

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 47, #7

July 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank You

by Bill Schreiber, ALACBU President



Well, here it is—my final column as president of District 23. Bridge Week is coming up and during the Board of Directors' meeting, a new president will be nominated and elected to a two-year term.

Thanks go out to more of my wonderful volunteers who have supported me during my 10 years, serving first as treasurer for the Long Beach NABC's, then as treasurer for ALACBU and finally as president.

In no particular order they are: **Marie Dahl**, who first nominated me for treasurer of ALACBU, **Kevin Lane** (webmaster), **Jennifer Einberg** (SCBN editor), **Barbara Nussbaum**, **Becky Clough** (disciplinary co-chair), **Rand Pinsky** (district director), **Ellen Kent** (chairperson of disciplinary committees), **Penny Barbieri** (newcomers chairperson during my second term and whose smiling face always brightened up the Partnership Desk at all of our regional tournaments), and finally, my wife, **Diana Schreiber** who served as disciplinary co-chair and always was there as a sounding board with wise advice.

Thanks to all the members of District 23, without whom our growth could not have incurred and to members of District 22, who attended our regional events en masse.

Thanks to all of the directors, especially **Betty Bratcher**, and club owners as well, as all of you have been integral to our success.

BridgeWeek is going on at this time, so it is time to "Play Bridge!"

Thanks, Plus Much More

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Bridge Week Pasadena Regional

Our 10-day Bridge Week Pasadena Regional has started by the time you read this and will continue through July 7. If you have not had an opportunity to play in our regional, you still have time.

Check out the advertisement in this copy of the Bridge News or go to our web site at www.acbldistrict23.org for the daily events.

Thank You Bill

At our ALACBU board meeting on Saturday July 2, Bill Schreiber will be ending his second term as president of the district. Eight years ago, Bill "volunteered" to be treasurer of our district and he served in that position for four years. Then in 2007 he again "volunteered" to be president. Under his leadership we were able to return to the Pasadena area for our July Bridge Week (really 10 days) and we instituted a Calcutta event which has enticed many of the top bridge players to come to our tournament. By the turnout we have had, it was a great

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

Attention New Bridge Players
with 20 Points or Less

Come and play in an event during the 10-day District 23 Summer Regional in Pasadena. Then see Penny Barbieri at the **Hospitality Desk** and receive a **New Player's Bag**, prepared especially for you.

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DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

decision to return to Pasadena. I want to publicly thank him for all of his hard work. It also made my job as district director that much easier when there is a president I can work with. I also wish to acknowledge Diana Schreiber for her participation with ALACBU these past eight years.

ALACBU Elections

The nominating committee, of which I was chairman, will be presenting a slate of candidates for election at our ALACBU meeting on July 2. The following people will be presented to the ALACBU representatives. 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. Nominations will still be taken from the floor at the meeting. Also, if you want to serve on a committee, let us know and I am sure we can find a spot for you.

National News

The deadline motions to be considered in Toronto is still open. Therefore I do not have my board packet to review and report. I hope to be able to report in August the results of our Toronto meeting.

It's a Different View from Dummy

ACTIVE ETHICS: We hear this phrase often at the bridge table. I wish to relate an Active Ethic moment that Kathy and I were involved. Playing at the Torrance Sectional last month, we were defending a contract being declared by Gerald Geremia. His partner was Joe Viola.

At around trick 9, Gerald claimed. I had no further tricks in my hand and I agreed. I did not know that Kathy still had a trump, but she was silent. Gerald and Joe moved to the next table, but Joe had a curious look on his face. The next thing I knew, Gerald came back to the table and said that Kathy still had a trump and that he could not make the contract. Gerald's active ethics resulted in changing the score from a contract making to a contract down two.

I want to commend Gerald for his Active Ethics. P.S. The new result did not help our game.

If I do not see you in Pasadena, maybe I will see you in Toronto.

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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

While the attendance is strong at the Santa Clarita and Castaic Clubs, the Lancaster club is fading. Card fees will increase from \$7 to \$8 per person at the Lancaster Club beginning July 1 in order to help stem the tide of steep monthly losses this year.

There are so many of our regular players at the Lancaster Club that have taken a turn for the worst regarding their health that it is now quite obvious to everyone how really vulnerable the aging bridge community has become. Slips and falls have added to the number of home/hospital bound members this past month. We have to face up to the fact that if our new player recruitment efforts are not successful, the club may have to restructure its schedule.

It is just so sad to see many of our friends struggling every day. Sincere best wishes go out to the many folks here in the high desert bridge community for a speedy recovery from their personal health issues. You are missed and we hope that you are better soon.

Donna Davidson, Gary Grey, Bill Brodek, Rand Pinsky, Paul Gill, Roy Ladd, Ruth Baker, Jerry Burrill, Ted Maki, George McDonald, Lamonte Johnson, Markle Vandervort, Arif Shah, Basant Shah, Betty Pavey, Everett Dehn and Frank Frohman all collected at least one win or runner-up finish in the tough Valencia/Santa Clarita game this past month.

The Castaic venue saw Hugh Bartlett, Bill Brodek, Paul Gill, Roy Ladd, Jerry Burrill, Ruth Baker, Lamonte Johnson and Basant Shah all dominate this past month.

The Lancaster club saw Ms. Onarita Pallanti emerge as a strong player in all the games she played. Onarita notched wins in a Sunday game with Brad Ward and her new partnership with Ms. Mary Anne Shaw notched a win in a Friday game this month. The Shaw-Pallanti partnership really clicked in the Tuesday game with two wins and a second place finish. Lola Messiha garnered a win in a Wednesday night game

with Brad Ward and in a Friday game with Marlene Warren-Gasper. Marlene and her husband Dave posted a big 70.4% in the Worldwide Pair game. Alfred Miller and Barb Shuping, Russ Buker, Mary Stauf, George MacDonald, Hal Roberts, Dorothy Newland, Henry Roediger, Ginny Dudley, Mary Ellen Downs, and Bill Ossenkop also did well this month.

As I write this, the unit game is on Fathers Day so I hope to see a nice, hungry crowd in Lancaster that I can write about in the next unit column.

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

July Unit Game: July 9, 2011

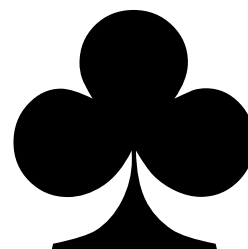
Lunch at 12:15, game at 1:00

I'm filling in as news reporter this month for Dorothy LaMaie who has been under the weather recently. Dorothy, it's time to return to the bridge table and pick up your pen again, n'est-ce pas?

Just a short note to remind everyone that the Regency will be closed throughout Bridge Week, from June 28 through July 7.

We will have a special Unit Game on July 9 in memory of Tim Stocks. A charitable contribution will be made in Tim's memory from the proceeds of the game and matched by a contribution from the Regency Bridge Club.

Good luck to all in the upcoming Bridge Week tournament and hope to see you all at our memorial Unit Game in July.



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

MAY 22 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: T S Chernuchin/John Melis, 2nd Sean Lui/Bob Johnson, 3rd Keith and Susan Hafen, 4th Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle, 5th Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth, 6/7/8 tie Audrey Ellis/Anne Harrington, John Killian/Cayce Blanchard, Kim Wang/Sam Wang. In the B flight overall Todd Knapp/Ralph Monkarsh were 4th, Diane Starbuck/Wayne Rapp 5th, and Steven Alt/Pamela Cole 6th. In the C flight overall Connie Provost/Linda Smith were 5th. Congratulations to all!

70+% GAMES in the club May 16 through June 15: In open games (both evening): Steve Mager/Dean Kalpudes had 71.77% and June 10 Jo and John Melis had 70.32%. In 99er games May 25 Audrey and Bud Linden had 70.0% and May 28 Sue Ayers/Lynn Danielson had 71.24%. And in the NLM game June 6 Bonny Walsh/Karen Watson had 70.63%. Congratulations to you all!

BIGMASTERPOINTAWARDS: Bigmasterpoint awards for first place in club games May 16 through June 15: May 16 John Bralliar/Bruce Horiguchi 5.17mp, May 17 Irwin Bender/Paul Langerman 6.00mp and in the evening Sabina Lim/Yas Takeda 3.00mp, May 18 Aaron Jones/George Welsh 4.67mp, May 19 Judith Jones/John Bakulich 4.67mp, May 20 Lois Abramson/Irwin Bender 6.00mp, and in the evening Cecil Cook/Mike Galanti 3.17, May 21 Earl VanDerVord/Mark Leonard 5.00mp, May 22 John Melis/T S Chernuchin 5.00mp, May 30 Wayne Rapp/Peggy DeSantins 4.39mp, June 3 (evening) Steve Mager/Dean Kalpudes 3.00mp, June 4 Cayce Blanchard/John Melis 4.67mp, June 6 Jackie Hess/John Farr 4.83mp; June 7 Brandon Sheumaker/Ted Gibbs 6.00mp and in the evening Bob Mault/Cory Hand 3.38mp, June 8 Toni Morford/Loren Hilf 4.83mp, June 9 Emma Trepinski/Mark Teaford 4.17mp, Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein 7.17mp and in the evening Jo and John Melis 3.50mp, June 11 Earl VanDerVord/Sean Lui 4.50mp, and June 12 Steve Skinner/Baum Harris 3.50mp. Big awards for second place: May 16 Kay Tseng/John Melis 3.88mp, May 17 Marcie and Marcus Evans 4.50mp, May 18 Bill Ensley/Hanefi Erten 3.50mp, May 19 Sean Lui/Earl VanDerVord 3.50mp, May 20 Baum Harris/Larry Slutsky 4.50mp, May 21

Sankar Reddy/Eric Tang 3.75mp, May 22 Sean Lui/Bob Johnson 3.29mp, May 30 Steve Skinner/T S Chernuchin 3.29mp, June 4 Weishu Wu/Sam Wang 3.50mp, June 6 Lois Abramson/Doris James 3.62mp, June 7 Bruce Horiguchi/Aaron Jones 4.50mp, June 8 Kiyo Nagaishi/Steve Rowe 3.63mp, June 9 Aaron Jones/Steve Mager 3.13mp, June 10 Brandon Sheumaker/Gary King 5.38mp, and June 11 Kimi Matsumoto/Mark Teaford 3.38mp. Big awards for third place: May 17 Tedd Gibbs/Brandon Sheumaker 3.38mp, May 20 Mark Tang/Kiyo Nagaishi 3.38mp, June 20 Larry Slutsky/Baum Harris 4.03mp. Congratulations to all!

NEW MEMBER: Sheri Held (transfer from Anaheim). Welcome to the Long Beach!

STATUS CHANGES: New Club Masters: Bernard Dow, Charles Laine; NABC Masters: Carmela Chiurazzi, Doreen Maes; Silver Life Master: Fern Dunbar; Diamond Life Master: Lois Abramson; and new Emerald Life Master: Leo Bell. Congratulations to you all!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB: Tuesday, July 5 Inter-Club Championship game. July 10 Unit Game—lunch 12:30, game at 1 p.m. The week of July 11-17 STaC games; extra points, hand records, \$11 game fee. July 21 Inter-Club Championship game. July 22 ACBL-wide International Fund Game: extra points, hand records, \$11 game fee. The week of July 25-31 club championship games. Extra points, regular fee.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kevin Lane who was awarded his PhD last month.

GET WELL WISHES to Judy Lorber and Elinor Baratelle.

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD from Gene Yaffee: May 28 Club Championship Game winners: A Strat—1st, Bee Kinman & Verna Burns; 2nd, Judy Carter-Johnson & Howard Smith; 3rd, Patricia & Robert Adam; 4th, Cookie Pham and her sister, Thuan Gwynn (first in B Strat). June 9 Club Championship Game winners: 1st—Bill Linskey & Howard Smith, 2nd—Gloria Sedore & Sibyl Slutsky, 3rd—Cookie Pham & Joan Tschirki, 4th—Patricia & Robert Adam.

UPCOMING EVENTS: STaC Week, July 11-15 — Silver points. Swiss Teams game, Monday, August 1. Unit Game & BBQ, Sunday, September 18. For more information and/or to make reservations for these events, please call Ruth Kaller at (562) 430-0316.

Get well wishes are sent to Sue Ayers, Denis Lyons, and Mary Thomas.

Welcome back to the bridge table, Betty Sichel, after her bout of pneumonia, and Lottie Kostar, after her surgery and rehab.

Condolences to the family of John Biggs. John passed away quite unexpectedly on May 23.

Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org then click on "Leisure World Results" on left hand side.

GET THE UNIT 557 NEWSLETTER Via EMAIL: 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 Chuck Cordaro

Roy Wilson was looking over the results of the Worldwide pairs held June 3 and 4 and called in some interesting results. It seems that out of 5,000 tables in play over 2 days, 5 pairs from Arcadia placed in the top 5 percent: Bob Johnson and Frank Shih, 23rd; Robert C.F. Wang and Shiu-Ming Huang, 143rd; Art and Dominique Moore, 266th; Eli Wang and Dan Botoaca, 379th; and Shiu-Ming Huang and Eric Tan, 475th. Congratulations folks. I think Art should give you a free play.

This summer we have two popular tournaments nearby— a 10-day regional at the Pasadena Hilton, starting on June 28, and the 3-day John Waken Sectional at La Salle High School, starting on July 29.

Since Dr. Waken is a regular at our games, I asked him how he came to sponsor this tournament, and he said the first few years he attended he found things looking a little bleak. "So I gave them some money and here we are."

This year our tournament directors at La Salle are Jan Wickersham and Amr Elghamry. By now you have received Jan's email request for homemade snacks on Friday and Saturday. If you can help, please tell Jan via email or by cell phone at (626) 487-4014. Just tell her what you are making and for what day. Jan is doubling at the partnership desk and tells me that pairs wanting to get into the knockouts can often find another pair through her desk.

Marie Nimmrich called to say her Wednesday night game will be closed June 29 and July 6. It's been a while since anyone won her jackpot (you need a 70% game) and it's now up to \$282. The last ones to win it were Rae Murbach and Joe Viola back in March 2010. Marie would like to see you at our next Sectional Tournament

at a Club (STAC) game in San Marino on July 11 at noon and July 13 at 7:15 p.m.

Marie may be having trouble finding a pair to score 70 percent but not our director, Art Gulbrandsen. A pair of his rookies—Dru Emm and Amy Macklin recently scored a 76-percent game. Art also has a couple of dates for you to keep in mind:

- Beat the House Night on July 22
- Winners and Losers Sunday on July 24
- North American Pairs on July 12 & 15 at 7:15

Congratulations to Connie Chang for winning our June unit game, and to Connie De Rosa and Sandra Franciscus for coming back with a combination of 10 red and gold points from the regional tournament in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

I recently had a game with a newcomer named Virginia Baily, who just moved to Pasadena to be with her daughter. She had been playing in the American Bridge Association—a group founded by African Americans back in 1932, when separation of the races was common.

And we have always divvied ourselves up by class. Medieval texts advised young noblemen not to compete against laborers and field hands in sports on pain of losing their claim to superiority.

The first universities only admitted the sons of noblemen. None of that "all men are created equal" stuff. When Oxford and Cambridge finally relented and admitted the sons (not daughters) of wealthy merchants, the worst fears of the nobility were realized: some of these social climbers ignored the sumptuary laws, which forbade people from dressing above their station, and took on the airs of their betters.

This insult to the status quo was met by a new law that required the pretenders to write "not of nobility" or sine nobilitatus every time they signed their name. In time, to reduce the sting of this indignity, they were allowed to abbreviate their lowly condition by writing only "SNOB."

Those of us who grew up in Pasadena know that our Jackie Robinson broke the color line in baseball playing 2nd base for the Dodgers. Most of his peers admired Jackie, but not my neighbor Victor, who was his classmate at Muir, then called Muir Tech. "It's Branch Rickey (the Dodger GM) who should get the credit, not Robinson," said Victor. This was about 1998, and I could still hear the scorn in his voice, so I asked why he didn't like his old classmate. "He just thought he was better than the rest of us," said Victor of the future

Hall of Famer.

Not everyone was so touchy around here. Kenny McCain used to play basketball with my brother Chris and me. He still had a Kentucky twang in his voice, and his skin was so pale that the back of his neck would turn pink after half an hour in the summer sun. Chris and I were surprised to hear that Kenny's dad and Jackie were good buddies who spent time together inventing new kinds of mischief.

Thank you for coming by, Virginia, and culling up these old memories. Hope you grow to like Pasadena and will stop by again.

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game Saturday, July 16 at
11:00 a.m.
Lunch Served

This will hardly be a hot news bulletin to those of you who have already played in one of the early

events, but the big event of the month of July is the annual Bridge Week in Pasadena. Since it will run until July 7 (well past our July 1 publishing date) and will affect several of our local games, I will devote a little space to a quick summary of its effects. This also gives me a sneaky way of filling a couple of inches of column space under the the guise of providing valuable information to our members. When you're as desperate as I generally am for a way to fill out my allotted space, that is not something to be sneezed at.

Your intrepid investigative reporter has been informed, in an exclusive top-secret interview, that the LaFetra club will be closed on two Tuesdays—June 28 and July 5—and Friday, July 1. It will be open Thursday, June 30, and Thursday, July 7. It will also be open Friday, July 8. There will be STaCs held on July 12, 14, and 15. The July Individual game, which would ordinarily be held July 2, has been canceled. The next Individual

will be held August 6.

The May unit game was won by Tim and Eileen Finlay (63%), followed by Lary Alba and Cordell Goode (61.5%), Georgiana Bierman and Michael Horn (60.7%), and Peter Szecsi and Bernardine Mateer (57%). Gino Barbieri and Wendy Waterman took first in Class C. The June Individual was won by Wendy Wanderman, followed by Charlotte Capelle, Tom Lill, Delores Kelly, Milt Kalikman, and Hanan Mogharbel.

Top club game of the month was posted by Walt Otto and Richard Patterson (69.6%), edging Lary Alba and Dave Ruoff and Genise Hasan and Clint Lew. Other winners were Paul Crisney, Pat Rademaker, Han Mogharbel, Donald Naf, Karen McCarthy, Suzanne Wojcik, Eileen Finlay, Tim Finlay, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Kathy Helber, Herman Helber, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, George Altinus, Cordell Goode, and Milt Kalikman.

In the social notes, Cordell Goode is hosting a month-long family reunion in Wyoming, her childhood home. Children and grandchildren are coming from as far away as Australia.

Our hand of the month is incredibly mundane. For reasons of their own, the bridge gods decided not to deal out any nine-card suits or 8-5 distributions this month, so I had to settle for a petty bidding challenge. You hold:

♠Tx ♥Axxx ♦xxx ♣A9xx

Your pard opens 1♠, you bid 1NT (forcing) and he bids 2♥. Do you raise? If you bid 3♥, he bids 4. Are you proud of the dummy you put down? Do you think game is a favorite to make? Well, don't strain your arm patting yourself on the back. Pard's hand is: ♠AQ9xx

DISTRICT 23 PRESENTS
LOS ANGELES TEN- DAY SUMMER REGIONAL
June 28 - July 7, 2011
Pasadena Hilton, Pasadena, CA

Tournament Features

- Sessions at 10:30, 3:15 & 7:30
- Pre-duplicated Boards for All Pair Games
- Bridge Mate Scoring in All Pair Events
- KO Teams or Compacts Daily
- Choice Pairs
- Four Session Swiss Teams
- Gold Rush Stratiflighted Pairs
- 299er Games Daily at 10:30 & 3:15
- Free Coffee before Morning Sessions
- Daily Speakers

Contacts

Tournament Chair: Ellen Kent
310-990-3314

Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin
310-720-6050

Partnerships: Betty Jackson:
562-594-4420: before 6/28/11
626-665-0596: after 6/28/11

DIC: Betty Bratcher

www.acbldistrict23.org



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Self Parking \$9
Overnight Parking \$15

Calculla

See Website
www.acbldistrict23.org
for Rules and Conditions of Contest

Deadline for Entries: 3:15 Friday

Entry Fee: \$25
Starting Bid: \$50

Auction begins at 7:30 PM
Game Begins at 8:00PM

Prize Pool determined after Auction

\$\$\$\$\$PRIZES\$\$\$\$\$

No Masterpoints Awarded

Entries

\$12 Pr Session (All Events)
(Fees are \$2 extra for non-ACBL & Unpaid members)

Juniors under 19: Free
Juniors under 25: \$8

♥KTxxx ♦-- ♣KJT

He's about to roll 7. Trumps are 2-2, Kxx of spades are onside, and when he leads the jack of clubs, West covers. You really must get more aggressive and start bidding these easy slams! Good luck in the regional.

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Major congratulations to Steve Gross who surpassed the 20,000 Masterpoint total in May. Few players reach this level of accomplishment and the Bridge Academy is proud to call him "one of our own".

The Bridge Academy held an Achievement Party to honor Steve on Sunday June 12.

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 wdbeagle@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 4.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for May 2011

750 Bridge Club Bob Williams 5.63, Gloria Malkin 5.00, Ron Malkin 4.91, Samy Antoun 3.80, Jimmie Swan 3.58, Curt Darden 3.24, Jody Lombardo 3.12, Elaine Roth 2.91, Paul Endler 2.87, Mort Nagler 2.75.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game Greg Bozin 6.92, Allan Palansky 5.32, Marjorie Romans 3.79, Sam Antoun 3.71, Jerry Goodman 3.52, Elaine Roth 3.19, Phil Calloway 3.16, Marilyn Gaines 3.01, Ruth Fleisher 3.01, Moe Mansour 3.01.

Bridge Academy Open Game Ellen Anten 19.53, Andy Vinock 15.78, Armand Szulc 15.25, Jeff Millman 14.07, Gil Stinebaugh 12.82, Leda Danzig 11.55, Tom Wylie 11.44, Steve Gross 10.58, Sheila Bozin 9.20, Gary Frans 9.17

70% Games for May

During the month of May, Kousi Pathi and Marjorie Romans had a 76.67% game while Deedy and Frank Nordyke had a 71.67% game.

In Memoriam:

Unit members send their condolences to Al Spaet on the recent passing of his wife Sue.

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 the 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

Since I have received no input on the July schedule the club manager has suggested I make up my own.

There is always the chance that these dates will get changed around by the powers that be.

North American Pairs Qualifier: Mon, July 11, 11:30

Club Championship: Wednesday, July 13, 11:30

North American Pairs Qualifier: Friday, July 22, 11:30

Club Championship: Monday, July 25, 7:00

North American Pairs Qualifier: Thurs, July 28, 7:00

Handicapped Swiss Teams every Tuesday night at 7:00

Friday night games on July 1 and July 15 at 7:00

Club Championships

The May 20 Club Championship was captured by Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Marie Willis/Mark Raggio ahead in Flight B. On June 1 the Club Championship was won by Lisa Cote/Grace Conde in Flight A and Karen McKittrick/Paul Green on top in Flights B and C. The June 10 Club Championship was led by Dean Kaloudis/C. M. Meaux in Flight A and Betsy Amador/Hank Sheehan in Flight B.

Two North American Pair Qualifying events were played at Anderson Park on June 10. The afternoon game

first overall was won by Betty Curtis/Bill McLean. The evening game saw Fran Israel/Jack Tsu on top in Flight A with Joan Chrishal/Carol McKay ahead in Flight B.

Team Winners

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

- **May 17:** Bea and John Brailliar, Bruce Horiguchi, Cecil Cook
- **May 24:** Gabriela Jackson, Fran Israel, Masae Kato, Carol Mason
- **May 31:** Cecil Cook, Robert Rothman, Cal Waller, Jeff Strutzel
- **June 7:** Gabriela Jackson, Mark Raggio, Joan Johnson, Marie Willis
- **June 14:** Maurice Suhre, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

Torrance South Bay Sectional winners from the unit

Unit members acquitted themselves well at our



WEST LOS ANGELES FALL SECTIONAL

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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

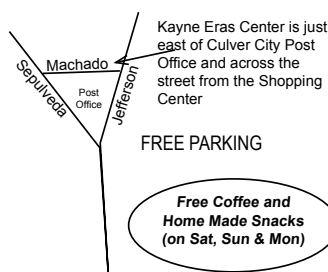
KNOCKOUT TEAMS - 2nd Session

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

COMPLETE 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

recent sectional, Memorial day weekend. Those that won events are as follows.

- **Friday Evening Pairs:** Kim Wang/Chein-San Han
- **Friday Evening Swiss Flight A:** Lucy Tredennick, Fran Israel, Luis Gamio
- **Friday Evening Swiss Flights B and C:** Tajie Major, Ellen Tarlow, Carolyn Heyn, Martha Stephen
- **Saturday Afternoon Open Pair Flight C:** Diane Elliot/Philip Alfandary
- **Saturday Afternoon 199er Pairs Flight D:** Krystyna and Dennis Hollingworth, Flight E: Marilyn Landau/Juanita Smith
- **Sunday Morning 199er Pairs:** Tie Brackets D and E: Marilyn Landau/Juanita Smith, Carolyn Woo/Edward Bucklin
- **Sunday Compact KO:** John J. McDermott playing with Mike Savage, Linda and Jay Tipton

Milestones

Sadly it has been reported that Marie Fleming recently passed away. Actually Marie was from Ireland and frequently visited the area. She played at our club with regularity during her visits.

GUV Memorial Award

Everyone was on their best behavior this past month leaving me with no nominees for the GUV Memorial Award. This being the case I will pass on some inside information.

If you are ever doubled by Bernie Weinstein or Gerri Carlson don't even consider the possibility of making your contract.

You are going down bigtime baby. I might mention that Bernie Weinstein now has a glow about him when he comes to the Bridge club. That's because he is still reveling in the aura of getting me for 1100 a few weeks ago. I always take a lot of bidding liberties when playing against Bernie because of his reluctance to double. But I stepped a little too far over the line on that one.

Na Zdrowie

West L.A.

by Robert Shore

Open Cheek. Now Insert Tongue

Our installment of *This Month in West LA* begins with a tour through the June Unit Game weekend extravaganza. First, on behalf of the entire unit, I'd like to extend my profound (yet tongue-in-cheek) apologies to Debbie Baker. Our only real excuse is that he's our Peerless Leader, so *someone's* got to play with him. We'd also like to thank you for making the best of the situation by carrying him to victory in the annual Pro Am game. Congratulations to Debbie Baker and Howard Einberg for winning the Unit Pro Am Game. The Saturday afternoon two-site Unit Game was closely contested. Taking home first place honors were Farideh Sigari and Rahim (3NT) Israel. (This was Farideh's second straight victory in a unit championship, winning earlier with Dovid Crum. Victory in the Barometer Pairs belonged to Dan Hugh-Jones and Peter Benjamin. The only real suspense there was whether they'd hold on to their 70% game. (If I told you, would ruin suspense, wouldn't it?)

Springtime in the South Bay

Our unit enjoyed a lot of success at the Torrance-South Bay Sectional over Memorial Day weekend. Herb Garfinkel and Tom Lawrence teamed up to win the 199er game Saturday morning, while the team of Brana Hall, Nancy Heck, Bill Rogers, and Joel Schiff picked up the victory in the Saturday Compact KO. The winning team in the Sunday Compact KO included Mike Savage (who also brought home the most points from the sectional), while Pam Wittes won the Sunday morning pairs game. Keep this pace up and Torrance-South Bay might reconsider whether to invite us to their next sectional.

News from Afar

I'd be remiss for failing to note more far-flung successes as well. Congratulations (and continued good luck) to Jill Meyers and her teammates, who will represent the United States as one of our representatives in the Venice Cup. The competition will be held in October in the Netherlands. I wish I had enough time and money to make the trip. Of course, if I had enough

time and money to make that trip, I'd probably use it to find an event I could play.

Away from the Table

Alas, we were not able to escape our quota of sad news this month. Our condolences to the Einberg family on the passing of Howard's mother after an extended illness. Word also has reached us that Edith Bishop has joined that never-ending duplicate game in the sky. I never had the pleasure of meeting her, but she is reported to have been a lovely lady.

Fun with Cue Bids

Do you sometimes cue bid after making a limit raise? Many pairs, when they cue bid in this situation, cue bid their cheapest ace. This can make the auction a little awkward, though. Suppose as the opener, you're looking at both red aces after the auction 1♠-3♠. If you cue bid 4♦, partner can't show the club ace without driving past game.

To solve this problem, I've come up with a little gadget I (modestly) call Shore Cue Bids. If opener decides to cue bid in this situation, the cue bid guarantees, not just the ace of the suit bid, but also the ace of all lower ranking suits. What if you don't have the ace of clubs? Then you bid 3NT, which tells partner you want to cue bid but you don't have the ace of clubs. A similar structure can be used after a 1♥-3♥ auction, but some tweaks are necessary. More about this in a later column.

Improve on my Play

You end up in 4♥ after the following auction, with silent opponents: 1♦-1♥, 1NT-2♣*, 3♥-4♥. The opening lead is a baby spade and you see the following layout:

Dummy: ♠964 ♥A84 ♦K652 ♣AK3
Declarer: ♠K87 ♥KJT72 ♦A8 ♣J96

RHO wins the spade ace and fires back a small spade. You win the king, play a heart to the ace and a heart back, RHO showing up with ♥Qxs. You draw the third round of hearts, with RHO throwing a small club.

Based on the first two tricks, it looks like LHO started with 3 spades, and you know he had three hearts.

The club situation isn't as clear, but it looks like LHO has the queen. If all of that is right and you can guess how his minor suits are divided, you maybe able to bring home the rest of the tricks. I tried three diamonds (ruffing the third in my hand), and exited a spade to LHO's queen. He had a fourth diamond as a safe exit, though, so I made only 4.

Look what happens, though, if I simply concede a spade immediately. LHO still exits a diamond, but what does he discard on the fourth round of hearts, as I pitch a club from dummy? He started with 3-3-4-3 shape, and he's down to 3-3 in the minors with a discard to make. If he throws a club, the ♣AK bring down the queen and a diamond ruff gets me back to my hand to cash the jack. If he throws a diamond, the king of diamonds and a diamond ruff sets up the suit, with a club entry back to dummy. The trump squeeze is a relatively rare play. I wish I'd executed this one at the table.

Around the Unit

Beverly Hills club championships went to Sue Frishberg/David Raphael, David Brady/Robert Karns, Susan Lindenbaum/Edith Felton, and Arlene Todd/Lee Hausner. Bringing home 70% games were Toby Green/Michael Rapaport, Marie Pendergast/Elianna Meyerson (and a bon voyage to the Meyersons as they depart for the Bay Area), Leslie Rawitt/Greg Tapia, and Rhoda and Lew Himmell. Barrington club championships went to Hans Kraepelien/Michael Nash and Peter Benjamin/Pete Knee. Cracking the 70% mark were Hans Kraepelien, Michael Nash, Barbara Holman, Margaret Kahn, George Wagner, Steven Yaffe, Aram Bedros, and Art Zail. Congratulations to all.

Climbing the Ladder

Looks like most players are saving the rank increases for Bridge Week, but we did have a few. Fern Heyman is our newest junior master, and we have three new club masters — Anne Bank, Kay Faguet, and Barbara Holman. Congratulations and continued success at the table.

We also have two new life masters. Congratulations to Richard Gliksman and Bill Rogers. We've been seeing these names in the winner's circle with increasing frequency, so it's no surprise to find them in the paragraph. Congratulations to you as well.

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

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

This month's panelists are: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, David Chechelashvili, Ed Davis, John Jones, Jill Meyers, Marshall Miles, David Sacks, Walt Schafer, Mike Shuster and Bill Wickham.

1

MPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	3♣	pass	pass
?		dbl	pass

You, South, hold: ♠KJ973 ♥A96 ♦AQ4 ♣52
What call do you make?

BARE: 3♥. If partner has five hearts and a fair hand, 4♥ will be a fair-to-good contract. If he has only four hearts, you can take the tap in the three-card suit.

BARTUSEK: 4♣. Choice of games (although a slight overbid!) *[I'm glad you said it.]* Game before slam *[Perhaps Mark failed to notice partner is a passed hand.]* is an overriding principle when opponents make life difficult, so partner won't think my cue bid is inviting him to slam. This will usually get us to a good spot. Admittedly, partner may have a problem choosing that spot, but we could end up defaulting to a Moysian heart fit. Tough second choice between pass and 3♦. Either could be right.

That's a pretty wide range from forcing to game to passing.

CHECHELASHVILI: 3♦.

DAVIS: 3♥. In my opinion, there's no good second choice. If the opponents were vulnerable, I might take a shot at +200 by passing, but that isn't so attractive when I need to beat them two tricks.

JONES: Pass. I believe I faced this problem at the table and incorrectly guessed which red suit to bid. 3♥ is more likely to catch a fit (partner promised hearts), but my diamonds are better textured and 3♦ is slightly more flexible. Normally when we pass a double, we

are hoping to get a top by beating it. In this case, pass is more likely to get a plus score than either 3♦ or 3♥ but not more likely than whichever part score is best. Some part score: 3♦, 3♥, or possibly even 3♠ will make. (I think 3♠ has a much lower chance to succeed than three of a red suit.) Thus, passers hope that there is a bad guess available and enough people will guess poorly so that plus 100 (assuming we beat it) will be a decent score.

-470 won't be so hot. Pass seems like a wildly speculative choice with no trump tricks and a good fit for both red suits.

MEYERS: 3♥. Sometimes partner has five of them, so it's a best of evils bid.

MILES: Pass. I think this is the best chance for a plus score.

I don't think you'll be happy if partner holds ♠xx ♥KQxxx ♦KJxxx ♣x

SACKS: 3♦. My first inclination was to pass at matchpoints, but since I will bid game over a 3♥ rebid by partner, I think I'll chance bidding where my cards are.

SCHAFER: 3♥. I'm a big fan of the "Law," so if this

2

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♣	pass	1♥	1♠
?			

You, South, hold: ♠AQT42 ♥-- ♦AT ♣AKQJ62
What call do you make?

BARE: 6♣. A cue bid may promise a fit, so I'll guess. Pass isn't forcing. It just suggests I have fewer than three hearts.

BARTUSEK: 2♠. This shows a long club suit and no better bid available. If partner offers up club support, then we are off to the races. After another red suit bid by partner, I'll probably settle for a safe 3NT.

CHECHELASHVILI: 2♠. Why did I open 1♣? If I knew partner would reopen with a double, I would pass, and then will bid 2♠, followed by bidding clubs up to the six-level. That's unlikely, so I'm starting with 2♠ and bidding to 5♣ if partner makes all negative bids (i.e. rebidding hearts.) The downside of 2♠ is that it implies a heart fit, but once I rebid clubs twice, hopefully partner will figure out that I don't have hearts.

DAVIS: 3NT. Isn't this clear? Just kidding! However, that's my choice. It's the only bid that shows a long, strong club suit plus a reasonable shot at nine tricks. If partner has a stiff spade, two or more useful cards, and club support, e.g. ♠x ♥AQxxx ♦Kxxx ♣xxx, he will make a slam move over my jump to 3NT.

JONES: 2♠. A daring leap onto the 6♣ trapeze may well be successful if partner has a singleton spade and ♣T8x or better. Before I commit to that high-flying act, I'd like to know that partner has at least a small amount of club support. If 2♠ doesn't elicit club support, I'll follow up with 4♣ which will be forcing.

MEYERS: 3NT. My hand has just gone way down in value, 3NT shows a solid club suit, and partner is very unlikely to remove unless he or she has slam interest with a club fit, or a long reasonable heart suit.

MILES: 3NT. I wish double were penalty.

SACKS: 2♦. I'll reverse to see if I find out anything interesting from partner, and perhaps the opponents will want to jam the auction. If somehow partner bids a forward-going 3♣, I will be off to the races.

SCHAFER: Pass.

SHUSTER: 3NT. This shows long excellent clubs and spades stopped, although not this good a hand. Passing in hopes of a reopening double requires the parlay of receiving the double and the opponents' failing to rescue themselves (assuming they have a safe haven.) 6♣ is my second choice, but I'll go low with the overcall and partner's bidding my void. Don't two-loser hands qualify as 2♣ opening bids in California? You could play 1♣ when cold for 7♣ opposite ♠Kxxx ♥xxx ♦xxx ♣xxx.

WICKHAM: Pass. Any number of spades is an immediate recipe for disaster. A support double is a slight overstatement of my heart holding. 3♣ is a gross underbid. 2♦ retains some chance of landing on my feet, but the later danger of repeated corrections to diamonds is a real downside. Pass wins when partner chooses to re-open with a double, and 3NT will be available later in most cases. An immediate 3NT could be right, but it distorts the hand and understates its potential.

Just when we were all set to make a strong jump shift, our opponent has muddied the waters. Even though 3NT might be an underbid, I'm not chancing a pass by partner.

3

MPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	3♥	4♦	4♥
?			

You, South, hold: ♠QT872 ♥AK ♦K6 ♣A432
What call do you make?

BARE: 4NT. Because it's likely we'll only collect 500 for 4♥X, I'll bid more at matchpoints. If this were IMPs, double would seem much more sensible.

BARTUSEK: Double. Since we are in a game-forcing auction, I can make a forcing pass. Double therefore clearly indicates a strong preference for defending. Too much of my values are in hearts to make a forcing pass. Admittedly, if partner has extras, we could be cold for 6♦ (partner rates to have six or more), but we can't assume extras. Even passing and letting partner bid 5♦ doesn't make it clear to take the push to six.

CHECHELASHVILI: 6♦. Although my spades are weak, there's a good chance the opponents will lead hearts, and partner's one or two spades will go away. Besides, this might induce a sacrifice.

DAVIS: Double. ♥AK are probably opposite shortness, and I don't want to pass and encourage partner to bid 4♠ on honor doubleton as he might with ♠Kx ♥x ♦AJxxxx ♣Kxxx. If partner bids over 4♥ doubled, I will get us to slam in a minor unless he bids 4♠. If he does, I will bid 4NT, and maybe that will be our best spot. If partner held 3+ spades, I would have expected him to bid 4♥ with a good hand (with or without a heart control.)

JONES: Pass. Thankfully, East is a beginner who took up no room to support a suit he doesn't want led. If East had kept quiet, I would have raised to 5♦. But with East's faux pas(s), I'll take advantage of this surprising opportunity by making a forcing pass to allow partner to describe his hand. If partner doubles, I'll pass.

MEYERS: Pass. This should show a first round heart

control. I have extras and want to hear what partner has to say.

MILES: Double.

SACKS: Pass. This is a forcing pass situation. Perhaps partner will do something besides double. If he doubles, I will pull to 5♦, although I'm probably a diamond short for that. *{Jones (PSP editor): David appears to be playing pass and pull as weaker than bidding initially. This was completely standard several years ago, but now playing pass and pull as stronger than bidding initially is more common.}*

SCHAEFER: 4NT. This is Roman Key Card Blackwood for diamonds.

SHUSTER: 6♦. I think the field will open this hand 1NT and get to play 3NT, so the choice is between double and 6♦, and I don't think we're likely to take 7 tricks on defense. I'd like to try 5NT to get to clubs if partner has length there, but I'm worried partner might think the choice is between diamonds and spades and choose unwisely.

WICKHAM: 6♦. I have an average minimum hand with an extra defensive trick against their contract, but I expect almost always to make game and to collect only 500 against their contract. Opposite an average minimum opening bid with 2-1-7-3 shape, 6♦ will often score, so that's my choice.

There rates to be some wild distribution here, since the opponents are bidding at the four-level with few high cards and missing the top trumps. I think I'll put them to the test by bidding 6♦ and hope they opt for the "cheap" save.





South	West	North	East
1♥	pass	1♦	pass
?		3NT	pass

You, South, hold: ♠QT965 ♥AJT873 ♦72 ♣--
What call do you make?

BARE: 4♦. Of course pass is expected on most hands, but 5♦ might be better than 3NT, and 4♥ is a distant possibility.

BARTUSEK: Pass. I briefly considered 6♦ (using partner's solid diamond suit), but I don't believe we have enough tricks (especially when partner rates to have a stiff heart.) Partner will typically have a 17 HCP 2-1-7-3 with stoppers in the black suits. A trump lead would probably be devastating to our chances in 6♦, and a heart lead might also take out a late entry to possible spade tricks.

Couldn't 5♦ be a better contract than 3NT?

CHECHELASHVILI: 4♦. Forward going. Partner is supposed to have six or more diamonds

DAVIS: Pass. I expect partner to have solid diamonds and stoppers in both spades and clubs. He will usually have seven diamonds but might have only six. ♠Ax ♥x ♦AKQxxxx ♣Kxx and ♠Kx ♥xx ♦AKQJxx ♣AQx are possible hands but he will need something more if we are to have a likely slam. I prefer just a little bit more of something to try for slam, as I think we are likely to end up a trick short in 6♦.

JONES: 4♦. Partner's 3NT shows an excellent hand with excellent diamonds and black suit stoppers. 4♦ doesn't come close to describing my hand, but it is a does allow us to get to slam. I'll cuebid 5♣ if that is available next round

MEYERS: Pass. I have no way of knowing what the best strain is on this hand. Partner should have solid diamonds and clubs under control.

MILES: 6♦. This is a strange problem. Partner is

supposed to have a solid diamond suit and stoppers in the other suits. Partner will be able to get 12 tricks by establishing the spades and using the ♥A as an entry, unless a heart is led, which is unlikely on the auction.

SACKS: Pass. Partner usually has short hearts. We might make 6♠ in a 5-3 spade fit, but we really can't get there now, and if partner has four spades, he has misbid.

SCHAFER: 4♦. Automatic. I have a good dummy for diamonds.

SHUSTER: Pass. I expect a good matchpoint score for bidding and making 3NT (especially on a spade lead), even if we are on for more tricks in spades or a diamond slam. For every ♠AJx ♥x ♦AKQJxxx ♣Kx there is a ♠Kx ♥xx ♦AKQJxxx ♣Ax.

WICKHAM: 4♦. Another hand with excellent potential for a diamond slam. Thank goodness we have all these new methods so partner will obviously interpret 4♦ as somewhat optional, super hyper-extended Roman Key Card Blackwood. If partner leaps to 6♦, it should have play. Over any other response, I will stare at the ceiling for a while hoping for divine guidance, and punt into 6♦. I sure would like to be able to bid a natural 4♦. *[It makes sense for this to be natural since it's our first real opportunity to show support.]*

The panel is split down the middle between opting for the "safe" matchpoint contract of 3NT and eyeing slam. I'll break the tie by passing 3NT. The club void looks enticing, but partner rates to have wasted values there such as KQ or KQJ.



South	West	North	East
pass ?	1♦	dbl	pass 2♠

You, South, hold: ♠A75 ♥9653 ♦AT94 ♣K8
What call do you make?

BARE: Double. Anything else is a guess. 4♥ or 3NT could easily make, but at IMPs, I will take what seems to be a sure thing.

BARTUSEK: Double. This is a penalty double. I see no safety in bidding anything since partner might have only three hearts and he might not have sufficient values for 3NT to make. I'll lead the ♣K to get a ruff.

CHECHELASHVILI: Double. Double shows values and is penalty oriented. With ♠Axx and ♦AT9x, why would I want to do anything else?

DAVIS: Double. Close call versus 3NT. I have an attractive lead in the ♣K, so I expect +300 with a chance of more. On the other hand, this hand will play well in notrump if East does not have any heart or club honors, and I should have a reasonable chance of +400 in 3NT. If LHO runs to 3♦, I will bid 3NT. These expectations will look foolishly optimistic if partner has nothing to finesse through opener such as ♠Qxx ♥AKQJ ♦x ♣Jxxxx.

JONES: 3♥. When I first saw this problem, I thought doubling was right, but I kept trying sample hands with partner's having four hearts (that being the usual case), and bidding usually turned out to be superior. Even with my lousy hearts, a 4-4 fit should play fine.

MEYERS: 3NT. There is no guarantee partner has four hearts, so I don't want to jump to 4♥. My second choice is to cue bid 3♦ to see if partner can bid 3♥.

MILES: Double. I will normally have four or more spades for my penalty double, but I'm not at all confident that we have a game. Since I'm a passed hand, partner might have stretched a bit with his takeout double, thinking it is just a part score hand.

SACKS: 3NT. My hand is too good for 2NT, and even if we have a 4-4 heart fit, they could well be splitting badly. Lefty rates to have some sort of three-suiter, and that knowledge will help in the play.

SCHAFER: 4♥. How is this a problem? 3♥ is just too conservative. If you voted for anything else, try pinochle.

What? With no ♠Q and ♦J?

SHUSTER: Double. This could easily be a toll-free number versus a touch and go game.

WICKHAM: 3NT. I invoke Hamman's Law. *[If 3NT is a possible bid, one should bid it]* I would like to introduce my heart holding (nine fourth is a holding, not a suit), but if I double and partner bids 3♥, I still won't be certain of the best game contract (if there is one.)

It's not totally clear these days that double is penalty. In this case, I really don't care. I am happy to defend if partner passes or to bid game in hearts if partner bids 3♥. If partner bids 3♣, I'll try 3NT.

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to: bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org

District 23 Rank Changes May, 2011

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Gulshan Amar, Ravnesh Amar
 Kim Bixler, Gail Capers
 Joel Clifton, Joyce Clifton
 Lynn Danielson, Jane Davis
 Michael Hollahan, Lilli Kalmenson
 Tam Lachoff, Alan Marks
 Chris Meier, Kousi Pathi
 Judy Percer, Nancy Raiche
 Skip Smith, Rennie Tejeda
 Sandra Vogel, Erli Zhou

Club Master (20 MPs)

Harry Bernstein, Deanna Berrin
 Helen Cooksey, Lee Hausner
 James Hawkins, Margaret Kahn
 Joan Katz, Fred Kleinzweig
 Geraldine Landes, Audrey Linden
 Hugh Linden, Tajie Major
 Hanan Mogharbel, Pamela Morton
 Linda Silvey, Aramis Simion
 Beverly Sobraske, Robert Sobraske
 Daniel Strauss

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Dick Berg, John Kambe
 Tom Lawrence, Donald Light
 Freya Ryave, Sunil Singh
 David Stern, Eric Chen Teh Tang
 Elizabeth Thometz, Barbara Wellisch

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Daria Budgyk
 R Foran
 Jean Futami
 Jerry Goodman
 Phil Rabichow
 Douglas Timmer
 Carolyn Verin

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Lidia Epelbaum
 Marilyn Hofert
 Martin Hurwitz
 Marion Miller

Life Master (300 MPs)

Gary Miller
 John Stokdyk

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Kathy Harouche

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Irene Pietropaolo
 Edward Schwartz
 Hank Sheehan

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Earl Van Der Vord

PSP#1 *continued from page 11*

is a normal hand there just won't be too many tricks around and pass will be the winner. But it's a high-volatility play, and it's still too early in the auction for a big decision like that for me.

SHUSTER: 3♥. When holding a minimum, partner will pass 3♦ or 3♥ whether he is 5-4, 4-5, or 4-4 in the red suits. At matchpoints, I might as well name the higher scoring strain. Partner is aware that it is not unusual to bid a three-card major over a negative double, so I'm not too worried.

WICKHAM: 3♦. If partner planned to raise spades from the beginning, my action doesn't matter and in the remaining cases, partner rates to have 9+ red cards. Partner is most likely to act again over 3♦, and any action taken will be correct. An immediate bid of a major will have a high frequency of causing us to get too high in that major. 3♥ does have the merit of introducing the strain in which game is most likely, but it will cause partner to bid too many hopeless games.

If partner has only four hearts, this hand might not play that well in the 4-3 fit if suits break poorly. But, it IS matchpoints – land of the brave of heart or hearts, in this case.