

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 48, #2

February 2012

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Contracts signed for Regionals

by Becky Clough
ALACBU President



Hey guys, we did it. We have signed contracts with two more hotels to hold our regionals beginning October 2012. As I told you last month, beginning July, 2013, we will leave Pasadena for Long Beach. Pasadena had many good things to offer, but space and lighting were the determining factors that have caused us to look for a new venue. We have held three regionals now at the Marina del Rey Hotel, but we knew that its size and configuration limited our growth and therefore, the February tournament will be our last one there. October 2012, we are moving to the Torrance Marriott. Their ballroom is more than adequate for our needs, lighting is good, and parking is reasonable. In addition their hotel rooms are newly remodeled and free Wi-Fi is available in every room. Shopping, movies, and restaurants are within walking distance and best of all, they are delighted to have us.

For February 2013, our new home is the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills. All you Valley people who have traveled to Los Angeles regionals over the years will now have one close to home. It too has newly remodeled rooms, decent parking and close by restaurants, shopping and movies.

Its ballroom will be adequate for us for many years

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Going to Memphis

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



The final North American Pairs results are in for District 23. Following are the pairs who have qualified to represent our District at the NABC in Memphis in March. The first place pair in each flight receives \$700, second place receives \$300 and third place is invited to

participate with no stipend.

Our representatives are as follows:

Open:

- 1st: Gary King – Brandon Sheumaker
- 2nd: Guy Green – Victor Anikovich
- 3rd: Rebecca Clough – Roger Clough
- 4th: Bill Papa – Lulu Minter *

* I am told that the Cloughs' will not be going so in their place will be #4.

0-2000 MPs:

- 1st: Elaine Moore – Thomas Shudic
- 2nd: Carol Frank – Frank Shih
- 3rd: Zheng Zhang - Hsi-Chun Liu

Non-Life Master:

- 1st: Frederick Upton – Stephen Woelfer
- 2nd: Tai Wang – Sandra Rucker
- 3rd: Bruce Weiner – Rafael Gishri

Congratulations to all and good luck in Memphis. And a special thanks to **Mike Marcucci**, our NAP chairman for all of his hard work in making this event a success.

With all of the news about the NAP, I must mention that qualifying for the Grand National Teams is just around the corner. The dates are March 3-4 for the Open and B flights and April 28-29 for the A and C

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DIRECTOR continued from page 1

flights. Check the Bridge News and our web site for more details. Or, ask Howard Einberg, the district's GNT coordinator. Winners will represent our district at the Summer NABC this year in Philadelphia.

The District 23 regional Bridge by the Bay runs February 21-26. There are Gold Rush games, new knockouts every day and a Swiss on Sunday. Check our web site for the complete schedule.

An Upcoming Visit From ACBL President Sharon Anderson

Sharon has emailed me and asked if she can schedule a visit to our district during our October Regional. I wrote her back and told her we would welcome her and her husband Roger. I will have more details as the time gets closer.

Next month I will discuss the motions that will come before the board in Memphis. Until then, I look forward to seeing all of you at the Marina.

Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

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11900 W. Olympic Blvd.
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Editor/Designer.....Jennifer Einberg
Managing Editor.....Rebecca Clough
Contributing Editor.....John Jones

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to come.

This means we have accomplished our goal – to have each of our three regionals in a different part of the county. As Kevin Costner said, “If we build it, they will come.” Well, we hope so. Spread the word to your friends, relatives and out of city partners that things are a’ changing in Los Angeles.

On another note, we are trying a new KO event at the Marina in February. It is a 3-session KO to be finished in one day. It has several advantages: it pays more than compacts, every team playing in the third sessions is guaranteed to place first, second or third in the event and you can have a 5 or 6 person teams if you prefer. Also, because it is designed for 12-team brackets we will have more brackets in play. The more brackets, the more likelihood that you will only be playing with your bridge peers. So mark your calendars and join us at the Marina del Rey Hotel February 21-26.

Last, but most certainly not least, I want to congratulate Roger Lee for his win in the Blue Ribbon Pairs at the Seattle Nationals. At age 24 he is already making a name for himself as one of the best young players. Way to go Roger.

Interested in Advertising in the Southern California Bridge News?

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bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org



BRIDGE BY THE BAY

DISTRICT 23 PRESENTS

FEBRUARY 21-26 2012



Marina del Rey Hotel ♦ 13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292 ♦ (310) 301-1000

♦ 2012 Schedule Features ♦

New Knockouts begin every day
Gold Rush Pairs Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
299er Pair Events Daily
Fast Open Pairs Sunday
Sunday Swiss Team, 7 matches, 7 boards

Knockout Teams

Tuesday - Wednesday Admiralty Way KO.....10:30 & 3:15
Wednesday Catamaran 3 Session KO.....10:30, 3:15 & 7:30
Thursday - Friday Beach Blanket KO.....10:30 & 3:15
Friday Sea Shell 3 Session KO.....10:30, 3:15 & 7:30
Saturday Ocean Front Compact KO.....10:30 & 3:15

Open Pairs Games

Tuesday & Saturday Stratified Open Pairs.....10:30 & 3:15
Wed, Thurs, Fri Stratiflighted Gold Rush Pairs.....10:30 & 3:15
Sunday Driftwood Fast Open Pairs.....10:30 & TBA

Tournament Manager ♦ Peter Benjamin (310) 720-6050
email: ahoneydo@aol.com

Partnerships ♦ Betty Jackson (626) 665-0596
email: rjackson6277@roadrunner.com

Director ♦ Betty Bratcher
Sanction: R1202028

Swiss Teams

Single Sessions Tuesday thru Saturday.....3:15
Sunday Stratiflighted Swiss Teams.....10:30
(7 matches, 7 boards, playthrough)

Continuous Pair Series

Tues, Wed & Thurs Spinnaker Single Sessions.....10:30 & 3:15
Fri & Sat Bali Way Single Sessions.....10:30 & 3:15
Tues thru Fri Beachcomber Side Game Series.....7:30

I/N Events

Mon thru Sat 299er Single Session Pairs.....10:30 & 3:15
Wed, Thurs, Fri Stratiflighted Gold Rush Pairs.....10:30 & 3:15

♦ Tournament Highlights ♦

Lectures by World Class Bridge Players
Gold Rush Pairs ♦ Great Prizes
Pre-Duplicated Boards ♦ Free Parking
Free Coffee and Pastries every day

Host Hotel - Marina del Rey Hotel

13534 Bali Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Phone: (310) 301-1000

Bridge Rate: \$109 room rate guaranteed until January 25, 2012

♦ Special 0 - 299'er Reception and Game ♦

Tuesday, February 21

Followed by your own very special game
For reservations and more information,
call Penny Barbieri at (909) 599-4818

Tuesday, February 21

AV/Santa Clarita Memorial Stratified Open Pairs.....10:30 & 3:15
Spinnaker Side Game Series (single session 1&2).....10:30 & 3:15
299er Pairs (single sessions).....10:30 & 3:15
Admiralty Way Bracketed KO (sessions 1&2).....10:30 & 3:15
Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15
Beachcomber Side Game Series (single session 1).....7:30

Wednesday, February 22

Gold Rush Stratiflighted Open Pairs.....10:30 & 3:15
Spinnaker Side Game Series (single session 3&4).....10:30 & 3:15
299er Pairs (single sessions).....10:30 & 3:15
Admiralty Way Bracketed KO (sessions 3&4).....10:30 & 3:15
Catamaran Bracketed Three Session KO.....10:30, 3:15 & 7:30
Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15
Beachcomber Side Game Series (single session 2).....7:30

Thursday, February 23

Gold Rush Stratiflighted Open Pairs.....10:30 & 3:15
Spinnaker Side Game Series (single session 5&6).....10:30 & 3:15
299er Pairs (single sessions).....10:30 & 3:15
Beach Blanket Bracketed KO (sessions 1&2).....10:30 & 3:15
Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15
Beachcomber Side Game Series (single session 3).....7:30

Stratified Events: 0-750/750-2500/2500+
Strati-Flighted Gold Rush Pairs: Flight A/X 0-2500/2500+
Strats B/C B= 300-750 Gold! C = 0-300



Entries \$12 per session (all events)
\$2 extra for non-ACBL members
Juniors 21 and under: FREE!
Juniors 22-25: \$8 per session
All Evening Sessions: HALF PRICE!



Friday, February 24

Gold Rush Stratiflighted Open Pairs.....10:30 & 3:15
Bali Way Side Game Series (single session 1&2).....10:30 & 3:15
299er Pairs (single sessions).....10:30 & 3:15
Beach Blanket Bracketed KO (sessions 3&4).....10:30 & 3:15
Sea Shell Bracketed Three Session KO.....10:30, 3:15 & 7:30
Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15
Beachcomber Side Game Series (single session 4).....7:30

Saturday, February 25

Stratified Open Pairs.....10:30 & 3:15
Bali Way Side Game Series (single session 3&4).....10:30 & 3:15
299er Pairs (single sessions).....10:30 & 3:15
Ocean Front Bracketed Compact KO.....10:30 & 3:15
Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15
Beachcomber Side Game Series (single session 5).....7:30

Sunday, February 26

Sea Horse Stratified Swiss Teams.....10:30
(7 matches, 7 boards) playthrough, with box lunch
Driftwood Fast Pairs (2 sessions).....10:30 & TBA

Stratified Events will be stratified based upon the average masterpoint holdings of the team members.
Stratiflighted Swiss Teams stratified based upon the team member with the highest number of points.

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

The appropriate beginning for this column is for me to offer congratulation to Mr. Tom Shudic and Ms. Elaine Moore for winning the Flight B NAOP final and the \$700 each to travel to the nationals and represent District 23 in the flight B national finals. Good luck! A significant group of our local players were qualified for the NAOP flight A, B and C elimination events. Markle VanDervort and Lamont Johnson won the session in one direction in the afternoon of the Flight B finals and in the Flight C finals, Marguerite Pinkers and Charles Cordaro won their direction in the evening session. A strong "job well done" goes out to all of our local players that made it through the long elimination process to reach the final two rounds.

The Antelope Valley Board of Directors, appointed in early December, held a meeting after the monthly Unit Game in mid-January and elected officers for 2012. Elected president was Brad Ward; selected vice president was Marlene-Warren Gasper. The secretary was selected to be Mr. George MacDonald, who has done such a great job in this position for the past few years. The same must be said of Ms. Mary Stauff, who has not only been a truly superb treasurer, but it seems is also our resident expert on dealing with the ACBL Score software, a daunting task indeed. The other administrative positions within the unit will be announced next month. One cannot leave this topic without singling out Mr. Ron Oest, who did an absolutely fantastic job as the unit president the past two years. The challenges faced by Ron were unprecedented in the history of Unit 556 and the results he achieved were just amazing! "Thank you so much" seems to fall far short of what should be reserved for Ron **and** his great wife Sandi. The consistent performance of Marlene Warren-Gasper as a partner and advocate of the Lancaster Club must be recognized. Her constant hard work is the glue that has held up the club for a very long time.

The holidays naturally impacted the finances of the unit clubs, but the leadership of the Valencia, Castaic and Lancaster clubs did a really good job of maintaining things as well as possible. All players should be so appreciative of the tireless work done by club owners and volunteers in producing a game experience that is so very much appreciated.

The game results for the past month for the smoothly and expertly run Valencia club are as follows: Ruth Baker & Jerry Burrill and Tom Shudic & Elaine Moore posted wins. Rand Pinsky chalked up two wins, one partnered with Kathy Swaine and the other with Basant Shah. Mira Rowe, partnered with Carol Ashbacher, also scooped up a win along with Donna Davidson and Freddie Straus. These big Tuesday night games are getting tougher and tougher, ideal ways to tighten up your game!

Ms Rita Vanatter has such a super club that it is not surprising that the game keeps growing in popularity. Rita has some truly loyal and hard-working supporters in Carol Ashbacher and Kriti Kubo. Many congrats for producing a great game experience! The winners in Castaic for the past month were Albert Stock and Marguerite Pinkers, along with Nell Schantz and Kristi Kubo. Carol Ashbacher and Roshun Hadulla nailed down wins along with Arif Shah and Paul Mostman. Lamonte Johnson teamed up with Basant Shah to join the winners circle along with that wonderful husband-wife pair of Charles Self and Mary Anne Self. Special kudos must go out to the increasingly strong pair of Paul Gill and Roy Ladd. They not only won in Castaic, but consistently are placing high up in the Valencia game. Can these guys really be in the 'C' strata?

The Lancaster Club saw Ms. Marlene Warren-Gasper chalk up three wins, as did Brad Ward. Notching two wins each last month were Russ Buker and Barbara Shuping. One win each was tallied by Doris Thompson, Sylvia Feiman (71.43% partnered by Brad Ward), Dave Gasper, and Ron & Sandi Oest. Ms Mary Ellen Downs is certainly improving her game under the watchful eye of Ms. Ginny Dudley and has caught the attention of →

all the "A" strat players in Lancaster. Brad Ward and Bill Brodek won the January Unit Game, barely nipping the competition.

Glendale Verdugo

By Ron Lifshutz

On January 5 the Regency lost one of the great ladies of the Glendale bridge community.

Melina Stevens was beautiful, gracious, and a tiger at the bridge table. Her favorite partner as well as her best friend was Carolyn Cohen. They were almost unbeatable.

Melina's service was held on January 9. The church was full of her family and lifetime friends. The bridge community was well represented. Melina will be missed by all who knew her.

The January 14 unit game was dedicated to Melina. The results are as follows:

N/S

A1	Margery Gould & Jeanette Deverian
A2	Michael Doll & Stephen Licker
A3/4	John Villalobos & Carolyn Cohen
A3/4	Herman Helber & Jacob Frenkel

E/W

A1	B1	Brad Beland & Gerry Belcher
A2	B2	Dan Botoaca & Amr Elghamry
A3	B3	C1 Sharon Wolf & Temo Arjani
A4	B4	Harold Knowles & Zachary Vedro
	C2	Eva Seri & Lyle Wiedeman

The food was supplied by Merry Besvold and Margaret Mataga who cooked the delicious chili. Pat Abbey made the cornbread. Nancy Lyons and Betsy Josias made the salads. Gloria Balfour supplied the desserts.

Our next unit game will be held on February 11 2012.

Please join us then.

Long Beach

by Jon Yinger

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

December 31 unit-rated New Years Eve game:

Overall results: 1st in A: Steve Mager/Aaron Jones, 2nd John and Jo Melis, 3rd Steve Skinner/Betty McClellan, 4th Chiye and Bruce Horiguchi, 5-6-7 tie: Bob Mault/Sherry Troeger, Marcie Evans/Jon Yinger, Arne Lier/Ann Croul. In the B flight overall Susan and Keith Hafen 2nd, Al Appel/Lottie Butler 3rd, Randy Hamlin/John Petrie 4th. And in the 199er game overall Marvin Glickman/Mihir Das were 1st, Sally and Alan Gordy 2nd, Diana Lam/Linda Eagan 3rd, Rosalie Storck/Pam Cronn 4th. Congratulations to all!

January 8 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Larry Slutsky/Gary Paugh, 2nd Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth, 3rd Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu, 4th Bee Kinman/Verna Burns, 5-6 tie: John Petrie/Judith Jones and Irwin Bender/Lois Abramson. In the B flight overall Mary Thoms/George Welsh were 4th, Carmela Chiurazzi/Steve Rowe were 5th. And in the C flight overall Sue Ayers/Avie Bombard were 2nd. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games in the club Dec 16 through Jan 15: In open games: Dec 24 (afternoon) John Petrie/Aaron Jones had 74.09%. the other 70 percenters were all in evening games: open games--Dec 28 Cory Hand/Tom Skidmore had 70.26%, Jan 4 Phyllis Greenstien/Doreen Maes had 71.00%, Jan 10 Harry Sacks/Bob Rubin had 71.43% and Friday the 13th Aaron Jones/Mark Leonard had 70.14%. In the evening NLM game Dec 19 Kay Hyland/Lynne Finley had 75.00%, and in the NLM evening game Dec 26 Sharon Biederman/Darlene Harrison had 70.83%. Honorable mention to Claudette Barrack/Monica Gettis who had 69.94% in the NLM game Dec 27. Congratulations to you all!

Big masterpoint awards: Big point awards for first overall in club games Dec 16 through Jan 15: Dec 16 Larry Topper/Bob Goldtsein won 5.83mp. Dec 18 Jo and John Melis won 3.18mp. Dec 26 Lois Abramson/Gary Paugh won 4.50mp. Dec 27 Doris James/Aaron Jones won 5.33mp and in the evening game Bruce Horiguchi/Aaron Jones won 3.17mp. Dec 29 Aaron Jones/Mark Leonard won 4.83mp. Dec 30 Jackie Hess/T S Chernuchin won 6.83, and in the evening game John Petrie/John Crabtree won 3.17mp. Dec 31 Steve Mager/Aaron Jones won 3.33mp. Jan 8 Larry Slutsky/Gary Paugh won 3.68mp. Big awards for second and third place: Dec 16 Bill Wilson/John Crabtree won 4.37mp for 2nd, Stephen Licker/Dick Sands won 3.28mp for 3rd. Dec 26 Ralph Beazley/Irwin Bender won 3.38mp for 2nd. Dec 27 Cory Hand/T S Chernuchin won 4.00 →

mp for 2nd, Judith Jones/Marcie Evans won 3.00mp for 3rd. Dec 28 Mark Teaford/Kimi Matsumoto won 4.25mp for 2nd, Gary King/Aaron Jones won 3.33mp for 3rd. Dec 29 Cory and John Hand won 3.63mp for 2nd. Dec 30 Cayce Blanchard/John Melis won 5.12mp for 2nd, Aaron Jones/Bruce Horiguchi 3.84mp for 3rd. Congratulations to all!

New Member: Joe FioRica. Welcome to the club, Joe.

Status Changes: Junior Masters: Jack Dampman, Audrey Healy; Club Master: Richard Barrack; Sectional Master: John Galligher; Regional Masters: Kay Hyland, Cole Sachs; Life Master: Carmela Chiurazzi; Bronze Life Master: Janet Wagner. Congratulations to all of you!

Congratulations to the new officers of Unit 557: president: Diane Sachs, vice president: Kevin Lane, secretary: Carmela Chiurazzi, treasurer: Betty Jackson. Other board members are Ernie Ross, John Killian, Rob Preece, Larry Slutsky, Rosalie Storc, Jean Ingram, Fern Dunbar and Hank Dunbar. Thank you all for your work hard work and dedication to Unit

557.

Upcoming events at the Club: Thursday Feb 2 unit-rated Groundhog Day game. Feb 5 through Feb 11 Junior Fund Week. Tuesday Feb 14 and Thursday Feb 23: Inter-Club Championship games. All special games—extra points, regular prices. February 12 Unit Game--lunch 12:30, game at 1pm.

Condolences: to the family and friends of Mike Galante who passed earlier this month.

News From Leisure World from Gene Yaffee

Big games of 68% were scored by Bee Kinman & Sue Fardette on December 16 and Bill Linskey & Gloria Sedore on December 26.

Winners in the Club Championship game on January 9 were: A Strat, 1st-Bee Kinman & Bill Linskey; 2nd-Sue Fardette & Vince Remedios; 3rd-Verna Burns & Judy Carter-Johnson; B Strat, 1st-Bob Lofstrom & Chuck Cutchshaw; 2nd-Chie Wickham & Lois Curci; 3rd-Midge Dunagan & Jean Byer.

Next Club Championship games will be held on Saturday, February 4, and Friday, February 24, in Clubhouse #1. Games will begin at 12:30 p.m. both days. Call Betty Scharf, [562/795-0356](tel:5627950356), for more information or to get entry to Leisure World to play in those games.

For Monday & Thursday games call Ruth Kaller, 562/430-0316, for reservations and entry.

Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via email: Send me your e-mail →

It's time for the 2012 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS EVENT

Open Flight	March 3-4	0-unlimited MPs
Flight A	April 28-29	0-5000 MPs
Flight B	March 3-4	0-2000 MPs
Flight C	April 28-29	Non LMs < 500 MPs

The district-wide sectional on April 14-15 will raise funds for our teams.



Do you want to play in a FUN Team Event?
Do you want play in events with large Master Point Awards?
Do you want to win Gold MPs without leaving Los Angeles?

Never played in the Grand National Teams before?
Want to know more? Read here!

- The format is the same as any sectional Swiss Teams and/or Knockout event
- The Master Points Awards are bigger and include Gold Points
- The event is Stratified so you only compete against people with similar MPs
- Feel the prestige and earn the recognition on both the local and national level when you win!

All Events:

- Take place at the Barrington Bridge Club, 11500 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles
- Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4,5,or 6 players
- Game Times 10:00am and TBA
- Players can enter more than 1 event (on separate weekends)
- Winning teams can represent District 23 in Philadelphia this summer at the Nationals
- Winning teams receive partial refund of expenses for the 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)

address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyingerl@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Jan Wickersham

Unit Game: January 29 at 1:00

Greetings to all and here's wishing you a peaceful, healthy new year. Yes, another year is upon us and let us hope that it will bring better tidings than the last one.

Thank you to Chuck Cordaro who wrote this column for several months. He has given up the job and we are looking for a new columnist. Anyone interested? You are sure to get published.

Our January unit game was well attended and seemed to be enjoyed. George Wang and Janet Ju had a 71% game to easily win the event. Congratulations to you both, not only for the win but also for the score. A 70% game is somewhat of a rarity. Second overall were John Jones and Matthew Klimesh and third were Lulu and Fredy Minter. A big thank you is due to Bernie Mateer and Peter Szecsi for bringing the food and providing a meal to delight any bridge player.

A group of bridge friends is leaving the first weekend in February to go cruising to Hawaii. The group includes Ruby Davis, Karen Arase, Consuelo Ledbetter, June Harwell, Graetchn Torres, Lois Miller and Gitta Earll. What fun they will have and they are planning to play bridge night and day - well, almost. Please bring home lots of pictures to post on Roy's web site. As Laurie Silton did after her Caribbean trip; we like to enjoy these vacations vicariously.

Our condolences are extended to Mara Brener, the wife of Harry Brener. Harry died after a protracted illness and we will miss him. Those on the sick (and prayer) list are Miriam Collup (broken wrist), Rita Corwin (hip surgery), Anne Campbell, Harold Knowles, and Frank Jones. Let us pray that they will return soon to the bridge clubs.

San Marino Bridge Club
from Marie Nimmrich

Be sure to come to the celebration of the Chinese New Year which our Chinese friends at the club are hosting on Monday, February 20. We are going to make this game special by holding a Club Membership

Game, which awards 100% sectional rated points and will still have the same \$6.00 card fee. This is royal entertainment and everyone, but everyone, is invited.

Unit News: We will be holding our February Unit Game on 29 January at 1:00. Also pending is the annual Election Party to be held this year on 4 March at the Elk's Lodge in Arcadia. Tickets for bridge, dinner and bridge are \$35.00 each with a choice of salmon or prime rib for an entrée. You can purchase tickets from any Unit Board Member. They are as follows: Sandra Franciscus, Peter Szecsi, Jan Wickersham, Karen Arase, Miriam Harrington, Mary Falvey, Mike Marcucci, Joanne Sasaki, Amr Elghamry, T J Wang, Bernie Mateer, and Marie Nimmrich.

If anyone desires to serve on our illustrious Board, please by all means see Peter Szecsi. We are in need of a friendship chairman and a unit reporter. If interested, please contact any of the above board members.

And speaking of the board, you do realize that the members are volunteers who give of their time and energy working to make bridge enjoyable for our unit members. They work behind the scenes at the sectional, at the holiday party and at the election party; and the work is often extended. Karen Arase and her helpers dedicated many hours in order that the holiday party would be a success. Thank you Karen and staff for giving us a wonderful party.

Having written this at the last possible moment, I have no news to give regarding the Arcadia Bridge Center. Events scheduled are the Beat the House Night and the Winner/Loser Games. You will have to call or check the Bridge Center's website to get the precise dates.

A Lesson from Roy Wilson

Do you have an agreement as to what this bid means? You open a major and your partner jumps to game in your suit. What are you expecting in the dummy? If you took lessons from Art, you've heard the expression "Weak Freak" and you are expecting five-card support and a weak hand. But suppose you open that same major on the next hand and your partner bids 1NT, which is forcing for most of us. You rebid whatever your hand tells you to rebid, and then partner jumps to game in your major! So now what are you expecting in dummy? This is why partnership agreements are so important! There's no "right" or "wrong" answer to this question, but you really should talk to your →

partner and make an agreement here. I would suggest that the second method is a little bit stronger, maybe in the range of 6-9 points with five-card support and good distributional values, but you can decide how you want to play it.

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game: Saturday, January 21 11 a.m.

Since it's been at least four weeks since most of you made solemn resolutions to lose 40 pounds, exercise 3 hours a day, donate 25 hours a week at the local blood bank, adopt a homeless pet from an animal shelter, and work on a cure for cancer in your spare time, this month's column is a reminder that you should keep your priorities straight and also leave time for at least a few sessions of bridge per week at the local club. Our attendance has been pretty steady for most games, but we need your continued support. Roger Boyar would especially appreciate support for his Tuesday morning and Thursday evening games at LaFetra. The latter is the only remaining evening game in the area, and those of you who might enjoy getting away from reality TV, crime shows, and "Dancing With Washed-up Celebrities" should come out and join us for a pleasant, inexpensive evening's entertainment. You may call Roger for information and/or a partner at (626) 214-6354.

In social notes, we are glad to welcome unit prez Clint Lew back from a tour of New York City, where he hit half the plays currently running on Broadway. We will miss Genise Hasan for the next three months, since she is off to see most of the known world on an ocean cruise. I have big plans to get my car washed in Fontana.

An uncharacteristic fit of efficiency led to my getting the results of the January unit game into last month's column, so I am left with only club results to report this time. Roger Boyar and Clint Lew had the month's top score, narrowly edging Charlotte Capelle and Hanan Mogharbel and Penny Barbieri and Sandy Jones. Other winners included Karen McCarthy, Suzanne Wojcik, Tom Lill, Kathy Helber, Herman Helber, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Walt Otto, Richard Patterson, Lois Snowden, Donald Logsdon, Suan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Lary Alba, and Dave Ruoff.

This month's hand of the month had to be split two ways. I simply couldn't resist including this first hand. Those of you who read Frank Stewart's L.A. Times column are familiar with his Minnie Bottoms character, whose poor eyesight sometimes leads to incredible results. Well, I ran into Minnie's cousin last month.

She opened 1♠ and wound up in a diamond partscore. After the hand was over, we found we had been psyched out of a cold 4♠ contract our way by an innocent lady who wouldn't deliberately psych an opening bid if you held a gun to her head. It was hard to convince "Minnie" that she had opened 1♠ with a singleton spade and 5 diamonds!

The second hand was legitimately spectacular. NV vs. NV, you hold:

♠KT54 ♥-- ♦-- ♣AKJT98763

RHO opens 1♦. For better or worse, you bid 5♣. LHO bids 5♥ which comes around to you. Do you bid 6♣? What if the opponents now bid 6♥? Do you sacrifice at 7♣? For the best matchpoint result, your answers should be yes to question 1, but no to question 2. Five hearts is cold, but declarer will have to entice a revoke to make six. Par result for each side is 6♣ doubled, off one.

Your pard is void in clubs, but the opponents each have 4♦, so declarer can never pitch his singleton club. He loses a club and a diamond. Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Fred Upton and Steve Woelfer, who play in the evening games at the 750 Club, won the competition for the North American Pairs in the "C" Division for our District 23. They will be going to Memphis in March to represent District 23 in the National Bridge Tournament. Fred's e-mail notes that they "attribute their win to all the training they have done at the 750 Club." We hope to report news on their "Bridge Adventure" when they return from Memphis. Good luck guys... make us proud!!

Remember we are still open to cudos and criticisms related to the December Holiday Party. Please send your comments to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com with the subject line "Party Feedback."

Upcoming Events: Our first 2012 unit game →

is scheduled for Saturday, March 24 at the 750 Club location. Mark your calendar for this game and look for complete details in the next issue of the Bridge News.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners, December 2011

750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 11.39, Jim Lechner 10.73, Martin Hurwitz 8.37, Don Rosen 7.70, Samy Antoun 6.86, Bob Glasser 6.63, Bud Shapiro 6.13, Dan Strauss 6.13, Sue Sarture 6.03, Doug Beagle 5.37

Bridge Academy Under 750 Masterpoints: John Van Egmond 5.34, Michael Klemens 5.06, Jim Lechner 3.63, James Gardner 3.63, Allen Smith 3.17, Patty Smith 3.17, Mrilyn Gaims 3.07, Ruth Fleisher 3.07, Ron Stewart 2.73, Harriet Smuckler 2.70.

Bridge Academy Open Masterpoints: Leda Danzig 17.13, Carol Diamant 14.50, Tom Wylie 13.83, Armand Szulc 13.78, Gilbert Stinebaugh 13.69, Dick Lum 11.64, William Carlson, Jr. 11.39, Marel Bates 10.83, Sheila Bozin 9.47, Glenna Szulc 9.32.

70% Games for December: Sam Thieme & Nate Marks 72.22%.

In Memoriam

We ended 2011 on a sad note with the loss of Peter Rothenberg who died in an auto accident on December 22. Peter played in the night games at the 750 Club. He was a gracious and congenial gentleman who will be sorely missed. Unit members send condolences to Peter's family and friends, especially his wife Geraldine.

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

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit website:

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

SBBC website:

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club
Club Team Championship: Tuesday, Feb 7, 7:00 →

LAS VEGAS

March 26-30, 2012

Monday to Friday

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at the heart of the Las Vegas Strip

Monday, March 26

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs

1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 1 of 3

7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Tuesday, March 27

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Final Rd

1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd 1 of 3

7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Non-smoking Tournament
with Hospitality Breaks

Wednesday, March 28

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd

1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 1 of 3

7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Thursday, March 29

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Final Rd

1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Compact KO Teams (Rounds 1 & 2)

7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Compact KO Teams (Rounds 3 & Final)
Stratified Board-A-Match Teams

Friday, March 30

10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Stratified Fast Pairs
(finish by 4:15 p.m.) (This is a 2-session event, but single session entries may be sold at the Director's discretion.)

10:00 a.m. & TBD Stratified Swiss Teams
(2-sessions)
Swiss Teams will finish by 5:15 p.m.

All stratified events are stratified by the
average masterpoints of the team or pair.

Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750
I/N: 0-20/50/100/200/300

CARD FEES: \$10.00 per session/per player
for dues paying ACBL members
\$11.00 per session/per player for all others

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Tournament Co-chairs:
Barbara Dunkley
Tom Shulman 702 301-5856
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Sanction S1203025

NLM Club Championship: Thursday, Feb 9, 10:30
 Club Championship: Monday, Feb 13, 11:30
 Club Championship: Friday, Feb 17, 11:30
 Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday
 Friday Night games on February 3 and 17

Club Championships

On December 20 the Club Championship was won by Winnie Ninneman/Fran Israel in Flight A with a three way tie for the top spot in Flight B between Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan, Kim Wang/Chein-San Han and Morris Lorber/Al Corwin. On January 9 the Club Championship was captured by Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Karen and Mike McKittrick leading Flight B.

Team Winners

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

December 20: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
 December 27: Lorraine Hohn, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
 January 3 (tie): Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Bernie Weinstein (!), Ernie Frank Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott
 January 10: Barbara Shortwell, Bruce Merchant, Henry Crowder, Keith Davidson

GUV Memorial Award (a few candidates this month)

OK, you are allowed one guess. What unit member temporarily lost both her convention card, cell phone, and something else I can't remember at the Desert Mirage Regional. She had enough sway with the tournament authorities that they even made an announcement asking if anyone had found the convention card. I will be very disappointed if you don't get this one correct.

At the same tournament I discovered, at long last, that I am developing some kind of telepathic insight for this game. On one hand I had a spade holding of ♠Q984 in dummy with a stiff 6 in my hand while declaring a diamond contract. My LHO had at one time used

Michaels in the bidding. She led a club and later got in with a diamond. I anticipated and got the lead of the ♠5. I carefully played the ♠4 and RHO started thinking. It looked to me like LHO was underleading her ♠A, trying to get to her pard for a club ruff. As RHO thought, I was hit by the telepathic thought that I was going to make the ♠6. And sure enough RHO didn't read the situation and produced the ♠2.

Once again Cecil Cook got me with insane slam bidding. To protect the Not-So-Innocent, I will not mention his partner's name. After I had opened the bidding 1♥ said partner chose to make what was supposed to be a Michaels call holding eight solid spades and a couple of minor suit queens. The bidding only got worse from there as Cecil with a spade void kept trying to find his pards minor suit only to be taken back to spades. Finally after a 6♠ call Cecil in desperation bid 6NT. As it turned out this was probably the worst bid slam in bridge history that arrived at a cold contract. Since it was Cecil who bid it, I doubled thinking I already had my zero if it took this bidding to get to a cold 6NT. And I was right. Every other table played 4♠ making 5♠ after a heart lead through dummy's king.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Tomorrow, the World!

Another year, another election party. Each year, your Unit Board has scheduled its election of officers for the coming year at the January meeting. At last year's meeting, my predecessor in this space caught me daydreaming when she decided that her other commitments would leave her unable to continue writing the unit's monthly column, and you folks got stuck with me. This year, Howard Einberg decided that eleventy-seven years as the UUnit's president was enough, so he declined to run for re-election. My fellow Board members were brave (or foolhardy) enough to entrust me with the position, so you're stuck with me for the coming year. Never fear, though. Our former Peerless Leader agreed to contribute his services as vice president, so the voice of experience will be nearby.

Swing Your Partner, Do-Si-Do

→

Like Athena from the head of Zeus, our Unit's next event springs full-formed from the ever-fertile mind of Candy Scott. Created by Al Capp in his long-running comic strip *Li'l Abner*, February 29 has been designated as Sadie Hawkins Day. The Unit will mark the occasion with a Unit Championship that afternoon at Barrington and Beverly Hills, followed that evening at Beverly Hills by a Mixed Pairs Unit Championship. Ladies, the idea of Sadie Hawkins Day is that women take the initiative. So don't be shy — invite someone for a fun evening of Mixed Pairs. And to sweeten the pot, the Club is providing vittles that you'd never see in Dogpatch. Enjoy!

The Memphis Tigers

The District Finals for all three flights of North American Open Pairs took place January 15. The top three finishers in each flight pick up a boatload of master points, as well as the opportunity to play the national finals at the Spring Nationals, held this year in Memphis. The top finishers even get a subsidy from the ACBL. Our Unit acquitted itself quite admirably, snagging all three qualifying positions in Flight A. Congratulations to Gary King, to Viktor Anikovich and Guy Green, and to Roger and Becky Clough.

Coming up in early March, the District will select its representative for the Open Flight and Flight B (0-2000) of the Grand National Teams. (Flights A (0-5000) and C (0-500 non-life masters) will take place in April.) The winning team in each flight gets the opportunity to represent the District at the Summer Nationals, held this year in Philadelphia. And the District's winning Flight B team picks up 27 gold points. Get your team together now! Don't miss this opportunity.

To whet your appetite, here's a hand from the Flight B pairs finals. How would you play 6H with the following hands, after getting a spade overcall on your right?

Dummy: ♠ A1074 ♥ K983 ♦ A1096 ♣ 5

Declarer: ♠ 63 ♥ AQ10652 ♦ KJ7 ♣ A8

The hand actually has excellent play, even after a spade lead, and without a spade lead it's cold. The worst case scenario is you have a 50-50 guess for the diamond queen. But if hearts are 2-1, you can strip clubs and exit a spade. If lefty was dealt two honors or honor-9 of spades, someone's getting endplayed.

Even if the endplay doesn't work, rather than staking all on the diamond finesse, you can give yourself an extra chance by running all the trump. If RHO has the diamond queen, he's squeezed in spades and diamonds, and the squeeze also works if either opponent started life with Q or Qx in diamonds.

Did I find that line? Unfortunately, I didn't have the opportunity. Partner and I had a bidding misunderstanding, and instead of being the only pair in the room to reach the good 6H contract, we landed in 6N. That contract does depend strictly on the diamond finesse, and we guessed incorrectly.

The Tournament Trail

Not many tournaments to report on last month. Palm Springs saw a few familiar names enter the winner's circle. Vera Mandell picked up a win in an afternoon Continuous Pairs event, and Ed Barad, Nina Glazer, and Viktor Anikovich tied for the win in the Friday afternoon Swiss. Val Romoff won a '99er Pairs event, and Roberto Scaramuzzi teamed with Bill Wickham for a win in the Saturday afternoon Swiss. Diane Licht and Sue Ann Simon won their bracket of the Indian Wells Knockout. David Lyons won his bracket in the Indio Knockout Teams. Winners of their bracket in the Bermuda Dunes Compact Knockout were Gene White, Cecil Cook, and Gary King. Moving up north, John Herriott traveled to Reno for their traditional year-end regional, and his team won its bracket of the '11 Wrapup Knockout Teams. Congratulations to all the winners.

Around the Clubs

The Beverly Hills club presents annually the Jack Golden Award, to recognize those who have made noteworthy contributions to the club. Recognition this year goes to Anne Bank, Marcia Fisher, and Fuad Khuri. Be sure to congratulate them the next time you see them. Club champions at Beverly Hills this month were Rhoda and Lew Himmell, Zalman Perelman and Suzanne Menck, David Segal and Farideh Sigari, Fred Mautner and Viktor Anikovich, and Sue Frishberg and Richard Glatzer. Joyce Lelah picked up three 70% games, partnering with Gerson Rapfogel, Karen Schwartz, and David Segal. Filling out the list of 70% games are Fred Mautner-Viktor Anikovich, Edith Large-Arlen O'Hara, and Lew and Rhoda Himmell. Maria Pendergast and Robert Levy, Aram Bedros and Dan Hugh-Jones, →

and Robert Bass and Steve Gross were club champions at Barrington, while your Humble Scribe played with Ryan Wessels to win a Unit Championship. Cracking the 70% mark were Sandy and Bob Carroll, Cyma Aronow and Art Zail, and Steve Gross and Robert Bass. Congratulations to all!

Climbing the Ladder

A lot of people took their first step up the ladder last month, becoming freshly minted Junior Masters.

Joining these ranks were Leslie Brucker, Lei Jin, Homa Nasser, Linda and Roger Rasmussen, Esther Shapow, and Richard Treiman. Ravnesh Amar has reached Club Master, and Robert Feinberg, Seymore Stoll, and Ira Teller are now Sectional Masters. Nancie Barrier is our newest Regional Master.

Less movement this month in the Life Master ranks. Congratulations to Evan Krantz for reaching Bronze Life Master.

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

District 23 Rank Changes December, 2011

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Kathleen Carter, Roberta Cope, Barbara Federman
Flo Fenton, Marjorie Frank, Marcia Hoffman
Julie Holloway, Ron Melnick, Shelly Melnick
Joanne Merchant, Michael Perera, Beverly Phillips
Gail Zanger, Kathleen Carter, Roberta Cope
Barbara Federman, Flo Fenton, Marjorie Frank
Marcia Hoffman, Julie Holloway, Ron Melnick
Shelly Melnick, Joanne Merchant, Michael Perera
Beverly Phillips, Gail Zanger

Club Master (20 MPs)

Ben Agarwal, Vina Agarwal, Elizabeth Burrell
Kent Burrell, Susan Coggins, Keith Davidson
Dianne Edson, Marlene Felix, Barbara AP Fransen
Judy Freeman, David Greene, Steve Gupta
Oystein Hellesoy, John Hope, Sylvia Kaprelyan
Pamela Kushida, Ray Malki, Jeannette Mandelbaum
Nishan Odabashian, Loretto Russell
Jerome Tepperman, Samuel Thieme, Chris Tolles
Sarah Yort, Selim Zilkha

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Michael Frishberg, Doug Green, James Nathan,
Kenneth Peyton, Andrew Rottenbacher,
Lillian Sender, Jane Winston, Tom Wright

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Keith Adams, Johnny Arceri, Sharon Biederman,
Bella Feniger, Bruce Karlan, Rochelle Lotto
Wenzhi Lu, Janet Thornber

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Bunnie Blender, Sara Dokter, Paul Gill
Dennis Hollingworth, Krystyna Hollingworth
Mark Lavine, Jane Reid

Life Master (300 MPs)

Phyllis Greenstein, Karen McKittrick
Mike McKittrick, Yokuko Sheehy

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

D Geffner, Sanford Jones
Diane Licht, Steve Ramos, Jr
William Rogers, Toby Rothman
Joanne Sasaki, Jimmie Swan, Arthur Weiner

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Michael Abrams, Barbara Bereny, Allan Bloom
Nourit Chowaiki, Norman Cressy, Mike Fierman
Susan Hafen, Xingping Kang, Vera Mandell
Torrence McGough, Verna Scott
Harry Torossian, Janet Wagner

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Algis Lasas, Rita Mason
Ann McClelland, Phyllis Mory, Gail Stanhope

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs) Fred Mautner

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

This month's panelists: David Chechelashvili, Jeff Goldsmith, John Jones, Jill Meyers, Marshall Miles, Rick Roeder, David Sacks, Walt Schafer and Mike Shuster

1

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♣	pass	3NT	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠A65 ♥K7542 ♦A ♣AK62
What call do you make?

CHECHELASHVILI: 4♠. If partner has something like ♠KQJT ♥Ax ♦Jxxx ♣Qxx, then slam in spades is better than in notrump.

GOLDSMITH: 4♠. I was planning to bid out my pattern, and I don't see why partner's leap should prevent me from doing so. Since 2♣ wasn't forcing, partner shouldn't play me for more than three spades. I'm also showing a slam try opposite 13-15 HCP, since I'm forcing to 4NT opposite four crummy spades, so this should show 17-18 HCP.

JONES: 4♠. I bid 2♣ so I could pattern out and show my spade support. Partner isn't barred from having five pretty good spades. Wouldn't he bid this way with ♠KQTxx ♥A ♦QJTx ♣QJx? Opposite that, 7♠ is an excellent contract. It's worth noting that since 3NT has been bid naturally, 4NT is a signoff (which I will pass if partner bids) and is not ace-asking.

MEYERS: 4♠. This has to be a 4NT bid with three spades and a stiff diamond.

I agree, but you might make the same bid with fewer HCP and a hand not quite as rich in controls.

MILES: 4NT. I think partner should have at most 15 points without a good 5-card spade suit. If we have a

slam, it's most likely in clubs, but since partner did not bid 2♦ over 2♣, that's unlikely.

ROEDER: 4NT. My previous bidding was the same as if would have been if my ♣AK were two small clubs. With such massive undisclosed strength, you must "Make That Move," as Shalamar once sang. One bidding rule that should be universal: when 3NT has been bid as an offer to play, and there is no explicitly agreed trump suit, 4NT is always quantitative and 5♣ is always Super Gerber.

SACKS: Pass. I'm assuming that with 15+ HCP, partner will almost always bid fourth suit rather than 3NT and that he'll have values in diamonds. Applying Ely Culbertson's rule, oftentimes called "The Josephine," I can't envision a minimum holding for 3NT which will produce an odds-on slam.

This rule says you should try for a slam (or game) if a perfect minimum for partner will make the contract laydown. Bridge historians generally credit Ely Culbertson with this guideline, which he called "Valuation by Visualization," although some players credit it to his wife Josephine, who was also an outstanding bridge player.

SCHAFER: 5♠. I object, because 18 HCP in aces and



South	West	North	East
?		1♦	pass

You, South, hold: ♠QT6 ♥ -- ♦KQ64 ♣865432
What call do you make?

CHECHELASHVILI: 3♦. They have at least nine hearts, so I want to preempt, even though this hand is normally too heavy for that. I don't see the auction's dying soon, so I can always bid more later if partner bids again.

GOLDSMITH: 3♦. Assuming we're playing inverted minors, I'd try a red on white 3♦. If I had a mixed raise available which gets us to the three-level quickly, I'd pick that.

JONES: 1♠. All those little clubs give me several choices of which to slip into my spades. At matchpoints, this is a reasonable shot, but if we play spades, I hope they don't lead trumps.

MEYERS: 3♦. I play this as a mixed raise, but if SC Bridge News Standard does not include inverted raises, I will bid 2♦.

We do not require any specific system.

MILES: 1NT. If I were a passed hand, I would bid 2♦ (not an inverted raise), but now that is an overbid, and 3♦ is an underbid. It's quite likely that West will bid 2♥, and I can show diamond support next round.

Since the opponents have at least nine hearts between them, I think the auction will be at the 3-level or higher by my next turn.

ROEDER: 1♠. The only awkward sequence for me is if pard raises to 2♠ on a three-bagger – which I pass and hope to scramble enough trump tricks before the opponents realize what is going on. This is a great hand to play a Moysian fit, because I am taking the heart tap in the hand with short spades.

SACKS: 2♦. I don't play inverted minors, so 2♦ appears to be obvious. Switch the vulnerability or make me play inverted minors and I would probably trot out 1♠.

SCHAFER: 1♠.

SHUSTER: 2♦. 1♠ is for villains. I'm not ashamed of raising partner's suit with KQxx.

In my partnership with Billy Miller, I play that 1 minor - 3 minor is a mixed raise. That would work well here, but when not playing that, I still like the preemptive effect of 3♦.

PSP #1 *continued from page 13*

kings is enough to jump shift. 4♠ is reasonable, but I have more than I've shown. 5♠ will convey that message.

SHUSTER: 4♠. Patterning out always shows extra values compared to a direct raise, so this seems too easy. The only question in my mind is whether 4♦ would show an even better 4♠ bid. I vote yes, but even so, I wouldn't bid that with this hand unless my major suit honors were reversed.

I understand the objection to the lack of a jump shift on the previous round, but given the current conditions, it seems as if 4NT conveys our strength but not our shape and 4♠ matches our shape, but not our values.

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South	West	North	East
		1♠	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠-- ♥9875432 ♦5 ♣KJ876
What call do you make?

CHECHELASHVILI: 1NT.

GOLDSMITH: 1NT. I don't see the problem. Passing is ludicrous - we could have a grand in hearts and not be cold for 1♠ - and nothing else is reasonable.

JONES: 1NT. I wouldn't bid 3♥ even if I played weak jump shifts, and I don't in most partnerships.

MEYERS: 1NT. Thank goodness for a forcing notrump, since I can bid that and try to describe my hand later.

MILES: Pass. I expect more bidding and can bid 2♥ next round.

ROEDER: 1NT. If pard rebids 4♠, I will fake an illness that will necessitate a fill-in. I can't pass, because we could be cold for a slam in a rounded suit.

SACKS: 1NT. This is forcing in my methods, but

I'd probably make the same bid even if not forcing. I think the real problem comes after partner's next bid.

Does that include vomiting when partner jumps in spades?

SCHAFER: 1NT.

SHUSTER: 1NT. This is systemically mandated. It's artificial and doesn't mean I want to play in notrump; it just means I don't have the values for a 2/1 or the spade length for a raise.

My intention was to make this a matchpoint problem, but the cut and paste process reared its ugly head. I agree with the panel majority that it's clear to bid at IMPs due to the risk of missing a game or slam. At matchpoints, however, I think the case for passing is much stronger.

West LA Unit Sadie Hawkins Day and Mixed Pair Championship by candy

February 29 has been a traditional date for a Sadie Hawkins Day Dance. Sadie Hawkins was the homeliest gal in the hills who grew tired of waiting for the fellows to come a courtin'. Her father, Hekzebiah Hawkins, a prominent resident of Dogpatch, was even more worried about Sadie living at home

the rest of his life, so he decreed the first annual Sadie Hawkins Day. The basis of Sadie Hawkins Day is that women take the initiative in inviting the man of their choice out on a date, typically to a dance. In the bridge world our idea of dancing is East West do-si-do to the next higher table and North South alamande down the boards.

February 29 the WLA Unit will hold a Sadie Hawkins Mixed Pairs Championship Game at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club at 7:15. All you Beverly Hillbillies meet the

Dogpatch for a night of fun bridge and vittles (although probably no dancing).

That afternoon there will be a Leap Year Unit Wide Championship at both the Barrington and Beverly Hills Bridge Clubs at 12:30. Both clubs will have the same hands and there will be overall winners.



4

IMPs
all vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠K876 ♥QT42 ♦QJ6 ♣Q8
What call do you make?

CHECHELASHVILI: 4♣. My first instinct was to bid 5♣, but the more I think about the problem, the more 4♣ stands out. If partner doesn't have a heart honor, we'll stop in 5♣. Otherwise, I think we belong in a slam.

GOLDSMITH: 5♣. This is a great five-count (the major suit honors are probably worthless), but 3NT was already an overbid. I'd've tried 2NT (or 2♠ if that was lebensohl) and then bid 3NT. I think that sequence is weaker than a jump to 3NT. Cue bidding 4♦ (partner's diamonds are probably just a fragment) is OK, but I'm a little hesitant to make a slam move with zero key cards and no third trump. Given that I've bid strongly already, I think 5♣ is enough.

JONES: 5♣. The minor honors are nice fillers, but I'm relatively minimum for my previous bidding. With a minimum and no major suit ace, I think it is time for me to saddle my horse and partner's, too. It looks like time for us to get out of Dodge.

MEYERS: 6♣. I'll just shoot it out, since I can't think of any intelligent way to bid the hand. I have too much in partner's suits not to take a shot.

MILES: 5♣. I would have bid 2NT the previous round.

ROEDER: 4♣. I have little conviction about this, because my great minor suit cards are offset by

some wastage in the majors. I take the high road because my passed hand status might temper pard's enthusiasm. Taking the low road and bidding 5♣ is quite reasonable.

SACKS: 4♦. I'll see what partner does next. I think that it would have been much better to bid 2♠ on the previous round (even if that was our default weak bid). I play 3NT over a reverse is 11-12 with no prime holdings for opener's suits.

SCHAFER: 5♣. Why is this a problem?

Because our esteemed panel and other top players don't agree on how to proceed.

SHUSTER: 5♣. You might get some complaints about 3NT, but it is the correct call with modest extra values and stoppers. Now it is time to commit to our best strain and show our inability to cue bid. I'm not particularly bullish about slam on this hand, but partner will discern that I have some cover cards by my failure to bid 4NT.

I think Mike Shuster hit the nail on the head. Our only viable choices here are to bid 4♦ to show secondary support, 4NT which should show total concentration in the majors, 5♣, or 6♣. I think 5♣ should show the hand with some minor suit cover cards. The leap to 6♣ is not unreasonable, but it is certainly aggressive.



DISTRICT 23 PRESENTS
BRIDGE BY THE BAY



FEBRUARY 21-26 2012



South	West	North	East
		1♥	1♠
?			

You, South, hold: ♠ -- ♥ T76 ♦ Q86 ♣ KQJ8753
What call do you make?

CHECHELASHVILI: 5♣.

GOLDSMITH: 3♣. Fit jump. Yeah, I'm supposed to have more and better hearts, but they're about to bid 4♠, and when they do, I'm going to bid 5♣ unless partner doubles. So I need to support hearts now so that partner can correct to hearts if appropriate and he can double in front of me with short clubs and a defensively-oriented hand.

JONES: 2♣. The vulnerability may slow the opponents down some, but they'll be coming hard in spades. I'll try to get heart support in even if I have to bid at the 5-level. It will be very hard for partner to judge the auction at all if I don't bid some number of clubs here. A fitted jump looks wrong with seven good clubs and no heart honor, but if my partnership allows for three-card support, then a fitted jump followed by bidding clubs is reasonable. 5♣ looks like too big a position even for a man who deliberately puts clubs in with his spades.

You can't even slip a spade into your clubs this time!

MEYERS: 2♠. This is a bit of an overbid, but I'm doing it anyway. I play that if I bid 2♣ (not GF in comp) and then raise partner's major, that is a game force, and I don't have that hand.

MILES: 5♣.

ROEDER: 2♣. In my methods, 3♣ is a fit bid which I would make if I had the agreement. An immediate 5♣ is a stab in the dark. If I badly needed a board, I might try it, because it is likely that the opponents will be getting to 4♠ sooner or later, and putting pressure on them might provoke an accident.

SACKS: 3♣. In my methods, this is natural and invitational. There are many choices on this hand and a simple 2♥ could very well be right (but it does tell one opponent that his partner is short there). With E/W vul, I choose to take the IMP odds of jamming a little and (for the time being) concealing that we have a fit. I play 2♣ game forcing even in competition, and I don't think I have enough defense to make that bid.

SCHAFER: Double. I'm not getting a good score for this, but I want to win bridge tournaments, not bidding contests. If the opponents stay silent, I'll show a limit raise with three trumps. If it goes 4♠-pass-pass, I'll conceal heart support and bid 5♣.

SHUSTER: 5♣. Let them guess what to do next. This doesn't overstate my defense as 2♣ would. 3♣ isn't a choice, even if fitted, because I don't plan on playing in hearts.

Some panelists think the heart fit should be ignored and so the question becomes whether to preempt the auction immediately or proceed more slowly. Since I think most wouldn't be willing to pass 4♠ or 4♠X, I opt for the aggressive jump to 5♣.



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