

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 45, #5

May 2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Membership Update

*By Bill Schreiber
ALACBU President*

Many thanks to **Mark Raggio**, our district vice president, for writing the President's Column last month, freeing me up to work on tax returns. Keep in mind the new district policy on cell phone usage at our district sponsored events.

On the winner front from the Reno NABC's from our district, pickings were slim. **Ellen Anten** and **Steve Gross** were fourth overall in the NABC IMP Pairs, **Renee Mancuso** was on the fifth place team in the Machlin Women's Swiss, and **Lisa Kuo** and **Murat Veysoglu** were second in Flight C of the NAOP.

On the membership front, our district's membership grew by 1.63% from one year ago to 3,548, while the American Contract Bridge League as a whole, grew by 3.82%. We were 24th in the overall ranking! **Pomona**

PRESIDENT continued on page 6



Strata-Flighted Team Game and Stratified Open Pairs Sectional

*by Rand Pinsky
District Director*

May 22 - 23 is The Strata-Flighted Team Game and Stratified Open Pairs Sectional. Every year at this time, our district sponsors the Strata-Flighted Team

Game and Stratified Open Pairs Sectional. The sole purpose we hold this event is to raise money so we can help subsidize our Grand National Teams' expenses when they go to the Summer North American

Bridge Championships. Unlike the North American Pairs where ACBL provides monetary subsidies to the district winners, ACBL does not provide any money to the four teams from each district that compete in the Grand National Teams. Therefore, it is up to each district to help their teams defray the costs by raising money to help them. Our district's only activity to help our teams is the Strata-Flighted Team Game and Stratified Open Pairs Sectional. This year our four teams will be traveling to New Orleans where the finals of the Grand National Teams will take place.

The location for this year's event will be at the San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy in West Hills. On Saturday we will have a two-

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GNT information ~**

COWABUNGA DUDE



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 Friday Saturday Sunday

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email bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

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 Managing Editor..... William Schreiber
 Contributing Editor..... John Jones

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 unsuitable for publication.

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session Swiss Team competition and also two single-session Stratified Open Pairs. Sunday will be a two-session Compact Knock Out and an afternoon single session stratified Swiss. Game times both days are 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. I am the tournament, information, and partnership chairman for this event. I can be reached before the tournament at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net and on Saturday and Sunday by calling the Bridge Academy at 818-999-9131.

Concurrent with this Sectional, our district will hold the competition to determine our Flight A and Flight C Grand National Teams. Flight A is open to all teams in the range of 0-5,000 masterpoints. Flight C is open to all teams of Non Life Masters with less than 500 points. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Flight C teams to play in a fun tournament and have the opportunity to win gold points. The format will be a two-session Swiss on Saturday with the four top teams advancing to a Sunday morning semi-final and afternoon final session. See the GNT Conditions of Contest posted on our district website at acbldistrict23.org for all the specific details.

It Is A Different View From Dummy

I just got back from playing in the San Fernando Valley Sectional Swiss. Thanks to my partner, Kathy and our teammates Sheila Cohen-Bozin and Mary Daugherty, we had a strong last match and finished second in the event. Thanks ladies for a fun day.

Finally, do not forget about my Youth Features. Anyone who knows

DIRECTOR *continued on page 16*

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Gin

It is that time of year again when taxes are filed and paid. The temperature in the lower Colorado River Valley is rising. Our winter residence is summarized and we are homeward bound.

News from our bridge community is not readily available except that Onorita Pallanti and Beth Morrin played at the San Diego Regional where they won some gold points. Onorita is now very close to the much coveted rank of Life Master. Congratulations to both ladies for their successful play in San Diego.

It was uplifting to hear that Gloria Robinson recovered quickly from her surgery. After a short hospital stay Gloria was up and about shopping, and more importantly, she was pain-free.

Sadly, George MacDonald said his final goodbye to his beloved wife Gail. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to George and his family.

Check the white board in the Lancaster clubroom for upcoming events.

Recently a foursome of bridge players/directors from Laughlin went on a road trip and, as expected, the conversation soon turned to bridge topics. One of the issues addressed was the propensity of players to make table rulings rather than calling a director.

The consensus of this small group was that players view the director's role to be penalizing offending players for all errors. Therefore they make table rulings to avoid being penalized. It was agreed that each director should announce at the beginning of each game that all rulings will be made by the director in charge to ensure equity for all players. Seems like a good idea when table rulings are a problem. I do not really think this is an issue at our clubs, but it is worth mentioning because there are many "retired" directors who may not have kept up with current changes or not!

The game winners of club games in March were Doris

Thompson/Lola Messiha with 58.80% on Tuesday. At Valencia on Tuesday night the winners were Gary Grey/Hugh Bartlett with 66.62%. Wednesday night game went to Leah Levitt/Sandi Niren with 68.75%. At Castaic on Thursday, Lee Chicoine/Elma Stark won with 65.53%. Thursday night game winners were S. Pacer/Rick Jackson. The big winners for the month were Willo Phillips/Brad Ward with 74%. Nora Fincher/Sam Shaw took the honors on Sunday with 70%. There may be some errors in this report because there were an unusual amount of games not available on the Unit 556 website.

Club Championship 3/21

	A	B	C
Barb Shuping/Alfred Miller	1	1	-
Marlene and Dave Gasper	2	-	-
Bill Brodek/Pat Juenemann	3	-	-
Mary Stauf/Henry Roediger	4	2	-
Joe Weber/Theodore Maki	5	-	-

STaC 3/28

Beth Morrin/Sandi Niren	1	1	1
Marlene and Dave Gasper	2/3	-	-
Sandi and Ron Oest	2/3	2	-
Sam Shaw/Nora Fincher	4	-	-

Sunday Club Championship

Sam Shaw/Nora Fincher	1	1	1
Carol and Richard Ashbacher	2	2	2
Henry Roediger/Mary Stauf	3/4	3	-
Charles Morrin/Pat Juenemann	3/4	-	-

Valencia STaC 3/23 N/S

Roshen Hadulla/Basant Shah	1	-	-
Marlene and Dave Gasper	2	-	-
Betty Pavey/Everett Dehn	3	1	-
Bill Brodek/Pat Juenemann	4	2	-
Theodore Make/Joe Weber	-	3	-
Anna Schmitt/Peggy Fleming	-	-	1
Rita Vanetter/Vibebe Gill breath	-	-	2

Valencia STaC 3/23 E/W

Deana Paneleon/Rand Pinsky	1	-	-
Gary Grey/Hugh Bartlett	2	-	-
Jerry Burrill/Ruth Baker	3	1	1
Elaine Moore/Tom Shudic	4	2	2
Don and Lou Ann Vandemore	-	2	3

Castaic STaC overall

Hugh Bartlett	1	-	-
Charles and Mary Ann Self	2	1	-
Everett Dehn/Fabian Fang	3	2	-
Theodore Maki/Gary Grey	4	-	-
Lamonte Johnson/Basant Shah	5	-	-
C. K. Kennedy/Peggy Fleming	-	3	-

A parting thought... Some people wait so long for their ship to come in that their pier collapses.

Glendale-Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game - 1:00 p.m., Saturday, May 8
12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch
Board of Directors Meeting - 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, May 8

Mid-March to mid-April did not generate much news for this column, so let's hope the aphorism about news is true, and if "none" is good, then "little" would tend not to be "dire." And it wasn't for me at least, because I passed that very important driver's license renewal test - even the picture turned out fine!

Nor was it dire for Paul Nason/John Villalobos who joined up with Gerry Belcher/Brad Beland for a Swiss Team event at the Long Beach Regional last January (!) and placed B-5 overall. (I know I'm late but I just found my little note.)

...and Betsy Josias is basking in the prospect of being able to meet with her son and daughter-in-law more often now that they have moved back to San Francisco from Australia. His wife is not a U.S. citizen yet, but she intends to take the pledge soon.

Steve Guererro used his spring break from teaching to fly back to Norfolk, VA to welcome back his brother and family from Japan where they had been living for a number of years. While there on an earlier sojourn, they

adopted a little Japanese boy, now eight years old, and during this latest stay there, a second child, now three. "Uncle" Steve was most pleased with the reunion. Also, since he was in the neighborhood, he opted for a visit to Williamsburg for a little U.S. history reviewing.

The ACBL Award Certificates were presented to the winners of our unit's Mini McKinney and Ace of Clubs races for the year 2009 at the April Unit Game with good recognition from their fellow members. Eva Seri did a good job supervising the sandwiches, salad, and yummy dessert buffet lunch with helping hands of others in setting up and taking down. After director Calvin punched in the numbers, the computer came up with the following game results:

North/South

A1			Ann Banta/Ron Moeckel
A2	B1	C1	Mike Doll/Sharon Wolf
A3	B2		Madelon Liebman/Carol Lesson
A4			John Waken/Brad Beland
A5			B. McKissick/Vernon Thomas

East/West

A1	B1	C1	Amr ElGamry/Dan Botoaca
A2			Jake Frenkel/Herman Helber
A3			Bob Tayrien/Joe Hasencamp
A4	B2	C2	Temo Arjani/Sixten Ohman
A5	B3		Esther Tapelband/Bob Hogan
	B4		Zack Vedro/Harold Knowles

Spring blossoms to all of you and we hope you're looking forward to "next time." Take care everybody...

Long Beach Unit

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org

Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

by Jon Yinger

April 11 unit game: Overall results: 1st in A: Cayce Blanchard/John Killian, 2nd Jo and John Melis, 3rd Keith and Susan Hafen, 4/5 Chiye and Bruce Horiguchi tied with John and Bea Bralliar, and 6th Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy. B Flight in the overalls: 3rd Kim Wang/Chien-San Han, 4th Aaron Jones/Jerry Cassady, 5th Penny Wentworth/Eva Mroz, 6th Eileen Nelson/Pat Duran. C flight: 4th Joan Kaye/Bobbie Abel, 5th Ted Cooper/Faye Phillips, and 6th Hashim Mahmoud/

District 23 Rank Changes 3/1/10 - 3/31/10

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Sally Adams
Geraldine Baluch
Deanna Berrin
Sharon Biederman
Robin Hill
Andrea McNichol
Sharyn Miller
Cheryl Spring
Sylvia Ziman

Club Master (20 MPs)

Patricia Berg
Sunny Bernstein
Laurie David
Richard Dial
Charles Gail
Susan Hoose
Kiyo Nagaishi
Marianne Newman
William Raines
Elaine Wagner

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Michael Abeles
Ruth Baker
Diane Elliott
Bella Feniger
Lunsford Laverty
Henry Lipson
Diane Searls

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Roberta Le Feuvre
James Scott
Judith Scott

NABC Master (200 MPs)

John Biggs
Lois Diamond
Paul Fuson
Fred Gurzi
Lynne Parker
Lee Reinman

Life Master (300 MPs)

Robert Preece
Tamra Smith
Gary Swinhart
R Turner
Murat Veysoglu

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Herma Altshule
Janet Cooper
Herbert Ehrmann
Clinton Lew
Marshall Rose

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Lutrell Long
Carol Murakoshi
Ruth Shayne
Frank Shih

Gold Life Master (2500)

Lulu Minter
Dominique Moore

Thambu Nadarajah. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master game were: 1st Dee and Porter Clary, 2nd Diane and Roy Tomooka, 3rd Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein, and a 4/5 tie between Arlene Spatz/Dale Blessing and Tsu Jan/David Hwang. Congratulations to all!

70+% games 3/16 through 4/15: In the Wednesday afternoon open game March 24 Cecil Cooke/Eugene White had a 71.70% game. In NLM games Carmela Chiurazzi/Sharon Biederman had a 69.83% game on March 20, Sue Blom/Michael Bucklein had a 70% game on April 3, and Cayce Blanchard/John Melis had a 70.37% game on April 13. And in a game at Leisure World on April 12, Beatrice Winkel/Ethel Tesser had a 71.13% game. Congratulations to all!!

Big masterpoint awards: 1st over-all big point awards March 16 through April 15: March 17 Toni Morford/Betty McClellan won 3.40mp in the afternoon game, Earl VanDerVord/Sean Lui won 3.50mp in the evening game; in the Unit Game April 11 Cayce Blanchard/John Killian won 5.95mp; April 12 Sibyl Slutsky/Phil Schuster won 3.58mp; April 13 Jo Daigle/Bev Shafer won 3.79mp; and April 15 Jo Daigle/Doris James won 3.14mp. (Welcome back, Jo!) Big awards for 2nd and 3rd overall: in the April 11 unit game Jo and John Melis won 4.46mp for 2nd over-all, and Keith and Susan Hafen won 3.35mp for 3rd over-all. Congratulations to all!

New members and new status: We issue a warm welcome to new members Denis Higginson, Jean Higginson, Roberta Johansson, Janet Logan, Donna North, and Craig Thorsen. All of the new members this month are transfers from other

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

Covina (Unit 551) led the way with an increase of 7.2%, followed closely by **Pasadena-San Gabriel (Unit 559)** and **Antelope Valley (Unit 556)**, which grew at rates of 6.63% and 5.66%, respectively.

As far as age goes, the average age of the league as of March 31, 2010 is 69.03, while our district ranks 17th oldest at 69.08. Our oldest unit is **Downey-Whittier (Unit 564)** at average age of 71.25, while **Pasadena-San Gabriel (Unit 559)** is the youngest at 64.8.

Don't forget about our upcoming district-sponsored events: **Grand National Teams**, flights Open & B in April, flights A & C at the Swiss Team Sectional in May; **Bridge Week Regional** starting July 5 in Pasadena, and **Marina Del Rey Regional** in October.

units. Welcome to Long Beach!! Status changes: Junior Master: Carmela Chiurazzi; Club Master: Richard Kickens; Sectional Masters: Pamela Cole, Joyce Henderson, and Peter Woodruff. Congratulations to you all!!

Upcoming special events at the club: May 3-9, Western Conference STaC games every day: regular prices, extra points, hand records. Sunday, May 16 Unit Game—lunch at 12:30, game at 1:00.

Condolences to: Marcie and Marcus Evans whose beloved Rochelle passed away earlier this month. All the members of the Bridge Center send their heartfelt sympathy.

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

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

2010 Grand National Teams Location and Dates

Flight	Dates	Player Masterpoint Limits
Flight A	May 22-23	0-5000
Flight C	May 22-23	Non Life Master under 500

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

All Events:

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

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

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

www.acblunit559.com

by Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

Unit Game - Sunday, June 6

Jan and many others from our unit went to Gatlinburg to play in the Tennessee Regional so I have to write this entire column all by myself... I'm sure they all had a good time up there in the Great Smokies while I had to stay home and do this! Anyway, that particular tournament has lots of team games so just about everybody leaves there with some new and shiny masterpoints, as well as some new friends. I wish I had gone.

Lulu Minter and Dominique Moore have done it. Done what, you ask? They both became Gold Life Masters last month, and will be joined by John Waken this month. If John wants to, he can just about pick the game and partner for the big event. And just to


prove she deserves her new title, Dominique, with her favorite partners Ann McClelland, and Ron Moeckel, have been doing very well at the games in San Marino. Congratulations to all three of these very strong players.

Gary Swinhart went up to the Reno tournament and almost made his next rank - Life Master. So here's an almost congratulations! I also want to comment on the fine score Gary and Agatha Angelides had at a recent club game in San Marino against very tough competition.

Do you know why Life Master status is so special? It's because once you become one you never have to be concerned about gold and silver points again. After that you only need to accumulate master points to reach each succeeding new level. We're waiting, Gary, but don't be like Marie Nimmrich - she had more than 800 points before she got that last little bit of gold. Of course, that was back in the days when there were no flighted events and she had to play against many of the world's champions!

The San Marino Club has a new scheduled game - the second Monday of each month will be a charity game that awards extra master points. And, as a point of pride, at the last district-wide StaC games (Sectional Tournament at Clubs) that were held in San Marino, the first-place winners in each flight came from our unit! Dominique Moore and Ann McClelland took the honors in flight A and won 13.62 silver points. Flight B winners were Robert C.F. Wang and Shiu-Ming Huang, winning 10.10 points, and our unit president, Sandra Franciscus, with partner Mark Hartzell won flight C and now have 5.65 more silver points. Do we have some good bridge players, or what?

Our unit website has added some new photographs to the Player Gallery that you might like to take a look at. Most people don't care for pictures of themselves as they look today, but don't mind showing off pictures from long ago, so that's what is mostly in the gallery. These photos are not just members of our unit, but also include friends who play in our area on a regular basis. If you would like to be part of this bridge family album, send me an email and include a picture. If you don't know how, give me a snapshot and I will scan it and return it. (You could also leave it with Art or Diane and I will get it.) I'll return it - I promise. The website also has a scrapbook for members and if you want to share some personal photos, it's free and easy. Got one of a grandchild we should see? Graduation or wedding



Ventura Unit 547 Presents: M.A. Hill[†] Memorial Sectional in Oxnard

May 14-16, 2010


Stratifications:
(0-750, 750-2000, 2000+)

Fees per person per session:
\$10 ACBL members
\$11 unpaid & non-members

Friday, May 14
10:00 A.M. & 2:30 P.M.
Compact KO Teams
Stratified Open Pairs
Single Sessions
99er Stratified Pairs
Single Sessions w Trophy
* 99ers: play both sessions & 2nd is FREE *

Oxnard Performing Arts Center (OPAC)
{ corner of 7th & Hobson }
805.385.8147
800 Hobson Way (H Street)

Saturday, May 15
10:00 A.M. & 2:30 P.M.
Compact KO Teams
Stratified Open Pairs
Single Sessions
99er Stratified Pairs
Single Sessions w Trophy
* 99ers: play both sessions & 2nd is FREE *



Sunday, May 16
10:00 A.M. & TBA
Stratified Swiss Teams
6 rounds of 8 boards
\$100/team - includes dinner
2-Session Stratified Open Pairs
if sufficient turn out
\$50/pair - includes dinner
Sanction # 1005116

Director In Charge: Peter Knee
Tournament Chair: Ellie Hood
(805.300.3793; yubridge@aol.com)
Partnerships: Paula Reach 805.486.5707
(and Louise Shaffer)



Host Hotel
Country Inn and Suites
805.986.5353
3.3 miles from site
Ask for ACBL BRIDGE rate!
by referencing 100514ACBL

FREE coffee and snacks all day
Play 2 sessions on any one day, and --- Lunch Is On US!!
All Pairs' Hands Are Predealt

† This tournament is dedicated to the memory of Mary Anita Hill, who organized it so very well for so many years.

Exit 101 Fwy at Oxnard Blvd. From South, turn left; from North, turn right. At 7th St, turn right. Pass G St, go left on Hobson.

01/10/10

pictures?

Jim Gillespie and Jim D'Arcanegelo had a great game at the Bridge Center a few weeks ago. They scored over 77% at a Wednesday evening game. Nice going, gentlemen. Here's a couple of dates you might want to remember for the Bridge Center: the Winners-Losers game will be on Sunday, May 16, and Beat the House night will be Friday, May 28. The popular Swiss Teams game will be Sunday, May 30. The Bridge Center will be closed for Mother's Day and again on May 23. That's the day for the Grand Nationals Team event.

Art Gulbrandsen ran in the New York marathon awhile back, and also went to see a few Broadway shows while he was there. He promises to take Diane sometime.

Do you have your partnership agreements in place? Suppose you are in third seat, and after two passes, you open a major. What is your passed partner telling you when she jumps a level and bids a new suit? Here's a suggestion: treat it as a mini-splinter showing a singleton or void in the bid suit, and 4-card support with 9-11 points. If you also play Drury and your partner bids it, then by inference your partner does not have a singleton or void.

Is there anyone out there who would like to become a world-famous column writer? Both Jan and I would like to retire from this endeavor, and we would like to hand this over to a budding writer. Please?

See you at the bridge table.

The Las Vegas Regional

June 7-13, 2010

For room reservations call
800 634-6753 or reserve
online at LVRegional.com

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

RIVIERA HOTEL & CASINO "ON THE STRIP" • 2901 LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD • 800 634-6753 OR 702 734-5110

Bridge room rate \$65.00
Ask for the ACBL Bridge rates and reserve by May 17

New KO's Starting Every Day!

BRACKETED KNOCKOUTS		
Monday-Tuesday	Monday	7:00 p.m.
	Tues	9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Wednesday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Thursday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
BRACKETED COMPACT KNOCKOUTS		
Weekend Compact	Fri-Sat	9:00 a.m.
Saturday Compact	Saturday	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.

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

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

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

Special Program for Newer Players

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

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

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

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

NEWCOMER (I/N) GAMES

0-300 mp Pair Games Every Session Mon-Sat
0-300 mp Sunday Swiss Teams
All I/N Games are Stratified (0-20/50 mp & 0-100/200/300 mp)
I/N Partnership Desk will be open before all games

Need a Partner? Need Teammates?
Visit our online partnership desk at
LVRegional.com

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

MONDAY, JUNE 7

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

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

FREE COMEDY SHOW!



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

This FREE show takes place in the Club 373 Showroom, right in the bridge ballroom and comes with free beer, soda, and snacks. Don't miss this GREAT SHOW!

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

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

District 17 GNT Finals

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



LVRegional.com

Sanction # R1006012

Pomona-Covina

by Vic Sartor

Unit Game – 11:00 a.m., Saturday, May 15
Individual Game – 9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 1

Owing to the vagaries of news deadlines we have the results of two unit games to report this month. Bill Papa/Lulu Minter took first overall in March with a nice 69% game. Hans Hehnke/Vic Sartor took first in opposite direction and second overall. Lary Alba/Cordell Goode were 3rd. Overall, Roger Boyar/Richard Patterson took Class B, with Kerry Sartor/Margaret Merritt second. In the April game, Lary Alba/Cordell Goode tied with Lynne Parker/John Horn for first overall. Pat Radamaker/Clint Lew were third. Barbara Papa/Lucille Glunt took first in the 199er section, posting a fine 71% game, and Joan Dick/Gay Taylor finished second.

The April individual was won by Roger Boyar (Classes A and B), followed by Richard Patterson, Genise Hasan, and Donald Naf. Linda Stuart and Margaret Merritt were 1-2 in Class C.

Three unit members earned promotions in April. Margaret Merritt became a Club Master, Mary Miller made NABC Master, and Harish Singh was named a Bronze Life Master.

In club results, top game of the month was turned in by Bill Papa and Vic Sartor with a 67%. Other winners were Herman Helber, Kathy Helber, Penny Barbieri, Sandy Jones, Roger Boyar, Richard Patterson, Hanah Moughharbel, Clint Lew, Walt Otto, Edwin Kelly, Donald Naf, Dave Ruoff, Susan Ruoff, Lary Alba, Lulu Minter, Fred Minter, Ann McClelland, and Ron Purkis.

We all know the ACBL is putting great emphasis on courteous behavior, so special kudos to the player overheard complimenting his partner as follows: "Except for the bidding and defense, you played that hand perfectly, pard."

There were a couple of freak hands involving bidding decisions vying for hand of the month in April. What would you do with a nine card spade suit to the AKQ and Ax in two side suits? If you tried a strong 1♣ or 2♣ opener, hoping to explore scientifically for 6 or 7, your nasty opponents found a non-vulnerable 7♥ save. Old-fashioned seat-of the pants rubber bridge players who blasted with a 6♠ opener wound up +1430 instead

of +500. In our second candidate, you hold: ♠Kxx ♥AKQxx ♦AKQJx ♣--. Not bad, huh?

Your pard opens 1♠! It's probably an 80-90% bet that you can make 7♠ or 7NT but if you're not willing to gamble, how do you plan to find the key honors pard's hand? A RKC 4NT? If your luck is in and you get a 5♠ response, 7NT is easy. But what do you do after a one keycard response? Take a chance on 7♠ and risk down 1? After all, it's barely possible pard has something like QJ of spades and AKQ of clubs. How about this? Respond 5NT- the good old Grand Slam Force. Pard shows the hoped-for AQ of spades with a 7♠ bid, leaving you with one final problem- just how greedy are you at matchpoints? If you're willing to bet he has the club ace for his opener, bid 7NT (even if you're wrong the opening leader may not have the ace and you might get a lucky lead). If you're a pansy like me, pass 7♠ and hope it's at least above average.

'Til next time...

San Fernando Valley

by Fran Kern

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for March:
750 Bridge Club: Billy Blanchard 8.37, Ron Malkin 7.95, Paul Endler 7.91, Jim Lechner 7.78, Don Rosen 6.30, Sue Sarture 5.36, James Hoose 4.94, Peggy Amato 4.86, Larry Kussin 4.59, Herb Van Brink 4.45.

Bridge Academy 299 Game: Robert Glasser 3.99, Estelle Abrams 3.84, Phil Calloway 3.08, Rochelle Lotto 3.07, Ellen Carrier 3.07, Patricia Shellogg-Seal 2.88, Myrna Kalman 2.88, Joan Farrar 2.78, Norman Berman 2.58, Sandy Berman 2.58.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Tom Wylie 16.82, Leda Danzig 15.35, Armand Szulc 13.35, Gary Frans 12.81, Gilbert Stinebaugh 12.51, Andrew Vinock 12.12, Seymour Zemlyn 11.60, William Carlson, Jr. 10.24, Tammy Purkin 10.04, Ed Gruber 9.58.

70% Games for March: Claude Le Feuvre/Dwight Hunt 73.81, Don Rosen/Jim Lechner 71.73, Paul Endler/Larry Kussin 71.13, Herb Van Brink/Steve Wachtel 70.03, Carol Connolly/Gloria Wolf 70.00

Feedback request: The unit recently hosted a Unit Game and Sectional Games. To maximize your positive experiences at future events we welcome your feedback. Make your comments known.

In memoriam: Unit members note the empty chair left by the death of Norm Kramer.

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

www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568

SBBC Website:

www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc

by Steve Mager

Western Conference STaC
Monday, May 3 - Saturday, May 8

Club Championship -
11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 11

Club Championship
7:00 p.m., Friday, May 21

Club Swiss Championship
7:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 25

2010 Torrance South Bay Sectional: The annual Torrance South Bay Sectional will take place Friday, May 28 through Sunday, May 30 at different locations than recent years. On Friday night there will be a pair game and a Swiss Team at the South Bay Bridge Club located at 24100 Narbonne in Lomita starting at 7:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday events will be held at the Ken Miller Center, 330 Civic Center Drive in Torrance. This location is just off Madrona Avenue between Del Amo and Torrance Boulevards. On Saturday there will be a compact KO plus pair games starting at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. On Sunday there will be Swiss Team events starting at 10:30 a.m. Please note that unlike previous years there will be no sectional events on Monday, Memorial Day.

Club championships: The March 15 Club Championship resulted in a tie for Flight A honors between Fran Israel/Sheryl Kohlhoff and Jean and Hal Brunner who also took Flight B and C honors. On April 2 the Club Championship was led by Dean Kaloudis/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Chris Freeland/Marilyn Smith taking Flight B.

Team winners: The team of Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, and Bronek Felczer led the way on March

15. Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema and John J. McDermott won on March 23. The March 30 game saw Linda Henson, Bill Lama, Karen and Mike McKittrick taking the whole ball of wax. On April 6 Marie Willis, Mark Raggio, Carol McCully, and Ed Barad were on top.

Charity game winners: The Saturday afternoon charity game on March 13 was won by Gabriela Jackson/Betsey Amador in Flight A with soon to be weds Bill Lama and Linda Henson taking Flight B honors. The March 20 game was led by Betsey Amador/Mark Raggio in both Flights A and B. On March 27 Ray Mack/Alain Fleurot took Flight A with Cal and JoAnne Waller winning Flight B. The April 3 game resulted in a tie for Flight A honors between Lucy Tredennick/C. M. Meaux and Linda Henson/Bill Lama who were alone on top in Flight B. Cal and Joanne Waller won both Flight A and B honors on April 10.

FREE & Fun Program for all 0-299ers

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- Meet the *Bridge Tour* professionals TUESDAY after the afternoon session (light refreshments served).
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- PLAY with a *Bridge Tour* professional on THURSDAY after the afternoon session (refreshments served).
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For more information email Tom@LVregional.com or call Tom Shulman 702-301-5856.

Register now at LVregional.com to receive a free gift at your first 299er game.

District 22/23 STaC overall finishers: The following summary lists pairs that finished in the overalls during the District 22/23 STaC in games played at Torrance South Bay Clubs:

Monday Morning

2A	2B	Carole King/Claire Hulett	
4A		M. Suhre/John J. McDermott	
5A		Lorna Wallace/Dean Kaloudis	
	4B	2C	Mary Overby/Arthur Rue

Monday Evening

1A			Fran Israel/Gabriela Jackson
3A			Lucy Tredennick/C. M. Meaux
4A	1B	1C	Jean and Harold Brunner
	4B	2C	P. Westenhaver/Chris Freeland
		3C	Karen and Mike McKittrick
		5C	Linda Henson/Bill Lama

Tuesday Morning

3A	2B	Dolores Nawa/Harry Wessells
5A	4B	Hank Sheehan/Jim Jensen

Wednesday Afternoon

16/19A			Chiye and Bruce Horiguchi
	10B	4C	J. Hieatt/Nathaniel Trembath
		7/8C	Marilyn Smith/ Barbara Davis
		7/8C	J. Nyomarkey/Joan Lightfoot

Wednesday Evening NLM Pairs

2A		Bernard Gee/Mahin Khadivi
4A	3B	J. Shamely/Karen O'Neil
5A		Linda Henson/Bill Lama
	5B	Nancy Collinge/Mark Sinagra

Thursday Morning NLM Pairs

1A			Jamila Malikyar/Mahin Khadivi
2A	1B		Norma Reynolds/Carolyn Verin
3A			Samuel Lim/Ron Prando
4A	2B		S. Kuuskmae/S. Rahimtoola
5A	3B		Yokuyo Sheehy/Elaine Godin
6A	4B	1C	Dorothy and Peter Joseph
	5B	2C	Ira Yesnick/Charlotte Lewin
		3C	David Lyons/Ralph Vidal
		4C	Billie Kelly/Marie Lynch

Thursday Evening

4A	G. Jackson/Winnie Ninneman
----	----------------------------

Friday Afternoon

1A	1B	Florence Niwa/Bill Malcolm
----	----	----------------------------

Friday Evening

2C	Paula Hall/Myron Leister
3C	Jane Tourino/Audrey Ellis
5C	Kathy Miglin/Phil Alfandary
6C	Alain Fleurot/Diane Elliot

GUV memorial award: My partner Mike Mikyska and I thought we qualified relatively easily in a nationally rated event at the Reno NABC. This despite being penalized a board for allegedly fouling up while duplicating a hand. However, when the qualifiers were listed in the Daily Bulletin the following morning our names were not to be found. Prior to the final of this event, my partner looked up one of the directors of this event (his name wasn't Peter) and was informed that the qualifiers published in the Daily Bulletin were *always* right.

Well, guess what? After the director was shown our qualifying result he discovered that a pair from another section (with the same pair number as us) who really hadn't qualified was deemed by some director to have qualified. With nary an apology he admitted we qualified. Too bad they can't penalize directors two boards for their errors.

Na Zdrowie

West L.A.
by candy

This newspaper comes out May 1. You should be playing in the sectional and not reading this! So get yourself down to the Kayne Eras Center in Culver City, play bridge, and eat free goodies. Since I'm going to be there I'll know who is good and who is bad. Don't lose demerits in your Santa Clause list.

The next special unit event is the Pro-Am Pair Game on Sunday, June 27 at 6:00 p.m. It will be at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club. Dinner and desserts will be served and prizes for the winners. Sign-ups are at the club. This annual event has been hugely successful, so don't miss out. Card fees are \$9 for the Ams and free for the Pros.

This is the first of three events the unit will hold this year to promote a "bridge" between the players. There's a TV show called "Mythbusters," and on it they have fun testing urban legends by blowing things up, dropping things from the sky, and other foolishness. What the Pro-Am Pair Game does is prove that "Ams" does not mean fish and "Pros" does not mean piranhas. The unit works very hard on these special events, so more Santa Clause demerits if you miss out on this event.

Sam Haveson resigned from the unit board after MANY years of service. He has promised to continue helping in an unofficial capacity. Thanks for all those years of promoting bridge. This now turned Howard Einberg into a poster of Uncle Sam and the "fickle finger of fate" pointed to.... Bob Shore. Welcome to the board, Bob.

Those moving up the ranks were: Junior Master:

Elizabeth Beagle and Bonnie Butler; Club Master: Henry Ralph Abouaf, Wayne Beagle, Michel Brand, Joseph Hooker, and Linda Schlesinger; Sectional Master: Ginger Boykin and Donna Carter; NABC Master: Alyssa Kennedy; and Diamond Master: Reese Milner.

While probably believing in only one God, I know all of us have these minor deities we know, and while some are helpful, others are fickle. Sam is the god of parking, but if you try to invoke him too often or when you don't really need him, he takes away your parking privileges. The god of bridge is in charge of finesses and trump breaks. He does have a sense of humor. On Monday of the STaC, the god of bridge had Medi's and my trumps not break, but the opponents bid them first so we were saved. This produced a 70% game and 1st overall. The next week we were the ones playing the hands with bad

District 23 – Team Game Sectional *Saturday May 22 and Sunday May 23, 2010* *San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy*

Saturday, May 22

10:00 am –
Swiss Teams - Strata Flighted
First Session of Two
Flight A/AX: (5000+ / 0-5000)
Flight B/C/D: (1000-2500/500-1000/0-500)

Open Pairs- Stratified (Single Session)

3:30 pm

Open Pairs - Stratified (Single Session)
Swiss Teams - Second Session of Two

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

Card Fees:

ACBL Members
\$10 per person/per session
Non-Members
\$11 per person/per session

Director in Charge: Peter Knee

Location:

San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy
6733 Variel Ave. Canoga Park
2 blocks W. of DeSoto, just S. of Vanowen
Exit DeSoto from the 101 or 118 Freeway
(818) 999-9131

FREE PARKING



Sunday, May 23

10:00 am –
Compact Knockouts
(Rounds 1 & 2)

3:30 p.m.
Swiss Teams (One Session)
Stratified

Compact Knockouts
(Rounds 3 & 4)

For Stratified Swiss

Stratified A: 2500+ masterpoints
Stratified B: 500-2500
Stratified C: 0-500

Partnerships & More Information:

Rand Pinsky
District 23 Nat'l Board of Directors
Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net
(661) 253-1105

OR

Howard Einberg (310) 475-9784
Grand National Teams Coordinator

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

trump breaks and singleton kings offside. Harumph!

The god of bridge shined down on these 70%ers last month: Jill Richmond/Paul Smith, Jill Richmond/Jordan Chodorow, Jordan Chodorow/Betsy Lutz, Sheri Rivera/Aram Bedros, Aram Bedros/Pete Benjamin, Cyma Aronow/Art Zail, Bella Feniger/Peggy Levin, Barbara Holman/Margaret Kahn, Becky and Roger Clough, Toby Green/Joyce Lelah, and Esther Morris/Karen Schwartz. If your name isn't here, watch those demerits.

Club Champs at Barrington were: A: Chuck Maltz/Paul Smith, Sally Karbeling/Danny Kleinman, and Cyma Aronow/Art Zail; B: Connie Fishbech/Anita Levine, Harriet Dana/Vera Mandell, and Claris Miles/Fred Feigenson; C: Mimi Weitz/Jeff Leibowitz, Sharon Aronsen/Alida Simenhoff, and Bella Feniger/John Stokdyk. BHBC Champs were Gene White/Sam Haveson and Toby Green/Dave Segal.

Wedged between swinging around the May Pole, dancing around a hat for Cinco de Mayo, and the month-end Salute to our Veterans is Mothers Day. Putting aside Oedipus Complexes and Jewish guilt trips, this is the third holiday of the year (Valentine's Day and Easter) that is celebrated with Hallmark, Chocolate, Flowers and Dinner. That seems to be a theme worth repeating. Thinking about it, the June Pro-Am is just switching Hallmark to Kem cards. So on to June.

*Thank your unit
columnist by sending
them news.*

Tournament Director
Peter Knee

Tournament Manager
Ray Mack
310-374-4906 - Home

Partnership Desk
Gabby Jackson
310-831-8727 - Home
310-720-8177 - Cellphone

Card Fees
\$11 per session - ACBL members
\$12 per session - Non-members

\$120 per team for Sunday Swiss
(includes lunch)

PLENTY OF PLAYING SPACE

Free Parking

Non-Smoking Tournament

**All Open Pairs Events are
single session events**

Stratification

Pairs Events:

A = 1,500+
B = 500 - 1,500
C = 0 - 500

Team Events:

A = 2,000+
B = 500 - 2,000
C = 0 - 500



Torrance - South Bay Unit 568 Memorial Weekend Sectional May 28, 29 and 30, 2010

Sanction No.S1005142

Friday, May 28, 2010**

Location: South Bay Bridge Club
24100 Narbonne Ave.
Suite 105A
Lomita, CA 90717

7:00 p.m.

Stratified Open Pairs

One Session
Stratified Swiss Team

** Note:
Location for this day only:
South Bay Bridge Club

Due to limited space,
sign-ups are requested.

Please call
310-325-7222
to make a
reservation.

Thanks for your
cooperation in this matter.

Saturday, May 29, 2010

Location: Ken Miller Center
330 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, CA 90505

10:30 a.m.

Stratified Open Pairs
199'er Pair Game
Compact Knockouts
Rounds 1 & 2

3:00 p.m.

Stratified Open Pairs
199'er Pair Game
Compact Knockouts
Rounds 3 & 4

Directions to Torrance Ken Miller Recreation Center:

From the 405

Exit at Hawthorne Blvd.
go South towards Torrance
Turn Left on Torrance Blvd.
Turn Left on Madrona Ave.
Turn Right on Civic Center Drive

From the 110

Exit at Torrance Blvd.
go West towards Torrance
Turn Right on Madrona
Turn Right on Civic Center Drive

May						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Sunday, May 30, 2010

Location: Ken Miller Center
330 Civic Center Drive
Torrance, CA 90505

10:30 a.m.

Swiss Team - First Session

T. B. D.

Swiss Team - Second Session



Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

Panel: Mark Bartusek, Leo Bell, David Chechelashvili, Vic Chernoff, Mitch Dunitz, and John Jones

The May column is dedicated to the memory of Bob Schwartz, who passed away during April. Bob lived in San Pedro, and was a member of ACBL's national appeals committee. Bob was an expert bridge player, but he may well be more remembered for his great efforts at improving bridge ethics. Bob actively practiced full disclosure of methods, and being a pleasant partner and opponent.

1

MPs
no Vul

1♥ pass 1♠ pass
1NT ?

You hold:

♠7 ♥AJ95 ♦AQ85 ♣KJ98

What call do you make?

2

MPs
Vul vs Vul

1♥ pass 1♠ pass
1NT ?

You hold:

♠9 ♥AQT87 ♦KQ85 ♣AJT

What call do you make?

Bell: Double. Some treat this as showing a hand willing to defend 1NT with good values in opener's suit. Others simply treat it as takeout for the minors. In either case, I think double is the right call, even though I'd like one more heart spot.

Bartusek: Double. Classic takeout double since my delayed entry into the auction denies spades and shows some length/strength in hearts. This vulnerability also strongly suggests bidding rather than passing.

Jones: Double. This double is takeout of spades. I have perfect shape and about a queen extra.

Dunitz: Double. I'm quite comfortable with this one.

Chernoff: Pass. I'm fixed for now; however, there may be more bidding. (2♣ on my left?)

Chechelashvili: Double.

I agree with double, but I see it as both takeout of spades and a suggestion to defend 1NT doubled. Partner should not leave it in unless he can welcome a spade lead from shortness, which without a clear-cut minor suit lead, the doubler will usually lead.

Bell: Pass. Even though my hearts are better than in Problem 1, I don't want to volunteer to go down two vulnerable when I really want to defend 1NT and hope to beat it two tricks.

Bartusek: Pass. Despite having reasonable shape for a delayed takeout double, the vulnerability and stronger hearts suggest defending. The lack of 4-card club support argues against trying to buy the contract. Partner may not have the necessary spade strength and HCP values to make a penalty pass, so it's not as safe doubling with only three clubs. I hope the 1♠ bidder isn't stealing with a trashy hand.

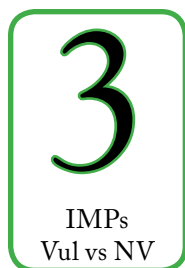
Jones: Double. This is still takeout of spades. The shape isn't perfect, but with 16 HCP and good spot cards, this seems mandatory.

Dunitz: Double. I'm still comfortable.

Chernoff: Double. This should be takeout of spades or cards. I have both.

Chechelashvili: Double.

Once again I like double, but as with problem one, I am suggesting defending. If partner leaves it in, I will lead a spade.



1♠ pass 1NT pass
pass ?

You hold: ♠J965 ♥A ♦AJ98 ♣KQJ7

What call do you make?

Bell: Pass. I would have overcalled 1NT at my previous opportunity. I can't double now, because partner will likely bid hearts.

Bartusek: Pass. The only other option is a risky 2♣. (I'd probably bid it against weak opponents.) In addition, I don't want to give the opponents another shot at getting to 4♥. I would have overcalled 1NT on the first round.

Jones: 2NT. This is takeout for the minors. I'd like to have more than 4-4, but it seems like our best shot. Bidding for the minors takes less from partner to be right than does a penalty double.

Dunitz: Pass.

Chernoff: 2NT. This is a feeble effort. RHO must be playing semi-forcing or non-forcing 1NT (or psyching).

Chechelashvili: Pass. I don't agree with the initial pass. I would have bid 1NT.

When I constructed this hand, I was thinking whether a double now would show heart shortness. Perhaps this double should show strong NT strength with a flaw that is most typically heart shortness. If not, what should double here show? Overcalling 1NT with a singleton does not scare me, but doing it with the unbid major vulnerable is begging to play 2♥ in a 5-1 fit.

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medium-h (7.5 x 3) \$40

large (7.5 x 6) \$60

small (3.6 x 2.75) \$20

medium-v (3.6 x 6) \$40

4

Matchpoints
Vul vs Vul

1♠ pass

2♠ pass

?

You hold: ♠KT87654 ♥-- ♦97 ♣JT95

1♦ pass

2♣ pass

3♣ pass

What call do you make?

A: What call do you make?

Bell: 4♥. If partner doesn't have much wasted in hearts, then slam is a definite possibility. My first reaction was simply to bid 5♣, but if partner has something like ♠-- ♥Ax ♦Axxxxx ♣AKxxx, then I like our chances for 6♣.

Bartusek: 5♣. This should have excellent play, especially if partner is void in spades. 4♣ seems like an underbid given the great club fit and the heart void.

Jones: Pass. Partner shows about 15 – 17 HCP. (He couldn't jump shift). He might have ♠x ♥AK ♦KQxxx ♣KQxxx.

Dunitz: 4♣.

Chernoff: Pass.

Chechelashvili: 3♥. This is forward-going.

I think 4♣ is clear, 5♣ is OK and 6♣ is too much. While 3♣ shows some extras beyond a fifth club, even Leo's example pretty much needs 2-2 clubs and some racing luck, or perhaps a stiff club Q and a little other help. As it is, if my partner had bid 6♣, I would have been hard pressed to pass with ♠-- ♥A7 ♦AKQTxx ♣AK743. [Yes, I think most players would jump shift with a 2-loser hand. It's hard for partner to cater to your being that good. – John Jones editor] I know all of you would have jump shifted over 1♠. What's your rebid over anything except 4♣? My partner bid 4♣ over my 3♣ in the problem auction, and with the knowledge that he had four clubs and six spades, I bid a confident 6♣.

B: Do you agree with the 1♠ and 2♠ bids?

Bell: The 1♠ bid is certainly normal. At the table, I likely would have passed 2♣, but I guess I'm glad I didn't!

Bartusek: Yes. The higher scoring 7-card major is much more attractive at matchpoints than an 8-card minor suit fit. Additionally, passing would have allowed the opponents to compete in hearts.

Jones: Yes, I would certainly have bid 1♠. The matchpoint scoring makes it close whether to pass 2♣ or bid 2♠. Weak jump shift advocates would probably bid 2♠ the first time, but I don't normally play weak jump shifts.

Dunitz: Yes. I agree with the spade bids.

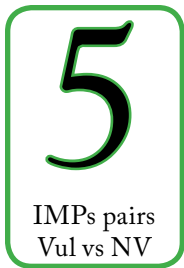
Chernoff: Yes. Maybe partner will bid 3♠.

Chechelashvili: Yes. I agree with each.

If I had had the 7-4, I admit I would have bid 3♠ over 1♦. With a void in diamonds and a heart doubleton instead, I would have bid only one spade

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any of our youth, please encourage them to contact me and provide me with a summary of their bridge activities and a photograph, and I will feature them in this column. It would be nice if our district had some of our youth participate in the Youth Bridge Nationals which will take place during the Summer NABC in New Orleans.



3♥ ?

You hold: ♠QT975 ♥-- ♦K985 ♣AT75

What call do you make?

Bell: Pass. It's too rich for me to enter red against white. If partner has enough to make 4♠, he's likely to bid more. My partners are usually aggressive in the balancing seat, so I'm hoping I'll still have a chance to bid.

Bartusek: Double. This is very aggressive, but probably necessary to avoid missing a game. Sure, I won't be happy if partner bids 3NT, but I paid my entry fee.

Jones: Double. Yes, I'm light. The short hand is supposed to act aggressively in competition. I have good spot cards, and I like the hand. Hey, I ought to be able to overbid a little; I had extras on #1, #2, and #3.

Dunitz: Double.

Chernoff: Pass. If LHO promptly bids 4♥, I may come in, and the sky's the limit if partner bids freely at his first turn. I'm too light for a shaped double.

Chechelashvili: Double. The risk of missing a vulnerable game is too high if I pass. The obvious downside is that sometimes partner will pass and they will make, but on average, I believe it pays to

double with this kind of hand. 3♠ might get partner too excited. I prefer double as the more flexible bid, and if partner gets excited, maybe my void in hearts and extra trump will compensate for the lack of three HCP.

I, too, thought the hand with the shortness should bid, but I thought double, while flexible, was too much of an overstatement of strength in the direct seat. I bid 3♠, the same bid I would have made if I had mixed one of my clubs in with my spades. I disagree that 3♠ is more likely than double to get partner too excited. I would rather be short a spade for a 3♠ overcall than double light an ace. Partner knows that there are quite a few hands with heart shortness and spade length that will come in directly and is unlikely to hang me out to dry.

The complete auction was:

3♥	3♠	3NT	double
pass	pass	4♥	4♠
pass	pass	pass	

Partner's hand was ♠K864 ♥853 ♦AQ7 ♣J83 How do you play 4♠ on a low heart lead?