

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



District 23 At The Nationals

by Bill Schreiber
ALACBU President

What a National Tournament for Jill Myers! She and her teammates, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz and Walt Schaefer, improved upon their 2009 finish with a 2nd place finish in the 2010 Open Flight Grand National Teams. Next, Jill and her teammates finished tied for 3rd/4th in the Wagar Womens KO Teams. Jill and her teammates followed that with a win at the Mixed B-A-M Teams. And, to put a topper on it, Jill and teammates were 4th overall in the Roth Open Swiss Teams.

Jill accumulated approximately 293 masterpoints for the tournament, and if her team would have scored just 2 more victory points in the final event, Jill would have won the Fishbein Trophy, which goes to the player winning the most masterpoints at the summer NABC. I cannot remember a woman ever winning this prestigious trophy. Jill came within 9 points of accomplishing it. Way to go, Jill.

Other high finishers in national events from our district included: Reese Milner, 3rd in the Senior Swiss Teams; Ron Feldman, 4th in the Senior Swiss Teams;

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Board Minutes From New Orleans

by Rand Pinsky
District Director



The board meetings were arduous at the nationals in New Orleans last month. On the first day of our meetings, after beginning at 9 a.m. and going until 5 p.m., we took a short dinner break and worked until 11:30 that night. The subject matter was "Regionals at Sea" and I was the chairman of the committee. More on this later.

I think that the most important item passed by the board that effects all of our units was the motion dealing with sectional tournaments, scheduling and allocations. The most important portion of this motion states that "If a sanction is submitted less than one year in advance, the unit loses its claim to the dates." I would suggest that all of our units at their next meeting review their sectional dates for at least 2011 and 2012 and submit their sanctions to reserve the dates. Note that the sanction application will be acknowledged immediately, but approval will not be made until one year out. But at least the unit has reserved the date. If there is a conflict, the motion contains a process for resolving the conflict. I can provide more details on this matter if any unit requests to review the entire motion.

Regionals and Sectionals at Sea were very popular topics for discussion at our meetings. There were many opinions about these events, the sponsorships of them, and the financial impact they present. After much discussion, it was voted that Sectionals At Sea are to be allocated only by the ACBL.

As for Regionals at Sea, a very detailed motion was originally presented. The bottom line was that the motion was reduced to stating that "Only the ACBL itself may sponsor or conduct a Regional At Sea." This motion was then deferred with a moratorium on

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DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

review of future sanction requests for Regionals At Sea received after July 19, 2010. This was important to our district as we are holding a Regional At Sea in April 2011 and this allowed for our sanction to be approved by management.

Another important motion passed was an amendment to the Code of Disciplinary Regulations (CDR). The amendment focused on Section 5.3 which covers disciplinary procedures at tournaments. It also covered Appendix A VI. Post-Hearing Procedures, A. Notification of Discipline and B. Report to the ACBL. I can furnish additional information on this if requested.

Finally, I am pleased to report that my idea to donate some charity money to organizations working with the oil spill was acted upon by the ACBL Charity Foundation. Before the Friday session in New Orleans, the Charity Foundation presented a \$5,000 check to the Louisiana SPCA and a \$5,000 check to the New Orleans Mission. The press was there to record the donations

and the ACBL received some very positive publicity. There were many business items that the board dealt with. I will report on these other matters next month.

It's A Different View From Dummy

I tried to get the twins, Kathy and Ellen to write a short report about non-bridge events in New Orleans. Unfortunately they were both busy and had to postpone the report till next month. Highlights include "The Bug" and "The Room Transfer." If you see them ask about it.

To conclude, even though I have not seen Bill's article, I am sure he has reported on the second place finish of our Grand National Open Team. I also want to wish good luck to Jill Meyers who will be representing the United States in the Buffet Cup to be played next month.

Until next month, if anyone is interested in teaching youth bridge, I am planning a meeting of all of the people who have expressed an interest. You can reach me at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net.

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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Gin

How time flies when you are busy! The twists and turns of everyday life can put one in uncharted waters. This writer marvels at the skills of unnoticed heroes known as care givers. Professional caregivers make their jobs look easy but until you are thrust into the role of caregiver you have no idea how taxing the arduous task can become. The upside is that there is light at the end of the tunnel as one's loved one begins to recover.

A few of our regularly scheduled games were cancelled because so many of our regular players were on vacation. Most of them were at the beach escaping the heat of the desert although it appears that Mother Nature forgot to turn on the blistering heat that is common in July and August. Weather reporters are presently predicting normal temperatures, so the dog days of summer are yet to come. Sure hope we do not have another exodus to the beach.

At the August Board Meeting, Charles and Beth Morrin were recognized and thanked for their service contributions to our unit. Beth volunteers her time and effort to teach beginning and intermediate bridge lessons. Charles is teaching "Two Over One" to anyone wanting to learn the bidding system. Charles was also appointed to the Board of Directors and was named Web Master. He will coordinate all computer activity thereby limiting the use of the computer to bridge related activities of Unit 556. Henry Roediger was also recognized and thanked for his recycling work on behalf of the unit. Henry and George MacDonald are also very much appreciated for keeping our flowering plants watered, thus making our entry area more attractive.

Rand Pinsky and Marlene Gaspar are exploring the possibility of staging the 2011 Sectional Tournament in Santa Clarita. The greatest obstacle is finding an affordable site large enough to house our tournament. Both Rand and Marlene are very resourceful and

hopefully our tournament will return bigger and better than ever.

Want to earn Gold Points at AVBC? An instant match point game will be held on Thursday September 16, 2010 at 6:30 at the Arbor Court Bridge Clubroom, 858 Jackman St, Lancaster 94534. Card fee is \$10 and the winner of each direction will earn a gold point and possibly more if you place in the district.

The "Eight is Enough" team game was rescheduled to October 24 because the original date conflicted with the Regional Tournament at Marina Del Rey. This game is also a Unit Game so there will plenty of points to be won. Mark your calendars because we hope see you compete at these interesting games. Unit games are scheduled on September 19, November 21 and December 4. Lunch is served at Unit Games and the card fee of \$10 includes the lunch. December's Unit Game is also the Holiday Dinner, annual board meeting and general election. Make your reservations early because the dinner will be catered and an accurate count of attendees is appreciated.

The winners of regular scheduled games were David and Marlene Gaspar on Sunday and Wednesday with 68% and 62.5% games respectively. Tuesday winners were Brad Ward and Marlene with 73.5%, and then Brad paired with Willo Phillips to win on Friday with 66.47%. Thursday night 99er game was won by Chad Challman and Sonja Plahn with 78.15%. At the Thursday morning game at Castaic, Fabian Fang and Everett Dehn won with 70.31%. Rand Pinsky and Douglas Kushner won on Tuesday night at the Bridge Studio in Valencia with 64.69%.

Unit Game

July 18 Overall	A	B	C
Brad Ward & Willo Phillips	1	-	-
Charles Morrin & Doris Thompson	2	-	-
Dave & Marlene Gaspar	3	-	-
Nora Fincher & Rita Vanetter	4	2	1
Hal Roberts & Nan Newland	5	3	2
George Lewis & Earlene DeHaas	-	-	3

Kelly Lightner & Betty Reed - - 4

Unit Game - August 15 Overall

Bill Brodek & Pat Juenemann	1	1	-
Henry Roediger & Mary Stauf	2	2	-
Brad Ward & Lola Messiha	3	-	-
Charles & Beth Morrin	4	3	-
Hugh Bartlett & Viviane Dinehart	5	-	-
Ron & Sandi Oest	-	4	-
Onorita Pallanti & Sandi Niren	-	-	1
Tracy Boys & Glenn Eddy	-	-	2

A parting thought.....You have to accept whatever comes along and the only important thing is you meet it with the best you have to give.

Glendale-Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

Saturday September 11
Glendale Verdugo Unit Game at 1 p.m.
Buffet Lunch at 12:15
Board of Directors meeting at 11

To abate any blue faces on account of the holding of breath (or don't you take this pastime as seriously as I do???), herewith the results of our July Unit Game, which was held post-column deadline:

North/South		
A1	B1	Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
A2		John Villalobos & Bob Tayrien
A3	B2	Pat Abbey & Sharon Wolf
A4		Susan Rhoades & Amr El Ghamry
East/West		
A1		Tim Lolli & Dan Oakes
A2	B1	Gerry Belcher & Brad Beland
A3		Steve Licker & Bob Gish*
* won a 70 percenter last July		
A4	B2	Leon Alexander & Tim Stocks
	B3	Harold Knowles & Zach Vedro

Congratulations! Doubly so to Harold Knowles for securing his 1,000 MP Silver Life Master accreditation (with yet further remarkable mention to come). One of

our former members has been doing well: Irv Kostal reached the 7,500 MP Emerald Life Master level—apparently enjoying retirement in the Palm Springs area. Another praiseworthy result: Carolyn Cohen & Cathy Martin won a 70-percenter last July.

I was able to attend only one session of the Pasadena Sectional, but gathered quite a few results as follows (note no a.m. or p.m. indicated): FRIDAY - Open Pairs: A-1 (overall) Paul Gelb & Marge Gould; A-4 (o.a.) Brad Beland & John Waken; A-4 (. Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel; B-3 (o.a.) Dan Botoaca; B-4 (o.a.) Lyle Wiedeman; B-4 tie (o.a.) Alene Friedman & Carol Lessin; B-3 Temo Arjani & Sixten Ohman.

SATURDAY - Open Pairs: A-2 (o.a.) Tim Lolli & Dan Oakes; A-3 (o.a.) Paul Gelb & Cliff Goodrich; A-4 (o.a.) Dennis Semain & John Waken; A-2 Phil Dessert & Dominique Moore.

As for the compact knockouts, William Ng's team placed 2nd on Friday, while John Villalobos, Paul Nason, Gerry Belcher & Brad Beland placed 1st on Saturday.

As for the Glendale Sectional, Merry Besvold proved super, with diligent support from board members, in bringing off this 3-day event We thank all of you kindly, with very grateful nods to Vita Press, Karen Arase and Joanne Susuki for their yummy additions to the cookie counter, and to volunteers Pat Abbey and Patrick Cardullo for valued assistance.

Now, on to all the good results: FRIDAY - Open Pairs: (AM) B-4 (o.a.) Merry Besvold & Pat Abbey; C-3 (o.a.) Sharon Wolf & Art Chacanas; A-5 Carolyn Cohen & Gerry Belcher; B-3 Leon Alexander & Tim Stocks; B-2 (o.a.) Cathy Martin & Judy Barrow; B-5 (o.a.) Louise Reich & Amr El Ghamry; B-3 Margaret Mataga & Lyle Wiederman. (PM) B-1 (o.a.) Pat Abbey & Dan Botoaca; A-2 (o.a.) Peter Szecsi & Shiu-Ming Huang; A-4 (o.a.) Mike Doll & P. Cardullo; A-2 L. Reich & A. El Ghamry; B-4 K. Arase & Gitta Earll; B-4 P. Gelb & C. Goodrich; C-2 M. Besvold & A. Chacanas. (EVE) A-3 (o.a.) A. El Ghamry & Bernardine Mateer. 299er Pairs (AM) D-6 (o.a.) Ramesh Sawhney. (PM) D-5 tie(o.a.) Stan Lomax & Jerome Oldson.

SATURDAY - Open Pairs: (AM) A-1 (o.a.) C. Martin & Diana Borgotti; B-3 (o.a.) Charles Cordara & David Lievsay; B-3 (o.a.) M. Doll & P. Cardullo; B-4 (o.a.) Pat Abbey & Art Chacanas; B-5 (o.a.) Gerry Belcher & Brad Beland; B-6 (o.a.) L. Reich & A. El Ghamry;

A-4 D. Semain & J. Waken; C-1 (o.a.) L. Wiedeman & Oliver Norsworthy; C-2 M. Besvold & S. Wolf. (PM) A-3 (o.a.) B. Mateer & P. Szesci; B-2 (o.a.) K. Alpert & Rufus Rhoades; C-3 (o.a.) D. Botoaca; C-5 (o.a.) M. Besvold & A. Chacanas; A-3 P. Abbey & S. Wolf; A-3 Wm. Ng; A-4 C. Martin & D. Borgatti; B-3 Esther Tapelband & D. La Maie; B-4 Betsy Josias & Nancy Lyon. (COMPACT KO) - P. Nason, J Villalobos, R. Tayrien & Marel "Bud" Bates placed 3rd with 10 teams contending.

SUNDAY B/C/D SWISS (12 teams contending)

- (1) Z. Vedro, H. Knowles, M. Doll, P. Cardullo
 - (2) Edw. Schultz, Harry Bruner, P. Jager, A. El Ghamry
 - (3) K. Alpert, M. Mataga, S. Ohman, Harold Gordon, D. La Maie
 - (4) K. Arese, G. Earll, M. Harrington, J. Frenkel
- Lots of good performing last month, and we hope

you had fun, too. Take care, everybody.....

Long Beach Unit

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org
Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

by Jon Yinger

July 18 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Kaye Amdon/Eileen Niesen, 2nd Cory Hand/Gary Paugh, 3rd Phyllis Parker/Bob Mault, 4th Sean Lui/Mike Daley, 5th Sharon and Al Appel, 6th Pat and Bob Adam. B flight overalls: 5th Lynn and Curtis Johnson, 6th Penny Wentworth/Eva Mroz. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master game: 1st Mihir Das/Dorothy Andersen, 2nd Sunny Harper/Carmela Chiurazzi, 3rd Arlene Spatz/Dale Blessing, 4th Jane Reid/Donna Kupfer. And in



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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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with Hospitality Breaks*

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

CARD FEES: \$10.00 per session/per player for dues paying ACBL members
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NLM flight B, 4th overall: Karen and Mike McKittrick. Congratulations to all!

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 7/16 through 8/15: July 16 in the afternoon open game Mark Teaford/Earl VanDerVord had 69.71%; July 26 in the Monday evening game Keith

Hafen/Lynne Finley had 73.58%, and in the Tuesday evening game July 27 Bob Mault/Cory Hand had a 71.30% game. Congratulations to you all!

Big Masterpoint Awards: Big master point awards for 1st over-all July 16 through August 15: In the July 18 unit game Eileen Niesen/Kaye Amdon won 4.96mp. Aug 2 Rich Wasser/Lois Abramson won 3.36mp. Aug 3 Aaron Jones/Gary Paugh won 4.33mp. Aug 5 John Melis/Gary Paugh won 3.03mp. Aug 6 Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein won 4.55mp. Aug 11 Brandon Sheumaker/Gary King won 4.55mp. And in the unit game Aug 15 Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger won 4.25mp. Big awards for 2nd overall: July 18 Cory Hand/Gary Paugh won 3.72mp. Aug 3 Earl VanDerVord/Brandon Sheumaker won 3.17. Aug 6 Lois Perovich/Joe Zeno won 3.41mp. Aug 11 Mark Teaford/Cory Hand won 3.50mp. And in the unit game Aug 15 Steve Skinner/Brandon Sheumaker won 3.19mp. Congratulations to all!

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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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
Stratiflighted 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

New Members: We issue a warm welcome to new members Noel Bacchetti, Mildred Carr, Arnie Erickson, Joan Wieber and Ted Wieber.

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Darlene Harrison. Congratulations Darlene!!

Upcoming Events At The Club: STaC games Aug 16 through Aug 22--hand records for each game. Sunday September 18th Unit Game—lunch at 12:30, game at 1pm.

Get Well Wishes to 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: dianasachs@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 e-mail. Send me your e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

by Jan Wickersham

**Sunday September 5
Pasadena San Gabriel Valley Unit Game
San Marino Recreation Center**

Much has happened in the bridge world since I last wrote the column. Let me begin with news from the Pasadena-San Gabriel Sectional. While bridge players were whooping it up in New Orleans, we were having our own version...Mardi Gras West. Our numbers were up considerably from last year, 30 more tables. Karen Arase and Joann Sasaki transformed the dining hall into something totally spectacular with their incredible decorations. It was Amr's idea to have a Jackpot game on Friday night, and, I believe those who attended had a great time. There were some mighty tough competitors that night. Unfortunately, no one came up with the magic 70% game.

I have so many people to thank for food donations. If you name is shown in CAPITALS LETTERS that

means you committed to bring goodies for two days; KAREN ARASE, Barbara Baeskens, Judie Barrow, Janet Bennett, Shirley Betz, Georgiana Bierman, Diana Borgatti, PEGGY BRAIN, Carole Collins, Genevieve Collopy, Rita Corwin, Jeanette Deverian, Mary Downey, Gitta Earll, Jim Erpenbach, Mary Falvey, Sandra Franciscus, Margery Gould, MARGIE HALL, Miriam Harrington, Kathy Helber, Charo Holdo, Shiu-Ming Huang, Frank Jones, Pat Lile, Cathy Martin, Bernie Mateer, Marion Miller, Dominique Moore, Jerry Murbach, Nancy Nakanishi, OLLIE NORSWORTHY, Sofia Pineda, Ann Raymond, WEEZIE REICH, Sue Rottner, Joann Sasaki, Gary Swinhart, Abby Triback, JAN WICKERSHAM, and ANNA WILLIAMSON. A million thanks to all of you who gave so generously. So many yummy things to eat. Your contributions added tremendously to our sectional.

Doninique Moore was the winner of the John Waken Trophy...17.88 points. Rae Murbach was not far behind her with 16.69! Lots of our 299'ers took the spotlight. Genevieve Collopy and William Purdy swept the 299'er game on Friday. Ann Raymond and Margie Hall, David Solin and Clifton Cates, Anna Williamson and Carole Collins, and Andrew and Joerg Rottenbacher all took first place in various competitions in the 299'ers. Congratulations to you all. Paul Gelb and Margery Gould pulled off a first in the Open Pairs, and John Villalobos, Paul Nason, Gerry Belcher and Brad Beland won the Saturday Compact Knockouts. Plans are already underway for next year's event.

A week later came Eight Is Enough. We had a great turnout with 18 tables. Arlene Harvey does such an excellent job of directing, and bless her heart, this time she also ended up having to play. Seems some people didn't get the word, and she did what was necessary to make the game flow smoothly. Karen Arase, John Jones, Gitta Earll and Eli Wang were the big winners. And right as I am ending this news column, Gitta Earll goes over the top making Silver Life Master! What a month for Gitta!

Our next unit game falls on Labor Day Sunday. Hope you are around and plan to attend.

*Thank your unit columnist by
sending them news.*

Pomona-Covina

by Vic Sartor

Saturday September 18
Pomona Covina Unit Game at 11 a.m.
lunch served

With the dog days of summer upon us, some lucky unit members escaped the area for cruises, tours, and family get-togethers, somewhat depleting our attendance numbers.

Of course, with most of the rest of the nation suffering from a record heat wave, they might have been a lot more comfortable here. As Tom Lill described his trip to his hometown, Niagra Falls, "It's a nice place to be from."

On a sad note, we lost another long-time player with the death of Florence Weinstein. Florence was a solid player who had been a fixture in our local clubs all the way back to the 1950's. She will be missed by her many friends and partners.

Last month's unit game was won by Clint Lew and Pat Radamaker, with Cordell Goode and Lary Alba taking 1st E/W. Bill Papa, Bud Robinson, Georgiana Bierman, Michael Horn, and Susan and Dave Ruoff finished in the overalls. The monthly individual was won by Rick Whitham, followed by Genise Hasan, Helen Wang, Richard Patterson, Linda Stuart, and Bud Robinson.

Lew and Radamaker's 68.4% was the top game of the month, edging a 67.3% by Lulu Minter and Bill Papa. Other club winners were Joe Unis, Walt Otto, Richard Patterson, JanWickersham, Amr Elghamry, Kathy Helber, Herman Helber, Roger Boyar, Louis Duner, Linda Stuart, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Dwight Blackwell, Vic Sartor, Frank Jones, Clint Lew, Helen Wang, Lary Alba, and Dave Ruoff.

Unit players had some successes at recent sectional tournaments too. Tom Lill and Lynne Parker took 1st OA and 2nd OA in separate 200-300 MP events. Joe Unis and Mary Miller took 2nd OA and 1st OA in the same events. Lulu Minter and Fred Minter took 1st OA in Class B and 2nd OA in Class A Open Pairs. Bill Papa and Vic Sartor finished 3rd and 5th OA in Class A Open Pairs. Also placing in several events were Lary Alba, Karen McCarthy, Denise Morgan, and Genise Hasan.

Our hand of the month came up in one of those

sectionals. Have you seen many 10-card suits? You hold:

♠x ♥KQJTxxxxxx ♦x ♣x

Your bid?

Several players just couldn't resist the urge to open this beauty 2♣! After all, they did have 9 sure tricks in hearts.

What could possibly go wrong? They quickly found out. They had forgotten that there were potentially THREE opponents at the table. They caught the opponent sitting opposite them with 19 HCP. When he asked about aces and got an ambiguous 1 or 4 reply, he had no problem deducing it was 4. Many eschewed Blackwood and just bombed into 6NT or 7NT! This was not a major success. The good news was that hearts split 10-1-1-1. The bad news was that one of the defenders had the stiff ace. It isn't often you see freely bid NT slams going down 5, 6, or 7 tricks, but they were as common as flabby thighs at a weight watchers meeting. Some partners just take a 2♣ bid too seriously.

Til next time...

San Fernando Valley

by Fran Kern

Sunday September 26
San Fernando Valley Unit Game at 1 p.m.
San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy
6733 Variel Avenue, Canoga Park 91303
818-999-9131
\$10 fee, convenient parking

Remember to mark your calendar for the September Unit Game. Lunch will be provided at noon and one session of bridge will begin at 1:00 p.m. We are looking forward to having both Open Pairs and Junior Games.

Reservations are not required but are appreciated. Please sign up at the Bridge Academy, the 750 Club, or by e-mail to 1snackman@sbcglobal.net.

Spotlight on Awards:

Unit 561 has two awards that are presented annually. This month we spotlight The Kaiser Award that was established by Roz Kaiser to honor her husband.

The award is presented to the player with fewer than 500 points who earns the most points at the Unit 561 Sectional. At the April 2010 Sectional Donna Massman won the Kaiser Trophy. The plaque honoring recipients of the Kaiser Award is housed at the San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for July

750 Bridge Club

Ron Malkin 5.08, Don Rosen 4.46, Mary Young 3.35, Larry Kussin 3.28, Don Witmeyer 3.25, Herb Zweit 2.96, Bob Williams 2.94, Mel Lerner 2.88, Joyce Hart 2.82, Allen Smith 2.72.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game

Allan Palansky 7.51, Al Spaet 5.84, Ron Stewart 4.94, Moe Mansour 4.03, Sam Antoun 4.03, Larry Gordon 3.80, Michael Klemens 3.39, Elaine Roth 3.35, Marge Bulmer 3.27, Sylvia Morstein 3.21

Bridge Academy Open Game

Andy Vinock 14.71, Armand Szulc 13.68, Gilbert Stinebaugh 13.61, William Carlson Jr 13.04, Marta Peltz 12.90, Gary Frans 11.55, Tom Wylie 11.27, Seymour Zemlyn 9.89, Babak Shafil 8.39, Joan Rubin 8.21.

70% Games for July

Jerry Smith & Rochelle Blumenfeld 70.06, Jim Gardner & Bill Taylor 70.83, Ron Malkin & Glofia Malkin 71.77, Larry Kussin & Don Rosen 73.51, Russell Weiss & Marion Weiss 75.00.

750 Bridge Club STAC Games:

Congratulations to the following pairs that took first place in a recent day or evening game:

Allen Smith & Stephen Wachtel, Billy Blanchard & James Hoose, James Gardner & Bill Taylor, Robert Glasser & Bob Williams, Charles (Bud) Shapiro & Elaine Keyes, Jerry Smith & Rochelle Blumenfeld,

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

Torrance-South Bay

Unit Website:

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

SBBC Website:

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

by Steve Mager

A schedule for September special events had not yet been put together when the deadline for this column arrived. The September schedule will be on the website when it becomes available.

Club Championships

The August 2 North American Pairs Qualifier was captured by Henry Crowder/Bob Bacharach in Flights A and B with Tajie Major/Ellen Tarlow ahead in Flight C. The North American Pairs Qualifier on August 6 was led by Kim Wang/Sheryl Kohlhoff in Flight A and Marty Cooper/Jeff Leyson in Flights B and C. The Non Life Master Championship on August 12 saw Jamila Malikar/Ralph Vidal winning Flights A, B and C. The North American Pairs Qualifier on August 14 was headed by Joanne and Cal Waller in Flights A and B with Linda and Bill Lama taking Flight C.

Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games.

July 20 STAC : Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

July 27: Nancy Coker, Joyce Field, Marilyn Skolich, Marge London

August 3: Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, Dean Kaloudis, John J. McDermott

August 10 Club Champ: Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, Dean Kaloudis, John J. McDermott

District 22/23 STAC Overall Finishers

Pairs that placed in the District 22/23 STAC overalls in games played at Torrance South Bay unit clubs are as follows.

Monday Morning July 19

3A	Gary King Ted Gibbs
5A 3B	Dolores Nawa/Kikoyo Ohtomo
6A	Mike Welsh/Dean Kaloudis
6B	Marty Cooper/Henry Crowder

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4C	Elizabeth Voss/David Lyons	Friday Morning July 23 99er Game
		1A Elaine Wagner/Ron Burke
	Monday Evening July 19	2A Julie Tan/Diane Elliot
2A	Marjorie Michelin/Ellis Feigenbaum	3A Joanna Jones-Reed/William Lurie
3A	Luis Gamio/John J. McDermott	
3B 2C	Marilyn Daeschner/Frankee Victor	Friday Afternoon July 23
5B	Lorna Wallace/Lutrell Long	12A 3B Bill Malcolm/Florence Niwa
6B	Florence Niwa/Iku Kawahara	5C Nathaniel Trembath/James Hieatt
4C	Ed Srenco/Neal Kleiner	
6C	Bruce Weiner/Rafael Gishri	Friday Afternoon July 23
		1A Fran Israel/Jack Tsu
	Tuesday Morning July 20	4A 3B 3C Joan Crishal/Valerie Takahashi
3A 2B	Hank Sheehan/Jim Jensen	4B 4C Barbara and Peter Shen
6A 3B	Kim Wang/Chein-San Han	
	Wednesday Morning July 21	Saturday Afternoon July 24
		5C Arlene and Stanley Greengard
5A	Gabriela Jackson/Fran Israel	
6A	Alfred Lee/Bruce Horiguchi	GUV Memorial Award
5/6 B	Dolores Nawa/Harry Wessells	Recently I started against Gabriela "Gabby" Jackson with a four-board round. She was north and official score keeper for the table. As I remember, on the first 3 boards she wrote down the score wrong and had to be corrected. In all of these cases, the score she wrote down favored my partner and I. Maybe she thought we were so bad we needed a little help.
	Wednesday Afternoon July 21	Several tables later director Ray Mack came over to the table I was playing at and asked the North player there for a correction. At the time I kiddingly blurted out "It was Gabby's fault." I think the score was written on the wrong line. This happened two or three times during the round. In each case the North player said they hadn't played the board and the errors hadn't occurred there. A few minutes later Ray said they had found the culprit and guess who it was. Right!
11A 1B 1C	Marilyn Daeschner/Frankee Victor	Na Zdrowie
15A 2B 2C	George Stinson/Kathy Rudolph	
16A 3B 3C	Robert Fieselman/Ruth Ann Poppa	
7/8B	Robert Rothman/Mike Welsh	
11B	Masae Kato/Kiyoko Ohtomo	
	Wednesday Evening July 21 Non Life Master	
2A 1B	Dolly and Bruce Weiner	
4/5A 3B	Dawn McGill/Elaine Mannick	
4/5A	Jean and Harold Brunner	
	Thursday Morning July 22 Non Life Master	
1A 1B 1C	Elizabeth Voss/David Lyons	
2A 2B 2C	Jeanette Betts/Ron Burke	
3A	Tom Barna/James Blaha	
4A	Sam Lim/Ron Prando	
5A	George Stinson/Setsuko Miyasaka	
6A 3B	Joan and Robert Stillwell	
4B	Dorothy Easley/Elaine Mannick	
5B 3C	Monique Marti/Herbert Remstein	
4C	Madge Weinstein/Myron Mitzenmacher	
	Thursday Evening July 22	
2A	David Peim/Winnie Ninneman	
4A	Ray Mack/Fran Israel	
	Friday Morning July 23	
3A	Dean Kaloudis/John J. McDermott	

West L.A. by candy

The WLA Sectional is happening the weekend this newspaper comes out. I'm hoping you come and discover that like the song says "a spoonful of sugar makes the medicine go down" and a brownie makes partner's bids make more sense. There has been Fantasy Bridge long before all those other sports.

In September you have Rosh Hashanah, starting

the New Year's with something sweet like Manichvitz. Yom Kippur fast broken with a sip of Manichvitz. Followed by Sukkot, when you sleep outdoors with your glass of Manichvitz. Spending all day in Temple and all night in a grass hut, Manichvitz is not what we need—we really need better booze.

The next big unit event is a Halloween Individual, Sunday Afternoon at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club. Game time is 1:00 and card fees are FREE! To make the event less spooky there will be enough two-buck chuck to help keep your sense of humor.

While this is a game that the best partner wins, you do not sign-up as a pair. You can come in a full costume or just a mask, which is never a bad idea in an Individual to hide the innocent (who was that masked maniac).

I saw some names I recognized in the winners at bridge week. KO's Pete Benjamin, John Campbell, J Steffes, Alan and Sherry Schneider- Swiss Mike Savage, Bill Wickham BAM Ellen and Bob Kent tied with Roger and Becky Clough Pairs Aram Bedros, Pam Wittes, Paul Smith, Bob & Sandy Carrolll.

Roger Clough found my lost rank changes, so here are two months of those climbing the Master Point ladder - Junior Masters Barbara Fransen, Lynn Evans, Katherine Weisberg,, Alan Solinger, Lorraine Snipper - Club Masters Edwin Bernstein, Doug Green, Donald Light, Sylvia Ziman, Sandy Slotkin - Sectional Masters Gloria Frankel, Richard Schulman, Michel Brand, Jerry Goodman, David Lyons - Regional Masters Elaine Schlechter, Dianne Sax - NABC Masters Richard

Gliksman, John Stokdyk - Bronze LM Sally Karbelnig, Meredith Gibbs - Silver LM Hans Kraepelien - Gold LM Myrna Blaufarb.

In the there's nowhere but down from here... Bob Shore and Jordan Chodorow played for the first time and won the STaC with an 80% game. Other STAC winners were Fred Mautner & Viktor Anikovich, Lew & Rhoda Himmell, Betsy Lutz & Rahim Israel, Rick Turner & (the first time I get to write this) Elianna Meyerson.

People who were happy their 70% games weren't while Bob & Jordan had their 80% game were: Betsy Lutz & Rahim Israel, Fred Mautner & Art Cohen, Ruth Gittelman & Jeri Berger, Maria Pendergast & Joanne Minken-Levy, Toby Green & Sam Namer, Fumie Glenney & Chuck Fonorow, Aram Bedros & Paul Smith, Art Zail & Cyma Aronow, Chuck Maltz & Paul Smith, Steven Goldstein & Michael Shaw, Sandra Kaiser & Matthrew Bergen.

Club champs at Beverly Hills were Art Cohen & Jeri Berger, Fred Mautner & Viktor Avikovich, Lew & Rhoda Himmell. At Barrington "A" Bob Levy & George Wagner, Sheri Rivera & Aram Bedros "B" Bob & Sandy Carroll, Suzanne Bornstein & Melinda Curry "C" Renne Wishengard & Mark LaVine.

While the Druids among you are celebrating the Autumnal Equinox, the rest of us are in the "Where The Hell Did This Year Go" despair. I guess the cure for your despair is to climb a tree and proclaim your inner Druid. On that note I'm going to hide in my treehouse 'til next month.

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

Dan Emmons and Carol Frank, tied for 5th in the Mini-Spangold II KO Teams; and Renee Mancuso, 4th in the Mixed B-A-M Teams.

If I have left any of the high finishers out, I humbly apologize.

By the time you get this edition of the SCBN, it will only be 1½ months until our next Regional Tournament in Marina del Rey at the Marina del Rey Hotel. Rooms are only \$109 per night. Come and stay and play bridge on the edge of the water, looking out at the harbor

and the boats. Plus, there is free parking!

Finally, our Regional-at-Sea for April 30 through May 7 has received our sanction from the ACBL and we are steaming full speed ahead to three ports along the Mexican Riviera. Join us for this luxurious event. This is where I will be taking my post tax-season vacation this year. Larry Cohen will be lecturing on a daily basis and all of the bridge, lectures, and even the end-of the-cruise cocktail party are included for one fee. No money changes hand on the ship. I hope to see you there.

LA Fall Regional

October 12-17,
2010

A Few Of The Winners From Bridge Week in Pasadena July 5-11, 2010

New Life Masters



Marianne Kuzma



Patricia Bischoff



Alain Feurot



Nany Speike
and Lee
Mathers

Overall
Winners

Friday
Afternoon
Side Game



Thomas
Hanford
and Steven
Hough

Overall
Winners

Strat B
Saturday
Open Pairs



L to R: Jay & Linda Tipton, Samuel Wang, Suzette Whyn and Steve Scott
Winners of the Lazy Dayz KO Bracket



Al Martinez, Jerry Schreider, Diana Black, Jay Boylan
Winners of the Thursday/Friday Bracket II KO



Jackie Hess and Wayne Otsuki
Overall Winners
Saturday Open Pairs



Phil Hiestand and Rai Osborne
Overall Winners
IMP Pairs



Karen & Mike McKittrick, overall winners of Mark Scheiber 299er Pairs
(McKittricks are holding trophies, pictured with Bill and Diane Schreiber)

District 23 Rank Changes 7/1/10 - 7/31/10

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Avie Bombard
Gerry Cogan
Keith Davidson
Raghav Dhawan
Linda Dillon
Bobbie Eckstein
Victor Haddox
Richard Halverstadt
Lee Hausner
M Kakade
Annette Madden
Frank Nordyke
Hasse Nyborg
Albert Stock
Bob Williams

Club Master (20 MPs)

Sandy Abouaf
April Adams
Norma Appley
Muxin Li
Gabe Rosenberg
Ramesh Sawhney
Elmer Skeldon
Ronald Smith
Martha Thompson
William Zanger

Sectional master (50 MPs)

George Alemshah
Wayne Beagle

Beth Benson
Sheila Bub
Ronald Burke
Carmela Chiurazzi
Genevieve Collopy
Elaine Godin
Elaine Goldsmith
Jan Goldsmith
Dorothy Joseph
Peter Joseph
Mark Lavine
Elaine Robinson
Joyce Shuford
Debra Stern
Herbert Wolas

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Samy Antoun
Estelle Baron
Clifton Cates
Nolan Chang
Robert Fieselman
Fay Hsu
Xingping Kang
Miriam Kelley
Susanne Menck
Meredith Murad
Laurie Siltan
Robert Svensrud

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Eknath Deo
Linda Henson
Aaron Jones

William Lama
Elaine Moore
Beebe Moorhead
Onarita Pallanti
Ruth Ann Poppa
William Rogers
David Schwartz
William Smith

Life Master (300 MPs)

Constance Abell
Alain Fleurot
Ellen Korney
Shirley Kotler
Steve Ramos, Jr
Allen Smith

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Michael Klemens
Shirley Kotler
Gloria Malkin
Jerry Smith

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Cliff Goodrich
David Kempe
Basant Shah
Marie Willis

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Jeff Fang

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panel: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Leo Bell, David Chechelashvili, Mitch Dunitz, Mr. Mealymouth, David Sacks, Michael Shuster, John Swanson, and Bill Wickham

1

IMPs
vul vs. not

W	N	E	S
2♠*	?		
			* weak two

You, North, hold:

♠QT ♥--- ♦KQT973 ♣AJT98

What call do you make?

The primary choices look like a relatively conservative 3♦ call, a relatively aggressive 4NT call, an extremely aggressive 4♠ call, or a ultra conservative pass. See Shuster's comment for another view of what 4NT should mean. First let's hear from the panelist who believes 4NT should be natural.

Shuster: 3♦. When your playing strength greatly exceeds your high-card total, you can afford to bid slowly. While 4♠ would show both minors (4NT is natural), I want to let partner know my diamonds are longer. The real question is whether to bid 4♣ or 5♣ if partner responds 3♥— I'd vote for 4♣.

Now the 4NT bidders may speak.

Bell: 4NT. I might as well disappoint partner quickly that I don't have a heart fit. I may well be pushing us too high, but the opponents may have to guess at the five level as well.

Chechelashvili: 4NT. I strongly favor bidding 4NT instead of 3♦. 4NT is more descriptive and it hopefully prevents partner from bidding some number of hearts. It also may prevent LHO from bidding some number of hearts.

The rest of the 3♦ bidders may now have their say.

Bare: 3♦. No other bid comes to mind. This hand is far too weak to show both minors with a 4NT or 4♠ bid. [4♠ over a weak two bid is generally played by experts as both minors and slam invitational or better values.]

Dunitz: 3♦. Just 3♦ for now... the Bartusek approach - great to have extras.

Does Bartusek validate Mitch's prediction?

Bartusek: 3♦. This seems clear to me since you have so many playing tricks. If you don't bid now, then you will have a much more difficult problem whether partner balances with double, 3♥, or 2NT.

Prediction on target!

Mealymouth: 3♦. The auction is still young. Why go out on any limbs?

Sacks: 3♦. I have the wrong doubleton for anything else.

Swanson: 3♦. 4NT can't be justified at the vulnerability.

Wickham: 3♦. I'm planning to bid 4♣ over 3♥. I'll pass 4♥ over 3♦ or 4♣. I don't have enough hand to force to 5 of a minor.

This hand came from the Brazilian Bermuda Bowl final. Zia held this hand for the American squad and tried 4NT. Hamman, holding 2 diamonds, 3 clubs and not much of a hand, bid 5♣, but got doubled for -800. However, even knowing this result, I still think 4NT may be the right long term answer. 4NT shuts out hearts so effectively. I'll come back to the Bermuda Bowl later.



West	North	East	South
1♠	2♥	pass	4♥
dbl	pass	?	

You, East, hold:

♠T3 ♥7 ♦J974 ♣K87642

What call do you make?

More double trouble. Is this double more takeout or more for penalties?

Bell: Pass. I'm influenced in that I know the hand, but to me this is a total trick problem whatever partner's double means. If the opponents are making 4♥, then we are likely to go down at least one in clubs. I opt for the very likely plus score.

Swanson: 4♠. Partner's double is takeout and I have no good reason to leave it in. 5♣ would be reasonable with a better suit. As it is I'll gamble on partner holding good spade cards.

Wickham: 5♣. 4♠ might be better if partner is 6-1-3-3.

Bartusek: 5♣. Close to passing, but the extra club and stiff heart convinces me to bid. Partner's double is more take-out than penalty. With some primarily defensive 16-18 HCP hands he would just pass and take the plus score.

Bare: 5♣. Partner should have convertible values.

Chechelashvili: 5♣. I have a 6-card suit, and I will only be happy if partner removes 5♣ to 5♦.

Mealymouth: 5♣. No, partner has not made a pennywise and pound-foolish penalty double in an

attempt to turn +50 into +100, he has asked me to pick a game and I'm lucky enough to have a decent six-card suit in which to play it. Sorry, I haven't the guts to bid 6♣, but I am prepared to take the blame if he has ♠AKxxx ♥void ♦AK10x ♣Axxx and I make two overtricks.

Sacks: 5♣. This is not a trump stack double, they have 10 to 12 hearts.

Dunitz: 5♣. If partner has 4♥ beat in his own hand and a balanced hand, he should pass!

Shuster: 5♣. This is very clear for me. Weak distributional hands do much better when their long suit is trumps. There could be a double make, but not in spades.

I was playing with Leo Bell. Leo played the double primarily for penalties. Unfortunately, I played the double as a good hand mostly for takeout but with enough defense to probably beat them if partner doesn't have a place to takeout to. Leo held ♠KQ86x ♥Axx ♦A10x ♣QJ, which is not a hand I would have doubled with, but 4♥ does fail by a trick, while I went down two in 5♣. This hand came from the first round of a local section compact KO. Our misunderstanding, combined with the handicap we had to give, made sure that this was our only round of that KO.

What Do You Think?

Send :Letters To The Editor To:
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org



West	North	East	South
1♠	pass	2♣ *	pass
2♠	pass	3♦	pass
3NT	pass	4♦	pass
?		*not game forcing	

You, West, hold: ♠AJ8753 ♥AT3 ♦85 ♣K3

- a) Do you agree with your previous bids?
b) What do you bid now?

Bare a) Yes. b) 4♥. I will not stop below 6♣.

Bell a) I would have bid 3♥ over 3♦ to give partner more room to clarify their hand. **b) 4♥.** I have both major aces covered and the ♣K is a huge card. Partner may have a hand such as: ♠x ♥x ♦AKQxx ♣AQJxxx and a grand slam is a favorite.

Chechelashvili a) I believe 3♥ instead of 3NT is a better bid. **b) 4♥** - followed by 5♣ or 6♣, depending on partner's bid.

Dunitz a) Previous bids seem normal. b) 4♥. I have a powerhouse in support of clubs. Second choice is 6♣. Even Bartusek would show life.

Does Mitch again predict Mark's action accurately?

Bartusek a) Yes, your previous bidding seems completely normal. **b) 4♥.** I'm not stopping short of 6♣ since partner should be at least 5-6 in the minors. I need to tell partner that I can cover his major suit losers, and that I have a good fit for one of his suits. It wouldn't surprise me if we're cold for 7♣.

Another bull's-eye for Mitch's prediction of Mark's action. Could it be we have a new partnership on the horizon?

Mealymouth: a) Yes, I agree with my previous bids. I know bidding 3NT is a dirty job, but somebody's got to do it, and it isn't my partner who may have ♥Jx or ♥Jxx. **b) 6♣.** A slam dunk. Partner has shown a game-forcing six-five in clubs and diamonds, and I have a pleasant surprise for him in clubs as well as the right kind of strength in the majors (aces that will cover any losers he has there). I could have had ♠KQ8753 ♥KQ10 ♦Q5 ♣43. If I tried to show my working cards individually, I would have to bid 4♥, 5♠ and then 7♣. That's too committal, even for a mealy-mouthed person like me.

Shuster: a) Yes. The previous auction was acceptable. I could live with 3♥ over 3♦ to get a last minute spade preference, but the ♥10 makes it too likely that NT is right even opposite a hand that might call 3♠ over 3♥ (which could even be a stiff honor, with say... ♠Q ♥Jx ♦AQxx ♣AJxxxx). **b) 6♣.** I hate cuebidding without having first agreed trump,

especially at rubber bridge. *[Amen Brother Shuster!]* While it won't surprise me to find that a grand is excellent (♠--- ♥xx ♦AKQxx ♣AQJTxx), even six could be in danger if partner has worse diamonds. Since I'll never stop short of 6♣ and do not see an easy way to explore for 7 without risking a dumb result (notice that the ♣10 is an important card for 7 in my example hand), I'll just bid what is in front of my nose.

Wickham a) No. I would have bid 3♥, not 3NT. **b) 6♣.** Easy, how would I have bid ♠KQxxxx ♥KQx ♦xx ♣Kx?

Swanson a) Yes. I wouldn't even know what to suggest otherwise. **b) 4♥.** Three key cards opposite partner's presumed 5-6 minor hand look promising.

This hand came from a cut around rubber bridge game where the high level overbidding had been horrific. My partner won't be named here, but he is an occasional member of this panel when he isn't on behavioral suspension and refers to himself as "The Master of Competitive Bidding". He held ♠K ♥Q ♦Q10xxx ♣AJ8xxx. Yes he was 6-5, but that's not the hand I pictured. I tried only 5♣ which proved to be too much. The "The Master of Competitive Bidding" suggested (we all know how strong his suggestions are) that I bid 3♥ (I think that's ignoring the power of the ♥10) not 3NT, and that after 4♦ that I bid 4♥ so that I could pass his 4♠ bid. On the actual layout, only an inspired opening



West	North	East	South
1♦	pass	1♠	pass
?			

You, West, hold: ♠KQ9 ♥AT2 ♦AT97542 ♣---
What call do you make?

Chechelashvili: 2♦. It should be easier to investigate the right game, unless partner passes, which might not necessarily be a bad thing.

Dunitz: 2♦. This is where I live. *[I'm not sure that's good, your Encino home was so nice.]*

Mealymouth: 2♦. Seven-card suits deserve respect. The auction is unlikely to die here, and having limited my hand now, I will probably be able to make a picture jump in spades later to show extras in the form of strong three-card support. Second choice: reverse into 2♥, support spades next, and then try to put on the brakes later ... perhaps too late.

Sacks: 2♦. This is from the Al Roth school of "if I get by this round, I will have a much better idea of what to bid." I also have sympathy for the very light 2♥ reverse and the "I have enough spades" 2♠ bid.

Wickham: 2♦. The Bridge World death hand. I'll try 2♦ with the knowledge that game might be missed, but if I get by this round of bidding ...!

Shuster: 2♦. I don't expect much (any) company here. *[Shuster's crystal ball may need dusting, his answer is in the majority.]* However, with only a 13 count and silent opponents at matchpoints, partner is very likely to be the one with the strong hand and hearing an unpressured call from him will really help me to evaluate. If partner does pass this, RHO will balance, so the danger is really non-existent.

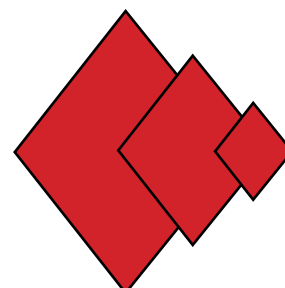
Bare: 2♠. It's not clear how good a hand this is. If partner has long spades or a diamond fit, then this will be a very good hand. If in addition partner has little wasted in clubs, then it is a great hand. However, prudence dictates 2♠ at this point.

Bartusek: 2♥. The classic Bridge World bidding problem. Anything could be right including 2♦, 2♠, 3♦, or 3♠. A reverse allows me to quickly figure out if partner has a fifth spade (he would rebid 2♠); and if not, then I can get out in 3♦. Admittedly there are some hands where partner has 8-11 HCP without extra spade length where we might get too high.

Bell: 2♥. Yes, I know I only have 13 high card points, but as Marty Bergen says, points schmointz. I may have a great hand for spades or diamonds depending on partner's next bid. Over a 2♠, 3♦ or 3♥ rebid, I'll bid 3♠. Over a 2NT or 3♣ rebid, both of which could be bad hands, I'll rebid 3♦. The one bid I don't really want to hear is 3NT by partner, but I'm passing that.

Swanson: 2♥. This hand has the potential for generating lots of tricks should partner hold good spades or a big diamond fit. But there is no immediate descriptive bid. The best choice is to reverse despite holding only three hearts and only 13 HCP.

This is a composed hand. There was a hand in the Bridge World a while back (Swanson also remembered it) where panelists held a 14 HCP hand which didn't have quite as much playing strength as this hand. Several panelists reversed, and some of them commented that 14 is the minimum HCP for a reverse. This hand still looks like a reverse to me. If I wasn't going to reverse, I'd prefer 2♠ to the 2♦ rebid.





West	North	East	South
4♥	4♠	5♥	5♠
pass	pass	dbl	pass
pass	pass		

You hold: ♠K9 ♥92 ♦K7 ♣AT98543
What do you lead?

Sacks: This is bidding panel, not Master Solvers. I do not think there is a correct answer.

It's been so long since I included an opening lead problem that David forgot that that they were once common in this column. Michael Schreiber and Marshall Miles both used to put them in almost once a month. I've been meaning to try to include more opening lead problems.

Bell: I confess that I would lead a mundane 9♥.

Dunitz: ♥9.

Mealymouth: Lead the ♥9. You must have bid 5♥ for a reason. Why else but to direct an opening lead? When Futile Willie held this hand, he underled the ♣A, thinking that his double was a Lightner Double that urged himself to make an unusual lead. However, it was actually a Darkner Double that demanded the expected opening lead. A heart lead would have worked better, as partner would have won, switched to a singleton club, and obtained a club ruff.

Swanson: ♥9. I wouldn't seriously consider anything else at the table.

Bare: ♥9. If I was barred from leading a heart I would lead the ♣A. Apparently a heart lead did not work out.

Chechelashvili: ♣A. Very close between ♥9 and ♣A. 4♠ bid for some players is almost automatic with some number of spades. That's why I don't see definite sign that partner is short in spades. If he is not, then he might be short in clubs. I might still be able to recover if ♣A is a bad lead.

Shuster: ♣A. I'll be minus 850, no doubt. *[That's another dusty crystal ball prediction, Michael.]* I'll try for ruffs, hopefully by partner.

Bartusek: ♣A. On this auction partner is more likely to be short in clubs than the opponents. Obviously a heart is the pedestrian second choice.

Wickham: ♣A. If it wins maybe I'll know what to do next. *[Yes, on the actual hand it will be obvious to continue clubs once you see the dummy.]* Is the ♥9 so obvious? Partner only bid the suit once.

This is another hand from the Brazilian Bermuda Bowl (reported on the hands from my event in a previous column). Jeff Meckstroth lead the 9♥ and declarer made 5. His Italian counterpart found the ♣A lead and gave his partner a ruff. Unfortunately for him he had not found the 5♥ bid and was defending only 4♠. I admit I would have lead the ♥9 also. The two hands I used in this month's problems were both disasters for the Americans, but the Americans did win fairly handily. Americans bridge players individually are well received at world championships. However, the current political unpopularity of America leaves the rest of the world, except the Mexicans and Canadians rooting hard against American teams. Be prepared for that if you play in Philadelphia.

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lead (K from KJxxx) will beat 3NT, and 4♠ can make against any defense. But 5♣ failed although the trumps were 3-2 with the finesse winning when diamonds failed to break 3-3. Too bad the auction wasn't competitive.