrey Ellis/Steve Warner had 71/63%. Also July 9, at Leisure World, Bee Kinman/Verna Burns had 72.04%. July 10 Cayce Blanchard/John Melis had 70.19%, and in the Wednesday evening 299er game July 14 Phyllis Greenstein/Doreen Maes had 74.17%.

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**October 18-22, 2010**  
Monday to Friday

### Monday, October 18

- 10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Monday KOs Rd 1 of 3
- 2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Monday KOs Rd 2 of 3
- 7:30 p.m. Stratified IMP Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Monday KOs Final Rd

### Tuesday, October 19

- 10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Tuesday KOs Rd 1 of 3
- 2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Tuesday KOs Rd 2 of 3
- 7:30 p.m. Stratified IMP Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Tuesday KOs Final Rd

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### Wednesday, October 20

- 10:00 a.m. Stratified IMP Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Wednesday KOs Rd 1 of 3
- 2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Wednesday KOs Rd 2 of 3
- 7:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Board-a-Match Teams  
Bracketed Wednesday KOs Final Rd

**FREE!**

### Thursday, October 21

- 10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Thursday KOs Rd 1 of 3
- 2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Thursday KOs Rd 2 of 3
- 7:30 p.m. Stratified IMP Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Thursday KOs Final Rd

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### Friday, October 22

- 10:00 a.m. & TBD Stratified Swiss Teams  
(2-sessions)
- 10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Stratified Fast Pairs  
(This is a 2-session event, but single session entries may be sold at the director's discretion.)

*All stratified events are stratified by the 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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Congratulations to you all!

**Big masterpoint awards:** With no unit game or unit-rated games over the past month, there were no masterpoint awards that reached the 3.00mp threshold.

**New members:** We issue a warm welcome to new members Lynn Daniels, Sunny Harper, Darlene Harrison, and Karen Watson.

**Status changes:** Junior Master: Roslaie Storc; Club Master: Sharon Biederman; Sectional Master: Kay Hayland; Regional Masters: Pamela Cole, Phyllis Greenstein, Doreen Maes, and Linda Renkus; NABC Master Jean Ingram; Silver Life Masters: John Chang and Suzie Hand. Congratulations to you all!!

**Upcoming events at the club:** Sunday, July 18 unit game - lunch at 12:30, game at 1 p.m. STaC games July 19 through July 25 - no hand records, no pre-dealt hands (unusual for STaC games). Club championship games August 1 through August 7, regular prices, extra points, and a unit game August 15- lunch at 12:30, game at 1 p.m.

**Get well wishes to:** Doris James and Joy Rosenthal.

**Be on the email list for the newsletter:** If you miss getting the newsletter by snail mail (it's been two years since the district quit mailing them out), you can have me send you a copy by email. Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is [jjyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jjyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

**Unit Game - August 8  
San Marino Recreation**

**by Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson**

Mike Marcucci came through once again with his famous Fourth of July barbecue with all the trimmings! Everybody loved it, Mike, so please keep up the good work. Even though the event had to be held on June 27, we had a great turn out. There were a total of 22 tables, and, guess what????? Jan and Roy, yes, the very writers of this column came in first! That is truly a first for me!!!! First in B were Patrick Cardillo/Mike Doll and first in C were Rita Corwin/Sue Rottner.

The Pasadena Regional had an increased attendance this year, and was especially well attended by our

members. A major headline was Roger Lee/Mitch Dunitz who won the prestigious Mary Jane Farrell four-session event. On the first day, one half of the 28 tables were eliminated, and the second day used barometer scoring. It was quite exciting to watch, even if you weren't playing in it. Ellen and Bob Kent led the whole time until the last round when Roger and Mitch pulled off the win. The second big star from our unit was Jeff Fang. He and his team won the two day Marshall Miles Swiss Team event. He received 43.72 points for that match! Congratulations, guys. Gitta Earll and Miriam Harrington teamed up with some friends of mine from Bakersfield and won a Swiss Team game, and Kim Horn, Georgiana Bierman, Bob Reichman and Tai Wang won a Bracket IV Knockout. Amr Elghamry played with Mark Hartzell and teamed with our sometime director Arleen Harvey and her husband, Jonathan Harvey, to win a Bracket III Knockout. Way to go!

The John Waken Sectional is at the end of July, and once again it will be at La Salle High School on the eastern side of Pasadena, close to Sierra Madre. If you need a partner, please let me know. (Jan Wickersham at 626-355-2666, or email me at [janwickersham@verizon.net](mailto:janwickersham@verizon.net).) My friend, Teri Atkinson, will be handling the duties but she is a long distance call, so if you let me know, I'll get her the information and we'll match you up. We are trying something new for Friday night; it's a Jackpot game where a 70% score will win \$50.

Coming up is our Eight Is Enough annual game and it's time to put your team together. It works like this: no team can have more than eight points and the points are determined by the team's masterpoint levels. Players with 0 – 750 MP = 1, and players with 751-2,000 MP = 2. Those with more than 2,000 MP = 3. Any combination of four players whose point total equals eight or less can form a team. The price is right, too, only \$5. It serves as our August unit game and I'm looking forward to seeing you there. The game will be at the San Marino Bridge Club on August 8 and lunch will be available.

News from the Arcadia Bridge Center – two North American Pairs games will be held in August with the first one on Tuesday, August 17 at 7:15 and the second on Friday, August 20 at 7:30.

The Bridge Center will be closed on the following dates in August: 1, 8, 13, 14, and 15.

The ever popular Beat the House night will be on Friday, August 27 and if you were either first or last in a

game in July you can play in the Winner – Loser game on Sunday, August 22 at 1:00.

There are some terrific players at the Bridge Center, and the evidence is the quality of play. There were three games better than 70% recorded in July, and the highest was by Marv and Mark Sackett who had a 76.19% score. Congratulations, gentlemen! Now, how would you like to have a 73.21% game and come in second? It happened to John Kambe and Ted Maesaki who were beat by David and Eleanor Edwards. The Edwards scored an impressive 74.01% in the same direction.

Here's a bidding agreement you might consider: When an opponent shows a two-suited hand, you can cue bid either one, right? If you cue bid the lower ranking of the enemy suit you are showing both of the other two suits, but your lower ranking suit is the better one. Conversely, if you cue bid your opponent's higher ranking suit then your higher ranking suit is the better quality of your two suits. Here's an example - your RHO opens two diamonds, alerted as Flannery, which shows five hearts and four spades. You have a good hand with both minors, but your diamond suit is the better of them.

Cue bid three spades. If your better suit was clubs, you would cue bid three hearts. Here's another example: Your partner opens one club and the next hand jumps to two notrump which is an Unusual Notrump bid showing the two lower unbid suits, diamonds and hearts. If you have both black suits, and your spades are better, cue bid three hearts. Cue bid three diamonds if your clubs are better.

See you at the table...

## Pomona-Covina

**Unit Game - Saturday, August 21  
Game - 11:00 a.m. Lunch Served**

by Vic Sartor

Unlike last month's emaciated epistle, this month's column is chock full of results. Between local games and the Bridge Week regional, unit members got in all the bridge they could handle. Any local player not finding his name in the next few paragraphs has either been on

## District 23 Rank Changes 6/1/10 - 6/30/10

### Junior Master (5 MPs)

Darlene Harrison  
Markie Post  
William Purdy Jr  
Lorraine Snipper  
Alan Solinger

### Club Master (20 MPs)

Peggy-Marie Hamlin  
Jeffrey Landau  
Sandy Slotkin

### Sectional master (50 MPs)

Michel Brand  
Jerry Goodman  
David Lyons  
Myron Mitzenmacher

### Regional Master (100 MPs)

Jerry Burrill  
Donna Lindberg  
Dianne Sax  
Nancy Stimson

### NABC Master (200 MPs)

May Abagi

### Life Master (300 MPs)

Karen McCarthy

### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Carol Ashbacher  
Sally Karbelnig  
Allan Palansky  
Mira Rowe

### Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Harold Knowles II



safari or enrolled in the witness protection program.

Several locals racked up points in Pasadena. Eric Tan led the pack with 19.72, followed by Bill Papa and Vic Sartor with 17.54, Genise Hasan (12.48), Penny Barbieri (11.40), Walt Otto (11.36), Clint Lew (11.36), and Denise Morgan (10.66). Georgiana Bierman, Michael Horn, Helen Wang, Milt Kalikman, Lary Alba, Cordell Goode, Joe Unis, Mary Miller, and Karen McCarthy all won 4+ MP. Others earning points included Eric Paulsen, Sandy Jones, Susan Emminger, Tom Lill, Lynne Parker, Susan Ruoff, Dave Ruoff, Russell Drew, Ron Purkis, Barbara Baeskens, Pat Radamaker, Richard Patterson, Linda Ananea, Paule Ford, and Kurt Trieselmann.

Papa and Sartor achieved a rather dubious distinction by losing an Open Pairs event by 0.01 MP, which is not easy to do. Oh well, second place is not the end of the world.

In local events, the July individual was won by Luan Schirmer, followed by Roger Boyar, Tom Lill, Clint Lew, Genise Hasan, and Norma Appley. Georgiana Biermann and Kim Horn took first place overall at the June unit Game, followed by Susan Emminger and Russell Drew and Penny Barbieri and Rosalie Roberts.

Top Club game of the month was a 77% whopper posted by Walt Otto and Clint Lew. Other LaFetra Club winners were Dave Ruoff, Lary Alba, Denise Morgan, Hans Hehnke, Gayle Ginsberg, Lynne Parker, Sue Rotner, Kurt Trieselmann, Bill Papa, and Vic Sartor.

Our hand of the month can teach us all an important lesson. It was held by Denise Morgan, a pleasant soul who gets along with everybody. She held the following hand against two men whose behavior on the previous hand she described as "just a little too arrogant." ♠xxxx ♥AK9xxxx ♦xx ♣--Her partner bid spades but the RHO bombed into 3NT as if Denise and her pard weren't there. NV vs. Vul., did she bid the seemingly obvious 4♠? Nope! These guys had rubbed her the wrong way. She DOUBLED and led the ace of hearts. Dummy tabled the ♥Q10 and partner dropped the jack! RHO's 8xx turned out to be a somewhat inadequate stopper. 1100 points later RHO got the lead and our life's lesson--don't irritate pleasant-looking middle-aged ladies. Some of them bite!

## San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

**Upcoming unit events:** As promised in last month's issue of the Bridge News, details of the next unit game are now available.

Date: Sunday, September 26  
Location: San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy,  
6733 Variel Avenue, Canoga Park 91303  
Phone: 818-999-9131  
Fee: \$10. Convenient parking available.

Lunch will be provided at noon and one session of bridge will begin at 1:00 p.m. Based on the number of players there will be an Open Pairs and a Junior Game.

Reservations are not required but are preferred as the date draws closer. Please sign up at the Bridge Academy, the 750 Club, or by email to [1snackman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1snackman@sbcglobal.net).

**The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for June:** 750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 6.54, Jim Lechner 4.72, Samy Antoun 4.59, Phil Swan 4.14, Don Rosen 3.85, Eric Heilman 3.84, Mel Lerner 3.59, Gloria Malkin 3.55, Phyllis Seeder 3.54, Bob Williams 3.42.

**Bridge Academy Under 750 Game:** Allan Palansky 6.28, Michael Klemens 5.07, Carol Stein 4.72, Larry Gordon 4.54, Joan Farrar 3.91, Mort Nagler 3.67, Sam Antoun 3.21, Moe Mansour 2.75, Phil Calloway 2.44, Sylvia Morstein 2.43.

**Bridge Academy Open Game:** Sheila Bozin 20.25, Gilbert Stinebaugh 19.40, Andy Vinock 18.84, Tom Wylie 16.52, Armand Szulc 16.19, Freddie Straus 12.32, Leda Danzig 11.28, Ellen Anten 10.92, Marta Peltz 10.36, J. Raymond Bush 9.59.

**70% Games for June:** Ron Malkin/Ed Berliner 70.83, Samy Antoun/Don Rosen 70.61, Andy Vinock/Marta Peltz 71.30, Bob Gruber/Linda Gruber 71.13.

Congratulations to the following players:

Allan Bloom recently advanced to the Silver Life Member rank. Also, Al Smith collected the Gold points needed to become a Life Master. Al accomplished this

*Thank your unit columnist by sending them news.*



as a member of a team of 750 Club players who won their bracket in the Bracketed Knockouts at the Pasadena Sectional. Al's teammates were Claude LeFeuvre, Herb Van Brink, and Al's sister, Candy Smith.

**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](mailto: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.**

**Monday, August 2**

**North American Pairs Qualifying - 7:00 p.m.**

**Friday, August 6**

**Swiss Team Club Championship - 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, August 10**

**NLM Club Championship - 10:30 a.m.**

**Thursday, August 12**

**North American Pairs Qualifying - 3:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, August 14**

**Western Conference STaC - Monday, August**

**16 through Saturday, August 21**

**NLM Club Championship - 7:30 p.m.**

**Wednesday, August 25**

**Club Championships:** The North American Pairs Qualifier on July 15 was won by John Mohan/John Brailliar in Flight A while Lorna Wallace/Sharon Biederman captured Flight B. On July 16 Richard Cheng/John Farr were Flight A winners in the club championship with Gerri Carlson and Ron Carlson leading Flight B.

**Team Winners:** Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games.

*June 22:* David Peim, Gabriela Jackson, Fran Israel, and Winnie Ninneman.

*June 29:* CVal Gamio, Cecil Cook, Jeff Strutzel, and Andy Anderson.

*July 6:* Bea and John Brailliar, Chiye Horiguchi, and Jeff Strutzel.

*July 13:* Linda and Bill Lama, and Karen and Mike McKittrick.

**Unit Winners at The District 23 Bridge Week Regional:** Following is a listing of TSB unit members who were first overall in events during the Bridge Week Regional in Pasadena.

*Mark Schreiber Memorial 299er Pairs:* Karen and Mike McKittrick

*Tuesday a.m. 299er Pairs:* Sharon Biederman/Steve Ramos

*Monday-Tuesday Compact KO:* Bruce Horiguchi

*Wednesday a.m. 299er Pairs Flights DEF:* Jeanette Betts/Ron Burke

*Colorado Boulevard KO Bracket 2:* Kim Wang

*Summer Compact KO Bracket 2:* Henry Crowder, Masae Kato, Hank Sheehan, Steven Dagle

*Second Side Game Series:* Neil Kleiner/Robert Svensrud

*Saturday Afternoon 299ers Flight F:* Elizabeth Voss/David Lyons

*Saturday Open Pairs Flight A:* Jackie Hess/Wayne Otsuki

*Sunday Swiss Teams (tie):* Lucy Tredennick/ArCee

*Marshall Miles Swiss Teams:* Mike Savage (honorary unit member)

**Milestones:** This column is very sad to report that Anita Mack, wife of club manager Ray Mack passed away on July 12. Although she wasn't a bridge player, many of us in the club knew her. I personally owe Anita a great debt of gratitude for helping me through the hardest time of my life. She did a wonderful job of caring for my late wife, Jan Nathan, before her passing three years ago.

**GUV Memorial Award:** Despite many self inflicted disasters (mostly by our half of the quartet) the team I played on in the Marshall Miles Swiss event in Bridge Week had managed to stagger through to qualification for the final with one round to go. On the very last board of the final match my partner, Lucy Tredennick and I combined for one last disaster. Fortunately, qualifying didn't hang in the balance.

Lucy held 16 balanced HCP and didn't notice we were vulnerable. When VUL, she should have opened 1NT. However, she opened one of a minor instead. I held a very balanced 3-3-3-3 nine count and responded 1NT. Lucy chose to pass at about the time I was struck with the realization that a card must be missing. After a

little hunting through my hand I found a low spade. If I had bid a spade the first time we would have gotten to a cold 4♠ game. We lost the match because of this hand. As it was, we didn't even play in the final because one of our team members became ill after the game. Maybe it was because he saw some of the results Lucy and I produced.

A tie-breaker was still needed to decide this month's GUV award. Lucy supplied one the next day, once again on one of the very last hands of the Sunday Swiss event. Holding ♥KQxx and a very good hand Lucy drove to a 6♥ slam despite my trying to turn her off at every juncture. As declarer, holding ♥xxxx, I wasn't too happy when Lucy laid down her dummy. However, my spirits brightened a bit when it was discovered that one of Lucy's diamonds was actually another heart. Although still no sure thing, my chances of bringing in the trump suit with only one loser had improved a

lot. Well the story has a happy ending as the heart suit cooperated and the slam made, allowing us to win the match and for Lucy to win the GUV award.

Na Zdrowie

**West L.A.**  
by candy

At the bridge table I've noticed how the difference between women and men have more to do with what you chose to notice and what is unimportant. At a tournament when the chocolate candy is dropped from heaven and onto the table, women find their favorite and choose those worth spending calories on. Men see chocolate rain as a good thing and accept all offerings.

When reading my music quizzes women take a moment to sing before answering the questions, men



# WEST LOS ANGELES FALL SECTIONAL

KAYNE ERAS CENTER • 5350 Machado Road • Culver City, CA 90230

SEPT 3 - SEPT 6, 2010



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

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 3rd**

7:30 pm

**BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS**  
(handicapped if only 1 bracket)

**STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 4th**

10:00 am

**SATURDAY COMPACT KO TEAMS** 1st & 2nd matches

**STRATIFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS**

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

**KNOCKOUT TEAMS - 2nd Session**

3:00 pm

**STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS**

**299er PAIRS**

**KNOCKOUT TEAMS - Finals**

**SATURDAY COMPACT KO TEAMS** 3rd & 4th matches

**MONDAY, SEPT. 6th**

10:00 am and TBA

**STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS TEAMS**

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

Strats B, C, D 750 - 2000, 300-750, 0-300MP

**Masterpoint Limits for all Stratified Events:**

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

**COMPETE FOR TWO TROPHIES**

The West Los Angeles Unit player winning the most master points combined at the two 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 Farrell Trophy. The 2009 winners were Margie 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 Rt. onto Machado from Sepulveda (or left onto Machado from Jefferson)

## WEST LOS ANGELES UNIT BOARD

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

just answer questions. This gets to the same place, but I find myself humming tunes during the sessions and hoping it's a song I like that has invaded my brain.

When growing up, women create Prince Charming. Besides being charming, he's witty, intelligent, and makes your day. On Sunday, August 9 at Barrington, Eddie Kantar is the Prince Charming of the 9th annual MS Charity Game. Women get an afternoon with a Prince, food and bridge!! Men it's a choice of happy wives, food and bridge vs. baseball, golf and a remote. Since it's not a play-off game or major tournament and recording is available, this has always been a popular event.

For the second year, on Sunday, August 22 at 6 p.m., Barrington will hold the unit's Pro-Am Swiss team game and Ice Cream Social. Last year it was a very popular event with people practicing or being introduced to Swiss. The ultimate comfort food pits the chocolate vs. the vanilla people with a variety of toppings, brownies, and apple crisp to make up a room full of enjoying a FREE game of bridge with your favorite partner. "A" partnerships play against other "A" pairs, "B" pairs play against "B" pairs and over a bowl of ice cream you compare results. Sign-ups at the clubs and if you have any questions call me at 310-652-6116 or email me at [candysbridgeclub@aol.com](mailto:candysbridgeclub@aol.com).

Hopefully this will encourage players to come either to the KO's in our Sectional at Barrington on Friday

night, September 3, or the Monday Swiss on Labor Day at the Kayne Eras Center in Culver City. Pair games will be on Saturday, September 4 and Sunday September 5, also at Kayne Eras. There will be free coffee and homemade goodies! The flyer for this is elsewhere in this online newsletter or at the bridge clubs.

The board and friends send wishes of a speedy recovery to Martha Orloff.

70%ers were Frani Ridder/Danny Kleinman, Sheri Rivera/Aram Bedros, Wayne Karson/Aram Bedros, Joyce Lelah/Zalman Perlman, and Jordan Chodorow/Bill Wickham.

Club Champs at Barrington were: A: Aram Bedros/Pete Benjamin and Cyma Aronow/Lorraine Bagdasarian; B: Connie Fishbach/Anita Levine and Joan/Steve Little; and C: Edwin Bernstein/Mike Reston. At BHBC: Marie Pendergast/Michael Brand and Rhoda and Lew Himmell. Come see the new fixing at Beverly Hills. While changing paint and pictures is not a "guy" thing, a new big screen TV to post results and other things is, so there is something for everyone.

I apologize to those I haven't listed who climbed up the bridge ladder of success, but somehow I managed to lose the report in the bowels of my emails and I have to perform some sort of computer colonoscopy to get it back. Jen is waiting for this and I'm incompetent at computer surgery, so until next month.

## New Effort to Start a Youth Bridge Program

*by Gary Swinhart*

The Pasadena Educational Foundation, a nonprofit organization which seeks to increase community support for the public schools of Altadena, Pasadena, and Sierra Madre, has expressed an interest in adding ACBL's Youth Bridge to its available programs.

Studies have shown that students who regularly play bridge do better on their test scores in math, science, languages, and reading.

We believe that we can provide our local students these same benefits through a district-sponsored Youth Bridge program.

ACBL funds the School Bridge Lesson Program (SBLP), which has been in existence for over 18 years. It provides practical assistance to bridge players teaching bridge in after-school programs. Just in the past two years, over 250 SBLP teachers have taught classes in 37 states and 6 Canadian Provinces, to more than 7500 students.

If you are interested in helping implement a Youth Bridge program in our district, please contact Gary Swinhart at 818-353-5461, or email [ginsc@verizon.net](mailto:ginsc@verizon.net).

[www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panel: Vic Chernoff, Ed Davis, Billy Eisenberg, Jeff Goldsmith,  
Ross Grabel, Jill Meyers, David Sachs, and Jon Wittes

# 1

IMPs  
no vul

pass    pass    1♠    pass  
?

You hold:

♠A2 ♥Q9764 ♦K ♣Q8653

What call do you make?

*Two of my regular partners, playing together, had a discussion about whether 2♥ or 1NT was best by this passed hand. The discussion ended when we asked Marshall Miles what he would do, and he answered he would bid Drury. Everyone laughed. Let's hear from the 1NT camp.*

**Meyers:** 1NT. My suit is too flimsy to bid 2♥. I have spade support of sorts, and if we belong in a game, I expect partner to bid over 1NT. (I also don't want to punish partner for opening light in 3rd chair, in which case, 1NT may be the limit of the hand.)

**Eisenberg:** 1NT. I'll follow with 2NT over 2♦.

**Sachs:** 1NT. An argument could be made for any of three bids: 2♥, 2♣, and 1NT. I play a version of Drury, so 2♣ is out. 1NT will not miss any nine-card heart fits, because partner, with 5-4 in majors, will always bid 2♥ over 1NT even with a very minimum hand. 2♥ will cause us to play there when other contracts are better.

**Goldsmith:** 1NT. WTP? If partner bids 2♣, I'll bid 3♦. If he bids 2♦, I am almost worth 2NT, but I'll bid it anyway. If he bids 2♥, I have an easy 4♦ bid. If he bids 2♠, I'll try game on the theory that he didn't open 2♠, so this should be enough. If he passes 1NT, I might regret missing a 5-3 heart fit, but I'll probably make 1NT, and if I don't, and if the other table somehow finds 2♥, I've lost 4 IMPs. Big deal.

*Now the 2♥ bidders can have a chance.*

**Wittes:** 2♥. I'd like to have a better suit, but this seems to describe my strength pretty well as a passed hand. I don't expect partner to pass with a stiff heart, since I couldn't open 2♥.

**Chernoff:** 2♥. I probably would have opened 1♥, but it's close.

**Grabel:** 2♥. As a passed hand, I can't get into too much trouble. Partner knows I didn't open a weak 2-bid, so he ought to play me for five hearts. Admittedly, they could be better, but then, partner hasn't passed yet.

**Davis:** 2♥. When partner has 14+ HCP, either 1NT or 2♥ is likely to lead to the best game, because partner and I will bid again. The advantages of responding 2♥ are that it may be a safer part-score than 1NT, and partner may be able to raise, allowing us to reach game when we would otherwise have played in 1NT, for example, if he has ♠xxxxx ♥AKx ♦Axx ♣JT. The disadvantage of bidding 2♥ is that partner with a minimum hand will (should) often pass 2♥ with a singleton (unless he has extra spade length or strength), and that will create a minus score, since I have 4+ heart losers opposite most singletons. It is worth noting that even though I am a passed hand, I am still responsible for having a reasonable quality suit if it is only five cards long, and I could also hold a six-card suit that was not appropriate for a weak 2-bid. The advantage of 1NT is that we are a favorite to make it if partner passes. The disadvantage of 1NT is that we could go down in 1NT when we were getting a plus score in hearts. We might also miss a 5-3 heart fit if partner bids over 1NT (depending on our methods after opener's rebid opposite a 1NT response). Everything considered, I think 2♥ will work out slightly better than 1NT in the long run.

*My own feeling is that I slightly prefer 2♥. It's not the only way to uncover a 5-3 fit, but it's the easiest. The gain barely outweighs the risk.*





pass	pass	3♣	4♣*
6♣	pass	pass	?

\* no agreement

You hold: ♠AKQT65 ♥-- ♦A87654 ♣A

Speak up if you dislike 4♣, but given the conditions, what now?

**First, what is the normal expert agreement about 4♣ without any discussion?**

**Sachs: 6♣.** The default expert agreement about 4♣ is that it shows a strong two suiter. I bid 6♣, because partner's pass of 6♣ is encouraging. If partner has extreme shortness in spades, he can bid 7♣ for my other suit. ♠x ♥KJxxx ♦KJxx ♣xxx is about right for him to bid on over 6♣. 6♣ says my spades are very good.

**Do we expect partner to have something useful for us?**

**Eisenberg: 6♣.** I expect partner to double with negative values.

*He thinks that partner's pass shows some values. One opponent is a preemptor, and the other opponent is a passed hand. They must be saving at this vulnerability, so partner's pass is forcing, showing some values. At the table partner held ♠Jxx ♥Kxxx ♦KJT9x ♣J.*

**Grabel: 6♣.** This might make 6♣ but not 6♦ opposite doubletons in each pointed suit. For example, ♠Jx ♥xxxxxxx ♦Jx ♣xx [not enough to pass in my estimation], would be very unlucky to go down in 6♣. We may miss a grand, but that's why they preempt.

**Chernoff: 6♦.** I don't like 4♣, but there really is no other choice. Obviously, I'll convert partner's 6♥ to 6♣.

**Wittes: 6♣.** It wouldn't take much from partner for us to be cold for 7♦ or 7♠, but with the auction that has taken place, this seems like the safest bid at this juncture. I don't object terribly to the 4♣ bid, but at

this vulnerability, the subsequent auction was not completely unpredictable. Perhaps the hand is worth a 5♣ or even 6♣ bid over 3♣.

**Davis: 6♦/6♣.** If 4♣ must be two suits, then I'll bid 6♦. If 4♣ could be a one-suiter, then I'll bid 6♣.

*Goldsmith and Meyers have conventional understandings which appear to be improvements over standard in this auction. They give up using 4♦ as natural. Not having a natural 4♦ bid here seems like a small price to pay to gain a good convention. A hand which wants to bid 4♦ can choose between 5♦, 3NT, 3♦, and double. Goldsmith uses 4♦ to show hearts and diamonds, so 4♣ shows spades and a red suit. Meyers uses 4♦ to show the majors, and 4♣ shows diamonds and a major. Goldsmith's way is a little less costly if forgotten. Goldsmith's way also may have an occasional technical gain if responder has something like 1-5-2-5 with a poor hand.*

**Goldsmith: 6♦.** What else other than 4♣? Without express agreement, it just shows a big two-suiter, though, of course, not necessarily this big. It's better to play that 4♣ is spades and a red suit, and 4♦ is the reds; that will allow you to untangle your fits most of the time. Losing a natural 4♦ isn't so bad; usually, you'll just bid 3NT anyway with the hands that might bid 4♦. Anyway, partner's pass is forcing, so he should have some useful values. Since he could have ♠x ♥KJxxx ♦Kxxxx ♣xx or ♠Jxxx ♥AQxxxx ♦xx ♣x, anything other than 6♦ seems wrong. If he has the second hand, he'll correct to 6♥, and I'll re-correct. Yes, we may be cold for a grand, but I don't like guessing at the seven-level. I'll definitely try a forcing pass if available when they save, but I don't expect

PSP continued from page 13

that to happen, even though I suspect their save is profitable. If I have to commit at the seven-level, I'll probably take the push, because I suspect their save is so cheap that the IMP odds will make it right to bid.

**Meyers:** 6♦. My conventional understanding with partners is that 4♣ shows diamonds and a major (and 4♦ shows majors), but if I did not have that understanding, I would assume 4♣ shows any two suiter, and if that is

the case, I would now bid 6♦. Partner should correct to 6♥ with preference for either major, and I could then correct to 6♠.

*My partner held the big hand at our table. He bid 6♦ and made seven. Our counterparts bid 4♦ (alerted but my teammates didn't ask). Over the forcing pass, the big hand bid 6♠, and the little hand thought for a long time before bidding 7♦, making.*



4♦      pass      pass      ?

You hold: ♠J ♥AK542 ♦-- ♣AQJT973

What call do you make?

**Grabel:** 5♣. This might be cold for 6♣ or be cold for 6♥ with little play for 6♣ but again, that's why preempts are effective.

**Chernoff:** 5♣. Color me yellow. Maybe I'll get another chance.

**Davis:** 5♣. Just a slight preference for 5♣ rather than 6♣. I'd bid 4NT if it means I have a good 5♣ bid, but it is, alas, undiscussed.

**Meyers:** 5♣. 4NT should show two places to play, but I don't really want to play in another place besides clubs; if partner has 5-3-4-1 distribution, I would still rather play 5♣ than 5♥.

**Goldsmith:** 5♣. 4♥ is tempting, but 100 honors seventh is more tempting. *[Young man, you'll learn your honors don't count at duplicate!]* It wouldn't shock me if double were the winner, but it also wouldn't shock me to go -710, either. That score is much harder to accomplish in 5♣.

**Wittes:** 5♣. It is conceivable partner may want to penalize 4♦, but with this distribution, I'm not going to reopen with a double. We could also have a slam with the right minimum cards from partner, but I'm too old and too pessimistic to look for miracles.

**Eisenberg:** 6♣. Unanimous?

*Not a good prediction Billy (you'll do much better on your prediction for #5), although Leo Bell held this hand at the table and thought 6♣ was automatic. Partner held ♥QJxx and ♠xxx, but 6♣ failed when the club finesse into the preemptor lost.*

**Sachs:** Double. Sometimes pre-empts work, sometimes spectacularly. Over 4♠ by partner, I will bid 5 or 6 clubs. Over 4♥, I will bid 6♥. And over pass by partner, I will regret my double unless we beat them by more than the value of a game.

*I'm not sure I'd be enthusiastic about defending 4♦ doubled.*

Want to place an ad in the Southern California Bridge News?

email: [bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org)

full page (7.5x10) \$100  
large (7.5 x 6) \$60

medium-v (3.6 x 6) \$40  
medium-h (7.5 x 3) \$40

small (3.6 x 2.75) \$20



1♥      pass      1♠      pass  
2♦      pass      ?

You hold: ♠KQ76543 ♥T93 ♦K2 ♣7

What call do you make?

*Some invite in spades.*

**Eisenberg:** 3♠. I can still bid 4♥ over 3NT.

**Grabel:** 3♠. This is a bit of a crapshoot, but I'd bid 4♠ before bidding 3♥, and I'm doing neither. Partner knows the vulnerability and will strain to bid. Some invite in hearts.

**Wittes:** 3♥. As a general rule, I usually insist on playing in my seven-card suit, but with 109x and Kx in partner's suits, unless partner has Jx or better in spades, if there is a game on the hand, hearts seems the most likely place.

*Some bid game in spades.*

**Chernoff:** 4♠. Could make even opposite a void. A pox on anyone who bids hearts.

*Some bid game in hearts.*

**Meyers:** 4♥. With a vulnerable game available, I'll take a shot. I love my ♦Kx.

*Some force to game, probably in spades.*

**Davis:** 3♣. I'm going to bid a game in spades unless partner shows strong interest in hearts and none in spades, e.g. ...3♣-3♥, 3♣-3NT, over which I'll correct to 4♥. I could just jump to 3♠ (invitational) or 4♠ over 2♠, but, once in a while, hearts will be better.

**Sachs:** 3♣. Ugly, but what else am I to do? We belong in at least game. ("At least?" you say? I say partner has ♠Ax ♥Axxxx ♦AQJx ♣xx or ♠Ax ♥KQJxx ♦Axxx ♣xx.) On the other hand, we may belong in just game, but which strain? Perhaps 3♣ will elicit some indication. Over partner's 3NT, I will expect a singleton spade and bid 4♥ and hope for the best.

*One takes the low road.*

**Goldsmith:** 2♠. I bid that at the table and it didn't work out when spades were 4-1. On the other hand, I didn't get doubled and it's not hard to beat 2♥.

*I was Goldsmith's teammate and watched my RHO try 3♠. The actual layout is foul. (♠AJT8 is behind you.) Anything past the one-level should be down. 4♠ gets doubled for down three. I told my opponent that I thought 3♠ was a thoughtful bid. His partner disagreed, preferring 2♠.*

### District 23 Mini-McKenney 2010 Year To Date: 0-5 MPs

1.	Carmela Chiurazzi, Sunset Beach CA	25	11.	Renee Dorret, Mission Hills CA	7
2.	Sylvia Ziman, Santa Monica CA	23	12.	Andrea McNichol, Los Angeles CA	7
3.	Sharon Biederman, Seal Beach CA	21	13.	Barry Segal, Calabasas CA	6
4.	Donald Garner, So Pasadena CA	19	14.	Carole La Caze, Rolling Hills CA	6
5.	Muxin Li, So Pasadena CA	17	15.	Elizabeth Beagle, Woodland Hills CA	6
6.	Bonnie Butler, Marina Del Rey CA	13	16.	Rosalie Storck, Huntington Bch CA	5
7.	Fabian Fang, Santa Clarita CA	11	17.	Darlene Harrison, Cerritos CA	5
8.	William Purdy Jr., La Canada CA	10	18.	Alan Solinger, Los Angeles CA	5
9.	Barbara Leider, Pasadena CA	8	19.	Katherine Weisberg, Los Angeles CA	5
10.	Richard Barrack, Cypress CA	7	20.	Marjorie Haneline, Rncho Pls Vrdes CA	5



1♦      pass      1♥      pass  
 1♠      pass      ?

You hold: ♠Q97 ♥AQT86 ♦T ♣J974  
 What call do you make?

*This hand originally came from an IMP match. I deliberately changed the problem to matchpoints, because I thought that would make it more interesting. Wrong! It turned out not to be much of a problem. At the table, however, neither player who held this hand bid the panelists' choice, 1NT. I passed. My excuse was that my partner was ultra-aggressive. My counterpart raised 1♠ to 2♠. The panel wasn't tempted by the 4-3 spade fit, preferring the normal 1NT. On the actual deal, partner has a 4144 17 HCP hand. 3NT will fail on double dummy defense, but will make if the defense slips at all.*

**Goldsmith:** 1NT. WTP? Do I really expect 1♠ to be better than 1NT? It might be, but I'm not willing to bet a full board on it. Partner can still have an 18-count, so passing is dangerous. The only other alternative is 2♠, and I don't like that at all. If partner bids 4♠, do you think he's going to be happy with this dummy?

**Wittes:** 1NT. I am perhaps a little too good for this auction, but it is an adequate description of my hand, and leaves the most room for another bid from partner, if their hand warrants one.

**Grabel:** 1NT. So... what happens to cause the problem?

**Chernoff:** 1NT. What else?

**Davis:** 1NT. This seems clear.

**Meyers:** 1NT. I have no reason to raise to 2♠ on a three-card suit.

**Eisenberg:** 1NT. This will be the popular choice.

*Good prediction, Billy!*

**Sachs:** 1NT. At matchpoints, look for plus scores; at IMPs look for games, especially when vulnerable. If partner bids 2♥ over 1NT, I will bid 4♥. [Sachs plays that sequence shows extras. I agree, but not everyone does.] At IMPs, I would bid 2♠.

*Want your problem used in a future column? Email johndjones44@yahoo.com and send me the problem.*

### District 23 Mini-McKenney 2010 Year To Date: 5-20 MPs

1.	Michel Brand, Beverly Hills CA	38	11.	Robert Brogan, Sherman Oaks CA	17
2.	Wayne Beagle, Woodland Hills CA	30	12.	Joseph Hooker, Studio City CA	15
3.	George Alemshah, Lakewood CA	30	13.	Lillian Sender, Encino CA	14
4.	Karen Watson, Irvine CA	29	14.	Kiyo Nagaishi, Long Beach CA	14
5.	Bonny Walsh, Long Beach CA	29	15.	Sharry Vida, Lancaster CA	13
6.	William Raines, Woodland Hills CA	25	16.	Edwin Bernstein, Santa Monica CA	13
7.	Peter Lifland, Pasadena CA	20	17.	April Adams, West Hills CA	12
8.	Susan Hoose, Hermosa Beach CA	19	18.	Sandy Slotkin, Playa Del Rey CA	11
9.	Elizabeth Voss, Rancho Pls Vrde CA	18	19.	Doug Green, Pacific Palisad CA	11
10.	Larry Kussin, Northridge CA	17	20.	Christine Hilger, Beverly Hills CA	11