

# Southern California Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



### Upcoming Events

by *Bill Schreiber*  
*ALACBU President*

The column for the October 1 edition of the Bridge News is always the toughest one to write. There are no results to report from any National tournament, no ALACBU Board meetings since July, and nothing much going on. To that end, I will tell you about our upcoming regional tournaments.

On October 12-17, we are holding a regional tournament at the Marina del Rey Hotel in Marina del Rey. The playing areas have views of the harbor with all the boats in their slips. This year, our fall regional occurs opposite the World Championships going on in Philadelphia. Frankly, it is cheaper and the weather is much nicer in Marina del Rey. Come and stay at the hotel and you will receive a free play for each room night that you stay. Evening games are half-price.

Next spring, our district is sponsoring a Regional-at-Sea aboard the Sapphire Princess. For anyone who has taken a Princess cruise, you know what a treat it is. The cruise goes down to the Mexican Riviera starting on April 30. Daily beginner lectures by our own **Ellen Kent** and more advanced lectures

PRESIDENT *continued on page 7*



## What Else Took Place in New Orleans

by *Rand Pinsky*  
*District Director*

Last month I highlighted what I thought were the most important items passed by the board. I hope all of our units have taken the time to submit their sanctions for their Sectional Tournaments for 2011 and 2012... and maybe even 2013 if your unit is very efficient.

Following are some of the other highlights from our summer meeting.

- Membership for the first half of 2010 saw a gain of 250 members. June 2010 membership vs. June 2009 is 4,957 greater.
- Tournaments: Regionals are averaging more than 1,600 tables per tournament. Sectionals are averaging 176 tables per sectional.
- Three long time employees of the ACBL have retired: Gary Blaiss, Merrell Branan, and Rena Hetzer. I did have an opportunity to work with all of these people and they will be missed. Some employees who have been promoted include Wendy Sullivan, NABC Planner; Dana Norton, Educational Program Coordinator; and Patricia Glover, Director of Budgets and Internal Audit.
- Radio Ads for Clubs & Teachers have been developed targeting "baby boomers" and "empty nesters." These ads can be used for local advertising and the cost will qualify for reimbursement per the Cooperative Advertisement program guidelines.
- Marketing of Bridge: This past April, ACBL was present at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and in September was present at the AARP convention.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

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**DIRECTOR** *continued from page 1*

Referencing bidding practices, the board passed a motion eliminating the requirement to pre-alert short (5-card weak 2s and 6-card 3-level major suit) pre-empts and/or undisciplined (less than Q high) pre-empts. The pre-alert is now replaced with an alert upon occurrence. All 6-card 3-level minor suit pre-empts are not alertable.

A change was made to the General Conditions of Contest in that “unless instructed otherwise by a tournament director, a member of each side must be present and seated before cards are removed from a board.”

A change to the conditions of contest for STaC games is that for a pair to be eligible for overall awards

the minimum number of boards that must be played is 20 (changed from 18).

The board created a new national event of the Senior Mixed Pairs. It will be held at the Fall NABC and will award 80 platinum points to the winner.

Finally, the board discussed in length the problem of slow play at NABC KO events. A motion was deferred to the fall meeting, but it is very likely that some action will be taken. It is my guess that once slow play is addressed at national events, there will be a trickledown effect that can be adopted by the districts.

### It Is A Different View From Dummy

I am sorry to report that my wife and Ellen Anten were too busy to write about their non-bridge adventures in New Orleans. But then, I do not think that anyone inquired of them. However, Kathy’s two-inch cockroach in her bed story should be told. I came up to our room one night to find Kathy in the hallway in her pajamas. Seems when she got into bed, she found a cockroach looking at her from her pillow. Housekeeping could not find it that night and we did get a different room to sleep in. The next night, she did not want to sleep in our room, but the hotel was sold out. Back came housekeeping at 1 a.m. and this time they did find it hiding in the drapes. It was properly disposed of, but when housekeeping left, I heard one of them say to the other, “They usually travel in pairs.” I did not tell Kathy of the conversation.

To conclude, I have created a Centurion Bridge Master Award. I will be presenting it to Dorrie Deston of the Antelope Valley – Santa Clarita Unit at their monthly unit game where they will celebrate the 100th birthday of Dorrie. If we have any other centurions out there, please let me know so that we can honor them.

Good luck to all at our Marina Del Rey Regional this month.

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# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale-Verdugo by Dorothy LaMaie

**Unit Game - 1 p.m., Saturday, October 9  
12:15 p.m. buffet lunch**

The second week in September, it was John-John-John-Villalobos, that is, for placing first each time he played. Of course, we have to add Paul-Paul-Brad-Nason and Beland, that is, for their insurmountable respective support. Our congratulations also go out to former unit member Cliff Goodrich who became a thousand-pointer Silver Life Master recently. Cliff now lives in the Long Beach area. Also, “welcome to our world” to Marlene M. Rubin, Gregg Alsdorf, and Glenn R. Silcott who have joined our unit...

It saddens us to have to issue a “farewell” to Calvin Smith who lost his battle with cancer on September 11. Calvin’s retirement years were devoted to the bridge world where he participated as a player, club owner, and director in the Southern California area. Earlier, he was well traveled in the U.S. in conjunction with his jobs in the engineering field. Along the way, he gathered in a wealth of knowledge and could hold his own on myriad subjects. We at the Regency Bridge Club will miss him... On October 17, a memorial will be held for Calvin at the bridge club. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m. and the bridge game is at 1 p.m. Fees will be \$10 and all proceeds will go to charity in memory of Calvin. Reservations are required— call 818-500-8669.

The arrival of fall has been confirmed: Gerry Belcher and Barbara were off to Hawaii to keep tabs on the USC football team. Since it won, and, as is their wont, they made the most of the trip by extending it.

Joe Hasencamp and his wife June did their extending by driving up to San Francisco, parking their car at the pier, and stepping onto a 10-day cruise ship for an inland passage tour of Alaska. Views from the deck were beautiful, and all that fresh air bracing. Then there was

the return sail under the Golden Gate Bridge with views of the Bay area and San Francisco, a treat in itself. On the drive home they stopped at a favorite Cliff Lodge at Shell Beach (just north of Pismo); however no morning view - just fog...

Interesting-bridge-hand time, and here’s one to ponder: ♠x ♥KQ1x ♦AKJxx ♣KQx. Vulnerable-dealer on your right opens and the bidding proceeds thusly: 1NT-double-2♥(transfer)-pass; 2SS-3♦-pass-pass; 3♠-double-pass-pass. Down only one for minus 200. You can’t beat 2♠, but fortunately opponents pulled the 3♦ bid which would have been difficult to make with three hands accounting for 37 of the 40 high card points.

The September Unit Game provided challenges too: those at the buffet lunch were met by Merry Besvold’s entrée of creamed chicken and rice, with salads from Betsy and Nancy, desserts from Eve and chips and dips courtesy of Susan Rhoades. As for game results, herewith the challenged winners:

### North /South

A1		(oa)	John Villalobos/Brad Beland
A2	B1	(oa)	Madelon Liebman/Carol Lessin
A3	B2	(oa)	Pat Abbey/Barbara McKissick
A4			Susan Rhoades/Bob Tayrien
	B4	(oa)	Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo
	B5	(oa)	Phyllis Hackel/Alene Friedman

### East/West

A1		(oa)	Tim Lolli/Dan Oakes
A2		(oa)	Steve Licker/Bob Gish
A3		(oa)	Ann Banta/Ron Moeckel
A4	B1	(B3 oa)	Art Chacanas/Dorothy LaMaie
	B2	C1	Nancy Lyon/Betsy Josias
	B3		Margaret Mataga/Tom Miyaoka

The Winners Circle was enlarged to accommodate newcomers and our huzzahs to all of you as noted above. The next unit game is October 9, so come join the fray.

Take care, everybody...

## Long Beach Unit

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

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

by Jon Yinger

**August 15 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 2nd Brandon Sheumaker/Steve Skinner, 3rd John and Suzie Hand, 4th Judith Jones/Marcie Evans, tie for 5th/6th Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan and Bob Mault/Phyllis Parker. B flight overalls: 2nd Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu, 3rd Peggy Waite/Cory Hand, 4th Betty Jackson/Gloria Sedore, 5th John Melis/Kay Tseng. C flight: 2nd Aaron Jones/Jerry Cassaday, 3rd Fay Beckerman/Sherry Troeger, 4th Fern Dunbar/Diane Sachs. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master game: 1st Carmela Chiurazzi/Pamela Cole, 2nd Kay Hyland/Lynne Finley, 3rd Mike and Karen McKittrick, tied for 4th/5th David Hwang/Tsu Jan and Reva and Sy Alban. Congratulations to all!

**70% games 8/15 through 9/15:** Aug 25 Sy and Reva Alban had 71.43% in the 299er game. Aug 25 George Alemshah/Tom Cotton had 72.5% in the NLM game. That same day at Leisure World Verna Burns/Bee Kinman had 70.5%. Sept 1 Cecil Cooke/Gary Paugh had 77.36%. Wow. And Monday, Sept 13 at Leisure World Bee Kinman/Bill Linskey had 69.87% (rounds off to 70%, right?). Congratulations to you all!

**Big masterpoint awards:** Big master point awards for 1st overall August 15 through September 15: In the unit game Aug 15 Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger won 4.25mp. Aug 26 Rich Wasser/Irwin Bender won 4.67mp. Big awards for 2nd overall: In the unit game Aug 15 Steve Skinner/Brandon Sheumaker won 3.19mp; Aug 26 Jackie Hess/John Farr won 3.50mp. And also in the Aug 26 game Sharon and Al Appel won 3.21mp for 3rd overall. Congratulations to all!

**New members:** We issue a warm welcome to new members Bernard Dow, Karen Dow, Marvin Glickman, Carol Olsen, and Tom Whitesell. And to members transferring to our unit: Jean Feldman, John Miller, and Leslie Williams.

**Status changes:** New Junior Master: Alvie Bombard. Sectional Masters: Eknath Deo, Aaron Jones and William Smith. Silver Life Master: Cliff Goodrich. Gold Life Master: Betty Jackson. Congratulations to you all!

**Upcoming events at the club:** Sunday, September 18 Unit Game: lunch at 12:30, game at 1p.m. STaC games Sept 20-26: silver points but no hand records. October 3-9 Club Appreciation week: extra points, regular prices. The Unit Game Sunday, October 10 will be an Eight is Enough team game. On each team an A player will count as 3 points, B player 2 points, C player as 1. Total points for a team is eight points. A = 1751+, B = 751-1750, C = 0 – 750. Choose your teams early, and good luck!

**Get well wishes to:** Diane Tomooka, Judy Lorber, Merlin Hansen and Lina Cheng.

Join the board: Elections to the board of directors of Unit 557 are coming in December. If you are interested in serving, email Diane Sachs: [dianesachs@yahoo.com](mailto:dianesachs@yahoo.com) (or talk to her in person).

**Get the newsletter via email:** If you miss getting the newsletter by snail mail (it's been more than two years since the district quit mailing them out), you can have me send you a copy by email. Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is [jyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena San Gabriel

[www.acblunit559.com](http://www.acblunit559.com)

by Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

### Unit Game - October 3, San Marino Center

Our September Unit Game had a wonderful upset for FIRST in A, B, and C. Jack and Nolan Chang, the father and son team swept the entire event. Robert Wang hosted the food, providing us with yummy pizza. I volunteered to make salads, but I didn't make enough, so I will double my efforts next time. (Sorry, guys.)

Probably the biggest news in the last 30 days is that we had to learn to live without Roy Wilson who went to England for a couple of weeks. During his absence the website crashed and wasn't restored until he returned. As much as we missed the website and the frequent updates he so quickly provides for us, it couldn't compare to the loss for Roy... he says he had a wonderful vacation in spite of it all. However, if you ever thought we loved and appreciated you, Roy... it has just been magnified 100 times over. Welcome home!!!!

The Irvine Regional has just been completed and



some of our members ventured down to Orange County. Art Gulbrandson and his partner, Mike Spero, were first overall in the Open Pairs racking up 23.10 points! It was fun to see Jeff Fang and Roger Lee teaming together. The bummer for me was they were in my section sitting the same direction. They also were first with 11.90 points. Dominique Moore and Ann McClelland finished first in the Open Pairs, but when I went to look for the recap, I couldn't find it, so you'll have to ask them for the details. Joe Viola and teammates won the Bracket II Compact Knockout and Mike Marcucci and team won a Swiss match.

At our most recent board meeting, we unanimously voted to give free plays at all regular unit games to any member of our unit who is over 90. (ID required, except for Miriam Collup who doesn't mind that everyone knows she's 97!)

Mike Marcucci has set two dates for the North

American Open Pairs semi-finals. The first date is October 24 at the San Fernando Club, and the second date is November 21 at our club in San Marino.

Although Calvin Smith was a member of the Glendale unit and not in ours, it's sad to report that he died of cancer in September. Ken Martin, who played often at the Bridge Center as a fill-in, also passed away, and Sonja Strop lost her brother. We are a graying group.

-Jan

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OK, first, let me say that they don't speak English in England. At least not as I understand it... but I had a great time, anyway. Although I didn't get a chance to play bridge there, I did talk to some British bridge players and you would be surprised at some of the differences in bidding between them and us. Highlights of the British ACOL system are being able to open four



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

**Monday, October 18**

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Monday KOs Rd 1 of 3

2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Monday KOs Rd 2 of 3

7:30 p.m. Stratified IMP Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Monday KOs Final Rd

**Tuesday, October 19**

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Tuesday KOs Rd 1 of 3

2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Tuesday KOs Rd 2 of 3

7:30 p.m. Stratified IMP Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Tuesday KOs Final Rd

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**Wednesday, October 20**

10:00 a.m. Stratified IMP Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Wednesday KOs Rd 1 of 3

2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Wednesday KOs Rd 2 of 3

7:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Board-a-Match Teams  
Bracketed Wednesday KOs Final Rd

**FREE!**

**Thursday, October 21**

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Bracketed Thursday KOs Rd 1 of 3

2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Thursday KOs Rd 2 of 3

7:30 p.m. Stratified IMP Pairs  
Stratified 0-300 Pairs  
Stratified Swiss Teams  
Bracketed Thursday KOs Final Rd

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**Friday, October 22**

10:00 a.m. & TBD Stratified Swiss Teams  
(2-sessions)

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

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

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

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card majors, light openings, a weak 1NT (12-14) and Strong Twos. They also use two clubs as an artificial strong bid, but other two-level openings are also strong, but perhaps as much as two tricks lighter. ACOL's one level openings, by agreement, can often be lighter than other systems. Would you open at the one-level with 9 points if you had a decent rebidable suit? That's a very popular method in the ACOL system, and four card majors are common. Maybe I should be glad I didn't have to play against a roomful of players using this system!

See you at the table.

- Roy

## Pomona-Covina

by Vic Sartor

**Unit Game – Saturday, October 23, 11:00 a.m.**  
**Two sessions - dinner served between sessions**

Tired of all those political attack ads bombarding you on radio and TV? Well, the unit board has hit upon a brilliant ploy to get members to come out for our two-session October election board meeting. Unless you sign a pledge to attend and vote for the new unit board, a sound truck will be dispatched to your home to blare campaign promises of the various candidates into your living room at 125 decibels. We estimate it should take less than 15 minutes to bludgeon the average member into submission (those wearing hearing aids may take a little longer). So be warned. Unit secretary Clint Lew will be coming around checking the membership roster. See you at the meeting.

Of course, some clever folks have figured out ways to avoid our annual shindig. Ted Kelly carried things to an extreme, in my humble opinion. He moved to Rancho Bernardo, far out of our unit jurisdiction! Others just skedaddled out of town for extended vacations. Denise Morgan embarked on a Mediterranean cruise with stops in Spain, France, Italy, and Turkey. Genise Hasan went even further. Her itinerary included Alaska, Russia, Japan, and the World Expo in Shanghai, China.

Back on the home front, last month's unit game was won by Tim and Eileen Finlay. Samuel and Helen Wang came in 2nd, with LaDonna Shatto and Bob Kakade 3rd. The monthly Individual was won by Clint Lew, followed by Roger Boyar, Bob Kakade, Wendy Wanderman, Luan

Schirmer, and Bud Robinson. Top club game was a 70% by Dave Ruoff and Vic Sartor. Other club winners were Jan Wickersham, Amr Elghamry, Susan Emminger, Joe Unis, Penny Barbieri, Helen Wang, Richard Patterson, Lary Alba, Georgiana Bierman, Paule Ford, Lynne Parker, Donald Naf, Michael Horn, Ken Bloomfield, Ken Lowenthal, and Kurt Trieselmann.

Our two hands of the month are a kind of personality test. Are you an optimist or a pessimist?

A) You hold: ♠x ♥Jxxxx ♦AKx ♣JTxx (Vul/NV)

The auction goes: Pass (you) - 3♠ (LHO) - 4♥ (pard) - Pass - back to you. Your action?

B) You hold: ♠KTx ♥Axxx ♦xx ♣Axxx (NV/NV)

The auction goes: 1♦ (11-16 HCP, may be short in diamonds) by pard - 1♥ overcall - 1NT by you - pass (LHO) - 2♠ (pard) - pass (RHO) - 2NT (you) - pass - 3♠! (pard).

Two questions- What do you think pard's hand is? What is your next action? In both cases, if you don't push toward slam, you are indeed a pessimist.

On hand 1, pard must have a fine hand for a vulnerable 4-level overcall. At least give him a 5♦ Q-bid to encourage him to bid 6 with the right hand. He will bid the cold 6♥. Ironically, the preemptor's partner will now take the 6♠ sacrifice which only goes off 500, giving you a bad board. You lose to all the chickens who passed 4♥. Life isn't fair.

On hand 2, what hand can a limited 1♦ opener possibly have to justify his bidding? It would seem that ♠QJ9xx ♥x ♦AKQxxx ♣x would be the least you should expect, so if you didn't push to slam you are indeed a pessimist of the first order. (He actually held ♠QJ9xx ♥x ♦AKQJxx ♣x.) Both 6♠ and 6♦ roll. Whether you used Blackwood, Q-bids, or just blasted, you should get to slam. Til next time...

*ATU continued on page 8*

**News for the Bridge News?**

**Send your story to**

**[bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)**

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

### Junior Master (5 MPs)

Bernard Dow  
Barbara Eliades  
Marvin Glickman  
Barbara Ann Haas  
Kai Liu  
Tamarin Martin  
Elizabeth May  
Mary McKenna  
Rhea Scharf  
Tien Hua Shih  
Kathleen Shinkle  
Beverly Sturman  
Ellen Tarlow  
Barbara Thompson  
F. Gordon Whitehead

### Club Master (20 MPs)

Robert Adams  
Sally Adams  
Michael Frishberg  
Stephen Griffith  
Linda Katz  
Jamila Malikyar  
Deedy Nordyke  
Kathleen Pecarovich  
Marjorie Romans  
Marge Tyson  
Ralph Vidal

### Sectional master (50 MPs)

Jeanette Betts  
Norma Friedman  
Rosalene Glickman  
Carole Hamburger  
Gregory Harding  
Jean Leserman  
Leah Levin  
Jeffrey Leyson  
Sybil Nimoy  
Caroline Norman  
Georgette Tarantini  
Janet Thornber  
Julia Wald  
Joanna Wallis  
Annette Wolas

### Regional Master (100 MPs)

Everett Dehn  
Judi Friedlander  
David Lievsay  
Nancy Spelke

### NABC Master (200 MPs)

William Rawlings  
Lila Treitel

### Advanced NABC Master (300 MPs)

Edwin Gruber

### Life Master (300 MPs)

Donna Massman  
Marion Tumen

### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Amr Elghamry

### Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Gitta Earll  
Martha Schuster

### Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Michael Gosnell  
David Raphael

### Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Rhoda Himmell

#### **PRESIDENT** *continued from page 1*

by our host, **Larry Cohen**. On the final Friday evening, a hosted cocktail party for all those who sign up for the bridge package. For more information, go to <http://www.alicetravel.com/regional4-2011.php>. You may also find the flyer for this event in this newspaper. Diana and I are going, and we hope to see you there.

Finally, we are going back to Pasadena for Bridge Week. And back to a 10-day tournament. The 2011 tournament starts on Tuesday, June 28 and ends on Thursday, July 7. All of your favorite events are scheduled - the 299er Championship, 4-session Open Pairs, 4-session Swiss Teams and of course, our Calcutta. What a great auction we had last year and all auction money was returned to the players.

*ATU continued from page 6*

## San Fernando Valley

by Fran Kern

**Upcoming unit events: Please note the change to the date of the upcoming unit game.**

Date: Sunday, October 3  
 Location: San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy  
 6733 Variel Avenue, Canoga Park 91303  
 Phone: 818-999-9131  
 Fee: \$10. Convenient parking available.

A catered Italian lunch will be provided at noon and one session of bridge will begin at 1:00 p.m. We expect to have both an Open Pairs and a Junior Game.

Reservations are not required but are appreciated and will be helpful in planning a great experience for our players. Please sign up at the Bridge Academy, the 750 Club, or by email to [lsnackman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lsnackman@sbcglobal.net).

Time to celebrate with Mort – mark your calendar: On Sunday, December 12 at noon, the Bridge Academy is throwing a bash celebrating Mort Nagler's 100th birthday. Mort has been one of our very loyal players for many years and he still plays a great game at "nearly" 100 years of age. There will also be an upgraded club championship with x-tra points. The newspaper will be doing a human interest story on this event. Any food contributions and an RSVP would be appreciated.

**Unit Board News:** Board members bid farewell to Board Treasurer Michael Gosnell who is relocating to Northern California. Michael will be missed by his many bridge friends. The board elected Gloria Malkin to fill the office of treasurer and by unanimous vote Bill Carlson was elected and welcomed as a new board member.

**The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for August: 750 Bridge Club:** Ron Malkin 10.09, Gloria Malkin 7.47, Don Rosen 7.00, Billy Blanchard 5.82, Jim Lechner 5.33, Phil Swan 5.07, Jim Gardner 4.88, Eric Heilman 4.79, Jim Hoose 4.68, Larry Kussin 3.95.

**Bridge Academy Under 750 Game:** Allen Palansky 9.06, Larry Gordon 6.57, Joan Farrar 4.89, Carol Stein 4.78, Al Spaet 4.03, Richard Plotin 3.89, Gregory Bozin 3.69, Wayne (Doug) Beagle 3.60, Phil Rabichow 3.33, Jerry Shapiro 3.21.

**Bridge Academy Open Game:** Andy Vinock had

a really really good month with a total of 24.68MP, followed by Gary Frans 15.51, Gilbert Stinebaugh 15.28, Sheila Bozin 15.24, William Carlson, Jr. 14.26, Marta Peltz 14.09, Seymour Zemlyn 12.22, Tammy Purkin 10.97, Tom Wylie 10.78, and Armand Szulc 9.08.

**Spotlight on Awards:** This month we spotlight the Carol Lang Award that is offered by Unit 561. This award was established by the 750 Bridge Club to honor Carol Lang who devoted countless hours to support and teach junior players. The award goes to the team with the highest percentage game during the June Club Membership Week and is limited to players with fewer than 1000 points. The first annual Carol Lang Award went to Herb Van Brink and Claude LeFeuvre who had a 69.89% game during the week of June 12 – June 25. Their names have been engraved on a plaque that is housed at the 750 Bridge Club.

**Unit 561 Member News:** The Sunday, August 15 edition of the Daily News published a short version of the 89-year life and career of Burt Doling. Burt opened the first stamp and coin shop in the San Fernando Valley in 1951 and he is still in business.

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

## Torrance-South Bay

Unit Website:

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

SBBC Website:

<http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>

by Steve Mager

**Club Championship**

**Saturday, October 2, 3:00 p.m.**

**Club Championship**

**Thursday, October 7, 7:00 p.m.**

**Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club:** Following are a couple of the special events scheduled for October. The full schedule has not yet been finalized and some other events may be added. Check the SBBC Website listed above for updates.

**Club Championships:** The August 25 NLM Club Championship was won by Phil Alfandary/Jeff

*ATU continued on page 10*



District 23 presents...



**April 30-May 7, 2011**  
**MEXICAN RIVIERA**  
**Roundtrip Los Angeles**  
**on Princess Cruises' Sapphire Princess**

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Larry Cohen has won 26 National Championships and lectures worldwide. He's also the author of many books including the best-sellers *To Bid or Not to Bid* and *Following the LAW*. Two of his four interactive CDs were honored as "best CD of the year".



Larry's Regional at Sea lectures—cover fascinating topics for players of all levels—feature a VuGraph screen, enabling participants to see the hands being played.

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Special cocktail party with Larry, and final awards ceremony too.

Accommodations are subject to availability. Alice Travel will be happy to arrange air travel as well as pre- and post-cruise hotel stays.

Tournament Chairman: Ellen Kent - 310-822-2021

*Our Regionals-At-Sea are so Popular...  
 We're doing it again.*

Next spring we're setting sail for exotic ports along the Mexican Riviera, roundtrip from Los Angeles, aboard Princess Cruises' *Sapphire Princess*. Larry Cohen will be giving morning lectures and there are private events, lots of tournament play, and side games.

### Event Schedule (subject to slight changes)

**One-Session Pair Games every session.**  
**299er Games, based on attendance.**

	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	8:00 PM
<b>Sat., April 30</b>	<b>9:00-10:00 AM-Daily Free Beginner Lesson with Ellen Kent</b> <b>Lesson/Analysis with Larry after all Two-Session Open Pair games at 4:30 P.M.</b>			Registration Bracketed KO1 Round 1
<b>Sun., May 1</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Open Pairs 1st Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO1 Round 2
<b>Mon., May 2</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO1 Round 3
<b>Tues., May 3</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Open Pairs 1st Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 1
<b>Wed., May 4</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 2
<b>Thur., May 5</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Open Pairs 1st Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 3
<b>Fri., May 6</b>	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	<b>5:00 PM:</b> Awards Program & Party

Flights: C-up to 500; B-500 to 1500; A-1500+

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ATU continued from page 8

Leyson in Flights A and B. On September 10 Betsey Amador/John "Rocky" Williams led the way in the Club Championship. On the same day the 0-99er Club Championship was won by Carolyn Heyn/Carol Hansen in both Flights A and B. The September 14 Club Championship saw Winnie Ninneman/Ray Mack emerging victorious.

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

August 17 STaC: Gabriela Jackson, David Peim, Harry Wessells, Betsey Amador

August 24: Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, John Farr, John J. McDermott

August 31: Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, John Farr, John J. McDermott

September 7: Bronek Felczer, Jim Dutton, Fran Israel, Luis Gamio

September 14: Bronek Felczer, Jim Dutton, Fran Israel, Luis Gamio

**Western Conference STaC Overall Finishers:** Pairs that placed in the Western Conference STaC overalls in games played at the South Bay Bridge Club are as follows:

**Monday Morning, August 16**

1A Fran Israel/Bob Rothman  
16A Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott

**Monday Evening, August 16**

4A John Brailliar/Bob Rothman

**Tuesday Morning, August 17 750 Pairs**

2A 1B 1C Jamila Malika/Charlotte Lewin

**Wednesday Evening, August 18 Non Life Master**

3A Jean and Harold Brunner  
3C Phil Alfandary/Jeff Leyson

**Thursday Morning, August 19 Non Life Master**

1A 1B 1C Jamila Malika/Ralph Vidal  
2A Ron Prando/Sam Lim  
3A 2B George Stinson/Setsuko Miyasaka  
6A Gil Gillis/John Soldano  
4/5B John and Sheila Bray  
4/5B Marilyn Morton/Shirley Marshall  
6B S. Kuuskmae/S. Rahimtoola  
4C M. Weinstein/M. Mitzenmacher

**Friday Morning, August 20**

22/23B 7C Ed Srenco/Neal Kleiner

**Friday Evening, August 20**

10A Bea and John Brailliar

**Saturday Afternoon, August 21**

6/8A 1B 1C Arlene and Stanley Greengard

**Irvine Regional:** There were some Torrance South Bay unit players who emerged on top at the recent Irvine Regional. Chiye Horiguchi partnered with Jack Waller won the Monday night charity game. Masae Kato partnered with Masaku Omaru was first overall in Flight B of the Tuesday Open Pairs. In the Wednesday a.m. 299er pairs Jeanette Betts and Ron Burke led Flight B players. The Friday Open Pairs was led by Ed Srenco and Neal Kleiner in Flight C. John and Sheila Bray teamed with Elizabeth Voss and David Lyons won Bracket 5 in the Saddleback Knockout teams. The Sunday Fast Pairs saw Luis "Pigeonplucker" Gamio partnered with Tariq Latif on top in Flight B.

**GUV Memorial Award:** A vote may be required to determine the winner of this month's GUV Memorial Award. At the recent Irvine Regional Ron Carlson and Bill Lama were both sitting North at adjacent tables. Ron played the board in question and passed it on to Bill at the next table. Near the end of the next round Ron found a solitary ♣A buried beneath something on his table.

This card did not belong in either of the boards on Ron's table and the director was called. Further investigation showed that the missing card belonged in a board that Ron had passed to Bill prior to the current round. However the board had already been played and scored up at Bill's table missing the ♣A. Apparently Bill had played the round with a 12-card hand and nobody had noticed the missing bullet.

The director docked Ron a quarter of a board for losing the card but did not penalize Bill. In a way this seemed a bit unfair to me so I will leave it open to each of you to decide whether Ron or Bill is more deserving of the GUV Award.

Na Zdrowie





## West L.A. by candy

Calvin Smith's passing leaves a vision in my head of a director who knew the laws, but it's all in the presentation. He made you feel like you committed an oops, not a mortal sin. A good director makes the players feel comfortable, Calvin made you feel like by calling to him your table, you did him a favor by letting him share a part of your day. He shared many years with us and we thank him for that.

This is the ghosts of past, present and future column, starting with the results from our Fall Sectional. Pete Benjamin not only ran our tournament, but won the Jill Meyers Trophy. Norma Friedman/Leah Levin tied for the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy. Winners of the KO's were Bruce Altshuler, Bob Shore (he also won the KO's in Irvine), Roger and Becky Clough, and Ted and Cecil

Glaesner. Pete Benjamin/Gerry Bare won a pair game and the Swiss and Pete won another pair game. Sue Frishberg won a pair game with David Glatzer and "Ax" Swiss with David Raphael, Colin and Nelly Gordon. Other pair game winners were: A: Cecil Cook, Tony Scott, Guy Green, and Arlene Susswein; B: Leah Levin and Norma Friedman; and C: Linda Garfinkle and Lee Axelrod. The past now complete, it's time to get to two October events.

It is no longer Grunion running season, so it's time to run for the WLA Unit Board. Sign-ups are at the clubs and be one of those aggravating Howard Einberg by voting him in as President (if he's given you a bad board, get even). Nominations end October 8.

The Season of the Witch is October 31, the Season of the Which??? is November 2. Prove to your partner what a good partner you are, play in the Unit Halloween Individual. Sunday afternoon, 1:00 at the newly

# District 23 Presents Los Angeles Fall Regional October 12- 17, 2010

## Tournament Highlights

2 Session Imp Pairs  
2 Session Board-a-Match Teams  
Lots of Knock Outs  
Pre-duplicated Boards for All Pair Games  
Bridge Mate Scoring in All Pair Events  
Free Coffee before Morning Sessions  
Daily Speakers  
299er Games Daily at 10:00 & 3:00  
Sunday Swiss Teams 7 boards/7 matches

## Game Times:

10:30 AM, 3:30 PM & 7:45 PM

## Entries

\$12 Per Session (All Events)  
(Fees are \$2 extra for  
non-ACBL & Unpaid members)  
Juniors under 19: Free  
Juniors under 25: \$8  
All Evening Sessions: \$6 (1/2 Price)

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\$104 guaranteed until September 27  
Receive a one session future free play  
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## Free Parking



## Pair Events

Stratified Open Pairs: Tues - 10:30 & 3:30  
Side Games: Tues thru Sat - 10:30, 3:30 & 7:45  
299er Games: Tues thru Sat: -10:30 & 3:30  
Open Pairs/Barometer Final: Wed - 10:30 & 3:30  
Stratified Open Pairs: Thurs - 10:30 & 3:30  
IMP Pairs: Fri - 10:30 & 3:30  
Stratified Open Pairs: Sat - 10:30 & 3:30  
Fast Pairs: Sun - 10:30 & 3:00

## Team Events

Marina Bracketed KO: Tues & Wed - 10:30 & 3:30  
Anchor Single Session Swiss: Tues - 3:30  
Admiralty Way Compact KO: Tues & Wed - 7:45  
Bali Way Compact KO: Wed - 10:30 & 3:30  
Ketch Single Session Swiss: Wed - 3:30  
Fiji Way Bracketed KO: Thurs & Fri - 10:30 & 3:30  
Spinnaker Single Session Swiss - Thurs - 3:30  
Ocean Front Compact KO: Thurs & Fri - 7:45  
Privateer Compact KO: Fri - 10:30 & 3:30  
Board-a-Match Teams: Saturday - 10:30 & 3:30  
Stratified Swiss Teams: Sun - 10:30- Playthrough

Tournament Chair: Ellen Kent: 310-990-3314 Tournament Manager: John Killian: 562-592-2716  
Partnerships: Betty Jackson: 562-594-4420 DIC: Betty Bratcher

decorated Beverly Hills Bridge Club. Take your tricks and the unit will treat you to this game for free. My cookbook collection is bubbling over with great recipes. Costumes aren't mandatory, but coming as yourself probably won't win the best costume prize.

Looking into my crystal ball, I see you getting an invitation to the Unit Holiday Party. This year it will be early: Sunday, November 21 at the Beverly Hills Country Club on the corner of Motor and Manning. The theme this year is Mardi Gras, so start your holidays out with a bang! Brunch starts at 11:30 with entertainment and announcement of the Player of the Year and then bridge. It promises to be the event of the year. The fee is \$35.

Mazel Tov to Margie Michelin and Ellis Feigenbaum on their marriage. That unexplained beaming glow over Michigan isn't a UFO. It seems Margie's mother's smile has been lighting up a couple of counties there.

On Thursday last month Aram Bedros/Art Zail had a 76% game and came back Friday with a 75% game, what a let down. Aram also had a 70%er with Sheri Rivera. Groups of animals have strange names... a shrewdness

of Apes, a bloat of Hippopotamus, a fesnyng of ferrets, a rumba of rattlesnakes, well we had a #\*^!load of 70%ers this month. Chuck Maltz/Paul Smith, Barbara Holman/Margaret Kahn, Pete Benjamin/Roger Clough, Matthew Bergen/Sandra Keiser, Jill Richmond/Steve Yaffe, Valarie Aron/Dave Segal, Zel Perelman/Lou Papp, Betsy Lutz/Adam Meyerson, Lew/Rhoda Himmell, Myrna Blaufarb/Mike Savage, and Nick Martino/Candy Scott.

Club champs at Barrington were: A: Connie Fishbach/Art Zail, Sally Karbelnig/Danny Kleinman, and Aram Bedros/Art Zail; B: Beverly Goldner/Laurie Rubin, Sandy and Robert Carroll, and Harriet Dana/Arlen O'Hara; C: Herb Ehrmann/Brian Rose and Jeff Liebowitz/Larry Pollack. At BHBC Jeri Berger/Betsy Lutz were the Club Champs. Thursday nights are Swiss Teams. The first night there were 20 (!) teams. Come join the fun.

If the annual West Hollywood High Heel Race isn't to your taste, try our easier on your ankles events. See you at the clubs.

## A Hand Played with My Favorite Martino

In an Irvine Regional KO with Margie Michelin and Ellis Feigenbaum

*by Mike Savage*

Our N/S bid this close slam, South bidding 1-more diamond at each turn. Do you like our auction?

### IMPs

Dealer: North

Vulnerability: N/S

The Bidding at our table:

North	East	South	West
1♥	pass	2♦*	pass
2♥	pass	3♦	pass
4♣	pass	4♦	pass
5♦	pass	6♦	all pass

\* Game force

The Bidding at the other table:

North	East	South	West
1♥	pass	2♦	pass
2♥	pass	3NT	all pass

North:

♠ --  
♥ K9xxxx  
♦ xxx  
♣ AKJ9

South:

♠ AT9  
♥ x  
♦ AKJT9x  
♣ QTx

Our North's hand seemed to get better each time South rebid diamonds even with his mere 11 HCP, regardless of a probably wasted heart value. So over 3♦, Nick cue-bid 4♣ on the way to 5♦ due to his great clubs and a spade void. Now when our South rebid diamonds (again), North raised to 5♦, completing his hand description. Our South pondered North's bidding for a while and then he bid diamonds *one more time* – 6♦, expecting North to hold something similar to what he actually held. Diamonds behaved, so 13 tricks were made on a spade lead.



# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

Panelists: Rick Roeder, Mark Itabashi, Jeff Goldsmith, John Jones, Jon Wittes

## 1

IMPs  
nv vs. nv

S	W	N	E
---	---	---	---

pass 1♥

?

You, South, hold:

♠KT ♥73 ♦AKQ9 ♣K8632

What do you bid?

## 2

IMP Pairs  
vul vs. nv

S	W	N	E
---	---	---	---

1♣ 1♦ 1♥ 2♦

?

You, South, hold:

♠9865 ♥KJ7 ♦- ♣AKQT97

What do you bid?

**Roeder: 2♣.** If it goes 2♥-pass-pass to me, I will bid 2NT to get diamonds in play.

**Itabashi: 2♣.** 2NT might wrong side 3NT. I hope partner bids 2NT.

**Goldsmith: 2♣.** Game is still possible (♠xxxx ♥Kxx ♦xxx ♣AQx), and 2♣ focuses on what we need for game. If I were willing to give up on game, I'd bid 2NT; those diamonds look like a 5-card suit. Our chances of finding game, however, after that start are small. But 2NT is a big winner vs. ♠Ax ♥xxxx ♦Jxxxxxx ♣---.

**Jones: Pass.** I have 15 HCP, but no bid I like. I might be back in later, depending on the auction. If I pass, I will likely end up on opening lead. If you made me bid, I'd pick 2NT. Maybe I like defending too much.

**Wittes: 2NT.** I'd like to be 5-5 for this, but my 4-card suit is very good, and it may be awkward or impossible to back into the auction later.

*I was kibitzing Zia, in an online IMPs game. I was taken aback when he bid 2♣. I did not think that the risk/reward ratio was good enough to bid on such a weak suit at the two-level. With my usual luck, it would go 2♣ - 2NT - pass - 3NT with the opponents' holding ♠Jxx ♥xx ♦Jxxx ♣AQJx opposite ♠Qxx ♥AKQJxx ♦xx ♣xx.*

**Roeder: 2♠.** 3♣ is acceptable but is the low road. I pick the high road, because my hand has improved at nearly every call. The opponents' diamond bidding suggests that this might be a 30-HCP deck.

**Wittes: Double (support).** If partner bids 2♥, I will bid 3♣ to show I have a good club suit and better than a minimum hand. If partner bids 2♠, I will bid 3♦.

**Jones: Double (support).** I'll show the 3-card heart support, but I'm not done. I'll do something thereafter to show extras. If partner bids 2♥, then I'll bid 3♣. I was tempted to lie about my heart holding and raise to 2♥. The hearts are good enough, but the overall hand is too strong to make only a minimum rebid.

**Itabashi: Double (support).** I play support doubles with most partners, but if not playing them 3♣ becomes a more attractive bid. I may still get to show 3-card heart support if the auction continues.

**Goldsmith: Double (support).** If the choices were between a support double and 2♥, I'd pick 2♥. Why tempt partner to pass 2♦ doubled? Plus I would like partner to compete to the 3-level. 2♥ doesn't do justice to the hand, however, and double is unlimited. If, by some miracle, we get the rest of the auction to ourselves, and partner bids just 2♥, I can continue with 3♣, which should give partner a pretty good picture of my hand.

3♣ now is terrible; in a competitive auction, supporting

PSP continued on page 14

*PSP continued from page 13*

partner with support is a huge priority. 2♠ is wrong; even if we have a 4-4 spade fit, partner will have at least five hearts, and even with 4-5, if his spades were good, he would have started with a negative double. A jump to 3♥ is about right on values, but it might get us to the wrong strain, and the point of support doubles is to solve that problem, so why not use one? Playing with someone who'd pass a double with ♠Axx ♥Axxx ♦Jxx ♣xxx, I'd take the low road and bid 2♥, figuring that I'll probably get to bid again.

*I don't play support doubles, because most partners use them on any hand with three hearts. If I had ♠KTx ♥Qxx ♦Kxx ♣KJxx (which has not improved on the auction!), I would happily pass 2♣, but if partner thinks I've denied three hearts, our subsequent bidding or defense may go poorly. I think support doubles ought to be made only when you want to raise your partner with three-card support. I think 3♣ is clear on the problem hand. While I would love to show my strong 3-card support immediately, my best feature is my 6-trick suit. Most importantly, however, if I bid 3♣, I expect West to bid 3♦, and then I can bid 3♥. I like that plan.*



South	West	North	East
	2♥	2♠	3♦
?			

You, South, hold: ♠54 ♥Q8 ♦AT82 ♣KQT72

What do you bid?

**Roeder: Double.** Seems clear. I am happy to defend 3♦, don't have spade support, and do not have good enough hearts to bid 3NT. The double implies club length, because it is unlikely I have a "diamonds and diamonds only" hand on the auction.

**Jones: Double.** This is a penalty double. I have way too much to pass. If East had passed, I would have tried 2NT and hoped that partner had some heart help. Once East bids 3♦, however, 3NT seems like a bad bet. 3♦ is almost certain to go down and might occasionally even go for more than the value of a game we might or might not have. I won't be terribly surprised to hear East run to 3♥. When that happens, I shall pass and let partner decide what to do.

**Itabashi: Double.** Any other bid is a gamble. If forced to pick a second choice, I would try 3NT.

**Goldsmith: Double.** If 3♦ is psychic, this seems like a good start. If it's not, partner will pull to spades, and I'll expect that his suit (if maybe not his hand) should be good enough to have a shot at game.

**Wittes: Double.** I expect the 3♦ bidder to retreat to 3♥, over which I will pass. Partner should play me for some values, since I wouldn't double 3♦ with only a diamond stack.

*As Jon points out, I wouldn't double 3♦ with nothing but a diamond stack, so if I pass a return to 3♥, I think partner will be able to work out that I have clubs, too. That's good, but I think I can do better. I bid 3NT! If 3♦ is not a psych, partner rates to have a high heart honor, so 3NT ought to play well. If it is a psych with heart support, I'll probably get a diamond lead, and I think I can probably make 3NT without a heart lead.*



South	West	North	East
		1♣	1♦
1♥	2♦	3♣	3♦
3♥	pass	4♦	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠AK ♥QT9864 ♦872 ♣85  
What do you bid?

**Itabashi: 4♠.** I would like to know if we are playing support doubles. If so, then partner probably has only two hearts, and I would bid only 4♥. If I bid 4♠, partner will envision a better trump suit than what I have, since he knows I'm playing him for two hearts. If we are not playing support doubles, then partner is looking for spade control, and I feel obliged to show it.

**Wittes: 4♠.** 4♦ is a big bid, so I suspect my free 3♥ bid turned partner on. I expect something like ♠xxx ♥AJx ♦-- ♣AKQxxxx. Although not quite that good, this might even be the companion hand to problem #2, in which case 4♠ is still a good bid, and 6♥ is not an unreasonable contract.

**Roeder: 4♠.** This is the companion hand to #2, no doubt. See my comment about getting excited in 30-HCP decks situations. I understand the counterargument that partner bid only a nonforcing 3♣. Perhaps I am unduly influenced by the hand in #2. And, yes, I am a sinner. After all, I love SEC football, where the conference motto is "if you aren't cheating, you aren't trying."

**Goldsmith: 4♥.** This is obviously the companion hand to #2. There is no way for South to expect such good heart support from a hand which failed to raise immediately, so slam is history. Sometimes you just can't recover from an earlier blunder, but even

without one, finding 22-HCP perfect slam is not an exact science.

**Jones: 4♥.** Partner's surprising and creative action is an effort to let me know that slam might be possible despite each of us having made nonforcing part score bids. What type of hand is consistent with his sequence? Something close to ♠xxxx ♥AK ♦x ♣AKJxxx. Note that if I had the ♥J instead of a small one, 6♥ would be a better bet.

*Yes, this is the companion to Problem 2. Those who play straitjacket support doubles (so 3♣ denied three hearts) know their partner cannot have a hand that makes a good slam. Kudos to those who bid 4♠!*

*[Jones, Problem Solvers Panel Editor] Problems 2 and 4 are valid problems in their own rights, but in combination, they are not sufficient to determine if NS can reach slam. In Problem 4, opener rebid 3♣. When the North hand was presented to the panel in Problem 2, every panelist thought it was too strong for that, so those who bid more than 4♥ in Problem 4 are expecting a hand different from the South hand in Problem 2. (...except for Rick, who admits he has a wire!) David is correct about the point that partnerships who play support doubles ought to have an understanding about whether a support double is mandatory with three-card support, and if not, what criteria must hold for opener not to double.*

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South      West      North      East

1♠      pass

?

**You, South, hold: ♠J9652 ♥98 ♦T6 ♣Q543**  
What do you bid?

**Jones: 2♠.** I don't want to get terribly frisky at this vulnerability without a singleton or void. If I had a weak 3♠ available, I would use it.

**Goldsmith: 1NT.** That gives me the best chance to buy the hand low. West will probably double. If partner bids 2♠ or 2♣, I'll jump to 4♠, figuring that the opponents can probably make 4♥, and we'll be down one. If he bids a red suit, I'll only compete to the 3-level at most.

**Roeder: 1NT.** You will not find this bid in any bridge book, but I am pretty sure it is the percentage bid. The vulnerability and form of scoring is wrong for an immediate 4♠. At this vulnerability, the target for 4♠ to be successful is narrower than Calista Flockhart's waist – a 1-trick save against their making 4♥? And what if partner has a really good hand? It will be no fun putting down this dummy in 5♠. While 2♠ is much better than 4♠, there are still too many scenarios where we are needlessly heading to Minusville. 1NT will keep our big fit a secret to the opponents and will make it tough for them to bid a game. And if partner goes crazy, I will simply correct to spades.

**Itabashi: 2♠.** Even though this is supposed to be semi-constructive, the 10-card fit and preemptive value of the simple raise makes it an easy choice.

**Wittes: 3♠ (preemptive).** I play modified Bergen Raises, so 3♠ is automatic on this hand.

*This is a hand for tactics. At this vulnerability, it is easy for the opponents to bid if they know we have a fit and we know that they probably can make anything they bid. A forcing NT is the hardest bid for the opponents to bid over in this type of big fit hand.*

*I fell from grace on this hand. I bid 1NT, pass, partner bid 2♥, I bid 2♠ (so far perfect). Then West doubled, and East bid 3♦. I got greedy and bid 3♠. West bid 3NT with ♠AQ8 ♥—♦AKxxx ♣AKxxx. Would they have reached game in any case? Perhaps, but I felt I had goaded them into it. When partner did not double (solid hearts?) I bid 4♠. Down two, doubled of course. Side question, would you have bid 3♥ with ♠KTxxx ♥AKQxx ♦x ♣Jx over the double of two spades?*

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