

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 47, #5

May 2011

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hoping for Good Results

by Bill Schreiber, ALACBU President



Well... it appears I was a month ahead of my time! It is while you are reading this month's column that the REGIONAL-AT-SEA is going on. At last word, we had 197 paying participants, which means almost \$20,000 will go into the ALACBU coffers. Thanks

especially to **Larry Cohen, Ellen Kent, and Penny Barbieri** for their efforts in putting this cruise together and promoting it so well.

The final few days of the NABC in Louisville produced some positive results for District 23 players: **Jill Meyers** came in the top 5 in 2 events, tying for 1st in the Machlin Women's Swiss and 2nd in the Silodor Open Pairs; **Billy Cohen** came in tied for 5th in the Vanderbilt Teams.

Only two more columns to write after this one as your president— by far the worst part of the job. The next two columns will concentrate on my thank yous to all the people who have supported my agenda during my four years in office.

Bridge Week arrives June 28. Do not forget it is a 10-day tournament with only one weekend. It starts on a Tuesday and ends on a Thursday. Still in what you have

PRESIDENT *continued on page 18*

Louisville Recap

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Last month I reported on events from the Board of Governors' meeting. This month I will report on interesting issues discussed at the Board of Directors' meeting.

Jay Baum, CEO of the ACBL reported that for the year 2010 there were 2,965,821 table count for club games of which 713,135 were from on-line clubs. Regionals for 2011 have for the first few months showed an increase of table count to over 2,000 tables. He also reported that the Learn To Play Bridge Member Drive Promotion has been averaging 20 new member sign ups per month. Also the Cooperative Advertising Program in 2010 subsidized advertising costs for 340 beginner/newcomer ad campaigns. MOBILE MEDIA: ACBL is creating a smart phone app "Find a Club" which should be available in the Apple iTunes app store. It will allow a person to find the nearest bridge club using the GPS technology and /or a manual search using City/State/Zip.

Finally, Jay reported that the financial health of the league is sound. We had revenue of \$15.5 million for 2010 with approximately \$15.6 million in expenses. Even though there was a loss for the year, our cash and investments are approximately \$6.8 million. It should be noted that for 2011 the budget projection is for a profit of approximately \$141,000.

At the board meeting Bill Cook was elected ACBL treasurer for a one year term from May 1, 2011 through April 30, 2012. There were also appointments to the Hall of Fame Committee, Competitions Conventions Committee, Ethical Oversight Committee, the Disciplinary Committee and the Laws Commission. I can provide more information for anyone interest in the appointments or possibly being on any of these committees.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 11*

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CORRECTION OF STARTING TIME FOR SATURDAY AND SUNDAY GAMES UNIT 568 SECTIONAL

Please notice that the first session of the
Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29 games at
the Unit 568 Sectional will start at 10:00 AM,
NOT 10:30 AM as was announced in the
April Bridge News

WLA Unit Championship Weekend

By Mario Mory

An exciting bridge weekend sponsored by the West LA Unit is upon us. It begins Friday, June 10 with an evening Pro-Am event at Barrington Bridge Club, starting free food and refreshments at 6:00 p.m. The game starts at 7:00 p.m. and the Pros play free. For only \$10, the Ams not only get a meal, but they also get the opportunity to play bridge with one of the local pros. Sign up sheets will be up at the Westside clubs; so be sure to sign up as soon as possible, since there are space limitations. You can also contact Candy Scott to make your reservation (Tel. 310-652-6116 or at candysbridgeclub.com).

When you are barely recovering from this festive event, you will be getting ready for a Unit Championship game on Saturday, June 11 at 1:00 p.m. You can play this event at either Beverly Hills Bridge Club or Barrington Bridge Club. The score will be computed over the games in both clubs as a single event. The usual playing fees apply.

The weekend is crowned with a Barometer Game to be held at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club on Saturday, June 11. Free food and refreshments start at 6:00 p.m. Play starts at 7:00 p.m. and the playing fee is \$10.00 per player.

You do not have to be a unit member to participate in these events.

Everyone is welcome!

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considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

We look forward to great attendance at all the clubs this spring. With gas prices continuing to soar, bridge is a great source of inexpensive entertainment in your local area. Competitive bridge can also bring a solid source of accomplishment and intellectual rewards to players at all levels. Don't forget to invite your friends to join you at a game at your local club real soon.

I believe that it has been proven over and over again that matchpoints are, to a great extent, a lottery. Players must replace the concept of fairness with practicality and perspective if one is to survive playing matchpoints. A feeling of reward and accomplishment must always be considered separate from how you score in the game in order to really "get hooked on duplicate bridge" and not go batty in the process. Perhaps more bridge teachers should address this aspect of the game when they are training new duplicate players. I believe that the coping skills of new players would be vastly enhanced with more detail provided to them about the relationship between their improvement in skill sets and understanding rather than the score they achieve in a game. Refining perspective and practicality is a vital aspect in the improvement of a bridge player. Our last monthly unit championship game is a perfect example of these aspects. After playing 28 boards, the difference between being first overall and being in a tie for third place overall was 2.5 matchpoints! Talk about teachable moments! A close examination of many game results shows that tight blanket finishes are much more the norm than runaway domination by one pair. Which boards you play against which players has so much to do with how you score, so, be practical when you review your game results.

There are a number of players who have been ill, or had close family ill, these past several weeks. We wish all a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them at a game again real soon.

Congratulations to Elaine Moore and Mary Anne

Self for making Life Master! These ladies are a great source to consult regarding the road to achievement of life master ranking.

Last month I mentioned several players whose tireless efforts keep our games and clubs functioning at a high level. There are many more excellent volunteers to whom I owe an apology to because I did not mention their names. That oversight was bad, I am so sorry for not including your name. Look around you at every game and you will see volunteers that work hard to improve our experience. I also forgot to salute the dedicated directors in our clubs that keep organization and civility at a high level. As a player, you must remember that **civility is your responsibility**, the directors are simply enforcers of policy and won't cut you very much slack if you are out of line. Keep a civil tone and any issue becomes more manageable.

Our new and "C" level players thrive on encouragement and I would like to salute such a pair at the Lancaster club. Mr. Kelly Lightner and Ms. Betty Reed did not have a good game at our monthly unit championship.... BUT they bid smoothly to a cold 6♠ slam that less than half the field reached. Good job Kelly and Betty, keep it up! Robert and Debbie Powell, Rick Jackson and Linda Janssen are also showing frequent great results. I encourage those in Valencia and Castaic to notify me about achievements by their new and "C" level players. I want to herald the progress of those that don't get mentioned often enough.

The late March STAC games saw Carol & Dick Ashbacher raked in 6.75 points with a great game. Paul Gill and Roy Ladd, Ron & Sandi Oest, Rick Jackson & Mary Stauf, Ruth Baker & Jerry Burrill, Louise Levin & Mary Stauf and Charles Morrin & Doris Thompson all did very, very well in the STAC games and garnered mucho points as their reward. Our monthly Unit Game was won by Sandi & Ron Oest who just nosed out Marlene Warren-Gasper & Dave Gasper. Brad Ward & Bill Brodek tied with Hugh Bartlett & Marguerite Pinkers for third overall and Onarita Pallanti & Sandi Niren were fifth.

Ms. Linda Young has been visiting our area for several weeks and has done quite well in the Lancaster Club. A big congratulations to Linda for supporting our club. Another that has been doing well in Lancaster is Bill Fry. Unfortunately, Bill is going to Korea for a couple of years, and in just a few weeks we will lose this great guy. Linda is also going to leave us soon and she will certainly be missed by all. Larry Levin has brought a new player to our Lancaster club and this guy is no bridge rookie. Mr. Tim Sturtivant has been doing real well with Larry and we hope to see much more of him. Ms. Barbara York is a new player that has made great strides since she learned the game just recently. Barbara & Brad Ward have been a dominant force in the Tuesday afternoon game along with Barbara Shuping & Alfred Miller. Speaking of dominant forces, the Sundry game in Lancaster has seen Charles & Beth Morrin win three times over Marlene & Dave Gasper. Hal Roberts & Dorothy Newland along with Russ Buker, Linda Young, Hal Underwood, Barbara Shuping, Henry Roediger and Mary Stauf just keep making the leaderboard in Lancaster.

The Valencia Club has their own dominant forces led by Jerry Burrill and Ruth Baker. Everett Dehn, Betty Pevy, Carol & Dick Ashbacher, Gary Grey, Hugh Bartlett, Barbara & Tom Jones, Mary Anne & Charles Self, Rand Pinsky, Kathy Swaine, Arif Shah, Besant Shah and John Langer have all been solid in their play this month. Many of these same players also play in the Castaic game, so when you toss Bill Brodek and Marguerite Pinkers into the mix there is no doubt that the Castaic game is consistently hard fought and very competitive.

Make your plans now for the mid-May Unit Game.

Glendale Verdugo by Dorothy LaMaie

Saturday, May 14
Board of Directors Meeting at 11 a.m.
Unit Game at 1 p.m.
Buffet Lunch at 12:15 p.m.

This time kudos go to some usual suspects, as well as to an unusual one, who is on the short list for promotion. Carolyn Cohen and Tim Lolli get to share the player's spotlight, each garnering a week's worth of

wins. They even joined forces for one go-round to make it happen. Sixten Ohman didn't make the spotlight but deserves stage presence for two-in-a-row while still in his stroke-recovering phase—and it wasn't just a fluke, as witness below a Unit Game second place.

Our condolences go out to Diane and Rodger Thisdell on the loss of their daughter, Susan, who succumbed after a long battle with cancer. We remember writing about the lovely wedding on the Queen Mary they gave her several years ago, certainly one of many memories to cherish at this difficult time.

Also, the ACBL lost a stalwart in the passing of Paula Oliver. Before leaving SoCal, Paula was very active in ALACBU affairs, commanding scholarship activities, as well as the busy partnership desk at Bridge Week, and was always an enthusiastic booster of our game.

More bad news: Merry Besvold's mother, Betty Stenbom, has suffered a stroke. Having recently lost her husband, it's a bit of a double dip for Merry; however, the "good" news is that the assault was not severe. With much on her mind, Merry still managed to provide us with the baked ham and scalloped potatoes for the Unit Day lunch, even though she couldn't stay to play. Our very best wishes to you both...

As for the rest of the buffet, Sharon tossed the green salad, and Art concocted one of sauerkraut, diced peppers, etc., while Eva brought ham-friendly bread, both rye and sour dough, with mustards to match. Margaret surprised us with strawberry shortcake, plus apple pie with delicious real whipped cream to match. Then it was down to match-making business with the following results:

N/S	
A1	Phil Dessert & Steve Shanker
A2	Carolyn Cohen & John Villalobos
A3 B1	Pat Abbey & Sharon Wolf
A4 B2	Eva Seri & Lyle Weideman
B5	Patrick Cardullo & Mike Doll

E/W	
A1	Louise Reich & Amr Elghamry
A2 B1	Sixten Ohman & Temo Arjani
A3 B2	Art Chacanas & Dorothy LaMaie
A4	Tim Lolli & Dan Oakes
B3	Tracy Boys & Glenn Eddy

Truffles all of you, and we hope you will join our fray again on the 14th. Until then, here's a little

ditty, courtesy of Dorothy Parker, one of the famous raconteurs of the NYC Algonquin Hotel “round table” way back when:

*“Now you know the things I know
And do the things I do
So if you do not like me so
To hell, my love, with you*

We mention it for possible use (with slight alteration) in dealing with any recalcitrant partners.

Take care, everybody...

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

April 3 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Hashim Mahmood/Sharon Beran, 2nd Suzie and John Hand, 3rd Al and Sharon Appel, 4th Bee Kinman/Verna Burns, 5/6 Gloria Sedore/Dorothy Favre tied with Lois Abramson/Jon Yinger. In the B flight overalls Susan and Kieth Hafen were 5th. And in the C flight Sue Fardette/Vincent Remedios were 4th. In the NLM game 1st in A: Sharon Biederman/Darlene Harrison; 2/3 Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid tied with Phyllis Greenstein/Doreen Maes. Congratulations to all!

70% Games March 16 through April 15: In open games: March 16 John Melis/Keith Hafen had 70%; March 22 Mark Itabashi/Steve Love had 71.76% in the afternoon game then came back in the evening for a 70.37% game; and April 1 Brandon Sheumaker/Mark Teaford had 74.97%. In 99er and NLM games: March 16 Bonny Walsh/Karen Watson had 72.22%; April 2 Sue Ayers/Sharon Biederman had 71.63%; April 4 Joyce Henderson/Cooie Dampan had 70%; April 8 Monica and Paul Honey had 73.18%; and April 9 Bill Heck/Jim Warner had 69.84%. Congratulations to you all!

Big Masterpoint Awards: Big masterpoint awards for 1st overall in club games March 16 through April 15: March 17 Kay Tseng/T S Chernuchin won 3.40mp; April 1 Brandon Sheumaker/Mark Teaford won 5.67mp; April 3 Sharon Beran/Hashim Mahmood won 4.11mp; April 11 Kimi Matsumoto/Mark Teaford won 3.36mp; and April 15 Jeff Strutzel/Mark Teaford

won 4.66mp. Big master point awards for 2nd overall: April 1 Bob Mault/Phyllis Parker won 4.25mp; April 3 John and Suzie Hand won 3.08mp; and April 15 Jean Kato/Barbara Frischkorn won 3.50mp. Big master point awards for 3rd overall: April 1 Stanley Snyder/Ron Lien won 3.19mp. Congratulations to all!

New Members: Steve Sargeant, John Bakulich, Jeff Kawana, Mark Leonard and Irene Crampton. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Barbara Zarzycki; Club Masters: Darlene Harrison, Jerry Reid; Regional Master: Melanie Smith; NABC Master: Larry Olson. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club: District 23 STaC week May 2 through May 8; silver points. Regular prices, extra points. Next unit game: Sunday, May 22—lunch 12:30, game at 1 p.m.

Condolences to the family and friends of Maruxa Cargill who passed away earlier this month. She was a lovely lady; she will be missed.

Get Well Wishes to George Alemshah and Judy Lorber.

News From Leisure World from Gene Yaffe

It was no April Fool, Jaye Woodington & Verna Becker scored a 71.9% game on April 1! Congratulations, ladies!

Winners in the Club Championship Game on April 11 were: 1st- Bee Kinman & Bill Linskey; 2nd- Gloria Sedore & Elinor Baratelle in A Strat. 1st- Darlene Sluder & Julie Cunningham; 2nd- Jaye Woodington & Sue McHale in B Strat.

The next Club Championship Game will be on Friday, April 29. Call Jaye Woodington at 799-1089 for reservations and for security gate clearance. Extra points!

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

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

www.acbldistrict23.org

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Chuck Cordaro

First a reminder: our next unit game is May 1. Last month ACBL held its STaCs, or Sectional Tournaments at Clubs, where it's possible to win lots of silver points. Several in our club did quite well. Diana Borgatti and Helen Posthuma placed third and collected 9.63 points, as did Roy Wilson and Jan Wickersham on the tournament's second day. Dominique Moore and Ron Moeckel tied for fourth place in this early round.

Those who qualified moved on to district-level completion. Here, Nancy Spelke celebrated her recent life master status by finishing atop her open field; first-place open winners on another day were Bob Johnson and Frank Shih. Bob and Frank went on to accumulate more than 14 silver points.

"We use a modified version of Precision and 2 Over 1," said Frank. "We feel it makes our bids more exact.

Our system owes a lot to a book by Larry Cohen called Precision Today. We also vary our no-trump range, depending on whether we are vulnerable or not, in an effort to keep our opponents a little off balance. We also like positive transfers, which help us keep the weaker hand in dummy. Joe Viola and Robert Wang also use a version of this system."

Our club will be well represented at the summer nationals to be held in Toronto this July. Roger Lee will be competing in the open section. In flight C, our team includes Jack and Nolan Chang, Jeff Lang, Eric Tang, and Connie Kang.

Most of us can count our 75-percent scores on one hand, if at all. Congratulations to our rookies Karen Niemenen and Susan Daniels their score in April. Not to be outdone were Reggie and Suzanne Barnes, who scored a 77.66 percent.

Marie Nimmrich reports that no one has won their Wednesday night jackpot in San Marino for a while, and it's now over \$200. Art Gulbrandsen reminds us

Torrance – South Bay Sectional (Unit #568)

May 27th, 28th, 29th & 30th

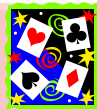
Sanction No. S0905131



Friday, May 27th

7:30 PM

- Stratified Open Pairs
- One Session Stratified Swiss Team



Saturday, May 28th

10:00 AM

- Stratified Open Pairs
- 199ers Pairs Game
- Compact Knockout #1 - Round 1&2

3:00 PM

- Stratified Open Pairs
- 199ers Pairs Game
- Compact Knockout #1 - Round 3&4



Sunday, May 29th

10:00 AM

- Stratified Open Pairs
- 199ers Pairs Game
- Compact Knockout #2 – Round 1&2

3:00 PM

- Stratified Open Pairs
- 199ers Pair Game
- Compact Knockout #2 – Round 3&4



Monday, May 30th

10:30 AM

- Swiss Team – First Session

TBD time

- Swiss Team – Second Session

Lunch Included Entry Fee TBD



Stratification

Pairs:

A = 1500+ B = 500 – 1500 C = 0 – 500

Swiss Teams:

A = 2000+ B = 500 – 2000 C = 0 - 500

All Open Pairs are single session events

Location:

South Bay Bridge Club
24100 Narbonne Ave.
Lomita, CA90717
310-3257222

Parking : Behind Bridge Club,
on the street, or behind
Lomita Public Library across
from Bridge Club
No parking in front of the
club



Tournament Director:

Peter Knee

Tournament Manager:

Ray Mack 310-374-4906

Partnership Chairperson:

Gabby Jackson 310-8318727

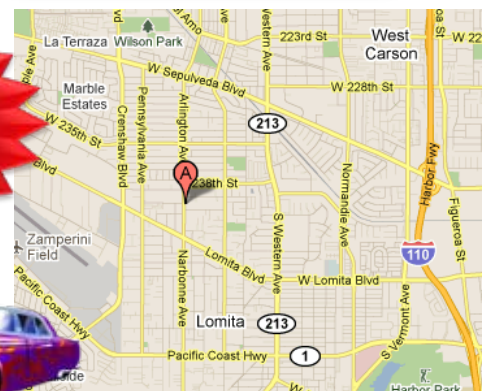
Cell: 310-7208177

Card Fees:

ACBL Member - \$10 per session

Non Member - \$11 per session

18 and Under - Free



that he is holding a beat-the-house night on Friday, May 20, and a winner-and-losers game on May 22. Art ran in the New York Half-Marathon again this year. This time he managed to shave off 3 minutes— and this without using the subway.

In our unit game Gitta Earll and Eli Wang took first in both flights A and B. Jeff Lang and Eric Tang took tops in flight C.

Congratulations to John Waken, sponsor of a popular tournament at La Salle high school each summer. John just passed 2,500 points and has become our club's newest Gold Life Master. Also noteworthy was a first-place finish in Swiss teams by Rae and Jerry Murbach at the Oxnard sectional.

We are sad to report the deaths of two friends this month. Arttus Waters was a well-liked player and a member here for several years. We also lost Paula Oliver, a bronze life master. Paula moved away a few years ago, but many of us remember her fondly.

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game
Saturday, May 21, 11:00 a.m.
2024 Old Rte. 66, Glendora
Lunch Served

If some of you noticed the local tables seemed to be missing a lot of regular players during the first week of May, you can put aside any fears you might have had concerning alien abduction. Thanks to enthusiastic recruiting by Penny Barbieri, a large chunk of the local bridge populace was pursuing red points on a luxury cruise down the coast of Mexico. Those of us in the landlocked hoi polloi, meanwhile, tried to accumulate a few modest black points in the humble surroundings of the LaFetra center.

Our roving international correspondents report that among the local bon vivants attending the high seas bacchanal were Mike and Susan Emminger, Sandy and Christie Jones, Penny and Gino Barbieri, Denise Morgan, Genise Hasan, and Kathy Helber. Any big winners will have to wait to see the results posted in the June column.

We do, however, have the results of the last two unit games to report. In March, first overall went to Bill Papa and Lulu Minter (60.9%), edging Hans Hehnke and

Vic Sartor (60.4%). Sandy Rucker and Gary Swinhart tied with Lary Alba and Scott Samaral for 2/3 N/S. Rucker and Swinhart were first OA in class B and C. Penny Barbieri and Sandy Jones were 2nd E/W and Ann Raymond and Margie Hall were third.

April's unit game was won by Lulu and Fredy Minter with a nice 66% effort. Roger Boyar and Richard Patterson were first E/W and second OA. Also placing were Georgiana Bierman and Michael Horn, Hans Hehnke and Vic Sartor, Ann Raymond and Margie Hall, and Kerry Sartor and Margaret Merritt. Merritt and Sartor were first in class C.

Karen McCarthy and Clint Lew tied for first in the April Individual, followed by Pat Radamaker, Helen Wang, Bob Kakade, and Donald Naf. May's Individual will be a STaC, so call Tom Lill (909 627-8375) if you haven't been to a game and need directions.

Top club game of the month was a 75% posted by Penny Barbieri and Sandy Jones, which netted them first place OA in a District 23 STaC. Walt Otto and Clint Lew placed third in another STaC. Other club winners were Joe Unis, Susan Emminger, Kathy Helber, Herman Helber, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Linda Tessier, Roger Boyar, Pat Radamaker, Sue Rottner, Milt Kalikman, Paul Crisney, Kurt Trieselmann, Helen Wang, Lary Alba, Dave Ruoff, Richard Patterson, Karen McCarthy, Mary Miller, and Karen Olin.

The unit will be formally handing out the 2010 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney awards at the May unit game (we may be slow, but we make up for it with inefficiency). Ace of Clubs winners include Bob Kakade, Norma Appley, Charlotte Capelle, Edwin Kelly, Lynne Parker, Marva Packey, Clint Lew, Tom Miyake, Vic Sartor, Larry Bolls, Walter Schafer, and Erik Paulsen. Mini-McKinney winners are Bob Kakade, Norma Appley, Carroll Robinson, Edwin Kelly, Lynne Parker, Karen McCarthy, Clint Lew, Tom Miyake, Eric Tan, Larry Bolls, Walter Schafer, and Erik Paulsen.

Our hand of the month is a test of a basic bridge skill-counting to 13.

You hold: ♠AKQTxx ♥AK ♦QT ♣AJx

Your partner opens 1♦ (vague- 11-16 HCP) After you bid 1♠ (or 2♠, if strong) he rebids his diamonds. Take it from there. What's your next bid and your followup?

Assuming your pard's rebid shows 6 diamonds, this should be easy. First bid 4NT (RKCB), and if pard admits to the ♦AK, bid 5NT. When he shows one king, count your tricks. You very likely have 6 diamonds, 2 hearts, 2 clubs and 3 spades. By using all of your

fingers and a few of your toes, you should come to a total of 13. Even if diamonds don't run, you may have 6 spade tricks. Bid 7NT. If you think this problem was an insult to a great player like you, only two pairs out of ten reached 7NT in a recent club game.

Pard held: ♠x ♥T987 ♦AKJxxx ♣Kx.

Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

On Sunday, April 10, the Bridge Academy was the location of the Unit Game and Awards Ceremony. A catered Italian lunch was served before stratified open and intermediate pairs began play. Highlighting the afternoon was Unit Board President Mike Fierman's presentation of the Mini McKenney and Ace of Clubs Awards. It was great to have many of the award recipients present to receive congratulations from their fellow players.

The board is eager to have more Unit Games during the year and invites your comments and suggestions including, but not limited to, dates, menu, and location for future games. Please forward your preferences to Mike Fierman at mandhent@sbcglobal.net.

Upcoming Unit Events:

Remember to mark your calendars for the scheduled Sectional on August 12-14. The Friday game will be at the 750 Club Prince of Peace Church location, the Saturday and Sunday games will be at the Bridge Academy.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for March 2011

750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 10.39, Robert Glasser 8.83, James Gardner 8.59, Larry Kussin 8.22, Gloria Malkin 7.90, Margie Bulmer 7.62, Ellen Sue Sarture 7.33, Paul Endler 7.22, Jim Lechner 7.05, Bob Williams 6.23.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game: Allan Palansky 7.09, Michael Klemens 5.56, Larry Gordon 4.37, Carmela Kochman 3.44, Ron Stewart 3.40, Elaine Moore 3.36, Earl Beer 2.94, Gregory Bozin 2.61, Moe Mansour 2.08, Marilyn Gains 1.94.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Gilbert Stinebaugh 14.13, Armand Szulc 12.96, William Carlson, Jr. 12.29, Tom Wylie 12.25, Jeffrey Millman 10.78, Sheila Bozin

9.63, Gary Frans 9.31, Andy Vinock 8.78, Tammy Purkin 8.56, Leda Danzig 8.40.

70% Games for February:

Ron Malkin & Gloria Malkin 70.59

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

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit website:

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

SBBC website:

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

Torrance South Bay Sectional

The annual Torrance South Bay Unit 568 Sectional will take place Memorial Day weekend May 27-30. The location is at the South Bay Bridge Club, 24100 Narbonne Ave in Lomita. Extra Space is being used in rooms adjacent to the Bridge Club. The sectional starts on Friday night and runs through Monday Memorial day.

Team games are a Swiss on Friday night, Compact Ko's on Saturday and Sunday and Swiss teams on Monday. There will be pair games all sessions Friday thru Sunday. These include 299er games all Saturday and Sunday sessions.

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club Western Conference STAC:

Monday May 2 thru Saturday May 7

Club Championship: Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.

Club Championship: Saturday, May 14, 3:00 p.m.

NLM Club Championship: Friday, May 20, 7:00 p.m.
Handicapped Swiss Teams every Tuesday night at 7:00
Friday night games on May 6 and May 20 at 7:00 p.m.

Club Championships

The April 8 Club Championship was won by John Brailliar/Dick Cheng in Flight A with Bob Bacharach/Mike Welsh on top in Flight B. On April 13 the Club Championship was captured by Pat Schanasi/Carol Mason in Flight A with Robert Rothman/Cal Waller

capturing Flight B and Bernard Gee/Paul Green ahead clubs.
in Flight C.

Team Winners

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

March 22: MaryAnn Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

March 29: Harry Wessells, Gabriela Jackson, Robert Rothman, Mark Raggio

April 5: Steve Ramos, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

April 12: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

District 22/23 STAC overall finishers

Listed below are overall finishers in the recent District 22/23 STAC in games played at TSB unit

1A

2A 1B

4A

4B

5B 1C

2C

4A

5A

1A

2A

3A 1B

4A

Monday Morning, March 21 SBBC

Ted Gibbs/Gary King

Claire Hulett/Lutrell Long

Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott

Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder

Christine Uriu/Effie Jones

Tom Barna/Ron Prando

Monday Evening, March 21, SBBC

Steve Ramos/Fran Israel

Gabriela Jackson/Winnie Ninneman

6C Jean and Harold Brunner

Tuesday Morning March 22m 299er Pairs SBBC

Suzanne Kuuskmae/Fred Swinth

Yokuyo Sheehy/Gearge Stinson

Marie Pink/Lake Ellstrom

Marie Lynch/Marilyn Skolich

DISTRICT 23 PRESENTS LOS ANGELES TEN-DAY SUMMER REGIONAL

June 28 - July 7, 2011

Pasadena Hilton, Pasadena, CA

Tournament Features

Sessions at 10:30, 3:15 & 7:30

Pre-duplicated Boards for All Pair Games

Bridge Mate Scoring in All Pair Events

KO Teams or Compacts Daily

Choice Pairs



Four Session Swiss Teams

Gold Rush Stratiflighted Pairs

299er Games Daily at 10:30 & 3:15

Free Coffee before Morning Sessions

Daily Speakers



Calcutta

See Website

www.acbldistrict23.org

for Rules and Conditions of Contest

Deadline for Entries: 3:15 Friday

Entry Fee: \$25

Starting Bid: \$50

Auction begins at 7:30 PM

Game Begins at 8:00PM

Prize Pool determined after Auction

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

No Masterpoints Awarded

Contacts

Tournament Chair: Ellen Kent

310-990-3314

Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin

310-720-6050

Partnerships: Betty Jackson:

562-594-4420: before 6/28/11

626-665-0596: after 6/28/11

DIC: Betty Bratcher

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juniors under 19: Free

Juniors under 25: \$8

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2B Elaine Godin/Richard DeSantis
3B Jeanette Betts/Elaine Panousis

Tuesday Morning, March 22, SBBC

5A Winnie Ninneman/Ray Mack
4B Arlene Greengard/Gerri Carlson

Wednesday Morning, March 23, SBBC

5A Ray Mack/Fran Israel
5B Pat Schanasi/Masae Kato
5C Beverly Narahara/Carole King

Wednesday Afternoon, March 23, Veterans Park

13B Bill Malcolm/Jack Freeman

Thursday Morning, March 24, NLM Pairs, SBBC

1/2A 1B 1C Elizabeth Voss/David Lyons
1/2A Anne Andres/Marilyn Morton
3A 2B Karen and Mike McKittrick
4A 3B 2C Dorothy and Peter Joseph
5A Elaine Godin/Yokuyo Sheehy
6A Elaine Bleiwies/Carolyn Verin
4B Thomas Robinson/Robert Newsome
5B 3C Ralph Vidal/Jamila Malikar

Friday Morning, March 25, SBBC

7A 5B Bob Bacharach/Mike Welsh

Friday Morning, March 25, NLM Pairs, SBBC

1A Virginia Van Houtte/Margaret Carter
4A Joyce Field/Billie Kelly

Friday Afternoon, March 26, Anderson Park

11A 3B 2C Elaine Godin/Richard DeSantis
5C Alain Fleurot/David Peim
6/7C Neil Kleiner/Robert Svensrud

GUV Memorial Award

There will be a shared award this month between my Burmese cat ArCee and the Moon.

Playing on the BBO ACBL speedball pairs my partner doubled the opponents just before ArCee walked across my computer and turned it off. By the time I got back on a substitute had been sent in and managed to let the opponents make.

There must have been a full moon over Mesa, Arizona during the recent Senior Regional there. On one hand in particular it was out, despite the bright

sunshine outside. At IMPs I was in a game contract and held ♠Axx opposite ♠Jx. LHO led the ♠K which I ducked. he followed with a low spade and the jack was winning the trick which would have made the contract cold. But I failed to notice this and decided to win the trick with the ace. Chalk one up for both me and LHO. Later in the same hand LHO thought he had won a trick his partner had won, and he led out of turn. His out of turn lead gave me the contract once again but for some stupid reason I took the option of letting RHO lead. Now my contract relied on a finesse. Chalk two up for both me and LHO. After all this the Bridge Gods smiled on me and let the finesse win. Making despite having some kind of death wish.

Na Zdrowie

West L.A. by Robert Shore

Alumna Pride

For many years, Marjorie Michelin (or as I call her, California Slim) was a prominent member of our unit. Marjorie remained with us long enough to achieve her 10,000th master point, and with it, the rank of Platinum Life Master. Alas for us but happily for her, Marjorie then received an offer she couldn't (or at least wouldn't) refuse, and left us for the wilds of Orange County. At the Detroit Nationals in March, Marjorie placed a capstone on her already impressive bridge résumé with her first national title by winning the Whitehead Women's Pairs. With the win, Marjorie achieved the ACBL's highest rank, Grand Life Master. Congratulations to Marjorie!

More from the Incredible Shrinking City

Of course, our unit still has far more than our share of the country's best players. Jill Meyers did what we've learned to expect from her. After warming up with second place in the Silidor Open Pairs, Jill added to her collection of national titles with a tie for first in the Machlin Women's Swiss Teams. For most of us, that's a tournament we can only dream of. For Jill, it's a week at the office. Congratulations to Jill on her latest success!

Closer to Home

March saw the District 22/23 STAC. We enjoyed the usual set of strong results. Lois Diamond carried

Bill Sides to victory over nearly 200 other tables in the Wednesday afternoon game. Fred Mautner and Viktor Anikovitch enjoyed victory on Friday afternoon, triumphing in a game of 186.5 games.

Farewell to Old Friends

When I first began playing more than 30 years ago, I always worried when Louis and Gloria Levy arrived at my table, or vice versa. I knew that a lot of fun was in store for my partner and me, but very few matchpoints or IMPs. Lou and Gloria have been fixtures in our little corner of the world for decades, but that came to an end last month when Lou passed from us. When next you see Gloria, please take a moment to share a memory. Also arriving was news that Paula Oliver passed. I never had the pleasure of knowing her, but those who did spoke of her devotion to the game and our community. Our sympathy to both families.

Weather Report

Save June 9 and 10 for Unit Championship weekend. Our annual pro-am game will take place, with pizza and other goodies, on the evening of June 9. The club games the afternoon of June 10 will be rated as Unit Championships, and Saturday evening will see more food and a barometer game. Looks elsewhere in the Bridge News for more details, and we hope to see you there.

Coming up sooner, April 29 until May 1, is our unit's Spring Sectional. Winners of 2010 Mini McKenney awards from the Unit should keep an eye on your mailboxes. You'll be receiving free plays good for one of the Saturday sessions at the tournament.

Around the Clubs

Winners of club championships at Barrington in March were Aram Bedros and Art Zail, and Sue Ann Simon and Mike Abels. Turning in 70% games at Barrington were Aram Bedros, Art Zail, Jane Felixson, Sat Mathur, Sue Ann Simon, Mike Abels, Lois Diamond, and Bill Sides. Beverly Hills reported lots of activity this month. Club championships were won by Chuck Fonarow and Sam Namer, and Sandra Satlin and John Campbell. Rhoda and Lew Himmell won the Unit Game, and the team of Phyllis and Mario Mory, Zalman Perelman, and Sam Haveson won the special Swiss Team event on April 3. Cracking 70% were Fred Mautner and Viktor Anikovitch, Sandra Satlin and John Campbell, Sally Karbelnig and Danny Kleinman, and Rhoda and Lew Himmell.

Quite a few players took their first steps on the ladder of bridge achievement last month. Congratulations to new Junior Masters Selma Archerd, Marsha Bocan, Betty Feliciano, Manny Flekman, Jaclyn Hatfield, and Cydney Osterman. Our new Club Masters are Susan Cohen and Susan Rosenson. Shelley Singer is a new Sectional Master. Kenneth Okel and Ryan Wessels are now Regional Masters, and Zalman Perelman has become an NABC Master. Congratulations to all on their achievements.

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

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

In bridge matters, the board defeated a motion to not use stop cards after the first round of a non-competitive auction and the board passed a motion requiring the director, in barometer-style events to advise all players that they must be seated before the start of any round and that cards should not be removed until the director announces play shall begin. Failure to follow these rules may result in a procedural penalty.

An interesting motion that was defeated would have required dues paid to the World Bridge Federation by the ACBL for National Bridge Organizations dues be paid from the funds raised from "International Fund Games" before any other donations are made from those games. Another motion that failed would have prevented masterpoints from being awarded in any game that includes one or more robots.

I will report on additional motions passed regarding online games next month.

It's a Different View From Dummy

This past month Kathy and I played in the West Los Angeles Unit Team Game Eleven is Enough. It was a fun evening and especially for all of the new players that participated. What was extra special was that the unit paid the card fees for all of the players.

I also had the pleasure of playing bridge with Kevin Lane, our district webmaster. Kevin came to the Valencia and before the game held a question-and-answer period about the district website. It was very informative and resulted in many players signing up to receive the Bridge News electronically. If you have not signed up yet, you should.

District 23 Rank Changes

March, 2011

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Noel Bacchetti
Susan Bibby
Shoshana Blumenfeld
Josephine Breen
Patricia Campuzano
Susan Coggins
David Duke
Sally Earnest
Marlene Felix
Gayle Ginsburg
Carol Goldman
Oystein Hellesoy
David Horner
Dorothy Lee Levinson
Freda Main
Diane Maye
Hanan Mogharbel
Arlene Weber

Club Master (20 MPs)

Linda Dillon
John Galligher
Jeff Lang
Robert Moulton
Patricia Staub
Eric ChenTeh Tang
Katherine Weisberg

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Nancie Barrier
Charlotte Capelle
Malka Fogel
Bernice Silver
Marilyn Skolich
Kathleen Tejeda
David Vakil

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Wayne Beagle
Jeanette Betts
Suzanne Bonafede
Sally Fenton
Sunny Harper
Mark Lavine
Keith Miller
Thomas Robinson
Renee Wishengrad

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Joan Feldman
Phyllis Greenstein
Margie Hall
Thomas O'Brien
Anita Padgett
Robert Sherman

Life Master (300 MPs)

Jean Ingram
Mary Miller
Elaine Moore
Mary Anne Self
Nancy Spelke

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Gloria Sherwood

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Rama Linz
H-Anthony Medley
Thomas Slobko

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Viktor Anikovich

Top 50 ACBL Clubs, 2010

The ACBL released a list of the top 50 Bridge Clubs in the nation and District 23 has three representatives. Club, state, and number of tables for the top 42 are listed below.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Bridge Base Online - 556,377.0 | 22. Franklin Bridge Center, New York - 7,904.5 |
| 2. OKbridge Inc - . 137,151.0 | 23. Naples Bridge Center Inc., Florida - . 7,745.0 |
| 3. Swan Games Online . 15,805.0 | 24. Glen Rock Bridge Center, New Jersey - . 7,658.5 |
| 4. Essex Bridge Center, NJ . 14,355.5 | 25. Hazel's Bridge Club, Ontario - 7,476.0 |
| 5. Laguna Woods DBC, California 14,321.5 | 26. The Village Card Club Inc, Arkansas - 7,356.0 |
| 6. The In-Between DBC, Florida . 14,159.5 | 27. Omaha Bridge Studio, Nebraska - 7,344.5 |
| 7. Manhattan Bridge Club, New York - 13,820.0 | 28. Houston Bridge Studio, Texas - 7,185.0 |
| 8. The Hartes' Club, New York . 13,072.0 | 29. AZ Bridgeworks, Arizona - 7,173.5 |
| 9. Ft. Lauderdale Bridge Club, Florida - 13,008.0 | 30. The Bridge Spot, Massachusetts - 7,025.5 |
| 10. Honors, New York - 12,483.5 | 31. Duke City Bridge Club, New Mexico - 6,978.5 |
| 11. Jourdans Bridge Club, Florida . 12,268.0 | 32. Beverly Hills Bridge Club, CA - . 6,932.0 |
| 12. Shakespeare's Elbow BC, Quebec - . 10,524.0 | 33. Indianapolis Bridge Center Inc, Indiana - 6,867.9 |
| 13. Vero Beach Bridge Center, Florida - 10,367.5 | 34. Hartford Bridge Club, Connecticut - 6,844.5 |
| 14. The Bridge Deck, New York . 9,905.5 | 35. Twin City Bridge Center Inc., Minnesota - 6,686.8 |
| 15. Temple Sinai DBC, Florida 9,712.5 | 36. Win Inc. "The Bridge Club," Florida - 6,678.5 |
| 16. Le Mirage Club de Bridge, Quebec - - 9,233.5 | 37. The Villages DBC, Florida - 6,576.5 |
| 17. Adventures In Bridge, California . 8,935.0 | 38. The Bridge Place, Florida - 6,556.0 |
| 18. Dana Harbor Bridge Center, California - . 8,780.5 | 39. Mississauga-Oakville DBC, Ontario - 6,520.0 |
| 19. Long Beach Bridge Center, CA - . 8,521.0 | 40. Bridge Club of Baltimore, Maryland - 6,516.0 |
| 20. McGregor Point Bridge Club, Florida - - . 8,381.0 | 41. The Barrington Bridge Club, CA - 6,394.5 |
| 21. Sagamore Bridge Club, New York - 8,122.0 | 42. Bridge Centre of Niagara, Ontario 0 6,366.0 |



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Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

This month's panelists are: Ed Davis, Ross Grabel, Mitch Dunitz, Billy Eisenberg, Paul Ivaska, John Jones, Roger Lee, Adam Meyerson, Marshall Miles, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
NS vul

North	East	South	West
1NT	pass	?	

You, South, hold: ♠QJT ♥7 ♦A8753 ♣KT85
What call do you make?

I forgot to include one of the critical conditions of contest for this to be a good problem. You are playing Stayman and 4-suit transfers but have forgotten to define your 3 level suit bids. The question that I was trying to get thoughts on is what you would do then: bid Stayman and then 1) bid 4♠ over 2♠? 2) bid 3NT over 2♥? or 3) bid what over 2♦?

Ivaska: I'm assuming we're playing minor suit Stayman. I'm planning on rebidding 3♥, showing a singleton over whatever partner responds. We might even find 4♠ opposite ♠AKxx ♥xxx ♦KQx ♣QJx via 1N-2♠-2N-3♥-3♠-4♠. If we're not playing Minor Suit Stayman (or something similar, like a direct 3♥/3♠ showing a 3-1-5-4), I would just shut my eyes and bid a direct 3NT. There is a philosophical element to this question, of course. In general, and particularly at IMPs, I believe in describing my hand in an effort to get to the right contract even if it means giving information to the opponents.

Davis: 3♥. 1NT response structures should contain a way to show 3-1 in the majors, whether it be a direct 3M bid, via Minor Suit Stayman or some other mapping of bids. I wouldn't bid 3♥ on marginal hands that seem more suitable for playing 3NT such as ♠xxx ♥x ♦AKJxx ♣Jxxx. If not playing a way to show this hand, I'd use Stayman to try to find the best contract and thus be willing to play a 4-3 spade fit in 4♠.

Eisenberg: 3♥. This shows a game force, 5-4-3-1

generally.

Dunitz: 3♥. Showing game forcing hand w/ 3-1 in the majors (5-4 in the minors). We might get too high, but we will probably end up in the best strain.

Lee: I would bid whatever my system says to bid on this hand. In descending preference of commonly played conventions: 3♥ showing a 3-1-(5-4) game force, 2♠ minor suit Stayman, puppet Stayman, or 3NT. I don't think this is an issue of judgment.

Jones: 2♠. Eleven tricks may well be possible, but maybe not even if a minor is our best strain. I'll try to find a 4-3 ♠ fit, otherwise 3NT. Depending on my methods, I might try starting with 2♣ Minor Suit Stayman if I could still get to a Moysian spade fit.

Grabel: 3♥. This typically shows this exact hand pattern; 3-1- (4-5).

Meyerson: This is a question of methods; a lot of people play a jump to 3♥ showing exactly this hand type. Sam and I would bid 3♣ (showing diamonds) followed by 3♠ to show much the same.

Miles: 3♠. I have the perfect bid for this hand, but most people don't know about it, so I'll probably be by myself. I would bid 3♠ which shows a

2

MPs
NS vul

North	East	South	West
1♦	pass	?	

You, South, hold: ♠Q6542 ♥J8754 ♦7 ♣87
What call do you make?

I would bid 1♥ and I think that is clearly superior to 1♠. Why? For one thing bidding hearts misses no nine-card major suit fits, while bidding 1♠ blows out the heart suit except in some fortuitous bidding situations (partner having a balanced minimum when I have 55 hand). In fact if partner bids 1♠ over my 1♥ I am full valued to raise. I would tend to think of this hand as being analogous to bidding garbage Stayman with both majors (and one of them being a very weak 5 card major). I would bid the same 1♥ over 1♣.

Ivaska: 1♠. This hand has far too much offensive potential to even consider passing. 1♠ may also impede the opponents' auction if they own this deal. Anyone who passes deserves to spend the rest of eternity defending 3NT contracts by LHO with the 5 of diamonds lead.

Davis: 1♠. Clear to bid, not just to avoid -200 or more in 1♦ but because you may be able to make a major suit contract.

Eisenberg: 1♠. We could lose more by passing.

Dunitz: 1♠. This won't be the last time I'll be a queen light of having my bid.

Lee: Pass. When I'm vulnerable at matchpoints I try not to bid too much. If I was going to respond, I would bid 1♠, not 1♥.

Jones: Pass. This won't be a popular answer. I would respond 1♥ if the opening was 1♣. We frequently just get in more trouble so often by responding aggressively on potential misfits.

Grabel: 1♠. Yes, I know partner's next bid could be distasteful but in matchpoints it's only a board and there are a lot of ways to get a zero. I'll risk that I can improve the contract, maybe even make a partial when opponents are on for 3NT.

Meyerson: 1♠. This has a lot of ways to win, from finding a better partial to even finding a game if partner has a big major suit fit. I don't think it pays to pass the opening with such shapely hands.

Miles: Pass. In the long run, I don't think it pays to keep the bidding open on such a weak hand. We are not doubled, and if we are doubled by 4th hand, I would run, of course.

Wittes: 1♠. If this doesn't work out at matchpoints, it's only one board. If partner bids 1NT, I have an easy 2♥ bid, which is nonforcing and pass or correct. If partner rebids 2♣ or worse yet 3♣, this is not good. Even 2♦ gets us into the dreaded -200 waters. However, if partner has a balanced hand with a fit for one of my majors, the risk of bidding is worth the reward.

PSP#1 *continued from page 13*

singleton heart and 4-5 or 5-4 in the minors. The advantage in bidding my 3-card suit rather than my singleton is that the opponents can't safely double or draw an inference

from not doubling.

Wittes: 2NT. Grabel and I have a little twist for the Walsh 2NT bid, which shows a 4-4-4-1 or a 5-4-4-0 hand. We play you can bid 2NT on a 5-4-3-1 hand as well, as long as

the 5 card suit is not a major. You don't lose anything, and you can still pinpoint weak suits. Worse case scenario you may get to a 4-3 major fit, but if you have a weak suit, this may very well be the only makeable game.

3

MPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
?			

You, South, hold: ♠QJ ♥Q65 ♦J875 ♣AKQ5
What call do you make?

1♣. I have totaled up my evaluation for NT purposes and come to 13-plus. Now I have been known to stretch the definition of INT quite a bit for various (tactical or evaluation) but I do not think this hand falls into either. Since most experts expect their partners to bid game with most nine-point hands opposite their INT openings, I find it to odious to open this one INT. Now if I had a fifth diamond and Q6 of hearts instead, the tactical reason of having only 4 major suit cards would make me open a NT.

Ivaska: 1NT. I have totaled up my points and made them 15, as Terence Reese used to say. To me, it's presumptuous to drastically discount my spade minor honors just because they're doubleton. Yes, they are valueless opposite a singleton or void, but each is worth a trick opposite AKxxx or many other medium length suits. Even today, despite many sophisticated defenses to no trump openings, 1NT still has considerable preemptive value. I concede that 1♣ has some lead directing value. It would be more dangerous to open 1NT were I vulnerable, as I could go down 200 undoubled or 100 against nothing but a small partial. Again, there's a philosophical element to this problem. I think it's fair to assume that most of the other Souths will open 1NT. Therefore, if I open 1NT and it's wrong, I'll get a slightly below average result. However, if I open 1♣ and it's wrong, I'll get a reasonable approximation to a zero. I dislike taking an anti-field action early in the auction, for psychological as well as technical reasons, unless I'm convinced that the anti-field action is a much better bid, certainly not the case here. I prefer to play hands rather than defend them, especially at low levels and nonvul (especially against nonvul), and opening 1NT is the best way to accomplish that.

Davis: 1♣. This hand is worth closer to 13 HCP than 15 HCP. The biggest gain from opening 1NT is that it

would probably cause the opponents to miss a major suit game. However, this is not sufficient reason to overstate your hand to partner.

Eisenberg: 1♣. It is okay to be a little heavy.

Dunitz: 1NT. The hand is not worth a strong NT. However, the value in preempting the opponent's out of their fit coupled with the vulnerability screams for the action

Lee: 1NT. This hand is not really worth 15, but all while at matchpoints with little defense against the majors is not the time to downgrade your balanced 15 count.

Jones: 1♣. The hand doesn't quite evaluate to 15 HCP. The question then becomes whether I can handle awkward auctions well enough to open a more lead directing 1♣ as opposed to the safer 1♦. I think 1♣ will work out best overall. I will treat my ♠QJ as a stopper if my partner makes a negative double of a 1♠ overcall.

Grabel: 1NT. This is not a problem yet.

Meyerson: 1♣. This is a really horrible 15 count and I'll treat it as 14.

Miles: 1♣. 1NT is a huge overbid by this hand. Theoretically, the opponents could take the first 13 tricks.

Wittes: 1NT. Certainly not the ideal 1NT bid, but these hands are too difficult to describe otherwise. The alternative would be to open 1♣ and rebid 1NT, treating it as a 14 point hand, which is not that unreasonable.

4

IMPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
1♣	2♠	?	

You, South, hold: ♠98764 ♥K98 ♦QJ76 ♣A
What call do you make?

I pass and hope that partner does not feel obligated to re-open on hands where 2♠ makes, such as any minimum hand with Kx of spades and either no red ace or no honor in diamonds. That said, I think that it may well be right to bid over the reopening double. Knowing your partner's tendencies with 45 in minors and 4-4 in minors, it may well be better to bid 3♥ rather than 3♦.

Ivaska: Double. This may turn out badly, but I don't think I have any attractive alternative. After all, if I were to pass, what should I do over the almost inevitable reopening double? A penalty pass isn't very appealing without even a sure trump trick. If partner responds 3♥, I'll go on to 4♥, hoping that she/he has good hearts.

Davis: Pass. I have between zero and two spade tricks after my singleton lead; call it an expectation of 1.2 spade tricks (at this vulnerability, RHO would probably overcall 1♠ with very strong spades). Against 2♠ doubled, I expect +300 and +500 to be most likely if partner reopens with a double. If partner has a small singleton spade and extras, we will probably have a makeable game. However, that will only be the case some of the time. I'll pass for penalty if partner reopens with a double but I'm really hoping partner will be very distributional and that he will do something other than double and we can bid on to game

Eisenberg: Pass. When partner reopens, it won't get easier.

Dunitz: Pass. I would definitely pass and defend after a reopening double at MPs. Alternate choice at IMPS is to double with one fewer heart than Hoyle would

approve of. Most of my NV weak jump overcalls do not contain suits like AQJ10xx. Partner could have a tasty spot card so I will reluctantly pass and defend at IMPs. It won't be the last time I apologize to any of the people I play with.

Lee: Pass. No problem yet. I will pass a reopening double.

Jones: Double. The least of evils on an ugly problem. Way too much to pass and never show life. Way too poor of ♠ spots to consider defending 2♠ doubled at IMPs. No free bid is even close. Double, which might work well, is all that is left. A 4-3 ♥ fit will allow us to take top winners and crossruff for several tricks.

Grabel: Pass.

Meyerson: Pass. Partner almost surely has short spades and will balance if we have anything here. Usually pass is right when holding great length in their suit.

Miles: Pass, whether I have five spades or six. My problem will be whether to pass or bid if partner reopens with a double. I would probably bid 3♦.

Wittes: Double. This is the toughest problem in this set. When I have a 10-point hand, I tend to make a negative double even if I don't have the ideal shape. Problem is if you pass and partner reopens with a double, you will never be able to show the strength of your hand adequately. My spade holding is just too weak to make a penalty pass. We could wind up defending 2♠ for +100 or +300 or worse yet -470, when we are cold for a game.



South	West	North	East
1♦	dbl	redbl	?

You, South, hold: ♠JT9876 ♥JT85 ♦875 ♣--
What call do you make?

I am a 3♠ bidder. I would not bid 4♠ because partner just may have that hand that is too strong to bid 2♣ and has short spades that produces 3NT but not 4♠. Also 3♠ is pretty safe even opposite the most wretched of takeout doubles, and it does push them to make uncomfortable decisions at the four level. Additionally, I think that partner, looking at the vulnerability of my bid, should probably bid 4♠ on most hands with four spades regardless of what opener bids over my bid.

Ivaska: 3♠. 4♠ is much too much, and 2♠ is much too little. Had RHO passed, I would have had a more delicate problem. 3♠ would probably work out best most of the time even then, but I would have had to worry about partner having a big hand with a heart suit and relatively short spades. As it is, North probably has a minimum with classic takeout double shape.

Davis: 4♠. I'd like to get a club lead if the opponents bid to 5♦ but partner will probably insist on a club contract if I bid them at my first turn. I hope an immediate 4♠ bid will buy the contract for us.

Eisenberg: 3♠. Am I too good for this?

Dunitz: 3♠. Your move, Mr. Phelps.

Lee: 3♠. Good luck opponents.

Jones: 4♠. I expect to be doubled frequently. If I catch well, partner has ♠Axxx ♥AK9x ♦x ♣xxxx and 4♠ is an excellent contract. If I catch poorly, partner will have ♠xxx ♥xxxx ♦Qx ♣AKQJ, and I'll be down several, depending on the defense.

Grabel: 3♠. Describes a weak hand with spade length.

Meyerson: I like 3♠. This puts some pressure on the opponents (should be weak after the double). Bidding 4♠ is possible, but it's not totally clear opponents can make a game (spade lead might beat 3NT, clubs break very badly, etc.) and the 3-level bid seems less risky.

Miles: 2♠.

Wittes: 3♠. This should show a weak hand with a long spade suit. If it is the opponents' hand, which is likely, this will cramp their bidding significantly, and we shouldn't be in terrible shape with a 6-3 or 6-4 fit, and lots of distribution.

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

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determined as a favorite location, Pasadena, at the Hilton Hotel.

October will be at the Marina del Rey Hotel in mid-October. Schedules for both of these regionals can be found on our District website, acbldistrict23.org.

