

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ups and Downs

by Bill Schreiber, ALACBU President



Well, here it is the middle of February and temperatures are all over the place from near freezing at night to the 80s during the day. I begin this column this way to compare my presidency to the ups and downs of the weather. As I try to reflect on my 3½ years as president, there have been positives and there have been negatives. Among the positives is that ALACBU is back on solid financial footing. We have increasingly good attendance (tables per day) at our summer Bridge Week tournament which is making money, as opposed to the tournaments that were held in Industry in the past. The Board of Directors has been very supportive in virtually all of the things that I have brought to the table.

I shall single out those individuals with special thanks in my final column, which will be available July 1. Speaking of the Board of Directors— West Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pomona, Antelope Valley, South Bay and Glendale have been at all of our meetings while Downey, Glendale and San Fernando Valley come to few, if any meetings. I would suggest that at Unit Board Meetings, representatives are chosen to

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

Have Any Suggestions for ACBLScore?

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



A few years ago the National Board created a Technology Committee. One of the charges to this committee was to review ACBLScore and to suggest changes to it to make it more user friendly. ACBLScore is more than 20 years old, first written in DOS and later adopted to a Windows-based program. The committee has recently been working with a software firm in the Memphis area to update this program.

The people on this committee have a general idea of what they want to accomplish. However, I believe that we need to have input from the people who use ACBLScore on a daily basis, namely our club owners and club directors. Therefore, I am asking all of our District 23 club owners and directors to send me an email with your suggestions as to what features you would like to have in the new ACBLScore and what features you would want eliminated. My email address is pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net. I would like you to provide to me any idea that would make the use of the program that much user friendly. I assure you that any idea I receive I will forward to the committee for their discussion.

LOUISVILLE NABC

In a few days Kathy and I leave for Louisville. Even though the tournament does not begin until March 10, I have to be there for our meetings that begin before that. The two most interesting motions are:

1. Establishing a mastepoint policy for online play as well as robot tournaments. I have previously written an article about this and have received

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District 23 GNT Qualifying

by Howard Einberg

Two of the four teams that will represent our district this summer in Toronto have won their spots by finishing first in their flights of the Grand National Teams. The Open flight winners are Mitch Dunitz, Roger Lee, Ed Davis, and John Swanson. Flight B winners are Bruce Altschuler, Bud Bates, Zalman Perelman, and Ryan Wessels. These two contests took place the weekend of February 12.

Two more teams will win the right to go to Toronto with a subsidy from our district. Flight A, for players with less than 5,000 masterpoints, and Flight C, for non life masters with less than 500 masterpoints, will take place March 5-6. Entries are accepted up until game time at the Barrington Bridge Club— March 5 at 10:00 a.m. Teams must consist of four, five, or six players. Complete conditions of contest are available on our district website (www.acbldistrict23.org). If you have questions you can call Howard Einberg (310-475-9784) or Bill Wickham (310-234-3238). This event is the easiest way to win lots of gold points without traveling far from home.

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PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

attend the meetings on Saturday nights, usually held after the playing sessions at our regional tournaments. Three Saturday nights is not a big commitment.

Tough decisions had to be made during my tenure, especially with regard to discontinuing the print version of the Southern California Bridge News. Printing and mailing costs, though, were driving the district towards bankruptcy. But we have recovered. I would seriously doubt that we could ever go back to a print version, though I am sure that a vast majority of our members would like that.

The last I heard was that attendance at our district's sponsored Regional-At-Sea had 130 commitments. This translates to \$13,000 revenue for the district. Special thanks to the WLA Unit for allowing us to cross over into their sectional time with this regional.

Bridge Week 2011 at the Pasadena Hilton is fast approaching with its premier events: the 4-day Marshall Miles on July 2-3 and our **GREEN-POINTS** event, the third Calcutta on Friday night, July 1.

Regionals at the Marina del Rey Hotel are scheduled for October 2011 and February 2012.

As far as the Grand National Teams are concerned, the winning Open Flight Team is: **Roger Lee, Mitch Dunitz, John Swanson, and Ed Davis** and the winning B flight Team is: **Bruce Altschuler, Marel Bates, Ryan Wessels, and Zalman Perelman**. I wish both teams good luck in Louisville. Flights A and C representatives will be determined in March and I will report on them next month.

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

Many of you are now aware that former world champion John Swanson calls Lancaster, CA his new home. We are so happy to welcome John here and are pleased to see that his skills are still razor sharp (see the District 23 Grand National Team Competition report). Do some of you remember the old days 40 years ago when there were city vs. city competitions within each unit? Lancaster is claiming seeding rights for the next generation of this competition.

This unit is very fortunate to have many good people that love to play bridge. The Valencia Club offers great competition on Tuesday nights with frequent 10-12 table games. Under the steady hands of Rand Pinsky and Kathy Swaine, this game is a proven delight. On Thursday mornings, Rita Vannatter has developed a wonderful game in Castaic that is proving to be more and more popular. The games at the Lancaster Bridge Club offer an opportunity for players of all levels to play several times a week. The results from the past four+ weeks of games at each venue are as follows: IN VALENCIA we see that Donna Davidson and Freddie Straus have won twice as has Arif Shah and John Langer and Ted Maki and George MacDonald. Paul Gill & Roy Ladd are the C-level hotshots with two big wins as well. The usual suspects show up frequently in the money, Barbara and Tom Jones, Rand Pinsky and Kathy Swaine (with different partners as well as together), Kristi Kubo, Rita Vannatter, Peggy Fleming, Gary Grey and Hugh Bartlett, Marlene Warren Gasper and Dave Gasper, Betty Peavy and Everett Dehn, Elaine Moore and Tom Shudic, Paul Mostman and Bruce Bloch and the amazing Ruth Baker and Jerry Burrill.

The friendly CASTAIC club has seen a lot of really close finishes this past month with Carol Trenda and Jackie Moor, Hugh Bartlett and Paula Olivares, Jerry Burrill and Ruth Baker and Fabian Fang and Everett Dehn all claiming narrow victories. Paul Gill, Roy Ladd, Marguerite Pinkers, Bill Brodek, Paul Mostman,

Kathy Swaine, Peggy Fleming, Rita Vannatter, Vibeke Gilbreath, Basant Shah, Lemonte Johnson and many others make this a club whose results are always hotly contested.

The LANCASTER club has seen another solid performance from its 100+ year old jewel, Ms. Dorrie Deston. Dorrie and Hal Underwood finished third in the very tough 5-table Tuesday afternoon game a couple of weeks ago. Bob Hart, Ron & Sandi Oest, Mary Stauf and Henry Roediger, Doris Thompson and Lola Messiha all notched wins this past month. Marlene Warren Gasper, Dave Gasper, Willo Jean Phillips and Brad Ward all secured multiple wins this past month with Marlene and Brad and Willo and Brad each falling a tiny bit short of a 70% game. Every game is hotly contested in this club with great new players like Sharry Vida and Beth Morrin making life tough for the old veterans.

If you want to score well you have to learn how to handle the tough hands. What do you do with this one? ♠A ♥AJx ♦KQ109xx ♣Jxx. You open one diamond, opponents pass throughout, partner bids 1♠, you bid 2♦ and then partner bids 2♥. The winning bid at the table was 3♣ getting the partnership to a thin, but cold, 3NT.

Glendale Verdugo by Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game - Saturday, March 12

1:00 Game Time

12:15 Buffet Lunch

11:00 Board of Director's Meeting

Our bridge community has lost two of its stalwarts, Harold Gordon and Harrison Peterson, who both passed away recently. Upon retirement from his engineering chores at JPL, Hal contributed much time and effort through club ownership, teaching, and serving on the board of our unit. Pete, who served as a Major in the

District 23 presents...



April 30-May 7, 2011
MEXICAN RIVIERA
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Larry Cohen has won 26 National Championships and lectures worldwide. He's also the author of many books including the best-sellers *To Bid or Not to Bid* and *Following the LAW*. Two of his four interactive CDs were honored as "best CD of the year".



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

District 23 presents...

ACBL Sanctioned Regional

From Just \$1293 pp
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Special cocktail party with Larry, and final awards ceremony too.

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

Tournament Chairman: Ellen Kent - 310-822-2021

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

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

Event Schedule (subject to slight changes)

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

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

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

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Army Air Corps in WWII, also continued his bridge avocation upon retirement from Challenge Creamery Credit Union as general manager. He was a contender at the Regency club into his late 80s when he moved up to Cupertino, CA to be near his daughter and family. A serious student of the game, he contributed a great deal to our club activities. He died at age 96 and yet remembered us through the bequest of his extensive library of bridge books. Our special condolences to the families and friends of both Hal and Pete.

The latter part of January was boom-boom time for Tim Lolli who registered a 71.25% game with Carolyn Cohen and a 72% with Dan Oakes. A third boom belongs to Brad Beland and Dennis Semain for their 70.83 percent. We're even presenting a fourth boom to Gregg Alsdorf & Glenn Silcott, newcomers to duplicate bridge, for placing first recently. Themewise only, it's a Boomer generation—like IV, n'est-ce-pas? Margaret Mataga and I had a good round trip to the Las Vegas sectional which has been moved from the Riviera to Ballys. There is a connecting corridor to the Paris Hotel where we found a good buffet. We both came home with MPs and fond food memories, including a lunch stop at Peggy Sue's Diner on the drive back.

As for the February Unit Game, Merry Besvold used her mom's recipe for the barbecued chicken and rice entrée, so Betty Stenbom gets a share of our plaudits, as do Betsy and Nancy for the salads and Eva and Margaret for desserts. Gametime glory was shared by the following:

| N/S | |
|-------|--------------------------------|
| A1 | Herman Helber & Jacob Frenkel |
| A2 | Carolyn Cohen & Gerry Belcher |
| A3 | Steve Licker & Bob Gish |
| A4 | John Villalobos & Bob Tayrien |
| A5 B1 | Madelon Liebman & Carol Lessin |
| B2 | Karen Alpert & Rufus Rhoades |

| E/W | |
|-------|-------------------------------|
| A1 | Brad Beland & Dennis Semain |
| A2 | Tim Lolli & Dan Oakes |
| A3 B1 | Margaret Mataga & Tom Miyaoka |
| A4 | Louise Reich & Amr Elghamry |
| A5 B2 | Harold Knowles & Zach Vedro |
| B3 | Esther Tapelband & Bob Hogan |
| C1 | Nancy Lyon & Betsy Josias |

Boom-booms to all of you for jobs well done. As noted above, our next Unit Game is on March 12, the approach to Springtime. You and it will be most welcome! Take care, everybody...

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

FEBRUARY 13 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Mark Teaford/Kimi Matsumoto, 2nd Tony Zee/John Wong, 3rd Dorothy Thompson/Elinor Baratelle, 4th Carlene Bailey/Joye McLearn, 5th John Killian/Irwin Bender, 6/7 Diane Sachs/Gloria Sedore tied with Steve and Charlotte Sturm. B flight overalls: 4th Susan and Keith Hafen, 5th Curtis and Lynn Johnson, 6/7 Martin Gilbert/Chuck Laine tied with John and April Berg. C flight over-all: 4th David Hwang/Tsu. Congratulations to you all!

70% GAMES Jan 16 through Feb 15: On Jan 16, in the NLM game, Carmela Chiurazzi/Jerry Smith had 72.62%; in the evening game Dale Whitney/Brett Favre had a 70% game (even though Brett is not a member of the ACBL, and is therefore ineligible to win ACBL-recognized master points). In the evening game Jan 19 Jo Melis/George Welsh had 70.97%. And in the NLM game Feb 7 Bonny Walsh/Karen Watson had 72.22%. Congratulations to you all!

BIG MASTERPOINT AWARDS: Big master point awards for 1st over-all in club games Jan 16 through Feb 15: On Jan 17 Marcie Evans/Bev Shafer won 5.24mp; Feb 2 Cecil Cook/Gary Paugh won 4.25mp; Feb 5 Phyllis Parker/Cathy Bauer won 3.00mp; Feb 17 Jackie Hess/John Farr won 5.17mp; Feb 8 Stanley Snyder/Wei Pei won 4.00mp in the afternoon and David Mason/Bud Parrish won 3.00mp in the evening; Feb 9 Brandon Sheumaker/Gary King won 4.50mp; Feb 10 Ted Gibbs/Jeff Strutzel won 4.00mp; Feb 11 Ralph Beazley/Michael Daley won 6.00mp; Feb 12 Ralph Beazley/Irwin Bender won 4.33mp; and on Feb 13 Mark Teaford/Kimi Matsumoto won 3.83mp. Big master point awards for 2nd over-all: Jan 17 Diane Starbuck/Eddie Gruber won 3.93mp; Feb 2 Phyllis Parker/Gayle Harris won 3.19mp; Feb 7 Eleth Fields Dick Sands won 3.88mp; Feb 8 Steve Rowe/

Brandon Sheumaker won 3.00mp; Feb 9 Mark Tang/Bruce Horiguchi won 3.38mp; Feb 10 Kimi Matsumoto/Mark Teaford won 3.00mp; Feb 11 Lois Abramson/Irwin Bender won 4.50mp; Feb 13 Mark Teaford/Kimi Matsumoto won 3.83mp. And in the big game on Feb 11 Fred Dyle/Jean Towgood won 3.38 for 3rd over-all. Congratulations to all!

NEW MEMBERS: David Kriesel and, transferring into our unit, Rod Kerr. Welcome to both of you!

STATUS CHANGES: New Junior Masters: John Galligher and Barbara Sell; Regional Masters: Carmela Chiurazzi and Colleen Gardner. Life Master: Sharon Beran (who at the same time became a Bronze Life Master); also Bronze Life Master: Tybie Becker; and Silver Life Master: Betty Williams. Congratulations to you all!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB: Sunday March 6 Unit Game--lunch served at 12:30, game at 1pm. March 17 unit-rated St. Patrick's Day game. And the week of March 21 through 27, STaC games. Extra points, hand records; card fee: \$11.

GET WELL WISHES to Maruxa Cargill, Merlin Hansen and Al Mastron.

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD: BIG GAME: Gloria Sedore & Betty Jackson scored an 84% game on January 20. To put this in the right prospective, the highest score recorded in *The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge* is 86% and second high is 83.3%! Gloria & Betty you "done good!"

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME RESULTS: Proving that bridge is an ageless game, 93 years young, Ruth Sandler, and her partner. Cookie Pham, came in first overall in the game on January 28 with a score of 61.7%; Betty Scharf & Bill Robinson were second and Judy Carter-Johnson & Gene Yaffee were third.

STATUS CHANGES: Sharon Beran not only became a Life Master but became a Bronze Life Master at the same time. Congratulations!

ACE OF CLUBS Standings: our own Howard Smith placed third in the 100 to 200 Masterpoint Race and Midge Dunagan placed fourth in the 200 to 300 Race. Good going to you both.

SPECIAL EVENT: Leisure World Duplicate Bridge Club is excited to host one of the ACBL-wide Senior Pair games on Monday, February 28, at 12:30 p.m. in Clubhouse #3. Players must be 55 years of age or older. The boards will be duplicated and hand analyses will be available. Call Ruth Kaller at 430-0316 for more information.

GET WELL WISHES to Hessel Sikkema.

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: If you miss getting the newsletter by snail mail (it's been three years since the district quit mailing them out), you can get the newsletter by e-mail. Send me your e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jjyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

Unit Game – Election Party

March 6

Elk's Lodge Arcadia

First of all, the Election Party is just around the corner, so make plans now to attend. It will be at The Elk's Lodge in Arcadia and the cost is \$35.00. Dinner will be a choice of salmon or prime rib, and you will enjoy two sessions of bridge— a Pairs game in the afternoon and a Swiss in the evening.

The unit game last month was a huge success, partly because Peter Szecsi and Bernie Mateer were in charge of the food. I hear it was excellent! They were the busy bees. I drove them to the Las Vegas tournament and we came home late Friday night, and they were able to present a beautiful spread for the unit game with very little time to prepare. We had fried chicken, homemade baked beans and all the trimmings. I was happy to see that some of the baked beans and a cake or two survived and were served to the Monday crowd. They were absolutely delicious! Thanks to you two for such a great meal! Shui-Ming Huang and Robert Wang took away the big winnings with a 67.21% win. That's a great score against tough competition, right? Finishing off B and C categories were Jeff Lang and Eric Tang who won both flights.

Our unit brought home some nice wins from the Las Vegas Sectional. Peter Szecsi and Bernie Mateer waltzed in after the drive from home and had no problem winning the Monday Open Pairs game. Shui-Ming and Robert also won an Open Pairs and Nancy Spelke won a 299'er game. The tournament was held at Bally's, which is 100% better than the Riviera; nice playing area, great rooms for \$49 per night, great prizes

and overall good fun. They were up 400 tables from last year.

We were so sorry to hear of Bob Mesias' death. Joanie is loved by everyone, and I know she will be surrounded with great support at this difficult time in her life.

Do you know the term, The Big Double? It's a description of the hand where you double and then bid after partner's forced response. Double-and-Then-Bid auctions promise a hand too strong for an initial overcall. Most good players today set pretty high standards for such a bidding sequence—approximately 18 HCP with a 5-card suit or a good 15-16 with a 6+ card suit. Mike Lawrence wrote many fine books, but one of them is titled, "Takeout Doubles," and gives this example for a minimum Big Double.

| | | | |
|------|-----|------|----|
| 1♣ | dbl | pass | 1♥ |
| pass | 1♠ | | |

Mike says this might be a typical hand: ♠KQJ9x ♥AQ ♦AQxx ♣xx

As you can see, it would be uncomfortable to simply bid 1♠ directly, so you use the Big Double - start with a double and then bid your suit after partner responds.

Suppose you hold this hand and your RHO opens the bidding 1♦: It's too big for a 1NT overcall so you start with the Big Double and then bid 1NT after partner's response. ♠KQx ♥Ax ♦AJT9 ♣KQxx

Here's a simple rule you might consider – Any time you double and then make a call that you could have made immediately, you are telling your partner that you have a very good hand with approximately 18+ points or the equivalent.

Keep this in mind when you have a big hand in the overcall position: A Big Double is not forcing and partner is allowed to pass. A double followed by a jumpshift is even stronger and most likely shows at least a 6-card suit, but it's still not forcing as partner can pass with a terrible hand and a misfit. With a hand that is strong enough to insist on game, Double-Then-Cuebid-Then-Bid-a-New-Suit. This sequence is absolutely forcing to game with slam interest, and partner cannot pass.

See you at the table.

Pomona-Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game

Saturday, March 19, 11:00 a.m.

Lunch served

Now that the excitement of the unit presidential inauguration has worn off, unit members are once again settling back into the local bridge routine.

The Friday morning La Fetra game continues to be our best attended club game. Early risers should also give the Tuesday 8:45 game a try. And for those of you who still appreciate a chance to get out for a nice evening of bridge, the Thursday night game has been running at 6:00 p.m. for several months now. The early starting time ensures that you'll get home by 10. If lack of a partner is a problem, call Roger Boyar at 626 214 6354. But don't be afraid to drop in as a single. Roger will make sure you get to play.

Due to incredible efficiency and a fortuitous deadline, the results of January's unit game made it into last month's column. Rather than repeat them to fill space, I'll substitute some results from the recent Riverside regional. Congratulations to Joe Unis and Donald Naf, who won the B/C open pairs event with a nice 62% game. Lary Alba and Dave Ruoff took a 3rd in the open pairs, and Lynne Parker, Mary Miller, Karen McCarthy, and Helen Wang finished 2nd in a Knockout event. Kathy Helber, Genise Hasan, Susan Emminger, Clint Lew, Richard Patterson, and Joe Unis also placed in team events. Unis, Ruoff, and Naf led local players in total points.

In local club results, top game of the month was a 72.9% effort by Dave Ruoff and Vic Sartor. Other winners were Lulu Minter, Bill Papa, Roger Boyar, Paul Christney, Mary Miller, Milt Kalikman, Marjorie Preston, Clara Satterfield, Charlotte Capelle, Hanah Mogharbel, Lary Alba, Karen McCarthy, Suzanne Wojcik, Cordell Goode, Susan Ruoff, Lois Snowden, Donald Logsdon, Ann McClelland, and Ron Purkis.

In social news, we hope to see Herb Stamfl back at the tables soon. He's been recuperating from leg surgery. And we are sorry to announce that we are losing one of our nicest players and conscientious unit board members. Lynne Parker is moving to Michigan. We wish her the best of luck.

The authenticity of this month's hand of the month

may be viewed by some with skepticism. I will sign an affidavit and swear on a stack of Bridge Worlds, however, that it was hand-dealt at a local game. I will further attest that I actually played the hand and at least 20 other players will back my recollection of the cards. You hold: ♠AKJ872 ♥AQ109853. Yes, 6-7-0-0. You can look up the odds on holding this distribution, but I'm betting they're not as good as holding 4-4-3-2 or 5-3-3-2. How would you bid this monster? You might open it 2♣, but your partner may not expect only 14 HCP. It would be a shame to go down in 6NT or 7NT when your third opponent takes you seriously. You could open it 1H, planning a reverse, but will your partner ever believe your second suit is SIX cards long? I decided the chances for confusion were too great a risk, so I opted for a simpler plan— 1♠, followed by a 6H rebid! Not perfect, perhaps, but pard should get the idea you don't have too many cards in the minors.

As it happened, the auction proceeded 1♠ - 2♦ - 2♠ - pass. Back to you.

Perhaps naively, I still was looking at the possibility that we might get to 7, so I followed my original plan and bid 6H. It was remotely possible pard could have the queen of spades, the king of hearts, and a good crystal

ball.

But he merely corrected to a sensible 6♠.

Interestingly, he did have a hand that made 7 a cinch against the opponents' actual holdings. LHO had a stiff king of hearts and ♠953. Pard had: ♠Q64 ♥7 ♦10973 ♣QJ1085 Notice the spade spots. After dropping the heart king you can ruff out hearts while LHO can do nothing but grind his teeth in frustration. If you and your favorite partner would have bid and made the grand, I can only doff my fedora to you. Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Upcoming Events: On Sunday March 27th, the Bridge Academy will hold its 6th Annual Mary Goldberg Memorial Luncheon to remember all of our bridge friends who passed away in 2010. At 12 noon there will be a wonderful lunch hosted by Mary's daughter Leslie Weinstein. Time will be dedicated to sharing memories of our departed bridge friends before beginning a Bridge game at approximately 1:00 p.m. The fee for this day

2011 District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying

| Flight | Dates | Player Masterpoint Limits |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Open Flight | February 12-13 | 0-unlimited |
| Flight A | March 5-6 | 0-5000 |
| Flight B | February 12-13 | 0-2000 |
| Flight C | March 5-6 | Non Life Master under 500 |

Location of all events: Barrington Bridge Club
11514 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025 310-966-4144

For all the above events:

- Masterpoint limits based on recorded points as of 9/1/2010
- Game Times: 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM
- Swiss qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5, or 6 players
- Players can enter more than one event (each on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in Toronto this summer
- Winning teams to receive partial refund of expenses for trip to the finals.
- For Complete Conditions of Contest see the ALACBU website at www.acbldistrict23.org
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg 310-475-9784 or Bill Wickham 310-234-3238

is only \$6.00. Let's all come and remember those we have known for so many years. For reservations or additional information contact the Bridge Academy at 818-999-9131.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Unit and Awards Game at the Bridge Academy on Sunday, April 10. Lunch will be available at noon with a bridge game beginning at 1:00 p.m. Reservations are not required but are always appreciated. The Bridge Academy is located at 6733 Variel Avenue, Canoga Park, 91303. Telephone number is 818-999-9131

Unit News: The January meeting of the board was well attended by all new and continuing members as well as former President and Vice President Larry Gordon and Gloria Malkin. Elected and appointed positions are as follows: President Mike Fierman, Vice President and Newsletter Coordinator Fran Kern, Secretary Doug Beagle, Treasurer Dan Strauss, ACBL Representative Bill Raines, Membership Mo Mansour, Sectional Coordinator Gerry Cogan, Hospitality Eva Seri, Sunshine Committee Marge Bulmer. To contact a Board member you can obtain their telephone number or e-mail address from the Bridge Academy or the 750 Club.

There is more good news from the recent Palm Springs Regional where Noel and Tammy Purkin along with Freddi Straus and John Clark won their KO's.

New Novice Game: A new Novice Game is scheduled to begin at the Bridge Academy on March 3rd. These games will be held on Thursdays, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., and will offer assistance with competitive bidding. For more information call the Bridge Academy at 818-999-9131.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for December

750 Bridge Club: Paul Endler 9.28, Jim Gardner 8.51, Ron Malkin 7.13, Larry Kussin 7.02, Elaine Keyes 5.99, Jody Lombardo 5.85, Rochelle Lotto 5.64, Bud Shapiro 5.35, April Adams 5.27, Bob Williams 5.25..

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game: Joan Van Egmond 4.73, Phil Calloway 4.44, Doug Odney 3.43, Carol Stein 3.24, Joe Friscia 3.03, Sam Antoun 2.86, Mo Mansour 2.86, Annette Cohen 2.45, Paula Oliveres 2.30, Doug Beagle 2.23.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Armand Szulc 12.58, Sheila Bozin 11.05, Tom Wylie 10.99, Carol Diamant 10.84, Allan Palansky 10.55, Donald Crum 10.42, Leda Danzig 10.02, Gary Frans 9.52, Joan Rubin

8.87, Tammy Purkin 8.57.

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

Torrance-South Bay

by Steve Mager

unit website:

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

SBBC website:

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Thursday, March 3, 7:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Monday March 7, 11:30 a.m.

Club Championship: Saturday, March 12, 3:00 p.m.

Unit Swiss Championship:

Sunday, March 13, 1:00 p.m., Lunch 12:30 p.m.

Reservations Required

District 22, 23 STAC: Monday March 21 thru Saturday

March 26 at Unit Clubs

Swiss Team Club Championship:

Tuesday, March 29, 7:00 p.m.

Club Championships: The Club Championship on January 21 was won by Grace Conde/Del Horton in Flight A with Murat Veysoglu/Lisa Kuo taking Flight B. The Club Championship on January 25 saw Cam Meyer/Lucy Tredennick leading the field in Flight A and Charlotte Lewin/Mahin Khadivi on top in Flight B. On January 31 Fran Israel/Steve Ramos won Flight A in the Club Championship with Mark Raggio/Stamley Greengard winning Flight B and Joanna Jones-Reed/Martin Gilbert taking Flight C. The Non Life Master Club Championship on February 10 saw Elaine Asch/Terry Arnush leading both Flights A and B with Jamila Malika/ Joyce Klossner ahead in Flight C.

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

- January 18: Carol Mason, Bea and John Brailiar, Bruce Horiguchi
- January 25: Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer, Jim Dutton, David Peim
- February 1: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott
- February 8: Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, Lucy

Gellner, John J. McDermott

• February 15: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

Opening Lead of the Year

Our esteemed director Mike Savage was my partner at a recent sectional Swiss. He held: ♠x ♥Axxxx ♦ATx ♣xxxx. The auction had gone 1NT by RHO, 2♥ (transfer) by LHO, 2♠ by RHO, all pass. What would you lead? Not many players would lead a low diamond away from the Ace into the NoTrump bidder but Mike did. He caught me holding: ♠9xxx ♥KQ ♦Kx ♣Txxxx. I was surprised when my ♦K won the trick and quickly led one back. Mike gave me a diamond ruff so I switched to the ♥K which held the trick. The Declarer and dummy each had 3

hearts and I continued with the ♥Q which Mike overtook with the ♥A. Another heart from Mike gave me a ruff for down one. I think the result at the other table was 2♠ making 4. Pretty spectacular lead from Mike if I do say so myself.

GUV Memorial Award

A couple of ladies from our unit recently travelled to the Honolulu Regional and did quite well winning four team events between them. However there were a few bumps in the road usually provided by a certain one of them. I will make this a guessing game to see if you can identify that person.

On one hand she was declarer in 6NT which was cold for 7. However said lady thought she was in 6♦ and proceeded to lock herself off dummy

going down 3.

She was my partner a couple days later and I tried a weak 2♦ bid in first seat. She bid 2NT which was an Ogust bid asking me to further describe my hand. My response was 3♣ showing a bad hand and not that great a diamond suit. Our protagonist thought for a bit trying to make up her mind on whether to bid a conservative 3♦ or a pushy 3NT. She made up her mind and placed a pass card on the table. Thats right, I got to declare 3♣ with a singleton in the suit going down 3 when 4♦ was cold. Dame fortune was on our side as the opponents tried 3NT at the other table and went down a trick so our loss was minimal.

Back home she proved it wasn't the tropical air that caused these aberrations. In a Tuesday night team game as my partner she held a bad hand in second seat. Her RHO opened 1♠. For some reason she placed a Double card on the table without realizing it. Her LHO bid 1NT and I was looking at a full opening hand and four small hearts, so I decided to cue bid 2♠. She bid 3♥ thinking I was trying Michaels and before I could bid 4♥ my RHO doubled. A minus 1100 points later everybody at the table had to convince her that she had indeed put the Double card on the table.

Nice guy that I am I would never tell you who she was by putting her name in print. Besides, I promised her that I would never let her sister Gabby know she did these things.

Na Zdrowie



Ventura Unit 547 Presents:
M.A. Hill† Memorial
April Fools for Bridge
Sectional in Oxnard
April 1-3, 2011

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Stratifications: (0-750, 750-2000, 2000+ separate 0-299)</p> <p>Fees per person per session: \$10 ACBL members \$11 unpaid & non-members</p> | <p>Friday, April 1 10:00 A.M. & 2:30 P.M. Compact KO Teams Stratified Open Pairs Single Sessions 299er Stratified Pairs Single Sessions * 299ers: Win your section & earn a FREE PLAY *</p> | <p>Oxnard Performing Arts Center (OPAC) { corner of 7th & Hobson }</p> <p style="text-align: right;">805.385.8147 800 Hobson Way (H Street)</p> |
| <p>Saturday, April 2 10:00 A.M. & 2:30 P.M. Compact KO Teams Stratified Open Pairs Single Sessions 299er Stratified Pairs Single Sessions * 299ers: Win your section & earn a FREE PLAY *</p> |  | <p>Sunday, April 3 10:00 A.M. & TBA Stratified Swiss Teams 6 rounds of 8 boards \$100/team – includes dinner 2-Session Stratified Open Pairs if sufficient turn out \$50/pair – includes dinner Sanction # 1104070</p> |

Director In Charge: Peter Knee
Tournament Chair: Judy Kupperman
 (805.985.1978; yubridge@aol.com)
Partnerships: Paula Reach 805.486.5707
 (and Louise Shaffer)



Host Hotel
Country Inn and Suites
 805.986.5353
 3.3 miles from site
 Ask for ACBL BRIDGE rate!
 by referencing 110401ACBL

FREE coffee and snacks all day
All Pairs' Hands Are Predeal

† This tournament is dedicated to the memory of Mary Anita Hill, who organized it so very well for so many years.

West L.A. by Robert Shore

“Honey, I Forgot to Duck!”

You may have noticed that I'm not Candy Scott. Candy's contributions to the world of bridge have included years of service with the Unit Board and countless hours conceiving and organizing unit events, as well as making sure we're all fed when we arrive at them.

For years, Candy also has undertaken the task of writing the Unit column. She recently noticed, though, that she's only human, and like the rest of us can rarely fit more than 28 hours or so into any single day. Unfortunately for me, when Candy realized that something would have to give, I was daydreaming. So when volunteers were asked to step forward as Candy's successor, everyone else took a giant step backward, leaving yours truly

holding the bag. Or keyboard, as it were.

Thank you, Candy, for your many years of service as our columnist. Warn me next time, would you?

O, Canada

How many players do you know with fewer than 100 points who already have all of their gold points? That's what Ryan Wessels accomplished when he teamed with



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Zalman Perelman, Bruce Altshuler, and Bruce's regular partner, Bud Bates, to win the District's berth in the Flight B Grand National Teams.

The 26 gold points the team picked up for the win also allowed Zalman to earn his gold card. Bruce and Bud have been there, done that, but this sort of thing never gets old. (At least, that's what I hear.) Congratulations to the winning team, and the best of luck in Toronto. Our representatives for the Championship Flight also were selected February 13. When you read this, selections for Flights A and C will be just around the corner. I hope to see you there.

More from the Tournament Trail

Riverside held its regional at the start of the month. I didn't get many reports from the tournament, but I noticed a few names I recognized among the overalls. Congratulations to Danny Kleinman and Sally Karbelnig for their performance in the Open Pairs. Honorable mention to Joel Schiff, Brana Hall, and Nancy Heck, who along with their teammate vanquished all comers in the Friday afternoon Swiss Teams. The Cloughs and their teammates also won a Swiss.

A Year to Remember

The winners of our Unit's Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards for 2010 have been announced.

Mini McKenney winners are Bonnie Butler, Wayne Beagle, David Lyons, Karen Schwartz, Richard Gliksman, Donna Massman, Sue Ann Simon, Joyce Lelah, Rahim Israel, Reese Milner, Aram Bedros, Mike Savage, and Becky Clough. These players all will be entitled to a free play at the Unit's Spring Sectional.

Ace of Clubs winners are Sylvia Ziman, Wayne Beagle, David Lyons, Karen Schwartz, Richard Gliksman, Donna Massman, Sue Ann Simon, Sheri Rivera, Rahim Israel, Paul Smith, Aram Bedros, William Wickham, and Becky Clough.

Grass Roots Achievements

Our clubs, of course, are the bedrock of the ACBL. But they can't fulfill this role without the players who play there. So notable achievements at our clubs should, and will, be spotlighted here.

Karen Schwartz and Bob Ashen won the Unit Championship. Victors at Beverly Hills club championships were Joyce Lelah and Zalman Perelman,

District 23 Rank Changes 1/1/11 - 1/31/11

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Edward Bucklin
Judith Farber-Weissman, Jerome Katzman
Stanley Lederman, Diana Menzer
Joan Oliver, Charlie Pastre
Patricia Reiner, Marleme Rubin
Glenn Silcott, Daniel Strauss
Janet Vlasach, Toni Whitesell

Club Master (20 MPs)

Muriel Newell
Lawrence Newman
Ron St John, Miriam Tobolowsky

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Robert Brogan
Bernhard Haderl
Marilyn Landau
Jamila Malikyar
Marcia Myers

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Elaine Godin
Carolyn Mitchell
Anna Williamson

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Richard De Santis

Life Master (300 MPs)

Stephen Massman

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Rosemary Ford

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Barbara Levitt
N Purkin
Sheri Rivera

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Tead Gibbs

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Leo Bell, Becky Clough, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Eddie Kantar,
Jill Meyers, David Sacks, and John Swanson.

1

MPs
NS vul

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 2♣ | pass | 2♥* | pass |
| ? | | | |

* double negative

You, South, hold: ♠AK5 ♥AKQ ♦AKQ ♣AK52
What call do you make?

Some panelists try 5NT, knowing that it is without discussion. They are not all in agreement with how partner should respond.

Bell. 5NT. This pretty much describes my strength and allows partner to put us into a contract in his long suit. This won't be an auction most partnerships have discussed, but I don't think Stayman or transfers should apply here since six or seven of a minor may be our best spot.

Dunitz. 5NT. Should command partner to bid a 5-card suit (we're in the twilight zone here, who discusses such things?)

Kantar. 3NT/5NT. If the double negative cannot have as much as two queens, I am rebidding 3NT. If it can have as much as two queens, then I am rebidding 5NT, asking partner to raise me one level for each queen he has. I do understand that if I rebid 3NT, I run the risk of partner asking me what the hell I was doing after he tables ♠xxx ♥xx ♦xx ♣xxxxx! The Kokish forcing 2NT rebid in this sequence would have come in handy here.

Sacks. 5NT. Since I do not have a way to make a forcing bid in NT, I will bid a pick a slam 5NT bid. This should ask for four-card suits up the line. If partner

manages to bid 6♣, I will pass, otherwise take my shot with 6NT. Perhaps 5NT should ask for a five-card suit. Who knows? I do not think I will try to come up with an agreement for my next 32 HCP hand.

Meyers. 4NT. If partner has Qxxxx of either black suit maybe she will bid a slam; if not I have 10 tricks off the top.

Swanson. 4NT. If you pick up this hand often you will want to add Kokish to your arsenal, or a forcing club. Also, switch to rubber bridge. As it is, I will bid something I know will make - 4NT.

Davis. 4NT.

Clough. 3♣. After much thought, I would bid 3♣ with the assumption that it is a one-round force which allows partner to describe his hand.

Considering the ambiguity of 5NT, maybe 3♣, forcing partner to bid naturally at a low level is very practical. Some guess work will be necessary though. Becky held this hand at the table and submitted it (and problem 2). Her partner actually held ♠QTxxx ♥xx ♦Txxxx ♣x; 7NT was best, but with everything breaking well, 7NT, 7♠, and 7♦ all would make.

What do you think? Send interesting hands or letters to the editor or bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org



| North | East | South | West |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♠ | pass | 1NT* | pass |
| 2♦ | pass | ? | |

* forcing NT

You, South, hold: ♠- ♥AKJ86 ♦97543 ♣J63
What call do you make?

Sacks. 2♥. If I get another bid, I will bid 4♦ but even that may be wrong if partner has something like AQ of the pointed suits (*spades and diamonds*) with a stiff heart and 3 small clubs. Who among us bid 2♦ over 1NT forcing with ♠AJ654 ♥xx ♦AKJ ♣xxx? If you would bid this way, then anyone claiming that a rebid of 2♦ with only three diamonds must have three hearts is clearly wrong. I do play that partner must bid again over 2♥ if they have a singleton or void. Thus, I will at least be playing a reasonable, if not the best, contract if it is passed out.

Davis. 2♥. It helps if partner is not expected to pass with a stiff. If playing differently, then 3♦.

Swanson. 2♥. This will go very wrong only if partner has a singleton heart. If the minors were switched and partner had rebid 2♣ I would raise rather than risking 2♥.

Both Davis and Sacks studied the original Walsh system in which Richard Walsh recommended not passing in this sequence with a singleton heart. Note that despite being one of the system developers, Swanson doesn't currently play this way, thinking partner will pass with a singleton. Some panelists play that 3♥ here shows a diamond fit.

Kantar. 3♥. 3♥ should show this hand type. However,

I don't play a 2♥ 2/1 response followed by 3♥ as forcing in some sequences. (*Eddie doesn't play 2/1 is a game force, so his jump to 3♥ in this auction can't be 10 HCP with 6 hearts, because he would have already made a Standard American 2/1 into 2♥ with that holding. Therefore his jump to 3♥ has a diamond fit*).

Dunitz. 3♥. I like 3♥ if this is a fit bid (my preferred treatment). (*See Kantar's answer. I believe Mitch plays a direct 3♥ over 1♠ as invitational in hearts in some partnerships*). Otherwise, I'm guessing. I would probably bid 4♦.

Other panelists want to make a straight-forward diamond raise, but they don't agree on how many diamonds to bid.

Clough. 3♦. This is the least controversial, but will often be passed when game is available. At matchpoints I like 3♥ even though I only have five, because they are good ones. If partner bids 3NT, I will bid 4♦.

Bell. 4♦. A direct invitation to game is to the point, but it would be nice if there was some forcing bid available.

Meyers. 5♦, and hope they don't lead a club.

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| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1♥ | pass |
| ? | | | |

You, South, hold: ♠AKQ ♥AQ7 ♦7 ♣J96543
What call do you make?

1♠ normally shows four spades here, but a majority of the panel thinks that sneaking in one teensy-weensy lie will make the rest of the hand easier to handle.

Davis. 1♠. It's close between 1♠, 2♣, and 2.6♥. The extra room and wide range of strength for the 1♠ rebid will hopefully give us a better chance to find the right contract than 2♣, 2♥ or 3♥.

Clough. 1♠. I don't like any of my choices on this hand; 3♥ is too unilateral and 3♣ impossible. My choice is 1♠. If partner has diamonds we may belong in NT. I would raise 1NT to 2NT.

Dunitz. 1♠. I like the treatment that 3♦ shows a good hand with 6-3-3-1 pattern. The problem with 3♦ is that my high cards are all outside my first bid suit. I have no quarrel with 3♥, but confess, I would bid 1♠.

Sacks. 1♠. I'm not strong enough to reverse into my singleton, have no desire to rebid my moth-eaten

minor and am slightly too good to raise to two hearts; I will at least bid where I live. 2♥ over partner's 1NT rebid does show extras (at least by my way of looking at it). In my advancing years, I am no longer of the cult of "must have 4" to raise one of a major.

Kantar. 1♠. The least of all evils?

Meyers 2♥. I don't want to get passed out in 2♣, plus I don't want to miss a possible major suit game.

Swanson. 2♥. If partner holds five hearts to the KJ this is a very good hand. If he has four to the six spot it's not so good.

Bell. 2♣. The temptation here is to bid 3♥, but I'm taking the low road at matchpoints and will come to life if partner bids again.

Thank you to Roger Clough who submitted this problem.

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

a few comments from our members. If anyone still wishes to comment, please let me know immediately.

2. There is a motion to fund international play, first from money raised from the ACBL sponsoring "International Fund Games" and not from the general fund of the ACBL.

There are also motions dealing with the Junior Fund and a motion continued from Orlando regarding use of the Stop Card. Additionally there is a motion dealing with

how the board elects people for committee positions that require an election and not an appointment.

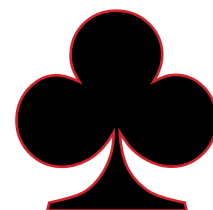
I will have a full recap of our meeting in the April Southern California Bridge News.

It's a Different View From Dummy

On the district level, my two main current responsibilities are the creation of a slate of candidates for ALACBU offices which will be voted on at the July ALACBU meeting (look for an article about the election in this paper) and running a District Spring Sectional

whose sole purpose is to raise money to help our Grand National Teams offset some of their costs of representing our district at the GNT Finals this summer in Toronto. Anyone wishing to help with this event, please call me.

Hope to see many of our district members in Louisville.





| South | West | North | East | |
|-------|------|-------|------|-----------------------------------|
| 1♣ | pass | 1♥ | pass | |
| 2♣ | pass | 2♦* | pass | * artificial and forcing |
| 2♠ | pass | 3♥** | pass | ** natural, forcing and unlimited |
| ? | | | | |

You, South, hold: ♠T943 ♥- ♦QJ5 ♣AKJ862
What call do you make?

Some panelists would prefer 1♠ to the 2♣ rebid.

Sacks. 3NT. I want to abstain; the ridiculous 2♣ rebid has created an impossible problem. In the above auction 2♠ did not show spades, I think, in most expert partnerships it is the default bad hand rebid. It's denies having a decent further descriptive bid (perhaps ♠xxx ♥x ♦AJx ♣KQJxxx or ♠xxx ♥Q ♦KQJ ♣KQxxxx, though with that one I admit I would bid 2♥ with the stiff honor).

Davis. 3NT. It is my responsibility to rebid 1♠ if I have interest in playing in spades if we have a 4-4 spade fit. I would have rebid 1♠.

Kanter. 3NT I can live with 2♣, but probably would have rebid 1♠. I'll try 3NT now. My spades can't be all that great. What I will tell my partner after they run the suit?

Bell. 3NT. I hate, hate, hate bidding no-trump with a void in partner's suit, but I certainly want to slow the auction as much as possible, and I do have a slow diamond stopper.

Clough. 3NT. 4♣ and 4♥ are all possibilities, but none are perfect. My choice is 3NT.

Swanson. 3NT.

Meyers. 4♥. 3NT is out of the question. Partner may only have one entry outside the heart suit, which is not necessarily solid.

Dunitz. 4♥.

I actually agree with raising with the void. That should scare my partners!

ATU continued from page 12

Betsy Lutz and Marshall Wengrow, Sam Namer and Michael Billow. Still at Beverly Hills, we had 70% games turned in by Sue Frishberg and Delia Juul-Dam, Greta and Abe Pineles, and Fred Mautner and Victor Anikovich. Barrington club champions were Jill Richmond and Paul Smith, Peter Benjamin and Thomas Lesser, Jill Richmond and Martin Blain. Barrington saw 70% games by Julie Sachman, Stuart Warren, Jill Richmond, Martin Blain, George Wagner, Steven Yaffe, Sidney Brownstein, and Peter

Knee.

Climbing the Ranks

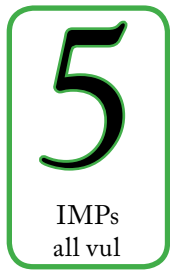
It looks like there's been a lot of bridge-playing round these parts—an awful lot of us have advanced in rank. Congratulations to new Junior Masters James Ach, Rosemarie Bock, John Burris, Douglas Campbell, Jennifer Friedman, Toni Gold, Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten, Bernice Leve, and Doreen Lewin. Our newest Club Masters are Elizabeth Beagle, Donna Eastman, and Ashok Hargunani. Moving up to Sectional Master are Bobbie Geller, Nathan Gittleman, and John

Soldano. Linda Garfinkel and David Lyons are new Regional Masters. Karen Schwartz is now an NABC Master.

New Life Masters deserve a new paragraph. Congratulations to Marcia Lauffer-Rosner and Joan and Steven Little for their achievement. Peggy Levin and Sherry Starr are now Bronze Life Masters. Advancing to Silver Life Master are Adi Arieli and John Campbell.

Got News?

Got news for the unit column? Drop me a line at Bob78164@yahoo.com. See you at the table.



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

You, South, hold: ♠J ♥AKQT98 ♦8752 ♣K6
What call do you make?

This time, some panelists don't care for the 3♠ splinter, preferring a heart rebid instead.

Kantar. 5♦. I don't agree with the splinter. It is too weak with only one keycard. I would have rebid 2♥. Also, I would be responding to RKB playing my way over 4♦. Finally, I would sign off in 5♦ as I have already overbid and I picture something like ♠AKxx ♥-- ♦AJTxxx ♣Qxx over there and I don't want landing in 6♦ on these cards to be on my head.

Dunitz. 5♦. I don't care for 3♠. One should not chew up so much bidding room when they are uncertain what strain they wish to play in.

Sacks. 5♣. Once again I'm placed badly by a ridiculously bad rebid of a splinter bid (2♥ was absolutely clear). At least if 5♣ gets doubled we can stop in 5♦. This serves us right if partner has ♠Ax ♥J ♦AJxxx ♣AQJTx and we get to play a tenuous 6♦ cold for 7NT.

Bell. 6♥. Let's correct my earlier faux pas by showing

MY suit. This protects my CK (partner presumably doesn't have the ace) and will roll home even opposite a void if the J♥ falls doubleton or third. I don't expect much company for this bid!

Swanson. 5♥. Maybe I should have rebid hearts earlier.

Davis. 5NT. This asks partner to pick a slam. This should show enough values for a slam and the guarded club king since I would bid 5♣ with the ace of clubs and jump to 6♦ with the KQ of clubs. If partner has ♠Axx ♥Jx ♦AKQxxx ♣xx, we should reach 6NT.

Clough. 6♥. This protects the ♣K.

Meyers. 4NT. If partner has three key cards and the queen of trumps I am bidding 6♥ to protect the club king.

Hands 4 and 5 came from old play problems reported on by Jeff Goldsmith. If you wish to submit problems to be used, email them to me at johndjones44@yahoo.com

ALACBU Elections For New Officers

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

ACBL CEO Retiring

The ACBL is looking for a new CEO for when Jay Baum retires as planned in June of 2012. See the job description for details: <http://www.acbl.org/about/jobs/CEO.pdf>