

Southern California Bridge News

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Final Report from San Diego

by Rand Pinsky
District Director

First, I want to wish everyone a healthy and prosperous 2010. Second, I want to remind everyone that our Long Beach Regional is taking place beginning December 31 and continuing until January 3. Go to our district web site, acbldistrict23.org for additional information.

The San Diego NABC was a wonderful tournament. More than 5,000 people attended and the table count was just under 13,000. This is a good result for a Fall NABC. Ken Monzingo and Bonnie Bagley did a wonderful job as chairs of the tournament. There is some discussion among board members that we should try to return to San Diego as soon as possible, probably in 2015.

As for actions taken by the board, the item I am most disappointed with is that a motion to add a Flight A to the North American Pairs with a masterpoint range of 0-5000 was defeated with only 6 votes of 25 in favor of adding this flight. I voted to add the flight. I think there is a demand for such a flight, especially when the 0-5000 Blue Ribbon Pairs draws almost as many tables as the

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

San Diego Winners

by Bill Schreiber
ALACBU President



And, the winners from San Diego are: **Jill Meyers**, 2nd place in the Sternberg Women's BAM; **Renee Mancuso** and **Pam Wittes**, 4th place in the Sternberg Women's BAM; **Mitch Dunitz**, 3rd place in the Open Board-A-Match Teams; and, **Lew and Rhoda Himmel**, 3rd place in the 0-5000 Blue Ribbon Pairs. Those are the only players from our district who placed 5th or higher in a national championship event.

A lot of us Angelenos attended, but few had success on the national level. However, I would also like to congratulate **Ken Monzingo** and all of District 22 for a well-run tournament in a very desirable location.

Now on to our tournaments: by the time you read this the **Long Beach Regional** will be in full swing (or over). Think about it instead of football and parades. We are set for **Bridge Week** in July with a seven-day tournament back at the Pasadena Hilton. We are also in negotiations with a hotel in Marina Del Rey for an October 2010 Regional Tournament with free parking. How long has it been since we have had a tournament on the west side?

Grand National Teams will be coming up later this year, with (I'm told) two flights after tax season, and two flights in May. This qualifying event is for the Summer NABC's in New Orleans, one of my favorite cities in the USA. If you can work through the summer heat and mug, there are great restaurants and bars all over.

That's it for this month. I hope to see you in Long Beach December 31-January 3 for our long weekend regional!

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Blue Ribbon Pairs. If you agree, please let me know and I will request a reconsideration of the motion in Reno in March. Also, a few letters to the editor would not hurt.

Other points of interest: 1. Membership continues to grow and we have a net gain for the first ten months of the year of 3,039 members. New members total 10,954; 2. The new headquarters for ACBL has a target date of March 8 for a move-in. I have seen the floor plan for the new building, and the bridge museum will be the highlight of our new home. I am advised that the State of Mississippi will be erecting a sign on the freeway indicating "Take this off-ramp to

visit the Bridge Museum."

The board did pass a motion revising Appendix B of the ACBL Disciplinary Sanction Guidelines which provides for suggested discipline for conduct and ethics violations. I would urge all unit recorders and unit disciplinary committee members to review these new guidelines.

Another motion I discussed last month failed. This motion sought to bracket the Mini-Spingsolds instead of letting the event proceed as a full knockout, just like the Spingold. I voted against such bracketing. Following this lead, the board voted to make the Mini-Blue Ribbon a three-day event, just like the Blue Ribbon Pairs. Previously the Mini-

Blue Ribbon was a two-day event.

There was also a motion to remove the restriction that "no more than 1/3 of the masterpoints that are needed to establish ACBL status levels can be from online play" is removed. I supported this motion but it lost on a 13/12 vote. Online bridge is a growing area and I think that it is important for the ACBL to be a leader in its development.

The board also voted to increase membership dues effective April 2010. This increase was necessary to keep our organization financially healthy. Membership dues will increase from \$35 to \$37, Life Master service charges will increase from \$32 to \$34, and Household membership will increase from \$64 to \$68. Junior membership will increase \$1 dollar (\$14 to \$15). New member membership will increase from \$26 to \$28 effective January 2011.

It Is A Different View From Dummy

I want to congratulate Marjorie Michelin on becoming a Platinum Life Master. Also I need to congratulate my wife Kathy on becoming a Silver Life Master (see story page 8). Kathy has now reached the point where she critiques my critiques of her play. Finally, I was able to attend the Unit Christmas party for the West Los Angeles Unit. It was a wonderful day with lunch, entertainment and bridge. I wish some of our units would have a Saturday party instead of Sunday to allow Kathy and me to attend more such events. (I know Glendale did have a Saturday party, but I had to attend my mother's 85th birthday party that day.)

Don't forget you can always reach me at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net.

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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley By Gin

Returning to Lancaster for the holiday party, unit game and general election of board members is always a joy. Officers will be elected at the January Board meeting by the 11 newly elected board members. As usual, the delicious meal was catered by Rattlers of Santa Clarita. Thirteen tables enjoyed competing in the unit game. And we all missed the come-from-behind victory at the Dome in New Orleans. The bridge game was very competitive and is reported elsewhere in this column.

Unit 556 now has four Gold Life Masters. Marlene Gasper returned from San Diego with a rating of Gold Life Master. Dave Gasper, Lola Messiha, and Brad Ward were the teammates that won the knockout match making the major milestone possible for Marlene. Congratulations to Marlene and teammates.

It is with great sadness that I extend our condolences to the families of Carolee Schupp and Frances (Fritzie) Wiley. Carolee and Fritzie were long-time members of Unit 556.

It seems too early to address the coming sectional tournament. However, now is the time to invite suggestions for change that will promote success in October 2010. Would you prefer a two-day event? Are knockout events appropriate? Do you prefer morning and afternoon sessions or afternoon and evening sessions? What are the preferred parameters of the strats? It is also important to have volunteers willing to chair committees such as Hospitality, Partnerships, Food, Lunch for Swiss Teams on Sunday, Set up and Clean Up in Playing Area, Kitchen Cleanup, etc. Please make your suggestions to any board member and your suggestions will be considered at the appropriate board meeting. The future of this club is your hands.

The highest games in November were Mary Stauf/Henry Roediger on Sunday with 66.66%. The Tuesday night game winners were Paul Gill/Jackie Meir with

64.23%. Tuesday afternoon belonged to Barbara Shuping/Alfred Miller with 62.59%. Ron and Sandi Oest ruled Wednesday night with 67.86%. Thursday morning Gary Grey posted a 63.39% game. The month's highest game was played by Barb Thompson/Sharry Vida at a high of 71.25%. Friday was Willo Phillips/Brad Ward's day to shine with a 67.71% game.

Club Championship Nov 24	A	B	C
Dave White/Charles Morrin	1	1	-
Brad Ward/Marlene Gasper	2	-	-
Mary Anne Shaw/Henry Roediger	3	2	-
Barb Shuping/Alfred Miller	$\frac{4}{5}$	-	-
Bob Hart/Onorita Pallanti	$\frac{4}{5}$	-	-

Unit Game Nov 22

Sandi and Ron Oest	1	1	-
Dorrie Deston/Dave White	2	-	-
Mary Stauf/Hal Underwood	3	2	-
George Lewis/Earlene DeHaas	-	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$
Mary Ellen Downs/Joanne Freatman	-	$\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{3}{4}$

Unit Game Dec 6

Theodore Maki/Joe Weber	1	-	-
Doris Thompson/Charles Morrin	2	-	-
Marlene and Dave Gasper	3	-	-
Lola Messiha/Viviane Dinehart	4	1	-
Don and LuAnn Vandemore	5	2	1
Leah Levitt/May Abagi	6	3	2
Mary Ellen/Joanne	-	4	3
Beth Morrin/Sharry Vida	-	5	4

Coming events are usually posted on the white board featuring the calendar and they are generally kept very current. Please refer to these postings to keep current on the happenings at our club.

In spite of modern technology and ease of communication, Unit 556 news eludes me. For this reason I find it exceeding difficult to write an interesting column and the effort has become unbearably difficult.

I will no longer attempt to write a column from afar.

Downey-Whittier

by Bernice Crelia

Our last big party of the 2009 year was our Christmas celebration on Wednesday, December 9. We enjoyed a delightful potluck dinner with many more selections than our usual catered party provided, plus the fact that the money collected was donated to help feed those in need.

The winners of our Open Pairs game were North-South first: Terry Binns/Mary Kiechle; second: Carol and Ron Coplay; third: Dick Holmes/Chunkey Hilton; and fourth: Kim Wang/Eric Tan.

East-West first: Larry Bolls/Len Beck; second: Bruce Horiguchi/Sam Wang; third: Sudershan and Mo Sood; fourth: Renalda Rippe/Beverly Pokershing; and third in B; Marcus Evans/Leslie Williams.

We want to thank all of the many other guests whose attendance made this such a special occasion. We hope to see everyone back next year, and a really big thank you to our very special director, Marcie Evans. Happy New Year!

Glendale-Verdugo

By Dorothy LaMaie

Saturday, January 9
Board of Directors Meeting - 11 a.m.
Unit Game - 1 p.m.

It's resolution time! It's resolution time! And my #1 one should be to eliminate my facetiousness; but sorry folks, it's ingrained. Have you checked your granary for a little culling? Good luck! So now that I've pointed you in that direction, let's all resolve to give thought when parking outside the Regency and close ranks as tightly as possible - you just may provide a sigh of relief when such maneuvering results in a space for a latecomer.

Margaret Mataga wound up playing three sessions of bridge in one day at the San Diego Regional, but she's not complaining too much, because with pick-up partners she won over 14 masterpoints during five days of play. Zeke Mataga and bro-Yosh gathered in over

15 MPs. Mike Doll and Patrick Cardullo won a couple of section 1st wins, but did not seem too excited about their overall stay. Nor was Paul Nason, who scored well in a compact KO and managed some scratching, all with long-time partner who hails from New England. Temo Arjani had some good rounds but couldn't give me details; however he enjoyed the endeavor.

Robert Driscoll and Brian Petrunick must have enjoyed their endeavor at a recent Regency Wednesday evening game when they scored a 71 percent. They both demonstrate respect for their long-term partnership which began at law school. After the daily lawyering, Robert drives in all the way from the "East" (Glendora), and Brian from the "West" (Bel Air). So you see, the "twain" does meet, and I remain "ingrained," *n'est-ce pas?*

Phil Dessert was laid low for a couple of weeks by the flu, fortunately not the swine kind. Also, Ann Banta is still recovering from her late October surgery for lung cancer. She may miss a bridge date now and then, but when she's at our table it's usually in her formidable winning fashion.

We were very sorry to learn that Conrad, Betsy Josias' husband, has passed away. He suffered from health problems for many years, but still managed to play clarinet now and then with a group of musicians affiliated with Occidental College. Carolyn Cohen also lost a family member, a younger brother, David Yacaivych, with whom she used to play a reasonably good game of bridge. He lived in Northern California which meant that that particular "twain" did not meet often. Our condolences to both Betsy and CYC - cherish those special memories...

Still on the sad side, George Winter, an ACBL Director, who served at several of our Unit Sectionals, has also died. Those stentorian tones have been silenced, but we trust he was able to enjoy those few years of retirement. And another director, Ed Troth, well known to many of our members, recently succumbed to the recurring health problems he suffered for many years. He ran the Beverly Hills Bridge Club with good humor and good will.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the catered Unit Game/Christmas party turkey dinner, enhanced by special offerings by Pat, Merry, Barbara, Sharon, Eva, *et moi*. Betsy and Nancy's raffle was fun, and the Children's Court Teddy Bear bin was overflowing. So many thank

you's to all you participants, including the players, (even if your name doesn't appear below, there's always next time.)

North/South

A1	B1	B. McKissick/Vernon Thomas
A2		Bob Gish/Steve Licker
A3		Jack Futrell/Bob Tayrien
A4	B2	Madelon Liebman/Carol Lessin
A5	B3	Alene Friedman/Phyllis Hackel
A6	B4	C1 Merry Besvold/Betty Stenbom

East/West

A1	B1	Zach Vedro/H. Knowles
A2		Tim Lolli/Dan Oakes
A3	B1	Lorraine Adams/Ted Maki
A4		Jacob Frenkel/Herman Helber
A5	B3	Art Chacanas/D. LaMaie
A6	B4	Lyle Wiederman/Sue Rottner
A6		C1 Sixten Ohman/Temo Arjani
		Nancy Lyon/Betsy Josias (tie)

Meyers lemons (courtesy of Bob Zappatererreno and the bounteous trees at his Palm Springs second home) to all of you. Take care everybody and may this New Year prove bounteous, bridgewise and otherwise...

Long Beach

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org

Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com
by Jon Yinger

December 6 unit game: Overall results: 1st in A: Diane Sachs/Barbara Balowitz, 2nd Steve Sulzby/Mark Tang, 3rd Paul Pettler/Al Mastron, 4th Bea and John Bralliar, 5th Steve Skinner/Frank Bartlett, and 6th John Killian/Cayce Blanchard. Overall winners in the B flight included: 3rd Eileen Nelson/Pat Durand, 4th Linda and Dick Stein, 5th Shinko Mauritz/Yokuyo Sheehy, and 6th Sharon Beran/Thambu Nadarajah. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master game were: 1st in A: Sherry Royce/Nancy Karl, 2nd Mihir Das/Dorothy Andersen, 3rd Karen and Mike McKittrick, and 4th Monica Gettis/Claudette Barrack. Overall winners in NLM B flight included: 3rd Maruxa Cargill/Dale Blessing, and 4th Melanie and Jerry Smith. Congratulations to all!

70+% games 9/15 through 10/15: There were no

70% games at the club over the past 30 days, but Nancy Karl/Sherry Royce came close with their 69.92% in the NLM game on Dec 6. And at Leisure World on Dec 3 unit 557 members Betty Barton/Bill Linskey had a 70.86% game.

Big master point awards: Big point awards in club games: In the Nov 20 unit-rated membership game John Wong/Lina Chen tied with Doris and Dwayne James for 1st over-all winning 6.42mp. Bruce Horiguchi/Eric Tan were 3rd, winning 4.12mp. In the Nov 20 NLM game Karen and Mike McKittrick were 1st OA winning 3.07mp; in the evening game Charlotte and Steve Sturm were 1st OA winning 3.67mp. In the Nov 24 unit-rated game Sankar Reddy/Irwin Bender won 5.67mp for 1st over-all, Jo Daigle/Doris James 4.25mp for 2nd and Michael Daley/Earl VanDerVord 3.19mp for 3rd. In the evening game Gayle Grubb/Bob Lavery won 3.33mp for 1st OA. In the Dec 6 Unit Game Diane Sachs/Barbara Balowitz won 5.67mp for 1st, Steve Sulzby/Mark Tang won 4.25mp for 2nd, and Paul Pettler/Al Mastron won 3.19 for 3rd. In the Dec 7 unit-rated game Loren Hilf/Baum Harris were 1st OA winning 4.33mp and Mark Teaford/Gary Paugh were 2nd winning 3.25mp. Congratulations to all!

New members and new status: We issue a warm welcome to new members George Alemshah, Dennis Cahillane, Carmela Chiurazzi, David and Edy Gautschy, Rhea Scharf, Jerome Smith, David Stokes, Mary Thompson, and Bonny Walsh. Status changes: New Junior Master: Joyce Newton; Club Masters: Mihir Das, Alan Gordy, Sally Gordy; Regional Masters: Cooie Dampman and Peggi Spring. Congratulations to you all!!

Upcoming special events at the club: Monday Dec 28 National Card Playing Day. Dec 31-Jan 2 Long Beach Regional at Rush Park Auditorium, Rossmoor (LB Bridge Center open). Sunday Jan 3, last day of Long Beach Regional will be held at the LB Bridge Center (LBBC closed). Jan 10 Unit Game. Jan 11-17 club championship games (extra points, regular prices). A reminder: *all Monday morning games* are sectionally rated, pay extra points and include a very nice breakfast. All for \$10.

Condolences: to family and friends of Dann Habberfield. He passed away earlier this month.

Get well wishes: to Betty Barton, Betse Straub, 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 almost a year now 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 jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

www.darbonne.com/bridge/

By Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

Unit game - January 10 San Marino Recreation Center

For all of you that made it to the Nationals in San Diego, I am hoping you had as wonderful an experience as I did. In my opinion that was the finest National I have ever attended, and I've been to many of them. The venue, the Manchester Grand Hyatt, was certainly the finest hotel to ever host a National. I hope you didn't miss "My Fair Little Ole Lady." There was also another great performance, "The Devil's Tickets," but unfortunately only a handful of people attended. Both Connie De Rosa and Sofia Pineda became Life Masters there, and I know Margie Hall and Ann Raymond won a trophy. Yes, they are 299ers, but they have a great grasp on the game so be forewarned when they arrive at your table.

The holiday party, as always, was lots of fun. Many of you brought wonderful and yummy hors d'oeuvres to nibble on during the Open game, so thanks to all of you who brought them! Bernie Mateer made her world famous punch. Don't know quite what you do, Bernie, but it is so refreshing. Then we got to the dinner where our caterer gave us a "P.F. Chang's" experience. It was truly a gourmet feast with plenty for seconds and thirds. Robert Wang co-chaired the event with Jan Wickersham, and Robert was responsible for the caterer. It was a great choice, Robert! The winners of the Open game were Mike Shuman and Rufus Rhoades. First in B were Dick and Cheryl Loggins, and first in C were Chuck Cordaro and Dave Lievsay. I would like to mention that Shirley Spink was with us, visiting from Green Valley, AZ, and she and her partner, Mary Downey, were second in B (their section) and in the overalls. The Swiss Team event was won by Markle Vandervort, Susan Jones, Genesse Hasan, and Denise Morgan. They were first in A and B, and first in C were Peter Jager, (called in), Nancy

Nakanishi, (whose partner couldn't play and decided to come to the dinner and see if she was needed), Margaret Betts, (visiting from Dublin, Ireland), and Shirley Betz. Way to go team!!!

Please note that our Unit Game will be the second Sunday in January on the 10th, so as not to conflict with the three-day regional event which will be held in Long Beach.

Would you like to try Baby Blackwood? It works like this: Anytime you and your partner agree on a major suit as trump, then a 3NT bid is Blackwood. For example, your partner opens a minor; you have a great hand and respond with one of a major and your partner raises your bid. Now 3NT asks for aces. Or suppose you open a major and your partner gives you a limit raise. Once again, you can bid 3NT as Blackwood saving a level of bidding. But remember, both partners need to explicitly agree on a major as the trump suit. You can have an implicit agreement that when you or your partner open a major and responder jumps to 3NT you are using Baby Blackwood, but be sure you discuss this.

What advantage does this have over Gerber? Well, now you can use a bid of four clubs as an ace showing cuebid, or as a splinter, for a couple of examples.

See you at the table!

Pomona-Covina

By Vic Sartor

Unit Game - 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 16

For those of you actually reading this on January 1st, HAPPY NEW YEAR! For the majority of you who are probably reading this about two weeks late, still not quite recovered from holiday overeating, Christmas shopping mobs, New Years overimbibing, and 373 football bowl games, HAPPY DRESS UP YOUR PET DAY! (January 14— you can look it up.)

Local bridge results for December are a little skimpy, due partly to various members deserting the tables for Europe, South America, Hawaii, and various other glamour spots, plus competing national and regional tournaments in San Diego and Palm Springs. As this column hits print, world travelers Mike and Susie Emminger, Ron and Carol Purkis, Dave and Susan Ruoff, and Genise Hasan have reappeared at our local games-welcome back.

Only sketchy reports have filtered in from the nationals, but we have it on good authority that Genise Hasan and Denise Morgan won a KO and qualified for the finals of the Mini-Blue Ribbon Pairs, Claudia Cochran placed well in two 299er events, and Bill Papa and Jim Griffin scratched in at least one KO.

Last month's unit game was won by Cordell Goode and Tom Lill, with Dave and Susan Ruoff taking the opposite direction. Others placing were Rita Corwin, Sue Rottner, Joe Unis, Walt Otto, Margaret Merritt, Kerry Sartor, Mary Miller, and Lynne Parker. The monthly individual was won by Helen Wang, followed by Norma Appley, Richard Patterson, and Luan Schirmer.

Top game of the month was a 70.9% posted by Bill Papa and Vic Sartor. Other winners were Pat Radamaker, Clint Lew, Edwin Kelly, Donald Naf, Charlotte Capelle,

Jacquelyn Fehrenbach, Luan Schirmer, and George Altinus.

Our hand of the month could be right out of one of Eddie Kantar's play-of-the hand quizzes, but it actually happened at a LaFetra table recently. You hold ♠AJxxx ♥xx ♦AKxx ♣Jx opposite partner's ♠K10xx ♥AKQxx ♦xx ♣Kx and find yourself declaring a normal-looking 4♠ contract. The lead is the ♣9. You don't hold too much hope, but it might be from a Q109x sequence, so you duck. As expected, the RHO wins the Q, but now she shoots back a low club to LHO's ace! The fiend on your left has led the 9 from A98xx! After you regain your composure, how do you play the hand?

If you think about it, your play should be clear. If trumps are 2-2 and you drop the queen like everyone else in the room, you are 100% certain to get a nice fat 0. Your only hope is that the reason for the bizarre

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March 1-5, 2010

Monday, March 1

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

Tuesday, March 2

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

*Non-smoking Tournament
with Hospitality Breaks*

Wednesday, March 3

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

Thursday, March 4

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

Friday, March 5

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

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

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

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lead (other than a desire to blow your mind and that his mother always taught him not to lead unsupported aces) was that LHO had equally unpalatable leads in diamonds and trump - say Qxx. So, with nothing to lose - you can't get less than a 0- you cash your spade ace and then finesse with dummy's 10. It wins, and you manage to salvage an average. As Eddie would say, you play so beautifully. 'Til next time...

San Fernando Valley

by Fran Kern

Unit events and news: More than 100 players attended the December 6 holiday party at the Woodland Hills Marriott Hotel. Special thanks go to Gloria Malkin, Larry Gordon, and Bill Morton for their planning efforts that made this event a huge success.

Board Member Election: Following elections, the Board consists of continuing members Larry Gordon, Fran Cohen, and Fran Kern. Newly elected members are Marge Bulmer, Mike Fierman, Mike Gosnell, and Gloria Malkin.

Upcoming Unit Events: Mark your calendars for the 2010 San Fernando Valley Sectional that is scheduled for April 16, 17, and 18. Friday games will be played at the Prince of Peach Church in Woodland Hills, Saturday and Sunday games will be played at the Bridge Academy in Canoga Park. Watch for details on this event in the February issue of the Bridge News.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for November:
750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 11.50, Gloria Malkin 6.39, Samy Antoun 5.78, Jim Lechner 4.17, Larry Kussin 3.79, Paul Endler 3.66, Jim Gardner 3.54, Mo Mansour 3.52, Phil Swan 3.41, Frona De Covnick 3.32.

Bridge Academy 299 Game: Myrna Kalman 3.90, Joan Farrar 3.51, Robert Glasser 3.46, Patricia Shellogg-Seal 3.01, Sheila Singer 2.72, Wayne (Doug) Beagle

2.59, Bill Raines 2.35, John Tickner 2.33, Elaine Roth 2.19, Jim Gardner 2.12.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Gilbert Stinebaugh 20.17, Andrew Vinock 18.34, Ellen Anten 16.28, Marta Peltz 15.77, Dan Kosman 13.67, Armand Szulc 13.17, Sheila Bozin 11.82, Gary Frans 11.74, William Carlson, Jr. 11.66, Tom Wyle 11.52.

70% Games for November: Ellen Anten/Steve Gross 71.41; Dick Lum/Dan Kosman 70.83 thru 11/21; Susan Somogyi/Nazaret Saghbazar 72.92; Bill Taylor/Bill Morton 70.80.

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

Torrance-South Bay

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

SBBC Website: <http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>
 By Steve Mager

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club:
 A new schedule for South Bay Bridge Club events in January has not yet been received. Check the SBBC website when it becomes available.

Club Championships: The November 20 Club Championship was captured by Gabriela Jackson/Carol McCully in Flight A with Sumi Tokufuji/Yori Meredith taking Flight B honors. On November 24 the Club Championship was won by Chiye and Bruce Horiguchi in Flight A with Mary Belle Hoenig/Vern Vanderpol on top in Flight B.

Team Winners: On November 17 and December 1 the quartet of Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer, and Jim Dutton prevailed. The November 24 game was captured by Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Mark

Marjorie Michelin: New Platinum Life Master



Marjorie Michelin has advanced to Platinum Life Master, a rank requiring 10,000 masterpoints. Michelin of Los Angeles (West Los Angeles Unit) is often a contender in the Barry Crane Top 500 and she won the Gold Life Master category of the Mini-McKenney. Michelin won the points she needed in the Victor Mitchell Open Board-a-Match Teams at the San Diego NABC. She is an interior designer and an avid paddle tennis player. Michelin has participated in five world championships.

Raggio, and Charles LaFranchi. The STaC Swiss teams on December 8 was won by Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Gabriela Jackson, and David Peim.

Milestones: Dann Habberfield, one of our longtime club regulars, passed away in November. Dann played regularly at the South Bay Bridge Club and the Long Beach Bridge Center and was always a gentleman at the table.

GUV Memorial Award: Our esteemed director, Mike Savage once told me that one of the secrets to winning bridge was to come out ahead when you screw up royally. I learned well. I swear the following story is true and happened during the North American Swiss Championship at the San Diego NABC.

Mike and I have a convention called Kokesh on the card which comes up about once a blue moon, but, believe it or not, came up twice in three hands during one round of the Swiss. Simply put, if you open a strong 2♣ with a 25-27 HCP balanced hand and pard bids 2♦, a 2♥ bid by you forces partner to bid 2♠. A 2NT bid by you shows the 25-27 HCP hand and enables the partnership to use Stayman and Jacoby at a lower level. So on board 1 of a Swiss set I picked up a 25-27 HCP hand and opened 2♣. Mike bid 2♦ and I tried 2♥ holding AKx of Hearts. Mike forgot we played Kokesh and bid 4♥ holding three to the 10 and a King. This didn't work out too well as I went down when 3NT was cold and we lost 10 IMPs.

District 23 Rank Changes 11/1/09 - 11/30/09

Junior Master (5 MPs)

April Adams
Robert Beckman
Mary Helen Bell
Geoffrey Breskal
Terry Durham
Judith Eber
Peggy-Marie Hamlin
Tsu Jan
Kari Kolderup
Jeffrey Landau
Jamila Malikyar
Helena Marsh
Elliott Mazur
William Raines
Lois Rawitt
Judy Rosenberg
Ralph Vidal
Elizabeth Voss
Michael Winston

Club Master (20 MPs)

Ronald Burke
Diane Elliott
Joyce Field
Donald Goldman
Gordon Goslin
Joyce Henderson
Wesley Idol
Bennett Kerns
Linda Krause
Dorothy Lank
Charles Sarture
Titti Steiner
Patricia Turner-Quigley
Ron Yaffee

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Lynne Finley
Colleen Gardner
Frank Miller
Jane Reid
Melanie Smith

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Renee Hoffman
Karen Olin

Life Master (300 MPs)

David Jones
Neal Kleiner
Herbert Van Brink

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Billy Blanchard
Judy Carter-Johnson

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Carrie Brooks

Emerald Life Master (7500 MPs)

Jeffrey Goldsmith

Exactly two hands later Mike held a 25-27 biggie and opened 2♣. Holding King fifth of Hearts, the ♦Q, and a stiff club, I responded 2♦. Mike tried 2♥ Kokesh, and would you believe I forgot this time. I jumped to 4♣ showing hearts and short clubs. After an ungodly bidding sequence best left undescribed, we landed in 6NT. Well, the cards cooperated and we lucked out and made 6NT. This resulted in a 13 IMP pickup for our side and a plus 3 IMPs as the result for our 2 Major League screw-ups. I couldn't resist reminding Mike about how I had learned his secret well. We did cross Kokesh off our card after this set.

Na Zdrowie

West L.A. by candy

Start the new year with songs you can hum at the bridge table.

1. "We Can Work it Out"
2. "Fools Rush In"
3. "People are Strange"
4. "You Got What it Takes"
5. "I'm a Believer"
6. "Rescue Me"
7. "Over Under Sideways Down" (Don't tell me you haven't looked at a dummy that way.)
8. "Just Once in My Life"
9. "Leader of the Pack"
10. "Little Old Lady (From Pasadena)"

The Holiday Party was a success and produced many winners. Player of the Year was Eddie Kantar, Volunteer of the Year went to Sandy Einberg. The many years of service to bridge and the ones in the future make these both very popular choices. A special President's Award went to Adam Meyerson for his work with the UCLA Bridge Club. While we all ask where the new players will come from, Adam has found them and is helping them find the world of bridge. We want Adam to know his work is appreciated outside the walls of UCLA. Thanks, Adam.

Winners were A: Howard Einberg/Mike Mikyska; B: Lilly Tobin-Jackson/Margaret Flowers; 99er: Joe Hooker/Robert Brogan. Thanks to all who came and dressed up to match my theme. Special thanks to my Cheesecake Diva, Ellen Kent; my Brownies,

Barbara Nusbaum and Beverly Cook; and my Elves Extraordinaire, Sandy Einberg, Caroline Taff, Vicki Ebin, Paula Brand, and Mr. Balloon Man.

The next unit wide championship will be Tuesday, January 19.

Those who moved up the ranks were: Junior Masters: Wayne Beagle, Barbara Holman, Wendy Kelley, Felice Levine, Leon Lewin, and Larry Rubinstein. Club Master: Robert Linde. Sectional Master: Marsha Kerns, Marcia Schulman, Sue Schultz, and Karen Schwartz. Silver Life Master: Clarice Miles. Gold Life Master: Chuck Fonorow.

It's nice to see Mary Jane back at her table after her illness. Hopefully if I click my heels together three times and say mi sherabach it will have healing vibes sent out to Marina Shampaine, Toby Green, Bill and Diana Schreiber. Either that or they are going to end up in Kansas.

We lost two members of our community this month, Ed Troth and Warren Baker... May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain. May the hand of a friend always be with you.

A bunch of 70%ers this month... Jordan Chodorow/Adam Meyerson, Sam Namer/Zalman Perlman, Fred Mautner/Viktor Anikovich, Delia Juul-Dam/Brian Richardson, Myrna Blaufarb/David Segal, Lou Papp/Allan Chapman, Lew and Rhoda Himmell, Sandy and Robert Carroll, Aram Bedros/Sheri Rivera, Martha Orloff/Larry Margott, and Mario Mory/Stephen Weiner.

Barrington Club Champs were A: Adrienne Green/Mim Spertus and Bella Feniger/Robert Martin; B: Joan and Steve Little and Eleanor Levine/Deborah Stein. BHBC Club Champs were Sam Namer/Dave Segal and Gerson Rapfogel/Saul Leonard. Unit Wide Champs were Lew and Rhoda Himmell. Thanks to Robin, Sandy, and Rhoda for their help.

At the Breakfast with the Stars at the Nationals, Dianne Sax got to be at a table with Jill Meyers and John Mohan. Friend Robert Feinberg, with only one year's experience, got a 1st overall in San Diego.

National news has been slow to get to me so hopefully by next month I'll have that and end of year masterpoint winners.

My column is due the 15th of the month, so... the real football season has started and throw in Lakers, Clippers, Kings, Ducks and Tiger hunting. Here's wishing you a comfy couch and a warm remote.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panel: Billy Eisenberg, Jeff Goldsmith, Mr. Mealymouth,
Jill Meyers, David Sacks, Mike Shuster, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
both Vul

North	East	South	West
3♣	pass	3♠	pass
3NT*	pass	?	

* by agreement, more than a minimum preempt

You hold: ♠AKJ93 ♥92 ♦KJ87 ♣AQ

What call do you make?

Some panelists play very sound vulnerable minor suit preempts and don't like the conditions.

Some panelists analyze the hand in terms of going with the odds.

Mealymouth: 4♣. Why is my partner psyching vulnerable at IMPs? I think he ought to have a solid suit for a vulnerable three of a minor preempt, e.g. ♠x ♥xxx ♦xx ♣AQxx. I'll bid 4♣. If he's crazy and has ♠x ♥xx ♦AQx ♣KJTxxxx, he can bid 4♦ to give me a choice between 5♣ and 4NT. In that case, I'll thank heaven that we're playing IMPs rather than matchpoints and choose 5♣.

Sacks: Pass or 5♣ - I guess. I am not familiar with the agreement. Is an outside ace more than a minimum? Is an eighth club enough? Does KJxxxxx and the heart king qualify? I think we need to know the parameters of the agreed "more than a minimum." Also, with my holding the club AQ, no hand partner can hold qualifies as "more than a minimum."

Another panelist isn't fond of the rebid agreement.

Eisenberg: 4♣. Not a sensible agreement, since 6♣ could be cold, and 3NT down.

One thinks partner is unlikely to hold an outside ace.

Goldsmith: Pass. I don't play a preempting partner for outside aces. He may have one, but I won't bet on it, so I'll hope for a heart stopper instead.

Shuster: 5♣. For partner to have extra values for his vulnerable preempt, he must hold one of the high red honors, which makes him a 2-1 favorite to hold a heart honor. Additionally, some of the time when he holds the diamond ace, the opponents will only hold eight hearts divided 4-4. My best guess is that 3NT will make about 70% of the time. How about 5♣? We will have 11 top tricks when partner holds the diamond ace, so let's look at the times partner has a heart control. When it is the ace, we will have ten tops and chances for an extra by setting up a spade or a diamond, or possibly via a heart ruff. When partner holds the heart king, he may have a pointed queen to give him extra values, which ought to make 5♣ nearly a sure thing – the only danger is losing 3 fast tricks on a diamond lead (possibly with a heart back). I'd guess we make 90% of the time partner holds the heart ace and 75% of the time he holds the heart king. That all adds up to well over 80%, much better than the 70% for 3NT.

Wittes: 5♣. Partner rates to have KJ10xxxx of clubs, plus a red ace, and a red queen. If his ace is the ace of hearts, 3NT will be fine, but if it's the ace of diamonds, 5♣ will be a safer spot.

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PSP continued from previous page

Meyers: 4♣. I don't care if she has more than a minimum preempt. Partner may not have KJxxxxx of clubs and both a heart honor and a diamond honor. If she doesn't have a high heart honor, we may have no play for 3NT. Since partner did not raise me to 4♠, I am assuming she has one spade at most. Also, since partner's vulnerable 3♣ bid didn't include a great suit, it is likely she has 0-2-4-7 distribution, perhaps ♠--- ♥Kx ♦Qxxx ♣KJxxxxx. I think 5♣ will have more play than 3NT.

I held this hand at the table and passed. Partner held ♠x ♥Qx ♦ATx ♣KJT9xxx. 5♣ was a vastly better contract than 3NT. We got lucky, because the opening lead was a diamond, so my partner made all 13 tricks, but now I think 5♣ is a better bet.

2

IMPs
no Vul

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

You hold: ♠72 ♥AJ9 ♦AQJT982 ♣T

What call do you make?

The meaning of this bidding sequence is not as obvious as it seems. How natural is 3♣? If 2♥ would not be forcing, then 3♣ is completely artificial and might even be void in clubs. If 2♥ is forcing, must it show 4 hearts? If so, then 3♣ could still have very little in clubs. How far does 3♣ force? I believe that most, but not all expert partnerships play that 3♣ forces to game.

One panelist thinks it's easy to be flexible.

Eisenberg: 3♥. The only easy problem in this set. Why insist on a specific direction when I'm prepared for all choices?

Some panelists think the most important thing to do is to describe the superb diamonds.

Shuster: 4♦. This will make it hard to get to 3NT (3♥, not 3NT, is the main alternative), but I must bring my excellent suit and extra values into the picture somehow, since we may have a slam. There are no guarantees that 3NT will be better than 5♦ anyway - it might be much worse opposite something like ♠AKxxx ♥Kxx ♦x ♣Axxx, where 3NT might go

down, and 6♦ is nearly cold.

Mealy-mouth: 4♦. The third round is the time for an opener with extra playing strength based on a long, strong minor to strut his stuff. Yes, I know, 3♥ is more flexible. Thank heaven we're playing IMPs rather than matchpoints, so I don't have to worry about missing 3NT.

Some panelists make the minimum bid to allow partner room to describe his hand.

Meyers: 3♦. I have a seventh diamond and a good suit. If partner needs a heart stopper for 3NT, she can bid 3♥ (waiting) over 3♦.

Wittes: 3♦. I'm not quite ready to bid 3NT. If partner has something like ♠AKxxx ♥xx ♦x ♣KQxxx, 3NT will have very little play with a heart lead. By bidding 3♦, I give us a little more flexibility. If partner now bids 3♥, I shall bid 3NT. If partner bids 3♠ or 4♣, I shall bid 4♠. If partner bids 3NT, I shall sit. If partner bids 4♦, I shall bid 4♥.

PSP continued on next page

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Sacks: 3♦. My first reaction was, “3NT, what’s the problem?” But I have adequate support for spades (if partner rebids them over 3♦), I have an easy 3NT over a probing 3♥, and I have a great hand for slam in diamonds if partner bids 4♦.

Goldsmith: 3♦. 3♣ isn’t natural, so I want to give partner room to let me know what he has in mind. 3NT is certainly reasonable, and Hamman’s Law suggests it, but it’s likely that I’ll get to bid it next

round. If I don’t, I’ll probably be glad I didn’t. 3♥ has the downside that it prevents our getting to 3NT from my side. 3NT from partner’s side causes my only side entry (or maybe heart stopper) possibly to become vulnerable to the opening lead.

I held this hand at the table and bid 3NT over my partner’s semi-natural 3♣. We made 3NT, but missed 6♦, and I think my bid was lazy. I like 3♥, with 3♦ a close second.



North	East	South	West
1♦	pass	pass	?

You hold: ♠KQJ8 ♥97653 ♦Q ♣T76

What call do you make?

Most panelists go quietly, fearing that opening this can of worms will work out poorly.

Mealymouth: Pass. My second choice, 1♠, fails the suit length test. My third choice, 1♥, fails the suit strength test. My fourth choice, double, fails the honor trick test and is likely to fetch a penalty pass that will fail unless I’m playing with Lucy in the Sky. And if I’m playing with Lucy, South will escape successfully into clubs. So I’ll settle for +50, thank you, and apologize to my teammates when we lose 2 IMPs, because their opponents make 110 in a partscore or collect 100 points against 1♦ doubled.

Shuster: Pass. I think partner is likely to drive to a no-play game if I reopen here.

Goldsmith: Pass. At red versus white, partner isn’t trapping, so it’s likely we are outgunned. If I pass and am wrong, what have I lost, -70?

Eisenberg: Pass. Not sound to trap at this vulnerability.

Meyers: Pass. Double is OK, but it may cause us to

get too high or to defend an unbeatable 1♦ contract. Its upside is reaching a biddable part score.

Let’s hear from the brave warriors who wave a red flag in front of their most feared opponent, their partner.

Sacks: Double. Hope for the best. At least I probably will not be balancing the opponents into a major suit. Opposite as little as ♠Ax ♥Axxx ♦xxxx ♣Axx or the like, we are odds-on to make 4♥.

Wittes: Double. Although I have a minimum, I have good distribution for a reopening double. Partner might have a good hand with diamond length and was unable to bid over 1♦. Hopefully, partner will give me a little leeway for a balancing double.

I’m with the passers on this one, but my partner wasn’t. Leo Bell held this hand and tried a surprising 1♠ bid. Leo grabbed the brass ring when we pushed the opponents to 3♦, down one. I nearly misdefended because I couldn’t believe he actually held this hand.

4

IMPs
all Vul

North	East	South	West
3♣	dbl	5♣	?

You hold: ♠K874 ♥QJ83 ♦Q8652 ♣---

What call do you make?

The auction has skyrocketed. We probably have the balance of power, but what is there to do?

Shuster: Pass. Not enough meat to bid at the 5-level myself and not enough defense to double.

Wittes: Double. Toughest problem of this set. *[I agree!]* Double is just cards. If partner has a minimum double, we may not be able to make anything at the 5-level. Also, trumps may very well be breaking badly, given the preempt. On the other hand, if partner has a maximum, we may have a slam. I know partner will sit on most hands. If partner bids over the double, I shall cue bid 6♣.

Meyers: Double. I have values but not enough to bid five of a suit on my own. Partner is not barred from bidding.

Goldsmith: 5♦. Depends on methods. Some play pass here as forcing. That'd be nice. *[I think that pass should be forcing, but concede that it isn't currently in any of my partnerships.]* If it's not, which it isn't

without express agreement, follow Edgar's advice and bid one's longest suit.

Eisenberg: 5♦. Should partner reopen with ♠AQx ♥Axx ♦AKxx ♣xxx?

Mealy-mouth: 5♦. Who knows who can make what? With a void in their suit, I act. I cannot rely on partner to infer my void from the opponents' bids, because North and South may not be law-abiding citizens.

Sacks: 6♣. Culbertson's rule and the potential value of finding the right trump suit make this overbid my choice. Culbertson's rule as I understand it is, "if partner can have a minimum holding for his bidding that will produce a good play for the contract, you are entitled to try for it." The level has precluded my only trying for slam, but I shall hope it is there. *[6♣ might get the opponents to save in 7♣.]*

I'm a 5♦ bidder. Wildly distributional hands generally go poorly for the side that passes first.

News for the Bridge News?

Send your story to

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org



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

You hold: ♠853 ♥Q8652 ♦J75 ♣A4

What call do you make?

The panel all agrees they have a good hand for only bidding 1♥. What they don't agree on is what the second double means. Traditionally this double means spades. The more modern approach is closer to "values with a big hand."

Let's hear from the group who believe that partner's double shows spades.

Sacks: Pass. Partner should have the equivalent of a strong NT or better (though not necessarily balanced) with four good spades. Partner may have something like ♠AKJ9 ♥9 ♦AQ106 ♣KJ97.

Shuster: Pass. Is this the Christmas issue? *[No, Mike, it's the New Year's edition. It looks as though our youngest panelist believes this double shows spades and hopes for a nice present under his tree.]*

Wittes: Pass. Partner must have a good hand with four spades. I expect the opponents to retreat to 2♦. If this happens, I shall bid 3♥, since I can't possibly have a better hand for having bid only 1♥ the first time. If the vulnerability were reversed, I would bid 3♥ directly over the double.

Mealy-mouth: Pass. Have I mixed my diamonds with my hearts and my hearts with my diamonds? I usually hold ♦Q8652, and I suspect that's what I have here. There's no other way I can account for my opponents' failure to bid more diamonds. Regardless, I must pass, else my partner will never believe that I have three spades, and we'll miss our spade game when that sly old psycher, South, pulls to 2♦.

Eisenberg: Pass. Without specific agreement, double

is penalty, particularly at this vulnerability. These problems should evoke much discussion.

Some of our experts believe that the double shows a big hand.

Meyers: 3♥. I bid only 1♥ the first time around, and I have a fifth heart.

Goldsmith: 2♦. I think West's second double just shows values; it's essentially a cue bid. South is probably psyching 1♠. If he's not, then 1♠ doubled doesn't seem as if it will be a great spot for us. If he is, he'll just bid 2♦ (or worse, 3♦) next, making it hard for me to show my values, so I'll just cue now and let partner know we might have a game. As with most of these cues, I think it is forcing to suit agreement, so partner can bid a forcing 2♠ or a non-forcing 2♥.

I'm with those who believe the double is a big hand. I like 2♦. I was emailed this problem by East and West separately!

If you have a good problem for the panel or just want some advice, please email me at johndjones44@yahoo.com.

