

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank You

by Bill Schreiber, ALACBU President



This is my next to last column as president of ALACBU. In this column, I will try to thank most of the people who have helped make my presidency successful. I shall term it a success as our attendance has improved at our Regional tournaments having returned to Pasadena for Bridge Week and finding another excellent location in Marina del Rey for Fall and Spring Regionals. Also, we have considerably more cash in the bank than when I took over. Of course, the biggest disappointment as president is that this publication is no longer sent to all of our members via the mail. But we are not alone. In order for ALACBU to survive, it was necessary to go online, just as several major newspapers around the country had to do.

Thanks to the Board of Directors of ALACBU, to all the representatives from all the units who supported my ideas of administration and to those who opposed them. It is important to hear all sides of an argument before deciding on the right course of action to take. Special thanks to my slate of officers during my two terms, **Betty Jackson**, secretary for both terms, **Roger Clough**, treasurer for both terms, and **Jan Wickersham**, vice president for my first term, and **Mark Raggio**, vice president for my second term.

Thank you to the committee heads, **Jerry Aranow** for Appeals, **Tom Lill** for By-Laws, **Cecil Cook** for STaC after the untimely passing of **Frank Bartlett**, **Howard Einberg** for GNT, **Mike Marcucci** for NAOP, **Marlene Warren-Gaspar** for Newcomers during my first term and **Peter Szeci**, Scholarship.

Thank you to all of the above. If a name is missing from the above, it is because they have a special thank you coming in my next (last) column as I had the most

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Bits and Pieces

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Our 10 day Bridge Week Pasadena Regional starts the end of the month (Tuesday June 28). See the schedule on our web site. Reminder for all of our junior players seeking those valuable gold points, check out the schedule for the Gold Rush Pairs. This event is limited to players with 750 or less masterpoints and it awards gold points. There are two of these events scheduled throughout the tournament (Thursday, June 30, and Tuesday, July 5).

ALACBU Elections

Just what does ALACBU mean? It stands for Association of Los Angeles County Bridge Units. It is the governing body for our district. Every two years we have election for officers. At our July meeting during Bridge Week we will be electing officers. I am the chairman of the Nominating Committee. Anyone interested in running for office should contact me to discuss if you are eligible to run. Check out prior articles regarding the election in the Bridge News.

Regional at Sea

Our Regional At Sea has just been completed. There were almost 200 people on the cruise. Congratulations to Ellen Kent, Penny Barbieri, Larry Cohen, and Alice

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Travel for making this a successful Regional.

King/Queen of Bridge

The ACBL Educational Foundation, of which I am treasurer, is again offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating high school student who plays and promotes bridge. Get more information from the Educational Foundation web site or see the article in the May Bridge News, page 29.

Online Games

With the increased popularity of online games, the Board in Louisville passed some regulations regarding these games. Following are the highlights.

1. A motion to not award masterpoints in any game that uses robots was defeated.
2. A player may not enter more than two ACBL sanctioned online games of any kind in any 60 minute period.

3. All masterpoints won online will continue to count toward a players total.
4. Online points will not count toward master-point races except for online races.
5. Online points continue to be unpigmented, with no online points required for rank advancement.
6. The regulation that no more than 1/3 of the total masterpoints required for Rank advancement can be attributed to online masterpoints continues.
7. Online points continue to count 100% toward strat and flight advancement.

It's a Different View from Dummy

The only news that I have received is that Steve Gross, a long time member of District 23 earned his 20,000th masterpoint last month. Congratulations Steve.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Pasadena.

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contact and help from those players to be named later.

Don't forget about Bridge Week. It starts on Tuesday, June 28 and continues through Thursday, July 7. See you there.

Southern California Bridge News

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bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

Congratulations must go out to Charles and Mary Anne Self for achieving their goal of becoming Life Masters this month. The excitement of securing Life Master status was also enjoyed by Elaine Moore and John Langer. All of these folks have labored hard to reach the LM goal and deserve encouragement from us to continue to play in our club games so that we can continue to enjoy being around them.

The amazing Hansford Rowe not only celebrated his 87th birthday this month, but he just keeps on winning at the bridge table as well. Every time Hansford sits down at the bridge table, he is a solid threat to win, or at least place in the first few in the field, regardless of who he is partnered with.

The results for this past month are highlighted by the monster 74% game racked up by Marlene and Dave Gasper in the tough field of the Unit Game. Wow, quite a performance, congratulations. The Charity Game mid-month was won by Jackie Moor & Terri Martin with a 67% game... just edging out the 65.74% game of Bert Stock & Everett Dehn. Just 2.5 matchpoints over 27 boards was the margin. Wonder if Bert & Everett could locate where those 2.5 points went?

Both the Castaic and Valencia games continue to grow in attendance and this is a tribute to everyone involved, thanks for offering up great entertainment each week. The Lancaster club has started more beginner classes as well as a Wednesday afternoon 299er game. With a permanent location offering 6 games a week plus classes, the hope is that this club can also prosper. Certainly, both Charles and Beth Morrin are to be acknowledged for their tireless efforts in the diversification of the Lancaster club menu. This club needs the support of everyone from our vast area in order to continue to be the great resource that it is. An ideal way to begin to do that is to support the monthly Unit Game. Make your plans now to carpool to the

game next month. Chat with your curious friends about the new classes and games and see if we can all become better ambassadors for the game we love.

The Castaic game has seen Hugh Bartlett & Bill Brodek emerge as winners along with Hansford Rowe, Basant Shah, Lamonte Johnson and Ruth Baker. As this game gets tougher, the results get closer each week, funny how it frequently works that way.

The Valencia game has also seen Bill Brodek emerge as a multiple winner. Kathy Swaine & Rand Pinsky, Hansford Rowe, Hugh Bartlett, Ted Maki, George MacDonald, Basant Shah and Roshen Hadulla have also notched wins. Charles & Mary Anne Self put up a great win to vault Charles over the top to make LM. This game competition also continues to be closely fought among many fine players. Again, thank you all for playing and good luck next month.

The Lancaster Club has seen some new names pop up in the winners circle as Onarita Pallanti, another late octogenarian gem notched a couple of wins playing with Mary Anne Shaw. This formidable partnership is consistently doing well. Virginia Dudley joined the winners circle along with Laurence Levin and Tim Sturtevant, Bill Ossenkop, Bill Fry, Barbara York, Ron & Sandy Oest, Harold Underwood and Sonja Plahn. Brad Ward, Marlene-Warren Gasper, Dave Gasper, Charles & Beth Morrin, Lola Messiha and Doris Thompson are also winning. Debbi and Robert Powell notched 3 wins in the beginner game and are soon to be ready for prime time. Russ Buker, Henry Roediger, Alfred Miller, Barbara Shuping, Mary Stauf, Louise Levin, Nora Fincher, Willo Phillips and George Lewis Jr. are always tough competitors. For example, the great partnership of Barbara Shuping and Alfred Miller put up over a 61% game in the strong unit game field, but just finished second overall in the 9 table game where the Gasper-Gasper partnership destroyed everybody.

With more support from Castaic and Valencia we could easily reach 12 tables for our unit game this month, let us shoot for that, and remember that THE GRAND HOG himself, Brad Ward is doing unit game

food in July. Come Hungry.

Glendale Verdugo

by Dorothy LaMaie

Saturday, June 11
1 p.m. Unit Game
12:15 Buffet Lunch

Bridge may not be a game for **all** ages (the under-10 group probably couldn't fan 13 cards), but it has staying power and excitement for teens on up through octo- and nonagenarians. And one of the latter has come to our attention: Miriam Collup of the Pasadena Unit is 98 and garnered a first-place win at one of their club games recently. Her partner, Bill Martin, should not have been unduly surprised, however. Miriam's name also pops up now and then on the scratcher-list. Many years ago, she helped Peg Flowers who regularly directed one of the games at the Regency.

While still on age-related subjects, Mike Doll hosted a lovely birthday party for Patrick Cardullo. The banquet table was loaded with all kinds of goodies, and at cake time we raised our voices in cacophony to honor the young man's personal mid-century mark. Patrick's business and personal interests keep him bounding around the country, but we're always pleased when he joins us, for "he's a jolly good fellow," n'est-ce-pas? He and Mike did scratch with a B-2 during the game, but Bernie Mateer/Peter Szecsi and Tim Lolli/Bob Tayrien were the winners.

And while we're still on this winning-related subject, Art Chacanas had an A-1 week's worth by extending some LTC along with his bridge skills to regular partners Pat Abbey, Sharon Wolf, et moi (my purple bruises are age-related, not Art-related, 'though I'm sure there are times when he's tempted).

A welcome to our world goes out to James Cornell, who hails from San Francisco. We look forward to comparing notes with him and, of course, bridge hands, including strange ones like the following:

North: ♠ Txx

♥ T

♦ xxxx

♣ Txxxx

South: ♠K972

The bidding:

S	W	N	E
1♦	dbl	pass	1♥
1♠	3♥	3♠	pass
pass	dbl		

♥ Axxx

♦ AKxx

♣ x

♣A was led and club continued, ruffed by declarer, who then led a heart, but not the ace(!) and another(!), the ♥T held. Using high diamonds to hand, declarer ruffed 2 more hearts and now had 6 tricks in hand. Declarer never led a trump, eventually making good with the ♠K, ♥A, and a last diamond at the end. Apparently outrageous contracts require desperate means...

We were saddened to learn that Sixten Ohman had passed away the early part of May—he seemed to be doing so well after his stroke. Our unit was well represented at a memorial service, with many of his bridge partners and friends giving voice to fond remembrances. So glad we were able to report good bridge results for him in a recent column, and we're going to miss those Swedish-tinged calls for "the yack."

The May Unit Day lunch was embellished by Pat Abbey's ham & bean soup and Mexican corn bread, Betsy and Nancy's complementing salad and Margaret's sinful desserts. As for game time, here is how you fared:

N/S

A1		Herman Helber & Jacob Frenkel
A2	B1	Patrick Cardullo & Mike Doll
A3		Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A4	B2	Harold Knowles & Zach Vedro

E/W

A1	B1	Ted Maki & Lorraine Adams
A2		Tim Lolli & Dan Oakes
A3	B2	Art Chacanas & Dorothy LaMaie
A4		Samuel Wang & Xingping Kang

Congrats to all of you, and we hope you will join us again on the 11th.

Take care, everybody...

Long Beach

by Jon Yinger

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

May 11 unit-rated game ACBL Wide International Fund Game: Overall results: 1st in A:

Aaron Jones/George Welsh, 2nd Ralph Beazley/Bob Goodman, 3rd Anne Gillespie/Eddie Rose, 4th Betty Williams/Heidi Current, 5th Greg Tapia/Lucy Gellner, 6th Bob Mault/Verna Baccus. In the B flight overall Brandon Sheumaker/ Earl Vandervord were 4th, April Berg/Dixie Albright 5th, and Verna Burns/Ruth Kaller 6th. In the B flight overall Sheri Held/Janet Logan were 2nd, Sharon and Al Appel 3rd, Vivian Kiley/Doreen Maes 4th. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games April 16 through May 15: In open games: April 20 Jo Melis/George Welsh had 72.50%; April 21 Irwin Bender/Ralph Beazley 70.33%, April 29 Jo and John Melis 70.14%, May 3 Mark Itabashi/Steve Love 71.53%, May 11 John and Jo Melis 74.74% NS and John and Bea Bralliar 74.00% EW; May 13 Mariko Kakimoto/Eric Tan 72.92%. In 99er and NLM games: April 25 Bonny Walsh/ Julie Osborne had 74.38%, May 7 Sally and Alan Gordy 70.24%, and on May 14 Sally and Alan Gordy had 71.43%. Congratulations to you all!

Big Masterpoint Awards: Big masterpoint awards in club games April 16 through May 15: May 11 Aaron Jones/George Welsh won 4.50mp for 1st over-all and Bob Goodman/Ralph Beazley won 3.38mp for 2nd. And in the May 15 game, John Crabtree/Sankar Reddy won 3.17mp. Congratulations to all!

New Member: Howard Von Leffren. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Masters: Noel Bachetti, Susan Bibby; Club Master: John Galligher; Regional Masters: Sally Fenton, Sunny Harper; NABC Masters: Phyllis Greentsein, Anita Padgett; new Life Master: Jean Ingram. And new Gold Life Master: Betty Jackson. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club: Friday evening, June 2: Worldwide Bridge Contest. Fee: \$11—hand records, extra points. Saturday June 3: Worldwide Bridge Contest, day two. June 19: Father's Day Unit Game--lunch 12:30, game at 1pm.

Condolences to the family and friends of Barbara Shrontz.

Get Well Wishes to Judy Lorber and Kurt Johnson.

News from Leisure World from Gene Yaffe

Big games in Leisure World! Bill Linskey & Gloria Sedore scored a 77.5% game on April 25. Bill Linskey & Eileen Nelson scored 72.6% game on April

21. A 75% game was scored by Bee Kinman & Judy Carter-Johnson on May 6.

Winners in the Club Championship Game on April 29 were: A Strat--1st, Bee Kinman & Howard Smith; 2nd, Jaye Woodington & Verna Becker; 3rd, Ron Yaffee & Richard Norris (1st in B Strat); 4th, Bob Lofstrom & Chuck Cutchshaw.

Congratulations to Betty Jackson on becoming a Gold Life Master. She was awarded her "License Plate Holder" at the game on April 25.

Get well wishes are sent to Darlene Sluter and Lottie Kostar!

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

MISSION STATEMENT from the April 13th Board Meeting: Unit 557 of the ACBL encompasses Long Beach, California and surrounding area. Our mission is to support bridge clubs within our area as well as to promote sectional and unit games. The unit assists local clubs in their endeavor to improve game attendance. The unit believes that the active recruitment of new players is essential to the success of our unit and the ACBL and supports programs to accomplish those ends. To promote an interest in bridge, free teaching lessons to beginning and intermediate players, and mentoring program for new players, are offered. As a member of the Long Beach community, the support of a local charity is considered a necessary and important function.

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

Ready to take on the world? If so, show up at the Bridge Center Friday evening on June 3 or the next day at 1:00 p.m. for the Worldwide pairs competition. You will be playing preset hands and compete against about 100,000 players in 80 countries.

We have some familiar names amongst the winners in our May unit game. First in flight A were Shiu-Ming Huang and Robert Wang; first in B were Harold Knowles and Zach Vedro, and first in C were Faye Hsu and George Kattar.

Marion Miller, Janet Bennet and Mike Marcucci joined about 200 other bridge players on a 7-day cruise down to Cabo San Lucas and Puerto Vallarta. Larry Cohen, a noted author, lecturer, and winner of many national tournaments, was the host. Janet and Marion shared a stateroom, but even this proximity failed to prevent a communications breakdown.

It seems Janet, while out on deck, kept calling Marion in the room. Marion kept answering the instrument on the wall, only to be greeted by dead silence, no matter how many times she pressed the button. When Janet returned she asked why Marion didn't answer. It was then they found that the phone had been covered by a towel and Marion had been picking up a wall-mounted hair dryer. Lucky for her the thing didn't work.

If anyone comes across an unusually interesting bid, please ask Art or Diane to save it for this column. For example, Betty Middleton and I were defending against a 2♥ contract and took all 13 tricks. It seems the dealer cue-bid two hearts and his partner, having three to the queen, passed. Sitting behind the bidder with five hearts to the ace and jack, I also passed. Midway through this debacle I led a heart through the dealer just to see what would happen. It turns out he was void in hearts from the beginning.

Betty's late husband Walter was a descendant of a man who signed our Declaration of Independence. Arthur Middleton, a wealthy landowner from South Carolina, was sent to represent the state in Philadelphia during the debate over independence. But one man's patriot is often another man's traitor: Middleton's house was stripped by vandals, and he spent almost a year in British prison camps. After the war he was again elected to Congress, but, in the spirit of Cincinnatus, soon returned home to be with his family. In his biography Middleton's fellow congressmen described him as a man of the purest patriotism, sound judgment, and unwavering resolution. "Sounds like my husband," said my old bridge partner.

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game - Saturday, June 18, 11:00 a.m.
2024 Old Rte. 66, Glendora
Lunch Served

With the advent of legal casino gambling all over

the country, we no longer have much demand for Nathan Detroit's "oldest established permanent floating crap game" for addicts of the galloping dominoes (if the reference eludes you, look up "Guys and Dolls" in Wikipedia). As noted last month, however, a sizable contingent of local bridge players did hit the bounding main recently for a week of revelry at what may have literally been the world's largest floating bridge game—the L.A. Regional cruise down the coast of Mexico. As promised last month, we are now able to give you the results.

The biggest local winner was Denise Morgan, who piled up 34.11 masterpoints. She edged out Genise Hasan, who had 32.43. Other good results were posted by Kathy Helber (24.88), Jane Pace (24.88), Sandy Jones (15.05), Susan Emminger (8.31), Joyce Clifton (7.85), Joel Clifton (7.85), Mike Emminger (6.35), Penny Barbieri (6.34), and Gino Barbieri (5.90). Morgan, Helber, Pace, and Hasan took first and second in two knockout events, and Morgan and Hasan were first in a Swiss teams. Sandy Jones played on a team that took second overall in the Swiss. Penny and Gino Barbieri doubled as all-purpose workers and assistants to cruise sponsor Larry Cohen, but still found some time to play.

The April unit game was won by Lulu and Fred Minter with a 66% game. Richard Patterson and Roger Boyar were second OA and first E/W, followed by Georgiana Bierman and Michael Horn, Hans Hehnke and Vic Sartor, and Margaret Merritt and Kerry Sartor (also first in C). The monthly individual game was won by Helen Wang (63%), edging Jacquelyn Fahrenbach (62.9%), and followed by Phred Jones, Richard Patterson, Steve Mancini, and Rick Whitham.

Top club game was a nice 71.5% posted by Milt Kalikman and Cordell Goode. Other winners were Carolyn Siracuse, Richard Patterson, Herman Helber, Kathy Helber, Ann McClelland, Ron Purkis, Barbara Killebrew, Roger Boyar, Walt Otto, George Altinus, Dave Ruoff, Vic Sartor, Karen McCarthy, Susan Wojcik, Clint Lew, Lary Alba, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Genise Hasan, and Joe Unis.

Our hand of the month has just a run-of-the-mill 2-2-9-0 distribution. You hold: ♠xx ♥xx ♦AKQJT98xx ♣-- (vul vs. nv).

LHO bids 1♣. Pard bids 1♥. RHO bids 3♣. Your bid? How about 5♦? At any rate, that's how it went at the table. Now LHO bids 6♣! Pass-Pass- back to you. Do you bid 6♦? If you do, you find a great sacrifice. You only go off two— 500 points. One problem – when the

double gets around to RHO he bids 6S! Now what? Do you sacrifice again at 7♦?

You'd better. RHO has 6-1-0-6 distribution and you've managed to nudge him into a higher scoring spade slam, which is ice cold. Why he didn't mention his spades earlier is just one of life's little mysteries. You won't get a great board at 7♦ down 3 doubled (-800), but at least you'll beat some people who let their opponents rest peacefully in 6♣ (-920). 'Til next time.

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

We begin with congratulations to Sharon David who went over 5,000 points and became a Diamond Life Master in April. A photo of Sharon was recently featured on the Bridge Academy's home page. In addition, cheers to Freddi Strauss, John Clark, and Noel and Tammy Purkin who won the KO's on Saturday in the West Los Angeles Spring Sectional in Culver City.

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 (20 VP 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 at each game location.

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 locations.

Please mark your calendars for two additional unit events scheduled later this year. First is a unit game, on Sunday, October 16, at the Bridge Academy. Then, our Holiday Party will again be held at the Woodland Hills

Marriott and is scheduled for Sunday, December 4.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for April 2011

750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 11.82, Paul Endler 10.66, Larry Kussin 8.63, Margie Bulmer 7.53, Elaine Roth 7.14, Bob Williams 6.50, Don Rosen 5.37, Jim Lechner 5.19, Robert Glasser 5.06, Leonard Popowitz 4.53, Rochelle Popowitz 4.53.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game: Allan Palansky 4.81, Sheila Singer 3.92, Gregory Bozin 3.87, Sam Antoun 3.50, Larry Gordon 3.10, Carol Stein 3.06, Sylvia Morstein 2.90, Moe Mansour 2.65, Estelle Baron 2.47.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Jeffrey Millman 14.74, Sheila Bozin 12.90, Seymour Zemlyn 12.70, Gary Frans 11.19, Gilbert Stinebaugh 9.67, Dick Lum 9.39, Mark Peters 8.87, Tom Wylie 8.84, Joan Rubin 8.28, Andy Vinock 7.62.

70% Games for April: Skip Smith & Marjorie Romans 71.67, Sam Thieme & Fred Upton 70.94%;

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Larry Kettle, husband of junior player Shirley Kettler, who is currently recovering from hip and leg fractures in a rehab facility.

In Memoriam: Condolences to Margaret Reichenbach on the recent loss of her husband Tom.

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 10 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>

Club Championship: Friday, June 10, 11:30 a.m.

Barometer Unit Game: Sunday, June 12, 1:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Thursday, June 16, 7:00 p.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams every Tuesday night at 7
Friday night games on June 3 and June 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Club Championships: The NLM Club Championship on April 21 saw George Stinson/Setsuko Miyasaka

winning Flights A and B with Dorothy and Peter Joseph on top in Flight C. The May 11 Club Championship was captured by Ron Carlson/Mark Raggio. The May 14 Club championship resulted in Arlene and Stanley Greengard tying Del Horton/Bea Cron for Flight A honors. The Greengards captured Flight B as well.

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

April 19: MaryAnn Coyle, John Farr, Wayne Otsuki, John J. McDermott

April 26: Linda and Bill Lama, Karen and Mike McKittrick

May 3: CVal Gamio, Cecil Cook, Steve Ramos, John Jones

May 10: Linda and Bill Lama, Karen and Mike McKittrick

Western Conference STAC overall finishers: Listed below are overall finishers in the recent Western Conference STAC in games played at TSB unit clubs.

Monday Morning, May 2 SBBC

10A Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott

Tuesday Morning May 3, SBBC

3A 2B Dolores Nawa/Marty Cooper

Wednesday Morning, May 4, SBBC

5A Gabriela Jackson/Ray Mack

8/9A Lucy Gellner/John J. McDermott

Wednesday Evening AUX Game, May 4, SBBC

2C Joan and Robert Stillwell

Thursday Morning, May 5, NLM Pairs, SBBC

1A Mahin Khadivi/Charlotte Lewin

2A 1B Thomas Robinson/Robert Newsome

3A 2B Suzanne Kuuskmae/Shameem Rahimtoola

4A 3B Mary Gillett/Joanne Wallis

5A 4B Elaine Bleiweiss/Carolyn Verin

6A 5B Marilyn Morton/Anne Andres

6B 1C Constance Iacopino/Mike Sulman

2C Elizabeth Voss/David Lyons

3C Gerry Ketz/Norma Reynolds

Thursday Evening Aux Pairs, May 5, SBBC

4A 3B Betsy Amador/Bob Rothman

Friday Evening, May 6, SBBC

8A Mary Ann Coyle/Bo Bogema

GUV Memorial Award: It has to be time for Paul Boudreau to come out of retirement. Not only did he come in third in the Bridge World Master solvers quiz for 2010, one of his records playing with me has been tied. I have mentioned a number of times how we once played a 1-1 trump fit. Well, a couple weeks ago Dean Kaloudis dropped me in a splinter bid. He also had a singleton in my splinter suit. So instead of playing our 7-4 Spade fit with a very good play for slam we played a 1-1 heart fit going down more than a few.

However our trump suit quality was much better than the one I played with Paul. We had singleton ace facing singleton king. The one with Paul was something like singleton deuce facing singleton trey.

Bo Bogema recently reminded me that we played a 1-1 fit once. Once again somebody got dropped in a splinter. One of the opponents had eight spades and was cold for a spade game. Unfortunately Spades was our trump suit and we were vulnerable. So the opponent made the wise decision to pass and picked up all the matchpoints when we went down undoubled more than his game was worth.

Na Zdrowie

West L.A.

by Robert Shore

Clear Your Calendars! Special events mean more bridge, more fun, and more points. The unit has put together a weekend of fun, food, and games for June 10 and 11. Friday evening, non-life masters will get an opportunity to have an experienced player across the table at the annual pro-am game. For life masters, it's free bridge. The watchword for this game, held at Barrington this year, is fun — it's a chance to see how you'll play the game some day, with none of the pressure. This event is always very popular, so be sure to make your reservations early.

Saturday afternoon, the usual club games at Beverly Hills and Barrington will be Unit Championships. Same game, same locations, more points. Then, Saturday evening at Beverly Hills, more food and more points with a Barometer Game. In a barometer, everyone plays the same boards at the same time. You'll get the chance to see your scores as the game progresses. Barometers are not common because someone has to do the work

of preparing a set of boards for every table, so we hope you'll enjoy the game. Look for a reservation sheet at Beverly Hills and Barrington.

Sectional Report: Thank you to all the players who showed up for the annual Spring Sectional, and a huge thanks to the tireless workers who make our sectionals possible by showing up early and setting up tables. Joel Schiff and Bill Rogers took home top honors in the Friday evening open pairs game. Adam Meyerson and Yehudit Hasin-Brumshte claimed victory in the Saturday morning A/X pairs, while recent arrivals Graham and Barnaby Grist won the B/C/D pairs. Toby Green and Ruth Gittelman romped to first place by nearly a full match point (on a 25 top) in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs. Winning the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams was the team of Michael Halberstadt, Sam Haveson, Zalman Perelman, and Viktor Anikovich. A team of guests from the Valley won the Compact Knockouts by less than 1 IMP. Mike

Savage and Jeff Fang teamed with Mark Itabashi and Jeff Love to win the Sunday Swiss (which boasted a truly awesome caddy). Although he managed to forget to win any events, our peerless leader, Howard Einberg, picked up the most masterpoints at the Sectional.

Real Life: One of our more prominent players has returned from a trip to the hospital. Get well wishes to Gary King, and the best to him and his family. On a sadder note, news reached us that Tammy Martin passed away. Our condolences to her family.

Swap Meet: When partner bids 2NT after your weak 2 bid, do you play feature responses? Do you ever open 2♥ with a spade feature? If you do, you might consider a little gadget I invented. If opener shows the spade feature, the partnership is committed to game, like it or not. But this problem disappears if you simply swap the meanings of responder's 2♠ and 2NT responses. Use 2♠ to ask for a feature, and bid 2NT to show a natural 2♠ bid. Opener then has 2NT available to

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Starting Bid: \$50
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Game Begins at 8:00PM
Prize Pool determined after Auction
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No Masterpoints Awarded

Entries

\$12 Pr Session (All Events)
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show a spade feature, allowing the partnership to stop in 3♥ if necessary. I modestly (if eponymously) call this little creation the Shore Spade Swap. So far I've had a perfect record with it. It's come up twice and partner has forgotten it both times.

Around the Clubs: Beverly Hills only managed two 70% games in the past month, but both occurred during the Great Western STaC. Betsy Lutz and Viktor Anikovich's big game was good for second in the Tuesday afternoon event, while Ryan Wessels and your humble scribe took third in the Wednesday evening event. At Barrington, Danny Kleinman led the way with a pair of 70% games. Other players achieving that level were Jill Richmond, Gary King, Barbara Holman, Margaret Kahn, Scott Kurman, and Sally Karbelnig. Barrington club champs were Hilde Harris and Denny Seltzer, and Hans Kraepelien and Michael Nash. Club champs at Beverly Hills were Jeri Berger and Bob Ashen, and Charles Fonarow and Fred Mautner. Team champs were Ronda Platt, Ryan Wessels, Bill Weingarden, and Tony Scott. Three fourths of that team (Greg Tapia substituted for Ryan Wessels) picked up 90% of the available victory points at an earlier team game.

Climbing the Ladder: A number of players have

advanced in rank in the last month. Taking their first step on the ladder of bridge achievement are new Junior Masters Josephine Breen, Susan Coggins, David Duke, Marlene Felix, David Horner, and Dorothy Lee Levinson. Welcome! Katherine Weisberg is a new Club Master, while Nancie Barrier, Malka Fogel, Bernice Silver, and David Vakil are now Sectional Masters. Suzanne Bonafede and Keith Miller have reached Regional Master.

Lots of climbing in the life master ranks as well. Gloria Sherwood has become a Bronze Life Master. New Silver Life Masters are Rama Linz, Anthony Medley, and Thomas Slobko. You may have noticed Viktor Anikovich's name up above a few times; he's now a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your achievements!

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

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District 23 Rank Changes April, 2011

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Arlene Aschmeyer
Don Bahr
Elizabeth Burrell
Kent Burrell
Carlos Campuzano
Christopher Earnest
Fern Heyman
Ann McIlwain

Club Master (20 MPs)

Anne Bank
Bernard Dow
Kay Faguet
Barbara Holman
John Kambe
Charles Laine
Lois Jeane Moulton
Irene Rosenberg

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Philip Alfandary
Patricia Turner-Quigley
Harold Underwood
Sharry Vida

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Carmela Chiurazzi
Elaine Keyes
Doreen Maes
Charles Shapiro

**Life Master
(300 MPs)**

Richard Gliksman
Xingping Kang
John Langer
William Rogers

**Bronze Life Master
(500 MPs)**

James Erpenbach
Edward Hsi
Susan Jones
Ellen Sue Sarture

**Silver Life Master
(1000 MPs)**

Fern Dunbar
Adelia Horton

**Gold Life Master
(2500 MPs)**

Mike Spero

**Diamond Life Master
(5000 MPs)**

Lois Abramson
Sharon David

Emerald Life Master (7500 MPs)

Leo Bell



Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

This month's panelists are: Becky Clough, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Mr. Mealy-mouth, Marshall Miles, Rick Roeder, and David Sacks.

1

IMPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
?			

You, South, hold:

♠A973 ♥AKQT87654 ♦— ♣—

What call do you make?

Mealy-mouth: 6♥. No attempt at “science” with a freak like this on adverse vulnerability. If I start with anything less, the auction is likely to get jammed before I can find out what I need to know about partner’s spade holding.

Swanson: 4♥. It’s a question of trading description for preemption. The likelihood of the opponents’ having a profitable minor suit contract is so great that I am willing to forgo slam investigation.

Goldsmith: 1♥. I’m glad I have four spades instead of four of a minor, so they can’t outbid me. Wouldn’t it be nice if partner bid spades? This is why partner is supposed to bid 7♣ if I bid the grand slam force and he has two of the top three.

Sacks: 1♥. In my youth, I opened 1♠, and if I got a raise, I bid 5NT. I am older now and just start with 1♥. Maybe partner will bid spades.

Miles: 1♥. I expect someone to keep the bidding alive when I am so distributional. I hope it will be partner. If he bids a minor, I plan to bid a minimum number of spades followed by 6♥. I think we belong in a slam and can’t find out for sure, so I’ll bid it hoping partner will have the right hand to bid the grand (like the king of spades and two aces or perhaps just KQx of spades, hoping either for a spade break or a winner of some kind. If he responds 1♠ (or shows a spade suit via

the Kaplan Interchange), I’ll bid 6♥. 1♥-1♠; 4♥ shows four spades, (most experts would disagree with this 1♥ – 1♠; 4♥, is different than 1m – 1M; 4m) so why shouldn’t 1♥-1♠; 6♥ show four spades with a better hand?

In the 37 years I’ve been playing bridge, I’ve never heard of that sequence, but our esteemed Hall of Famer has forgotten more about bridge than I’ll ever learn. Indeed, before I ever made a bid, Marshall had won a national championship- and had written several bridge books including “How to Win at Duplicate Bridge,” one of the most highly acclaimed bridge books ever. Rumor has it that Marshall is writing a new book. Maybe he’ll discuss 1♥-1♠; 6♥ in it.

Kantar: 1♥. I’m waiting to hear if anyone bids spades before I go crazy.

Clough: 2♣. I open 2♣, planning to bid 3♥ over partner’s 2♦ and 4♥ over a negative by partner. I might have to guess after the opponents bid a lot but my heart suit is good enough to handle just about any level of interference.

Roeder: 1♥. I can comfortably compete to 5♥. It would be wonderful if taking it slowly allowed partner to show spade length and/or strength. 2♣ is totally misguided because partner will not know that prime

2

MPs
no vul

East	South	West	North
3♣	pass	pass	dbl
pass	?		

You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥K863 ♦QJT973 ♣K2
What call do you make?

This problem of how to advance after partner's balancing double induced a couple of panelists to play their own version of the Match Game.

Kantar: 4♦. It just looks right for diamonds to be trump. Nobody else is going to bid 4♦. I'll bet on it.

Before you read on, decide if you'll take Eddie's bet. Will Eddie's 4♦ call have company?

Mealymouth: 3NT. Not any number of hearts (partner may have only three, and trumps may split badly) nor any number of diamonds. (3♦ is a "nothing" bid, and anything more bypasses 3NT, which seems the most likely optimal contract at matchpoints.) If Marshall disagrees, I'll retract all the nice things I've said about him in the past; that goes for Bob Hamman, too.

Mr. Mealymouth predicts that Marshall Miles, the Godfather of Three No Trump, will join him in bidding 3NT. OK, readers, who thinks Marshall will duplicate Mealymouth's 3NT?

Miles: 4♣, followed by 5♥.

Sorry, Mealymouth, that's a big swing and a miss. You bid the cheapest game, while "Miles from Nowhere" tried for slam after his partner's balancing double.

Roeder: 4♥. Why play a 10-card fit when I can build character playing a Moysian?

Goldsmith: 4♣. If partner bids 4♥, great. If he bids 4♠, we play 5♦. There is a danger that partner is 5-4-3-1 exactly and we'll be in the wrong matchpoint game, but I think it is more likely that he is some 4-4-3-2, because West didn't raise.

Swanson: 4♣. Partner had better bid his four-card heart suit before his five-card spade suit.

Two panelists to go and Eddie's "No Match" prediction is still holding up.

Sacks: 5♦ If I were in a regular partnership and had discussed follow-ups to 4♣, I might try that, but if I'm going to guess anyway, I'll guess my long suit is trump.

Clough: 4♣. At MPs, I bid 4♣. If partner bids 4♥, great, and if partner bids 4♠ I will bid 5♦. At IMPs I would just bid 4♦.

David bids 5♦ and Becky would bid 4♦ at IMPs, but no panelist duplicated your 4♦ bid. Eddie, proceed directly to the window and cash your "No Match" ticket! Thank you to Jordan Chodorow for sending me the hand.

ALACBU Elections

At our July ALACBU Board Meeting at the Pasadena Hilton, District 23 will be holding elections for ALACBU officers.

The position is a two-year term. Positions for election are president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.

To be eligible, candidates for the

above offices must have previously served or currently be serving ALACBU as an officer, director or committee member.

Anyone interested is serving or anyone wishing to nominate a candidate should notify Rand Pinsky, Director of Elections, at Pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net.

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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.

3

IMPs
NS vul

North	East	South	West
1♥	4♠	?	

You, South, hold: ♠32 ♥K ♦KQT84 ♣K7532
What do double and 4NT mean?

Roeder: Double. Partner cannot really go wrong. I have shortness in his suit, so if he elects to pass, peachy by me. Note to those who religiously only play negative doubles through lower levels: lose the religion.

Amen Brother Roeder!

Swanson: Double. Showing values outside the spade suit.

Goldsmith: Double. If partner has a balanced hand, I'm happy to defend. If he is unbalanced, this will be a decent dummy. Double isn't penalties, just values. If 4NT shows this hand, great, but I suspect most play it as key card after a major suit opening.

I think this panel is unanimous in feeling that double is not purely penalty, but shows useful values for both offense and defense. The meaning of 4NT, on the other hand...

Sacks: Pass. My second choice is 4NT (key card) to get an idea of how much defense we have.

Kantar: Double. In this sequence, I play 4NT to be RKCB. If the opening bid had been a minor, 4NT would be primarily for takeout.

Eddie has written many books on Roman Keycard, and he thinks this sequence should be RKCB. I disagree, as do the following panelists.

Mealy-mouth: 4NT. The reward from reaching a making five (or six) of a minor vulnerable is too large, and the reward for beating a non-vul four spades is too small to pass. I trust that North is not some beginner who will think that 4NT is any form of Blackwood and that she will be smart enough to figure out that it isn't natural in this auction. The winning call, a slow double that is invariably based on two small and asks partner to "do something intelligent," is unavailable. Job One is playing the game without the aid of tempo or other mannerisms. Job Two is finding a fit and making games and slams. Job Three is nailing overbidding opponents for penalties.

Miles: 4NT. Partner should assume this shows the minors. If (not with this hand, of course) I bid 5♥ over partner's minor, it should show an invitation to 6♥.

Clough: 4NT. 4NT is for minors.

Thank you to Jordan Chodorow for sending me this hand also.

PSP#1 continued from page 12

minor suit cards are not carrying any weight. A reasonable second choice is a Namyats 4♣ followed up with a 4♠ cue bid if the opponents are silent.

This freak hand was dealt in last month's World Bridge Production Championships (commonly referred

to as the Mini Cavendish) in Las Vegas. Partner's hand was void AKQJ9xxx QJ9xx. In one of the cruelest layouts imaginable, hearts go 4-0 and diamonds go 5-0. Your side can make 9 tricks in hearts or 10 tricks in diamonds.

I opened 2♣ at the table, a bid I am no longer fond of. (Now, I like 1♥ better.) In the Cavendish, 1♥, 2♣,

4♥, and 6♥ were all opened at least once. My partner suggested 4♣ Namyats as Roeder suggested, with 4♠ to follow. If that had occurred to me, I would have some trepidation that I would have been mistaken for having spades, but maybe I should assume that partner has more confidence in me.

4

IMPs
no vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠764 ♥AQ853 ♦A75 ♣Q4
4a) Do you approve of South's 3♦ bid? 4b) What now?

4a) Do you approve of the 3♦ bid?

This hand was reported to me by Mark Bartusek. I felt that the 3♦ bid caused the problem on this hand by violating the principle of setting trumps ASAP.

Mile: I agree or approve.

Roeder: No, but my disapproval is mild. 3♠ is the book bid. The auction happened to break badly. Now I am obliged to show support at the 5-level with a marginal hand.

Clough: No. I would have bid 3♠ at table. It is too hard for partner to evaluate his hand without knowing about our fit.

Sacks: No!

Goldsmith: No. It is imperative to show support in competitive auctions. 3♦ is a "master bid."

Kantar: No, I don't approve. I would have bid 3♠.

Mealymouth: No. I might get away with telling partner that I mixed the ♥5 with my diamonds, but he'll never believe me if I say I put both the ♥5 and the ♥Q with my diamonds.

Swanson: No. It won't help partner evaluate his hand. A simple 3♠ cue bid showing full values for a game raise in hearts is far better.

4b) What now?

Goldsmith: 6♥. It sounds like my hand is gold. Partner probably has at most one spade and two diamonds. If he's 1-6-2-4, my cards are working double overtime. Maybe I'll catch ♠xx ♥KJxxxx ♦xx ♣AKJx and roll it. Maybe I'll catch ♠xx ♥KJxxxx ♦Qx ♣AKx and go down two. I'm guessing, and partner isn't involved,

because he doesn't know I have hearts.

Sacks: 6♥. Partner did not raise diamonds; therefore he probably has a club suit. Since I made the brilliant lead-obstructing bid, 5♥ is easy. In fact, put me down for 6♥. A good partner has a spade void or ♣AKJxx along with his ♥KT972.

Miles: 5♥. I was hoping to be able to bid 4♥ after my diamond bid, but I have to show my heart support without getting partner to bid six (unless he has lots of extra values).

Kantar: 5♥. With partner's probably having a singleton spade, I suddenly have a very good hand.

Roeder: 5♥. The bad news: I have made a mockery of the adage that the 5-level belongs to the opponents. The good news: my 12-count is working overtime. My three small spades suggest that we may be playing with a 30-point deck. Once in a while, they may make 4♠ if we have no heart cashers. It would be just too painful to hear partner's jibes if I do not get around to bidding hearts. "Partner, were you waiting for 6-card support to bid hearts?" Or, "Did I forget that we agreed to open 2-card majors?"

Mealymouth: 5♥. I'm risking the usual three-year prison sentence for violating the LAW in hopes that a softhearted judge will show mercy and give me probation instead. I can't suppress strong five-card support forever, and I thank East for bidding only four spades, not six, else I'd have had to bid 7♥, a triple violation of the LAW.

Swanson: 5♥. The auction came up soft for me (another way of saying "what's the problem?").

Clough: 5♥. There's not much choice.

5

IMPs
no vul

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	1♥	dbl
pass	1NT	pass	?

You, South, hold: ♠AQT7 ♥5 ♦AQT76 ♣QJ9
What call do you make?

This is problem from a Tannah Hirsch (Goren Bridge) quiz. There are at least two issues here. 1) How strong is a 1NT advance and how often will it not have a stopper in the opponent's suit? 2) After a 1NT advance to a takeout double, should a simple new suit bid be forcing or just corrective with a weak hand such as ♠Axxx ♥-- ♦QJxxx ♣Kxxx. If a new suit is constructive, is the bid forcing? Forcing to game?

Swanson: 2♦. I don't treat this as showing extra values (removing a 1NT response to a takeout double to a suit at the two level). It does serve the purpose of giving partner another chance to bid, should he hold an appropriate hand.

John agrees that a new suit is corrective and bids a rather strong corrective 2♦. The remainder of the panel appears to be bidding 2♦ hoping partner will take it as forward going.

Sacks: 2♦. This should be forward-going and it is where I live.

Miles: 2♦.

Roeder: 2♦. A degree of optimism is justified. If we are missing either pointed suit king in a game contract, it will be well placed.

Mealy-mouth: 2♦, which should be safe enough if partner passes and may lead to a good 3NT, which I'll bid if he raises to 3♦.

Clough: 2♦. I have a nice hand, but I'm not strong enough for 3NT.

Goldsmith: 2♦. I think this is really close between 2♦, 2♥, and 3NT. I'm driving to game. The upside of bidding 3NT now is that it's far and away the most likely contract, and jumping there might discourage a heart lead. On the other hand, responder didn't raise, which suggests that opener is likely to have six hearts, and he's much more likely to lead hearts from AQJxxx than AQJxx. The upside of bidding slowly is that 5♦ or 4♠ could be cold with 3NT down off the top, for example, if partner has ♠KJx ♥xxx ♦Kxx ♣Axxx. If I had one fewer spade and one more club, or if the honor structure in the blacks was reversed, I think bidding 3NT is better, because 4♠ will become an unlikely contract. Yes, I think 2♦ is forcing. 1NT shows values and is a playable contract, so there really is no need to correct with light shaped hands. It is particularly dangerous in the suit just under theirs; what if partner is 3-5-1-4? Do you really want to play 3♣ doubled on a trump lead with 18 HCP between you? Even if 1NT is a silly contract, it's a silly contract at only 50 a trick.

Hirsch gave 2♦ as the suggested answer, stating "If game is there, partner must have enough to bid again".

Kantar: 2NT. Finesses seem to be working.

The lighter shapely takeout doubles become, the stronger advances to takeout doubles need to be. In my opinion this is especially true for NT bids, because partner is likely short in the opponents' suit. I believe that a new suit after a takeout double and 1NT advance is best played as corrective. The panel's difference of opinion noted, I like Eddie's 2NT bid. If partner bids game, it should be good. My second choice is 3NT.

What do you think? Send letters to the editor to: bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org