

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 47, #8

August 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello District 23!

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



I'm pleased to be writing this column as your new president of ALACBU. My name is Becky Clough and I've been playing bridge for over 50 years. I love this game and I want you all to love it too. Since retiring in 2000, my husband and I have had the fortune to be able to travel all over the USA and Western Canada playing bridge.

My first project as your new president is to try to determine what would make our regional tournaments more successful. I took a survey the last two days of the Pasadena tournament. I asked about starting times, favorite events and whether you prefer one-day or two-day knockouts. Results from the survey collected to date indicate that you overwhelmingly prefer the 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. times to the 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. times. Your favorite events were knockouts, Swiss and Open Pairs in that order. The votes for one-day and two-day knockouts were about equal with a large block indicating they liked both. Another concern for many was gold points. Those surveyed liked the Gold Rush pairs, but felt they weren't scheduled often enough. If you didn't fill out a survey and want to give your input, please email me at district23becky@hotmail.com.

Now that I've gotten this input, the tournament committee will use it to plan our 2012 February, July and October tournaments. The schedule for our October

PRESIDENT *continued on page 17*

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The President is Coming To District 23

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Craig Robinson, ACBL President and his wife Elaine will be visiting our District on September 7-8. This will be part of his 100 clubs in 100 days. He has asked me to help him find some clubs to visit during his stay. I think he may be able to do one club each day but it is possible that we may be able to do two clubs on September 8. If any club would like to host Craig please let me know, and he and I will see what clubs fit best into his schedule.

ALACBU ELECTIONS

Elections were held at our July ALACBU meeting. The lucky candidates who were elected to serve a two-year term were: Becky Clough (West Los Angeles) - president, Penny Barbieri (Pomona-Covina) - vice president, Roger Clough (West Los Angeles) - treasurer, and Sheila Bozin (San Fernando Valley) - secretary. There were not as many ALACBU delegates present as the bylaws provide. For your unit's information here are the number of delegates each unit has on the ALACBU Board pursuant to the bylaws: Pomona/Covina (2), Glendale/Verdugo (2), Antelope Valley/Santa Clarita (2), Long Beach (3), Pasadena /San Gabriel (3), San Fernando Valley (4), West Los Angeles (4), Downey / South Gate (1), and Torrance/South Bay (3). Please have your Units select your delegates and let Sheila Bozin know so she can complete the ALACBU roster.

National News

I am writing this report on the evening of July 15. I leave for the Toronto board meetings in the morning.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 18*

Letters To The Editor

ALACBU Scholarship

I was very lucky to receive support from our district between 2005 and 2009 for my college studies. Thinking back on it, I feel the ALACBU bridge scholarship is really a great thing, since it provides assistance and asks for nothing except for the recipient to complete their studies. This kind of charity is really indicative of the generosity of bridge players, and the scholarship is just one of many reasons I feel fortunate to be a part of the bridge world. I would encourage anyone who is eligible to submit an application for the scholarship.

It only takes a bit of time and could really make a difference.

- Roger Lee

Roger Lee, a young expert player, was awarded an ALACBU Scholarship for four years during his college years. Bridge players and/or their relatives are eligible to apply for this scholarship. ALACBU needs your help in identifying worthy candidates. Applications and more information are available from Peter Szecsi at francespeter@att.net

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Possible Improvements for the Bridge News

The District 23 Southern California Bridge News has continued to be an excellent publication through its transition to an online only version.

There are a couple of things that might make it more online friendly. As it is, it's a reproduction of a hard-copy publication. What works in hard-copy doesn't necessarily work as well from a keyboard and screen, and PDFs also offer additional opportunities.

For instance: Reading the Problem Solvers' Panel in the July 2011 edition, Page 11 ends with the first problem "continued on page 16." Typographically and publishing-wise, this is fine on paper; flipping paper pages is easy. Jumping forward and then back is much more awkward on a computer, and is generally unnecessary. There are a number of ways to avoid it—for example, on-screen pages don't have to be all the same length. I know, it's more difficult to do with a PDF than with web pages. On the other hand, maybe Bridge News could be done as a set of webpages, with the PDF version for archiving purposes, as well as available for players who would prefer to view the paper in the current manner.

Hot links could also be provided for advertisers, possibly for a small additional charge.

- Herb Van Brink

San Fernando Valley, Unit 561

Send letters to the editor to
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

I can remember the glory days of bridge. Regionals were a big event, especially Bridge Week in LA. The event at the Ambassador was epic. Circumstances moved this epic event to Pasadena, but competitive bridge was still big in southern California. How times have changed!

There were two recent regionals— Las Vegas and Pasadena. Our High Desert community sent a number of players to the Vegas Regional. This event was well attended with 3,860 tables in play and 1,864 players earning points. Our resident ex-world champion John Swanson led the way with for our High Desert residents with 31.59 points earned. 717 people earned more than 10 points at this Regional. Trailing just behind John was Dave Gasper, Marlene Warren-Gasper, Lola Messiha and Brad Ward trailed slightly behind John with a total of 28.93 points earned. Paula Oliveras came in with a great total of 21.47 and Marguerite Pinkers tallied a strong 19.59 total. Onarita Pallanti won a bracketed KO and chalked up 13.80 points in Vegas. Onarita is one of the handful of spry and competitive 80+ seniors regularly competing in our High Desert community. Ruth Baker, Tracy Bois, Jerry Burrill, Glenn Eddy, Roshen Hadulla, Lea Levitt, George Lewis, Jr., the Morrins, the Oests, Willo Jean Phillips, the Selfs and the Vandemores all won some gold and garnered well earned points at Vegas.

A small number of hungry wolves decended on the Pasadena Regional. Only 1,613 tables were in play and 1,030 folks garnered points. I guess I'm just an old wolf but I surely do miss the big tournaments. Only 265 people won more than 10 points at the Pasadena Regional. Again, John Swanson led the way with 21.73 points accrued. Tom Shudic and Elaine Moore chalked up 14.92. Dave and Marlene Warren-Gasper tallied 12.41. Rand Pinsky garnered 12.25 points with Brad Ward and Bill Brodek limping in with 10.31. Many, many of our local players from the Castaic, Valencia

and Lancaster clubs braved the traffic and decended on the Pasadena event. The traditionally tough fields offered great competition and more than a dozen other local players scooped up well earned points. George MacDonald just missed the magic 10-point threshold, but familiar names from every one of our clubs could be seen cashing in at this event.

I cannot confirm the rumor floating around that if you go to ANY regional, but fail to earn any points at that regional, the ACBL will send you a "thank you for playing, hope to see you again soon" email plus a pretty potted plant.

Though the two regionals lowered attendance at our local clubs, there was plenty of club action this past month. Castaic saw Paula Oliveras and Vibeke Gilbreath and Lamonte Johnson and Basant Shah pairs both win **twice**! The Vandemores, Hugh Bartlett and Bill Brodek, Marguerite Pinkers and Bert Stock and Fabian Fang and Aggi Oschin all chalked up wins. In the Valencia club Betty Pavey and Evertt Dehn won **twice**! Elaine Moore and Tom Shudic, Lamonte Johnson and Markle Vandervort joined the pairs of Hugh Bartlett and Marguerite Pinkers, Dave and Marlene Warren-Gasper and Brad Ward and Bill Brodek as winners. The Lancaster club saw Alfred Miller and Barbara Shuping, Mary Stauf and Henry Roediger, Bob Hart and Nora Fincher, Charles and Beth Morrin, Russ Buker and Barbara Shuping, Mary Ellen Downs and Virginia Dudley join Kelly Lightner and Betty Reed, the Oests and George Lewis, Jr. and Harold Underwood as winners of contests last month. Special congratulations should go to Kathy Swaine and Rand Pinsky for winning the hotly contested monthly unit game.

Want to be added to the
District 23 email mailing list?

Sign up at
www.acbldistrict23.org

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Saturday, August 13

Unit Game - 1 p.m.

Buffet Lunch - 12:15 p.m.

Still subbing for Dorothy - but in search of a volunteer to take over penning of this column. Anyone with a journalistic soul (and preferably an Internet connection) would be most welcome. You do not have to be on the board and we promise not to try to recruit you.

Lots of news from Bridge Week. First, congratulations to Lyle Weideman who became a life Master during the tournament. He tied for 3rd in a 2-day KO-II and had a B3 in a Swiss.

The big winner from our unit was Dan Botoaca who, with trusty partner Amr Elghamry, had a B5 in

Choice pairs, an X6, a B2, and an A2 in open pairs, and an A4 and a B1 in Swiss events. Also scoring an impressive amount of gold were Mike Doll and Harold Knowles. Together with their partners, Patrick Cardullo and Zach Vedro, they placed 3rd in a Swiss. Mike and Patrick also had an A1 in a side game and Mike had a 3/4 in a 2-day KO-II. Harold & Zach also had a B3 in Choice Pairs. Paul Nason was among the top point earners for the unit, including an A7 in Choice Pairs with John Villalobos.

Other multiple and/or gold point achievers include: Gerry Belcher, who had a B3 playing with Bob Tayrien in Choice Pairs and a B3 with Brad Beland in Open Pairs. Temo Arjani & Glenn Durlinger, who had a B1 in Gold Rush pairs and a C4 in a Swiss. Eva Seri, who joined Lyle in both of his team accomplishments and also came in

2nd in a compact KO-IV. The team of Abbey, Besvold, Chacanas & Wolf, who had 3rd places in two compact KOs-II. Glenn Silcott & Gregg Alsdorf, who had a C3 in Choice Pairs, a C5 in a side game, and a D2 in 299er Pairs. Joe Hassencamp & Bob Zappaterreno, who had an A2 and an A5 in side games. Margaret Mataga, who had a B5 in a side game, an A4 in a Swiss, and a B2 in Fast Pairs playing with Gloria Balfour. Gloria also joined Lyle and Eva for their B3 in Swiss. Phil Dessert, who scored an A1 in a side game with Steve Shanker.

If I missed any significant accomplishments during Bridge Week, let me know. Note that not all of the games were posted on the District 23 website before this column was due.

Here's an interesting, personal, and apparently controversial, story from the tournament. Playing in the semi-finals of a compact KO, Pat Abbey, Merry Besvold, Art Chacanas, and I tied with our opponents 17 IMPs to 17 IMPs. So they board-a-matched it: 4 for us, 4 for them, and 4 pushes. So they added all of the scores, both directions, for both teams: 1810 to 1810. Guess how they broke the tie— they flipped a coin! Isn't the whole point of duplicate bridge to remove (or at least reduce) the luck element? As you can probably guess, we lost the coin toss and played for 3rd/4th, while our opponents played for 1st/2nd.

Our well-attended July Unit game was a tribute to Tim Stocks. Thanks to Merry, Pat, Betsy, and Margaret for all the shopping and food preparation. A charitable donation will be made to Ronald McDonald House LA in Tim's name from proceeds of the game and

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matched by a contribution from the Regency. Results of the game (which have been amended):

N/S			
A1			Herman Helber & Jake Frenkel
A2			Peter Szecsi & Bernadine Mateer
A3			Carolyn Cohen & Bob Tayrien
A4	B1		Madelon Liebman & Helen Malzer
A5/6	B2	C1	Sharon Wolf & Temo Arjani
A5/6			Phil Dessert & Steve Shanker
	B3/4		Pat Abbey & Merry Besvold
	B3/4		Art Chacanas & Barbara McKissick

E/W			
A1			Tim Lolli & Dan Oakes
A2			Cliff Goodrich & Paul Gelb
A3			Dick Lum & William Ng
A4	B1		Gerry Belcher & Brad Beland
A5	B2	C1	Eva Seri & Lyle Weideman
A6	B3		Lorraine Adams & Carol Rand
	B4		Michael Marcucci & Vern Vanderpol
		C2	Gloria Balfour & Betsy Josias

Due to matters beyond our control, we will not be hosting a sectional this year. So, our next Unit Game will be on August 13. Hope to see you all there.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: www.acblunit557.org
club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

July 10 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle, 2nd Mark Teaford/Mark Leonard, 3rd Diane Starbuck/Eddie Gruber, 4th Al and Sharon Appel, 5th Sean Lui/Hanefi Erten, 6th Betty Jackson/Gloria Sedore. In the B flight overall Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu were 5th, Eileen Nelson/Ruth Kaller 6th. And in the C flight overall Rick and Robert Bukovich were 3rd, Sue Boswell/Tom Ludwig 4th, Judith Jones/John Petire were 5th. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games in the club June 16 through July 15: In open games: June 17 Betty McClellan/Verna Baccus had 71.30%, June 27 Lois Perovich/John Galligher had 71.63%, June 28 (eve) Cory Hand/Bob Mault had 71.25, July 13 Phyllis Parker/John Petrie had 69.96% (sooo close) and in the evening game Mark Itabashi/

Allen Golbert had 71.43%. And in the NLM game July 12 Monica Gettis/George Alemshah had 70.24%. Congratulations to you all!

Big Masterpoint Awards: 1st over-all big point awards June 16 through July 15: June 19 Earl Van Der Vord/Jon Yinger won 4.11mp, June 20 Jo Daigle/Doris James 4.67mp, June 21 Brandon Sheumaker/Ted Gibbs 4.33mp, June 23 Aaron Jones/Sankar Reddy 4.00mp, June 24 Lois Abramson/Irwin Bender 6.33mp, June 24 (eve) Sherry Troeger/Bob Mault 3.00mp, June 25 Sankar Reddy/John Crabtree 4.33mp, June 26 Baum Harris/Steve Skinner 3.17mp, June 29 George Welsh/Aaron Jones 4.50mp, and in the Unit Game July 10 Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan won 4.11mp. Big awards for second place: June 19 Sharon and Al Appel 3.08mp, June 20 Bob Ballack/Davey Johnson 3.50mp, June 21 Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger 3.25mp, June 23 Kay Tseng/John Melis 3.00mp, June 24 Jean Kato/Barbara Frischkorn 4.75mp, June 25 T S Chernuchin/Baum Harris 3.25mp, June 29 Roger Farmer/Bob Ballack 3.38mp, and in the Unit Game July 10 Mark Teaford/Mark Leonard won 3.08mp. Big awards for third place: June 24 Marcie Evans/Jon Yinger won 3.56mp. Congratulations to all!

New Members: Judy Tsangarakis, Stan Blitz, Bill Brooks, Kathryn Moore, Betty Witteried. Welcome to the Long Beach Bridge Center!

Status Changes: Junior Masters: Lynn Danielson, Judy Percer; Club Masters: Geraldine Landes, Audrey Linden, Hugh Linden; Sectional Master: Elizabeth Thometz; Gold Life Master: Earl Van Der Vord. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club: Wednesday, August 3 Inter-Club Championship game. August 14 Unit Game— lunch at 12:30, game at 1 p.m. The week of August 22-28 STaC games; extra points, hand records, \$11 game fee.

Get Well Wishes to Doris Drew.

News from Leisure World

News from Leisure World from Gene Yaffee: High game of 71% was scored by Bee Kinman & Howard Smith on July 9.

Overall winners in the first ever STaC game held in Leisure World were: Strat A--Bee Kinman & Bill Linskey 65.41%; Strat B--Diane Sachs & Fern Dunbar 64.07%; Strat C--Lottie Kostar & Ron Yaffee 54.7%.

Monday, August 1, will be a Swiss Team Event. Form your four person team by using the following

point count system; a team may not exceed a total of 8 points. Using ACBL current Master Points: 0 to 199 = 1; 200 to 799 = 2; 800 and up = 3. A team can have any combination of players whose total does not exceed 8. Team captains must register in advance with Howard Smith at 598-6121. For more information, please call Ruth Kaller at 430-0316.

Sunday, September 18, Leisure World will host the unit game. Lunch followed by bridge will be held in Clubhouse #1. Reservations are a must for entry to Leisure World. Contact Ruth Kaller at 430-0316 for more information.

A Big Big Thank You to Ruth Kaller who has retired from directing on Fridays and Saturdays! Ruth has done an outstanding job and all of the players want her to know how much she has been and is appreciated.

Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org Contact Gene Yaffee with Leisure World Duplicate Bridge news at 562-430-7040.

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter Via Email: Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Chuck Cordaro

First we should like to congratulate Roger Lee on being selected to represent the United States at the World Youth Bridge Congress in Croatia this August. Although he rarely plays at our club anymore, he did start here when he was about 10. I seldom remember games more than a few days old, but I still remember being victimized by a couple of Roger's more audacious finesses about 10 years ago. I'm still mad.

Pasadena Regional: The ubiquitous Roger popped up here, too, as he picked up about 76 points. (He and partner Mitch Dunitz play standard 2/1.) Others in our club had some very respectable scores: Joe Viola, Amr Elghramy and Bob Johnson all won over 40 points; and Dan Botoaca and Gerry Geramina won over 30.

Three of our 299er pairs also got firsts—Tom and Marilyn Stephenson, Janet Bennet and Pat Serio, and Bridgit O'Sullivan and Charles Dillon. I see my old bridge partner, Graetchen Torres, teamed up with Marion Miller to win some gold in an open game.

Sectional Tournament at Club (STaC): Although

visitors from Leisure World swooped in and took firsts in flights A and B, our reputation was preserved by Dennis Semain and John Waken (second in A) Genese Hasan and Mary Miller (second in B), and Laurie Siltan and Brian Butler (first in C).

Unit Game: Mike Marcucci reports that about 41 point were given out in our unit game. Eric Tang and Shiu Ming were first in A, Harold Knowles and Zach Vedro were first in B, and Marion Miller and John Kambe were first in C.

How's This for Coincidence? Jan Wickersham writes that when she and Gary Swinhart were teaching a bridge class in summer school this June, one of their students said she was inspired to join after reading a book titled *The Card Turner* by Louis Saccar. Jan and Gary also had read it and liked it, too. After class both left for the Hilton where the Pasadena Regional was in play. Boy was Jan surprised when she looked across the table and saw Mr. Saccar himself! Jan reports he put up only token resistance when she went to the lobby and brought back a copy for him to autograph.

From San Marino: Marie Nimrich tells me that Grace Wynhausen, a popular player at her Monday games, has passed away this month. We are sorry to lose you, Grace.

In addition to the two dates listed for the Arcadia Bridge Center below, San Marino is having a North American Pairs competition on Wednesday, August 10, at 7:30 p.m. Marie is hoping for a repeat of last year's success, when Carol Collins and Anna Wiliamson made it all the way to Kentucky.

Congratulations to our entry in the Grand National Tournament. A team of Jack Chang, Nolan Chang, Eric Tang, Jeff Lang and Xingping Kang placed first in flight C.

Jack and Nolan Chang also won flight C in the North American Pairs. We also want to congratulate Nolan, who, thanks to a summer growing spurt, is now taller than his dad.

Other Highlights: Art Gulbrandsen would like to acknowledge a 76% game by Steve Tanner and Steve Mueller this month, and a 78% game by newcomers Albert and Lizzie Jacobsen. He also invites you to the following:

- North American Pairs on Friday, August 5 at 7:30 p.m. and Tuesday, August 8 and 7:15 p.m.
- Beat –the–House Night on Friday, August 26 at 7:30 p.m.
- Winners and Losers game on Sunday, August

28 at 1:00 p.m.

Pard (dummy): ♠Axx ♥AQJTx ♦-- ♣AJxxx

You (declarer): ♠Q9xxx ♥K ♦KQ10x ♣K9x

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game Saturday, August 20 at 11:00 a.m.
Lunch Served

We have lots of results to report this month, which is good because I long ago ran out of anything clever or witty to say. With two unit games, regular club winners, the L.A. regional results, a smattering of news, and an interesting hand of the month, I should be able to fill out my allotted space without resorting to plagiarizing the Gettysburg Address or the collected speeches of Millard Fillmore.

June's unit game was won by Peter Szecsi and Bernadine Mateer with a nice 68.5% game, followed by Bill Papa and Lulu Minter, Sandy Rucker and Ann Raymond, Amr Elgamry and Dan Botoaca, and Dave and Susan Ruoff. Papa and Minter were first in their direction.

July's unit game was nearly a repeat performance. Papa and Minter topped the overalls. Szecsi and Mateer were first in opposite direction and tied with Ann McClelland and Ron Purkis for second overall. Genise Hasan and Denise Morgan, Susie Emminger and Marcella Scott, and Clint Lew and Pat Radamaker rounded out the overalls. Gino Barbieri and Wendy Wanderman won in Class C.

Club winners for June and July included Karen McCarthy, Karen Olin, Lary Alba, Dave Ruoff, Mary Miller, Paul Crisney, Clint Lew, Bill Papa, Lulu Minter, Joe Unis, Vic Sartor, Hanan Mogharbel, Charlotte Capel, Donald Naf, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Ann McClelland and Ron Purkis.

In news from the L.A. Regional, Penny Barbieri was elected ALACBU vice president for the coming year. Congrats to her for also being the top unit point winner for the tourney. Other top local mp winners were Herman Helber, Sandy Jones, Bob Kakade, Ron Purkis, Genise Hasan, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, and Susan Emminger. Lary Alba, Herb Stampfl, Jane Pace, and Susan Emminger won a compact KO team event.

Our hand of the month is a neat play problem. In a burst of unjustified enthusiasm, you and your partner wind up in 6♠ with the following hands:

If you make it, you can win the event. If you don't, you're out of the money - no pressure at all. You're on. Solution: You obviously will lose at least one spade, so you can't lose any diamonds. The lead makes it pretty clear RHO has the ace, so you have to take care of all four diamonds before tackling trump. Even if that works out, you'll still need a lot of luck. So, ruff the diamond, cash the space ace, play two more hearts (throwing your last two diamonds), play a club to your king, lead a low spade and cover your eyes. If your luck holds, one opponent will have a doubleton king. LHO, miraculously, does have Kx of spaces. He now leads a low club, completing a high-low in the suit. RHO had stuck in the 10 on the first club lead. Fearing the worse in clubs, you rise with the ace and lead another heart. The miracles continue— RHO has the last heart and can't ruff in. You pitch your last club, ruff a card to your hand, play the queen of spades, and wrap up your 5% slam. Bridge is such an easy game. 'Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Upcoming Unit Events

The San Fernando Valley Sectional will be held on August 12-14, 2011. Friday, August 12 games will be at the 750 Club, located at the Prince of Peace Church, 5700 Rudnick Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA, contact number 818-815-8826. Games for Stratified Open and 299er Pairs begin at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday Games will be at the Bridge Academy, 6733 Variel Ave., Canoga Park, CA, telephone 818-999-9131. Saturday, August 13 games for Stratified Open and 299er Pairs begin at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The Sunday, August 14 game is limited to Swiss Teams (20VP Scale) and begins at 10:30 a.m.

The fee for each game is \$10.00 for current ACBL members and \$11.00 for non-members. Although lunch will not be served nor sold at the sectional, a list of nearby eateries will be available and players can also bring their own lunch.. Also, please consider bringing a "Taste of Bridge" appetizer or dessert to be shared with other players.

As always, reservations are not required but are appreciated. Send email reservations to Doug Beagle at wdb eagle@gmail.com or to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com. Reservations can also be made by telephone to either game location listed above or by using the signup sheets at each of those sites.

Mark Your Calendar

Remember to mark your calendars for our Unit game on Sunday, October 16, at the Bridge Academy and for the Holiday Party at the Woodland Hills Marriott on Sunday, December 4th.

Spotlight on Awards

The Carol Lang Award was established to honor Carol Lang who devoted countless hours to support and teach junior players. During the week of June 21-24, the 750 Bridge Club celebrated the 2nd Annual Carol Lang Award Week. This award goes to the pair who achieves the highest percentage game for the week and is limited to players with fewer than 1000 points. Congratulations

to winners Miriam Bental and Roz Glazer whose names will be engraved on the Carol Lang Award Plaque at the 750 Club. Honorable mention goes to the pair of Phil Calloway and Kathy Saray who came in second.

Pasadena Sectional Results

A number of players had shining results at the recent Pasadena Sectional. Do visit the District 23 website (www.acbldistrict23.org) to see how well some partnerships fared.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for June 2011

750 Bridge Club : Janet Cooper 7.44, Paul Endler 7.04, Jimmie Swan 6.88, Jody Lombardo 6.21, Elaine Keyes 6.06, Margie Bulmer 5.93, Daniel Strauss 5.22, Larry Kussin 5.11, Mort Nagler 4.89, Shoshana Blumenfeld 4.79

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game: Gregory Bozin 5.36, Allan Palansky 3.51, James Fu 3.31, Emanuel Sirota 3.26, Moe Mansour 2.82, Sam Antoun 2.82, Carol Stein 2.50, Yael Sirota 2.46, Larry Gordon 2.38,

WEST LOS ANGELES FALL SECTIONAL

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

SEPT 2 - SEPT 5, 2011

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

FRIDAY, SEPT. 2nd
7:30 pm
BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS
(handicapped if only 1 bracket)

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 3rd
10:00 am
SATURDAY COMPACT KO TEAMS 1st & 2nd matches

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

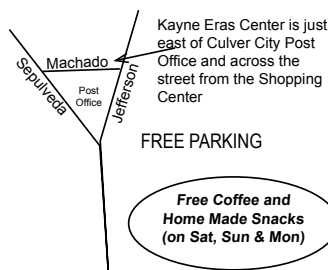
KNOCKOUT TEAMS - 2nd Session

3:00 pm
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
299er PAIRS
KNOCKOUT TEAMS - Finals
SATURDAY COMPACT KO TEAMS 3rd & 4th matches

MONDAY, SEPT. 5th
10:00 am and TBA
STRATIFIED SWISS TEAMS
Flight A/X 0 - unlimited MP
[approximately 35% of field]
Strats B, C, D 750 - 2000, 300-750, 0-300MP

Masterpoint Limits for all Stratified Events:

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



DIRECTIONS FROM 405

- Exit at Jefferson and go east
- Turn left onto Sepulveda
- Turn Rt. onto Machado from Sepulveda (or left onto Machado from Jefferson)

SUNDAY, SEPT. 4th
10:00 am
SUNDAY COMPACT KO TEAMS 1st & 2nd matches

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
299er PAIRS

3:00 pm
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
299er PAIRS
SUNDAY COMPACT KO TEAMS 3rd & 4th matches

***49er PAIRS When Attendance Warrents**

WEST LOS ANGELES UNIT BOARD

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

COMPETE FOR TWO TROPHIES

The West Los Angeles Unit player winning the most master points combined at the two 2011 West Los Angeles Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Jill Meyers Trophy. The 299er player winning the most master points at the West LA Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy. The 2010 winners were Peter Benjamin and Norm Friedman & Leah Levin.

CARD FEES \$10.00 PER PERSON PER SESSION

Non-Members and Life Masters who have not paid service fees pay \$11.00.
Students under the age of 19 play free!

Tournament Manager - Peter Benjamin
(310) 558-0888 EMAIL ahoneydo@aol.com
(310) 720-6050 (cell Peter Benjamin)
Tournament Director - Peter Kneen

Ron Stewart 2.30.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Sheila Bozin 11.05, Armand Szulc 10.93, Jeffrey Millman 10.73, Ellen Anten 8.45, Gilbert Stinebaugh 8.14, Tom Wylie 7.89, Dick Lum 7.81, Andy Vinock 7.58, William Varlson, Jr. 7.33, Steve Gross 7.19

70% Games for June

Ron & Gloria Malkin 77.08, Herb Van Brink & Al Smith 74.41

Table Talk

If you are looking to share table talk on the lighter side, consider the following. If you take the last two digits of the year in which you were born and add the age you will be this year the results will be 111 for everyone in the whole world. Enjoy sharing this fact with your partners and opponents.

Column News

Make sure that your news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com by the 10th of each month.

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit website:

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

SBBC website:

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Monday, August 8, 11:30
NLM Club Championship: Thursday, August 11, 10:30
North American Pairs Qualifier:
Wednesday, August 17, 11:30
NLM North American Pairs Qualifier:
Thursday, August 18, 10:30
North American Pairs Qualifier:
Thursday, August 18, 7:00
Club Championship: Friday, August 19, 7:00
Western Conference STAC:
Monday August 22 thru Saturday August 27

Club Championship: Monday, August 29, 7:00

Club Championships

The June 22 Club Championship was led by Pat Schenasi/Del Horton in Flight A with Dolores Nawa/Jeanette Betts taking Flight B and Charlotte Lewin/Irv Yesnick topping Flight C. The North American Pairs qualifier on July 7 was headed by Ray Mack/Fran Israel in Flight A and Lorna Wallace/Sharon Biederman leading in Flight B.

At Veterans Park the North American pairs Qualifier on June 15 was led by Mike Welsh/Lorna Wallace in Flights A and B with Elena Buker/Luda Kaprenas winning Flight C. On June 20 the Club Championship was captured by Alain Fleurot/Philip Alfandary in Flights A and B with Robert Fieselman/Robert Svensrud taking Flight C. The June 22 Veterans Park Club Championship was led by Gary King/Dean Kaloudis in Flight A with Yokuko Sheehy/Anne Andres taking both Flights B and C.

The Afternoon Club Championship on June 24 at Anderson Park was captured by Jean Arnold/Joe Packey. That evening the Club Championship was won by Henry Crowder/Joe Thomas.

Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games at the South Bay Bridge Club.

June 21: Linda and Bill Lama, Karen and Mike McKittrick

June 28: Gabriella Jackson, Fran Israel, Carole Mason, Pat Schenasi

July 5: Gabriela Jackson, Harry Wessells, Betsy Amador, Marie Willis

July 5 STaC: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Cecil Cook, Mark Raggio

GUV Memorial Award

Bridge Week provided some interesting nominees for the GUV Award

Some people will do anything to play on a team with Mark Itabashi. Bruce Horiguchi started a Compact KO during Bridge Week playing against Mark's team. The teams played the match sitting the same direction as their teammates. At the end of the match this was

discovered with the result showing that Bruce and Mark plus partners had beaten their respective teammates. The solution? Simple, Bruce and Mark plus partners became the team which continued on to eventually wind up in the event overalls.

A couple 6♥ hands came up which I will never forget. The most annoying hand of my life occurred during the Marshall Miles Swiss final. The dummy held ♠Kxxxx ♥A98 ♦A ♣AQxx while declarer held ♠Ax ♥KJT76 ♦xxx ♣KJx. The contract was 6♥ at both tables and the play went the same up to the critical point. The ♦K was led followed by a heart losing to the ♥Q in LHO's hand. A trump was continued with RHO showing out and declarer winning in hand. A diamond was ruffed with the ♥A. Well, you have entries back to your hand to pull trumps in both black suits with seven card fits. Neither black suit has yet been touched. Simple, Right? I chose to lead a spade to the ace and the damned thing was ruffed off. The other declarer chose to lead a club, pulled trump and claimed. Minus 14 IMPs. As you can tell this wasn't my event.

The Gods of Bridge must have been feeling guilty about dealing me that one so they made up for it later in the week when I was partnered with Aaron Jones in another Swiss. With bidding best left undescribed his youthful exuberance and my misinterpretation of it got us to 6♥ with dummy holding ♠AJTx ♥QJT ♦Qxxxx ♣K facing ♠x ♥K8xx ♦AKxxx ♣Axx. As is apparent you can claim 6♦ almost surely at trick 1. After the ♠K lead 6♥ required 3-3 Hearts and perhaps a little defense help from an opponent. Well it all happened. Now that was gaining 2IMPs the hard way.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Bridge Strong

Given our unit's results, I'm certainly not calling it "Bridge Weak." Led by many of our up-and-coming players, our unit turned in a stellar array of performances in Pasadena. Jim Brunet and Ken Okell got things started by winning the Mark Schreiber 299er Pairs. They weren't done, though. Teaming with Karen Byrd and Nancy Heck, they also won their bracket in the Thursday-Friday Knockout Teams event. I'm told,

by the way, that these were Ken's first gold points, and he won them on his birthday.

That win was Nancy's second of the tournament — playing with Brana Hall, Joel Schiff, and Bill Rogers (a team whose names we've been seeing with increasing frequency), she also won her bracket of the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout. Roger and Becky Clough capped the unit's ownership of the Thursday-Friday event by winning the knockout's top bracket.

But wait, there's more! There was a Compact Knockout on the tournament's first Wednesday. Winning their bracket was our unit's own Anita Levine, Diane Licht, Constance Fishbach, and Sue Ann Simon. Ellen and Bob Kent won the top bracket of the Friday Compact Knockout, while Dorothy Lazar and Dawn Kowalski won their bracket of the Saturday Compact Knockout, as did David Lyons. Rhoda Weisler also won her bracket in the 2nd Tuesday Compact Knockout.

Moving on to other events, Ifti Baqai notched two wins, prevailing in the Sunday Swiss and the Wednesday Board-A-Match Teams. Mike Savage and Peter Benjamin won the Monday Pairs game by something more than three full boards. Rick Turner and Alyssa Kennedy won the Sunday Open Pairs event, while Rama Linz took the 2nd Tuesday Open Pair event. That's quite a haul for our Unit. Congratulations to all!

Desert Delight

Not long before Pasadena, there was a regional in Las Vegas, and some of our own made the trip. Even better, some of them came back victorious. Bill Rogers won the Friday Daylight Pairs event, while Valerie Aron and David Segal won the Sunday Fast Pairs. Thanks for showing a larger stage the quality of Los Angeles bridge.

Power of the Press

Did you know that the New York Times publishes a bridge column three times weekly? Did you also know that it's available on line? Check out the July 11 column, available at http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/11/crosswords/bridge/dentists-coup-from-an-online-match-bridge.html?_r=1&ref=bridgecardgame. You'll see our very own Jordan Chodorow featured for his execution of a Dentist's Coup. I had a great uncle featured once in Alfred Sheinwold's daily column. At the column's conclusion, Sheinwold quoted my uncle as

saying, “Well, in six of the seven boards, we didn’t go down 2800 points.” Needless to say, Jordan came out somewhat better in the July 11 column. Congratulations to him on the recognition.

Be Gentle. It’s My First Time

As you may know, the Beverly Hills Bridge Club has resumed its Wednesday lecture series. The club has decided to give a rookie his first shot at the big leagues by inviting your humble scribe to give the August 17 lecture. I’m looking forward to the opportunity to give back to our community, and I hope those of you who show up will enjoy the topic.

Travel Opportunities, Temporal and Otherwise

By the time you read this, the Grand National Teams in Toronto will have concluded. Please join me in wishing retroactive good luck to our district’s entrants, all of which are chock full of members of our unit. Qualifying for North American Open Pairs is underway and will conclude at the end of August. Do yourself a favor — find yourself a qualifying game and play. It gives you the opportunity to play in an extra regionally rated event at the district level, and to win a trip to the Spring Nationals. This is a particularly good chance for our junior players. Earlier this year, only a handful of pairs even attempted to qualify for Flight C, which is open to non-life masters below 500 points.

More on Shore Cue Bids

Last month I introduced the concept of “Shore Cue Bids.” To review briefly, after the auction 1♠-3♠, opener’s first cue bid shows first round control of the suit bid and also of all lower side suits. To show interest in cue bidding without first round club control, Opener bids an artificial (and Alertable) 3NT.

This structure can also be used over hearts, but a little tweaking is necessary. Opener can’t use 3NT any more as a “placeholder” cue bid, because then responder has no room to show a spade control below game. The solution to this problem is a theme I’ve touched on before, with the “Shore Spade Swap” after a weak 2♥ opener. Simply flip flop the meaning of spades and no trump. After 1♥-3♥, Opener’s 3♠ bid denies first round spade control. Responder can then use 3NT to show spade control. If opener has first round control of spade

but not clubs, opener bids 3NT.

Coming Attractions

Mark your calendar for the evening of August 21. That’s the date of the Unit’s annual Ice Cream Social, which will be at Beverly Hills this year. For only \$5.00 you’ll get ice cream and an evening of bridge, rated as a Unit Championship. And then, of course, over the Labor Day weekend we will hold our annual fall sectional. We look forward to seeing you at both events.

Around the Clubs

It looks like people were saving most of their big games for Pasadena. At Barrington, Cyma Aronow and Art Zail put together a 70% game. Victors at club championships were Paul Smith and Steven Yaffe, Pat Banks and Shuli Katz, Beverly Goldstein and Robert Feinberg. Your humble scribe, playing with Bud Bates, won Cyma’s club championship. Beverly Hills club championships went to Ed Feldmann and Richard Weinberger and Nancy Heck and Danny Kleinman, while your humble scribe hit the 70% mark playing with Ryan Wessels.

Climbing the Ladder

Quite a few people advanced in rank since our last report. Taking their first steps as newly minted club masters are Ravnesh Amar, Jane Davis, and Tam Lachoff. Achieving club master rank are Harry Bernstein, Helen Cooksey, and Lee Hausner, while Tom Lawrence, Donald Light, Freya Ryave, David Stern, and Barbara Wellisch all have reached sectional master. Daria Budgyk, Robert Foran, and Jerry Goodman are now regional masters, and Lidia Epelbaum has become an NABC master.

The unit’s newest life masters are Gary Miller and John Stokdyk. Does the ACBL still send gold cards? Kathy Harouche has reached bronze life master status. Congratulations to all on your achievements.

Got news? Send it to me at Bob78164@yahoo.com.

District 23 Year-To-Date
Mini McKenney Standings
2500-5000 MPs
on page 14

Some of the Winners from the Los Angeles 10-Day Summer Regional June 28-July 7, 2011 in Pasadena

(continued on next page)



**Saturday
Choice Open
Pairs**

Michael
Schreiber and
Amy Downing



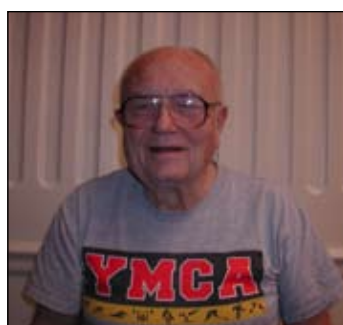
Tuesday-Wednesday KO, Bkt III
Fred Dyle, Jean Towgood, Lee Johnson, and Carol Klahr



Friday Compact KO, Bkt 4
Ken Davis, Pamela Cole, James Kirby, and Sheri Kirby



Wednesday Afternoon Swiss Teams
Stephen Goldstein, Anaheim, CA



Wednesday Afternoon Swiss Teams
Marshall Miles



Friday Compact KO, Bkt 2
Thomas Shudic, Elaine Moore, Roshen Hadulla, and Rand Pinsky



Wednesday Comp KO, Bkt I
Bruce Horiguchi, Subba Ravipudi, Yas Takeda, and Mark Tang



Saturday Compact KO, Bkt I
Bruce Horiguchi, Yas Takeda, Mark Tang, and Wayne Otsuki



New Life Master
Lyle Wiedeman



Mark Schreiber 299er Pairs
J. Brunet and Kenneth Okel



Thursday A Overall Open Pairs
Michael and William Schreiber



Sunday Open Pairs Overall
Rick Turner and Alyssa Kennedy

More Summer Regional Winners!

(continued from previous page)



Saturday Compact KO Bkt II
Bill McClean, Betty Curtis,
Booth Tarkington, and Joanna Wallis



New Life master
Rugby Mathur



Monday Choice Pairs Overall
Mike Savage and Peter Benjamin



**Friday
Marshal Miles
Swiss Teams
4 session
Overall**

Billy Miller,
Stephen
Apodaca, John
Jones, Leo Bell,
and Hamish
Bennett



2nd Wednesday Compact KO Bkt III
Evelyn Kanter, Kristin St. Clair, Gina Otto, and Rolland Otto



**Tuesday-
Wednesday
KO Teams**
Steve Gross,
John Mohan,
Ellen Anten



Saturday Compact KO teams, Bkt I
Wayne Otsuki, Yas Taeda, Bruce Horiguchi, and Maurice Fujimoto



Friday Compact KO, Bkt I
Robert Kent, Ellen Kent, Stephen Goldstein, and Zane Gary Brown



2nd Wednesday Compact KO, Bkt I
Lowell Andrews, Yas Taeda, Mark Tang, Shankar Reddy



2nd Wednesday Compact KO Bkt II
Jane Pace, Herbert Stamfl, Susan Emminger, and Larry Alba

District 23 Rank Changes June, 2011

Junior Master (5 MPs)

A Boyajian, Leslie Debeauvais
John Meek, Bobbi Mitzenmacher
Susan Shane Schwab, Barbara York

Club Master (20 MPs)

Barbara Ann Haas, Marilyn Henschel
Carolyn Heyn, Catherine King
Barry Segal, Albert Stock
Rosalie Storck, Virginia Teller

Sectional master (50 MPs)

April Adams, Sue Boswell
Gan Tai Tseng, Elaine Wagner

Regional Master (100 MPs)

George Alemshah
Bob Ballack
Bonny Walsh

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Joan Crishal
Cindy Firnett

Life Master (300 MPs)

Pamela Cole
Diane Elliott
Michael Horn
Charles Self

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Carol McKay
Michael Shaw

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

James Clarkson
Fred Feigenson

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Rahim Israel
Mario Mory

District 23 Year-To-Date Mini-McKenney Standings 2500-5000 MPs

1	Mark Tang, Seal Beach CA	239
2	Lucy Tredennick, San Pedro CA	213
3	Alfred Lee, Rncho Pls Vrd CA	174
4	Gary King, Hermosa Beach CA	172
5	Danny Kleinman, Los Angeles CA	160
6	Mark Teaford, Seal Beach CA	155
7	Jon Yinger, Brea CA	147
8	Samuel Wang, Monterey Park CA	129
9	Viktor Anikovich, Los Angeles CA	127
10	Betsy Lutz, West Hollywood CA	123
11	Robert Mault, Long Beach CA	120
12	Fred Mautner, Encino CA	118
13	Sam Namer, Beverly Hills CA	116
14	Charles Fonarow, Los Angeles CA	113
15	David Raphel, Marina Del Rey CA	108
16	Irwin Bender, Long Beach CA	106
17	Stephen Skinner, Westminster CA	105
18	Frances Israel, Pls Vrds Pnsl CA	104
19	J Baum Harris, Long Beach CA	103
20	Chiye Horiguchi, Gardena CA	101
21	Donald Crum, Winnetka CA	101
22	Robert Kent, Marina Del Rey CA	101
23	Martin Blain, Sherman Oaks CA	101
24	Paul Smith, Pacific Plsds CA	97
25	Guy Green, Los Angeles CA	94
26	Bob Johnson, Pasadena CA	90
27	Samuel Haveson, Los Angeles CA	90
28	Rae Murbach, Altadena CA	90
29	Joseph Viola III, Altadena CA	87
30	Tom Wylie, Woodland Hills CA	86
31	Betty McClellan, Long Beach CA	85
32	William Ng, Chatsworth CA	83
33	Mark Leonard, Long Beach CA	82
34	Cecil Cook, Long Beach CA	80
35	Leda Danzig, Woodland Hills CA	80
36	Lois Abramson, Huntington Bh CA	79
37	Marcie Landry-Evans, Lakewood CA	78
38	Jeff Strutzel, Redondo Beach CA	78
39	Jackie Hess, Rncho Pls Vrd CA	78
40	Michael Mikyska, Los Angeles CA	77
41	Marlene Warren-Gasper, Lancaster CA	74
42	John Bralliar, Lomita CA	73
43	Fumie Glenney, Los Angeles CA	72
44	Howard Einberg, Los Angeles CA	72
45	Gary Frans, Calabasas CA	72

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

This month's panelists: Leo Bell, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Billy Eisenberg, Ron Garber, Mark Itabashi, Paul Ivaska, John Jones, Eddie Kantar, and Roger Lee

1

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	pass	2♣	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠KQJ86 ♥986 ♦AK5 ♣82
What call do you make?

Ivaska: 2♦. Partner is unlikely to insist on diamonds. I usually play that rebidding 2♠ shows six, but if I had the ten of spades, I might be inclined to try it anyway, since my suit would then be playable opposite a singleton. As it is, at least North will know where my values are.

Bell: 2♠. In days of yore, 2♦ was a standout, since 2♠ promised a six-card suit, and 2NT showed both red suits stopped. These days, however, the standard treatment is that 2♠ doesn't promise six and is the default rebid.

Kantar: 2♠. If you want to start with a joke, that's OK with me.

Davis: 2♠. On some hands with this shape I would have no argument with 2♦ (♠KJxxx ♥xxx ♦AKx ♣Qx), but I prefer 2♠ on this hand. I think 2NT is a poor choice.

Lee: 2♠. I play that this doesn't promise six, so it seems perfect. If I played 2♠ promised six, I would bid 2♦ and hope to survive.

Eisenberg: 2♦. This makes later bidding easier.

Garber: 2♦. What's a little missing diamond between partners?

Jones: 2♠. In my partnerships, this doesn't show six spades. Even if it did, this looks best. 2♦ is my second choice, because wrong-siding notrump is out, Out, OUT!!!

Dunitz: 2♠. One could make a case for 2♦. I've tried this before, but what ends up happening is partner never knows what you have, he starts whining, and before you know it, you're standing at the partnership desk. I would definitely bid 2♦ playing with Paul Maier; this would please him to no end.

Itabashi: 2♠. I like to play a style where a rebid after a 2/1 only promises a five-card. A distant second choice is 2♦.

I think this is a two-horse race. The panelists sensibly reject 2NT. Mitch makes a valid point about bidding 2♠; partners don't like partners bidding three-card suits needlessly. That has never been much of a problem for me, and I think 2♦ clearly makes the rest of the auction easier. It saves bidding space, and describes where your cards are.



2

IMPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	pass	1NT	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠AT8754 ♥K72 ♦AK3 ♣7

What call do you make if:

- If you are not playing forcing NT
- If you are playing forcing NT

Itabashi: 2♠. I don't like any other actions in either case.

Dunitz: 2♠, either way. Paul Maier would be on board.

Eisenberg: 2♦. Simply best.

Ivaska: 2♦ in each case. Consider just one not unlikely hand for partner, ♠7 ♥AQxxxx ♦xxx ♣Txx. If I rebid 2♠, I'll play there, probably making between 110 and 170. If I rebid 2♦, I'll get to 4♥ (or maybe even slam), scoring 680 (or possibly 1430). At the table, I've never rebid a three-card minor in preference to a six-card major, but this seems to be the ideal setting as well as the ideal hand for it. Obviously, 2♦ is more attractive if we're playing a forcing notrump, as North will almost never pass without four or more diamonds and a weak hand, since he has to allow for a three-card suit (and the increased possibility of extra strength), but the merits of 2♦ are so great that I'd use it even if North's notrump isn't forcing. Also, it's IMPs so I don't have to worry much about the size of the plus score in a partial. Of course, if the hand were ♠KQJT54 ♥J72 ♦AK3 ♣7, I would rebid spades, probably 3♠. My compliments to the chef: good problem.

Kantar: 2♠ on A, 2♦ on B. Where this going to lead, I have no idea, but the hand does have potential in at least three possible trump suits.

Davis: 2♦. I have a slight preference for 2♦ on A, and a strong preference for 2♦ on B. The argument for bidding 2♦ is that you might reach a heart game that would be missed by bidding 2♠ (e.g., partner has ♠x ♥QJxxxx ♦xxx ♣KJT). That makes 2♦ the winning

bid in my opinion. If partner bids 2♥, I will raise to 4♥. If partner bids 2NT, I will accept by bidding 3♥. Then we could still reach 4♠ if partner has something like ♠Kx ♥AJxx ♦Qxx ♣Jxxx.

Jones: 2♠ for both. This hand is not heavy enough to make me worried about being too strong for 2♠. In my light opening bid partnerships, I would bid 2♦, because the hand is too strong for 2♠ if that shows 8 to 12 HCP and too weak a suit to commit to 3♠. But in 2/1GF or Standard methods, 2♠ is right.

Garber: 2♠. Because of the "broken" nature of the spades, I don't see this as any better than a nice average hand. 2♠ in both cases.

Lee: 2♠. I don't have the strength to justify 2♦, which I would try if you gave me just a little more strength.

Bell: 2♠. I'm not sure what the problem is here. If I were tempted to bid 2♦ in order to hear a 2♥ rebid from partner, would I know to raise or pass? In any case, for all the times it would be right to misstate my hand, there are twice as many cases where it's simply right to make the normal bid. It doesn't matter to me whether we're playing a forcing notrump, but without it would reduce the cases where partner has long hearts since he could have bid a non game-forcing 2♥ over 1♠.

Leo may not know what to bid over the desired 2♥, but I hope it is because he can't decide between 3♥ and 4♥. It is easy to bid 2♠, but 2♦ might let us find a good game 2♠ will miss.

3

IMPs
EW vul

South	West	North	East
		pass	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠Q7 ♥Q8 ♦KQJ965 ♣KT6
What call do you make?

Ivaska: 2♦. As in the previous problem, I'm not sure that I have the right to this answer, since I've never opened a 12-HCP weak two bid in my life, at least not intentionally. Let alone a 13-pointer. Once again, though this seems to be the ideal setting coupled with the ideal hand. At IMPs, partner won't take a dubious sacrifice, and the opponents might misguess one or both of my major suit queens if they buy the hand. If North is given to passing some decent 12-point hands, however, I would open 1♦ rather than risk missing a good 3NT. It's a relief to finally bid a long suit. In the previous two answers, I was averaging three cards in the diamond suits I was bidding. At matchpoints, I would open 1♦. I don't like to take a clear anti-field position early in the auction unless I'm convinced that it's the right bid by a considerable margin, and here everyone else will open 1♦. There may be a big difference between +110 and +100, which is not the case at IMPs.

Bell: 1♦. I'm not even sure what I'm supposed to be tempted by here. With a reasonable opening bid, I don't think I should worry about preempting the opponents.

Eisenberg: 2♦. 3♦ is possible.

Dunitz: 2♦. I don't want to push them into a light major suit game. But Maier and I want to make sure we score our major suit queens.

Kantar: 1♦. I'm a 1♦ bidder at everything.

Jones: 1♦, IMPs or matchpoints. I'm not tempted to preempt with that much defense, even in 3rd seat.

Davis: 1♦. I don't want to miss 3NT when partner has a scattered 10-11 HCP. Without one of the major suit queens or the club king, I would open 3♦.

Lee: 1♦. I seem to have full opening values. There's no need to distort my hand with a 3♦ opener; let's judge how much to bid later.

Itabashi: 1♦. Any other action is likely to mislead partner if the auction is competitive. My 3rd seat weak two bids do not have this much defense.

Garber: 3♦. Passed hand partner! A perfect 3♦ opener. They'll never play the hand right.

Once again it is easy to bid 1♦. After all, we have 13 HCP and an easy rebid. But we have only four major suit cards, so the opponents are a huge favorite to have a major suit fit. 1♦ makes it easy for the opponents to get into the auction. The 2♦ and 3♦ bidders get that, and as an added bonus, they probably help the defense score at least one of their queens. Their arguments almost talked me out of my first choice, 1NT. Yes, I have only 13 HCP, but opposite partner's random ten count, it will probably play better than many 15 counts. And by grabbing the NT, I probably have right-sided the hand.

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

tournament in Marina de Rey has already been set, but we begin planning for 2012 soon.

At this time I am busy finding committee chairs and members for

the various ALACBU committees. I know lots of people in West Los Angeles and could easily fill those vacancies with people I know. But then I wouldn't have a diverse board that represents all of you. If you would be willing to serve on

the board or serve on a committee please let me know.

Please begin making your plans for our next Regional Tournament in Marina del Rey, October 11 – 17, 2011.



South	West	North	East
	pass	1♥	2♣
?			

You, South, hold: ♠K7 ♥86 ♦AQT984 ♣854
What call do you make?

Garber: 2♦. As memory serves, a 2/1 in competition doesn't promise a rebid, so this is an easy 2♦.

Lee: 2♦. This looks like a textbook minimum to me.

Ivaska: 2♦. I usually play that 2♦ in competition isn't game forcing. I'm free to pass 2NT (which I wouldn't do in this case), and a rebid of the same suit is similarly non-forcing. Usually, I would have 10 HCP, but here I have an excellent suit and a prime card on the side, so I'm easily worth 2♦. If 2♦ is game forcing, however, I have to pass and hope to jump over partner's reopening double or to raise if North rebids hearts.

Davis: 2♦. Perfect, as long as 2♦ followed by 3♦ is non-forcing.

Eisenberg: 2♦.

Bell: 2♦. If you gave me a million chances, I would still make the same bid and so would any expert.

Dunitz: 2♦. Meyer Schleifer would have bid 2♦, so it's good enough for me (and Maier). Next, I'll bid 3♦.

Itabashi: 2♦. Best description of the hand. I'll follow up with 3♦, non-forcing.

Jones: 2♦. This is exactly why a 2/1 in competition shouldn't force to game.

Kantar: 2♦. I play 2♦ followed by 3♦ is invitational, and a direct jump to 3♦ a little weaker.

I like to play 2/1 is a game force in competition. With the auction about to accelerate, I prefer to let partner know it is our hand. So I can't bid 2♦. Lots of pairs play invitational jump shifts in constructive auctions. Why not play them in competition? Wouldn't it be great if 3♦ showed this hand? After all, everyone is planning to bid 3♦ next round, so why not now? We might even get to 3NT opposite some perfect rag, say ♠Axxxx ♥xxxx ♦Kx ♣Ax!

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

There are many hours of executive session planned that I will report on next month.

It's a Different View
From Dummy

A coin flip to decide which team advances in a compact KO?

This happened during Bridge Week and my team was involved in this matter. It was the semi-final match of a Compact KO. My team of Roshen Hadula, Elaine Moore, Tom

Shudic, and myself were playing against the team of Sharon Wolf, Art Chacianas, Merry Besvold, and Pat Abbey. As the semi finals take place as the first 12 boards of the second session, there is not time for a two- or four-board playoff if the teams tie at IMPs. Our teams were tied. If it was the final, or the last 12 boards of the session, the two teams could stay late and play off. So the DIC told us that the conditions of contest state that if there is a tie of IMPs the next tie breaker is board-a-match scoring. We did that and again we were tied. If that is a tie,

then the teams add up their scores and the one with the highest score is the winner. We did that and again we were tied. The director then told us that the final tie breaker is a coin flip. I was lucky enough to call heads and won the coin toss.

I am not aware of this happening at any other tournament. If anyone knows of a similar occurrence, please let me know as I would like to let management know of this situation and see if there can be another process to determine which team advances. Your comments are welcome.



South West North East

1♥

?

You, South, hold: ♠J ♥AQ8 ♦KJ987 ♣AT54

What call do you make?

Itabashi: 2♦. Tough choice, but I will go with 2♦, with a 1NT overcall a close second choice. (Some partners claim I would never pass up the chance to bid NT!) 1NT is close enough that if my spade were the ace or king, I would bid 1NT.

Kantar: 2♦. It's what I would do at the table, but I can understand passing.

Bell: 2♦. Is there a law against bidding my hand? The only other choices are a wimpy pass (a reasonable choice at IMPs) or a flaky 1NT overcall. (When I try that, partner transfers to spades and I have to play a 5-1 fit.)

Jones: 1NT. Least of evils. Pass is my second choice.

Eisenberg: Pass. Best to see how the bidding goes. One could have bid 2♦ on all five problems.

Dunitz: 2♦. Looks right, smells right, and feels right. What's the problem? Don't tell me you're really going to bid 1NT. Not even Maier would do that!

Lee: 2♦. In my opinion, 1NT is really bad, because it has two big flaws. Even though I'd like to have a better suit to overcall at the two level, I have to do something.

Davis: Pass. This vulnerability is the worst vulnerability for bidding. If it is our hand and we stay out of the auction, we may be compensated by getting +200. Conversely, if I bid 2♦ and partner is short in diamonds, we may be -200 in 2♦ when we have a plus score in clubs or have a plus score against their contract. I would overcall 2♦ if I was not vulnerable since down two undoubled by either side is likely to be worth less than that side's makeable partscore. At

IMPs, a pass could risk missing a vulnerable game. At MP, I am more concerned about getting a plus score and avoiding -200 than I am about missing a 40% to 60% vulnerable game. I will stay out of the auction unless they bid and raise spades. (I'll double 2♠ or 1♠ if it gets passed back to me.) If LHO passes and partner bids 1♠, I will cue bid 2♥ and then bid 2NT over his 2♠ which shows about the strength of a 1NT overcall.

Ivaska: 2♦. Much too much to pass, particularly now that the heart tenace has more value, and the only other possibility, 1NT, is far too dangerous, both because of the singleton in the unbid major and the lack of playing strength in notrump. Not only might the opponents run spades, but my partner might transfer into them. (By the way, did you try to select a set of problems for which the plurality answer was always 2♦?)

Garber: 1NT. Best of a bad lot is 1NT. I can see it now. Partner has 65432 in spades and transfers.

I bid 1NT. A stiff jack in declarer's hand will nearly always provide a stopper versus Qxx. Since our most likely game is 3NT, I want to right-side the contract right away. Yes, opposite as little as ♣Kxxxxx, we are a huge favorite to make 5♣, but we might make 3NT, too, and 1NT doesn't make it harder to find clubs than 2♦ does. My second choice is to pass. At least when the opponents bid and raise spades, I can now double for takeout. I'm glad two panelists mentioned that 2♦ was possible on all five problems. That was the theme of this month's panel: a very Multi 2D!

Thanks to Ron Garber for answering. He has not played in eight years, but I always admired his writing for our print edition. He did a great job of screening books.