

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 48, #1

January 2012

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Searching for the Right Site

by Becky Clough
ALACBU President



Your tournament committee has been working very hard trying to find good sites for our three yearly regional tournaments. We've spent a day speaking with hotels in Long Beach and another at hotels near LAX. This has been both eye opening and discouraging.

Everyone always asks, "Why can't we find places to play like the Hyatt in Orange County or the convention Center in San Diego?" If these sites exist in Los Angeles County, they are usually far beyond our means.

Our goal is to find free playing space in return for room nights at the hotel and/or food guarantees for the hotel's catering department. We need to attract more players to fill these rooms so we can afford better places to play. Therefore, we are looking at what makes a good regional tournament, what will attract more players. We know that the professional bridge players and their clients want new knock-out events every day. We know that many other players want to compete against their peers, players of equal ability and talent, and not against players with thousands of master points. Attracting more players to our tournaments will accomplish both of these goals. The more players we have in attendance, the more brackets we'll have in the knock outs and the more sections we'll have in the Gold Rush Pairs.

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

Inside This Issue

Around the Units	page 3
Grand National Teams	page 4
Las Vegas	page 8
NAOP Finals	page 12
Problem Solvers' Panel	page 11
Rank Changes	page 14

Many Names, Many Wins

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Lee, Meyers, Vinock, Scott, and Wickersham. So many names and so many accomplishments. First from Seattle. It is very difficult to win a two-day national event, much less a three-day event. But, Roger Lee from our district won the three-day Blue Ribbon Pairs in Seattle.

This is his first national win and we congratulate him on his achievement. Jill Meyers, well, she added another national title to her resume by being on the winning team of the Women's Board-A-Match. As for Andy Vinock, he got onto a pickup team for the three-day National North American Swiss and placed third in the event.

But what about Candy Scott and Jan Wickersham? I have appointed them to the National Charity Committee for all of their excellent work they do for their local charities. Candy works with Temple Beth Solomon of the Deaf and Jan donates her time to the Elizabeth House. Temple Beth Solomon was my designated charity for 2011.

Highlights from the Seattle Board Meetings

The first order of business for the board was the election of the ACBL President for 2012. Sharon Anderson and William Arlinghaus were declared candidates. Sharon Anderson was declared the winner by secret ballot. For the position of World Bridge Federation Representatives, Georgia Heth and Bruce Blakely were elected representatives. Honorary Member of the Year went to Gregory Johnson, the ACBL's only astronaut.

The most important item considered by the board was the passing of the Budget for 2012. For the year 2012 our budget expenses are projected to exceed revenue by \$118,190 of which \$85,000 are one-time expenditures.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

As we expect a surplus for 2011 of \$399,376, the financial condition of the League is very healthy.

Another important item was a motion concerning Online Masterpoints used for Rank Advancement. The board has been discussing this issue for some time now trying to balance online points and their effect on Rank Advancement. It has now been decided that for rank advancement there will be no restrictions on the use of online points.

In conjunction with this motion, the board passed a motion changing the Requirements for Achieving Additional Life Master Rankings for people who attained Life Master after 1989. There will now be pigment point requirements for advancement ranking past Life Master. There is a grandfather provision which allows each player who has obtained the rank of Life Master or higher as of December 31, 2011, will not have to fulfill the new 2012 rank advancement requirements to obtain the next higher rank advancement. I will publish more on this next month.

I will report more news from the Seattle Board meetings next month. Until then, I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year.

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

For a Grand Slam in Real Estate, Call Your Own ACBL Members

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier

Realtors

Bringing You Tomorrow's Lifestyle Now

Relocation, Negotiator, Seniors, E-pro Certified,
Representing 1st Time Buyers and Sellers,
Probate & Trust Transactions, Estate Properties,
Clients with Complex Real Estate Matters and
World-wide Executive Transfers



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Carolyn ~ 310-442-6270
Marion ~ 310-442-6198
11900 W. Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Southern California Bridge News

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

11033 Barman Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230 Phone: 310-836-1235
email bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Editor/Designer.....Jennifer Einberg
Managing Editor.....Rebecca Clough
Contributing Editor.....John Jones

Subscription Rates: \$12.00 per year, private; \$2.00 as portion of District 23 dues; \$3.00 Units outside District 23 if subscribed by entire unit. Copy deadlines: advertising and editorial material by 10th of month; unit columns by 15th of month. Classified ads are payable in advance and only for a 6-month period or more with no changes in content. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

Recently, I spent one whole evening on the internet using Google to find all the ballrooms in Los Angeles County of 10,000 square feet or more (the amount necessary for 100 bridge tables). Many hotels have ballrooms, but few have ones of this size. If they do, they want to charge us exorbitant rental rates because we don't schedule banquets and when we book the space it is on 24-hour hold and can't be used for other events while we are there.

The good news is we have secured the Westin in Long Beach for our summer regional beginning July of 2013. We are excited about this because the playing space meets our needs and Long Beach has many restaurants nearby within walking distance. We are still looking for sites for our October and February tournaments. My goal is to find three different sites in three different parts of Los Angeles County. Everyone should have a regional nearby at least part of the time. Do any of you have ideas or suggestions? If so, please email me at district23becky@hotmail.com.

**Interested in
Advertising in the
Southern California
Bridge News?**

full page (7.5x10) \$100

large (7.5 x 6) \$60

mediumv (3.6 x 6) \$40

mediumh (7.5 x 3) \$40

small (3.6 x 2.75) \$20

email

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

The success of the Valencia and Castaic clubs this year has been just super to watch. Congratulations to the management of each club for doing a superb job. The Lancaster club has financially improved and has big plans for next year. The annual unit Christmas Party/unit member meeting was held on December 2 and 50 folks attended! Great support from our friends in the Santa Clarita and Castaic area produced a wonderful party and a tough competitive 11.5-table game. The food was fantastic and the game was won by Marlene and Dave Gasper, just nosing out Hugh Bartlett and Paula Oliveras. Unit governance will be handled by the slate approved by those that attended the event and unit officers will be elected at the January Board meeting.

Performance at the Valencia club this past month saw Hugh Bartlett-Marguerite Pinkers and Lamont Johnson-Markle Vandervort chalk up wins. Additionally, Marlene Warren-Gasper and her husband Dave joined Ted Maki-George MacDonald, Everett Dehn-Betty Pevy, Hansford Rowe-Adam Ellfeldt, and Rand Pinsky-Kathy Swaine entered the winners circle.

The Castaic club again experienced the domination of the Bill Brodek-Hugh Bartlett partnership as these two chalked up three wins! Bert Stock-Eileen Engels and Everett Dehn-Roshun Hadulla also triumphed.

The Lancaster club saw the return to the winners circle of a wonderful name from the past, Sylvia Feiman playing with Onarita Pallanti. So glad to see Sylvia feeling good enough to play at the club again, we hope she continues each week! Marlene Warren-Gasper and her husband Dave notched three wins this past month and backed that up with three wins playing with Brad Ward! Ron and Sandy Oest chalked up two wins as did the always tough pair of May Abagi-Lea Levitt. Lola Messiha managed to tame Dave Gasper and chalk up a win after so many close finishes this month. Our 101 year-old treasure, Ms.Dorrie Deston dragged Brad Ward into a win. Barb Shuping showed her consistent

fine skills by not only winning the monthly unit game with Roshun Hadullah but also notched a win with Ms.Dorothy Newland.

The Palm Springs Regional was again a great success, surpassing the attendance of last year with 3,929 tables. Many of our unit players were seen at the event and the top point winner was our resident champion pro, the great gentleman, John Swanson. John tallied 23.89 points. Other double-digit point winners were Dave Gasper and Brad Ward with 20.86 points, Paul Markarian garnered 16.40 points and it is with great pleasure that I report that Charles and Mary Anne Self won 13.72 points. Many other Unit 556 players won points at this event and I hope everybody had a great time. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a wonderful New Year to everyone!

Glendale Verdugo By Ron Lifshutz

On Saturday, December 10th, Unit 553 held its annual Christmas party at the Regency Bridge club. Prior to the game, the players were treated to the finest catered luncheon compliments of the unit board and hosted by President Merry Besvold.

N/S

A1		Margery Gould & Jeanette Deverian
A2		Richard Banta & Ann Banta
A3	B1	Madelon Liebman & Carol Lessin
A4		Peter Szecsi & Bernardine Mateer
A5		Pat Abbey & Merry Besvold
	B2	Michael Doll & Patrick Cardullo
	B3	Arthur Chacanas & Barbara McKissick

E/W

A1		Bob Tayrien & Jack Futrell
A2		Brad Beland & Cathryn Martin
A3	B1	C1 Sandra Rucker & Ann Raymond

A4	Louise Reich & Amr Elghamry	Knowles
A5	B2 Harold Knowles & Zachary Vedro	Our next unit game will be held on Saturday, January 14th 2012. Please join us then.
B3	C2 Eva Seri & Lyle Wiedeman	

There were plenty of mystery gifts for the raffle winners. The players were most generous with their donations of teddy bears for "Friends of the Children Court."

Birthday wishes were in order for Arthur Chacanas and Joe Hasencamp's wife. We hope for a speedy recovery for Harold

Long Beach
by Jon Yinger

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

November 20 Unit Game:
Overall results: 1st in A: Lowell Andrews/TessMartell, 2nd Lois

Abramson/Irwin Bender, 3rd John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 4th Gloria Sedore/Betty Jackson, 5th Aaron Jones/Kevin Lane, 6th Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle. In the B flight overall Eric Tan/Kim Wang were 3rd, Susan and Keith Hafen 4th, Cayce Blanchard/John Melis 5th. And in the C flight overall Sharon and Al Appel were 2nd. Congratulations to all!

December 4 Unit Game:
Overall results: 1st in A: T S Chernuchin/Aaron Jones, 2nd Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle, 3rd Sean Lui/Loren Hilf, 4th Pam and Michael Moreland, 5th John Petrie/Randy Hamlin, 6th Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger. In the B flight overall Lynn and Curtis Johnson were 3rd, Fern and Hank Dunbar 4th, Betty Jackson Gloira Sedore 5th, Sibyl and Larry Slutsky 6th. And in the C flight overall Lina and Simon Chen were 5th. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games in the club Nov 16 through Dec 15: In open games: Nov 16 (evening) Keith Hafen/John Melis had 70.42%, Dec 2 (evening) Stanley Snyder/Ron Lien had 70.24%, Dec 10 Steve Mager/Michael Savage had 73.21% and Dec 11 Marjorie Michelin/Mark Itabashi had 75.64%. Honorable mention to Paul and Pei Chen who had 69.88% in the 99er game Dec 3. Congratulations to you all!

Big Masterpoint Awards: 1st over-all big point awards Nov 16 through Dec 15: Nov 16 Aaron Jones/Bob Lavery won 5.00mp. Nov 17 Steve Mager/Luis Gamio-Klapic won 4.83mp. Nov 18 Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein won 6.00mp in the afternoon game and Susan and Keith Hafen won 3.00mp in the evening game. Nov 19 Earl VanDerVord/Sean Lui won 4.33mp, in the Nov 20 unit game Lowell Andrews/Tess

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)

Martell won 3.26mp. Nov 25 Janet Wagner/Bill Brooks won 5.67mp, and in the Dec 4 unit game T S Chernuchin/Aaron Jones won 3.83mp. Big awards for second and third place: Nov 16 Bruce Horiguchi/Jeff Strutzel won 3.75mp. Nov 17 Kiyo Nagaishi/Rich Wasser won 3.62mp. Nov 19 Baum Harris/T S Chernuchin won 3.25mp. Nov 25 John and Suzie Hand won 4.25mp for 2nd place and Loren Hilf/Bernie Garbose won 3.19mp for 3rd. Congratulations to all!

Status Changes: Club Master: Susan Bibby; NABC Master: Joyce Henderson. Congratulations to both of you!

Upcoming Events at the Club: Dec 26 through Dec 30 club membership week extra points, \$11 game fee. Sunday Dec 31 New Year's Party, unit-rated game. January 8 Unit Game--lunch 12:30, game at 1pm.

Get Well Wishes to Cooie Dampman.

News from Leisure World from Gene Yaffee

Big games: Bill Linskey & Betty Jackson on Dec. 1 with a 75%; Chie Wickham & Sue Krauser on Nov. 28 with a 70.60%; Bee Kinman & Judy Carter-Johnson on Dec. 2 with a 68.33%; Sharon Beran & Leo Avaloson Dec. 9 with a 67.56%.

Winners in the Club Championship Game on December 8 were: A Strat--1st, Betty Jackson & Gloria Sedore; 2nd, Howard Smith & Bill Linskey, B Strat--1st, Betty Scharf & Bill Robinson; 2nd, Cookie Pham & Thuan Gwynn

The officers for 2012 for Burning Tree were introduced at the Holiday Party on December 9, they are: President, Barbara Zarzycki; Vice President, Sylvia Kaprelyan; Secretary, Ron Yaffee; Treasurer, Howard Smith; Director-at-Large, Betty Scharf.

Games are held on Mondays and Thursdays at Clubhouse #3 and on Fridays and Saturdays at Clubhouse #1 at 12:30 p.m. Players are asked to be there by 12:15 to confirm their reservations. Reservations are necessary because Leisure World is a gated community and you name must be at the gate for entry—reservations may be made by calling Ruth Kaller at 562/430-0316.

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

Gene Yaffee, Leisure World Duplicate Bridge 562/430-7040.

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via email: Send me your e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jjyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Roy Wilson

Well, the New Year has started and bridge players all over the country are looking forward to the start of new races and events. We'll soon know the winner of the national McKenney, but more importantly we will learn the winners of our local Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs races. My bet is on Roger Lee for winning more points than anybody else in our unit. There will be 12 different winners for the various ranks competing in the Ace of Clubs, but I'm willing to predict that Peter Szecsi will have the most points in all of those groups. Our first unit game of the year will be on Sunday, January 8, and we also have an Election Party coming up. It's a difficult job to be on the unit board, but if you would like to have your name submitted for nomination and want to contribute to this game we all find so addicting, please let Marie Nimmrich know soon.

Christmas Party - Just to remind you, Edward Hsi and Connie Kang, two B players, were first overall across all flights and sections at our annual Christmas Party in December. Congratulations! One rather interesting hand where they prevailed had this auction: An opening bid of 2♣ by Connie and a 2♥ response by Edward, which Connie passed! It was the only makeable contract and gained them a top board. I've considered asking if I could take lessons. If you were at the party you know there are always lots of raffles and prizes handed out, right? Well, Jeff Goldsmith won a \$25.00 dinner certificate good at a local Italian restaurant. Dunno how good it will be, though, as the expiration date on it was back in 2004.

Roger Lee went to the Nationals in Seattle and came home with more than 200 masterpoints. Jeff Goldsmith and John Jones were there as too, and did quite well. Art Gulbrandsen was there. (Sorry, Art.)

A bridge question and a suggestion for you – What do you lead when you have an ace-king combination? Some players always start with the ace while others say you should lead the king. Whatever you do, make sure you have an agreement with your partner so he understands what you are doing. But there's a better way... May I suggest you lead the ace when you have an even number in the suit but lead the king if you have an odd number? A 13-card suit will always be divided between four hands as three suits of the same parity, either an odd number or an even number, and one

hand with the opposite. If your partner leads the king, showing an odd number, and dummy and you both have an odd number, then declarer must have an even number. If declarer tries to false card by dropping the queen, you know he actually has at least one more. An early count can lead to better defense!

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game
Saturday, January 21 11 a.m.

It was a dark and stormy night...Oops! I keep mixing up my column notes with the Great American Novel I'm writing. Reconfiguring...

As I survey my notes, I find I have past items stacked up worse than the UCLA offense against USC. I have results for no fewer than three recent unit games as well as the official winners of the election for the 2012 unit board. As far as the latter goes, there were no surprises. This might be due to the fact that there were no opposing candidates. The new Unit Board members are Clint Lew, Penny Barbieri, Richard Patterson, Tom Lill, Roger Boyar, Charlotte Capelle, Gayle Ginsburg, and yours truly.

For those with really good memories, the two-session October unit game was won by Lary Alba and Cordell Goode, followed by Dave and Susan Ruoff, Penny Barbieri and Rosalie Roberts, and Roger Boyar and Richard Patterson.

The November unit game was won by Hans Hehnke and Vic Sartor. Their 68% result was also top game of the month. Bill Papa and Joe Unis won N-S and were second overall, followed by Richard Patterson and Jim McEvoy, Hanan Mogharbel and Gayle Ginsburg, and Peter Szecsi and Bernadine Mateer. Denise Morgan and Genise Hasan were first in B.

The December unit game was won by Bill Papa and Lulu Minter. Penny Barbieri and Rosalie Roberts took first E-W and second overall, followed by Denise Morgan and Genise Hasan, who won Class B and tied with Peter Szecsi and Bernadine Mateer for 3-4 overall. Kerry Sartor and Margaret Merritt took Class C.

Several local players reached personal milestones recently. Dave Ruoff and Milt Kalikman both achieved Gold Life Master. Eileen Finlay made NABC Master. Hanan Mogharbel is now a Sectional Master, and Paul

Chrisney and Linda Tessier made Junior Master.

The December individual wound up in a three-way tie between Tom Lill, Bob Kakade, and Steve Mancini.

We have a rather meager list of club winners due to a combination of special holiday events and freak windstorms which closed down the LaFetra building for several days. Top club game was a 67% by Ann McClelland and Ron Purkis. Other winners included Paul Chrisney, Clint Lew, Herman and Kathy Helber, Walt Otto, Dave Ruoff, and Vic Sartor.

Our hand of the month is a real doozy. Both sides have seemingly cold slams in two suits, but their most likely contracts can be defeated by perfect defense.

NS vulnerable

♠AKJ8 ♥xx ♣Qxx ♠Jxxx

♠ xxx

♥ KQxx2

♣ AJxxx

♣ ---

♠ x

♥ Axxxx

♣ KTxxx

♣ xx

♠Q109xx ♥x ♣-- ♠AKQTxxx

6♣ by NS makes, but when West shows 5/5 distribution in the red suits there is no way they can ever buy it there. Whether or not EW bid 6♥ or 6♣, it is almost certain NS will reach the seemingly cold 6♠. Then east will probably be faced with a difficult decision-should he sacrifice at the 7 level or defend? If EW defends, will West find the lead of the heart DEUCE, asking for the club ruff? Will East, looking at just two clubs, believe him and lead back a club? One pair did find that defense for a top. 'Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

The Unit's Holiday Party was held on Sunday, December 4 at the Warner Center Marriott Hotel in Woodland Hills. Tickets included two sessions of bridge for stratified and intermediate pairs as well as self parking, dinner, and snacks. The number of players was greater than initially anticipated and this truly was

a celebration of bridge and friendship. During dinner, Moe Mansour received a rousing round of applause when he was finally presented with the Kaiser Award Trophy.

Before moving forward, there is a great deal of appreciation to be afforded those responsible for making the Holiday Party a great affair. First, and foremost, to Gloria Malkin who made the overall arrangements with the Marriott. Next to Doug Beagle and Bill Raines who did the real heavy lifting by moving all of the bridge tables from and back to the 750 Club. Terry and Bill Morton provided presorted boards that always make the games move faster. Peter Knee directed both sessions and was unofficially voted Best Dressed in his dapper outfit. Mike Fierman heads an active and engaged Unit Board and leadership is always worthy of mention. Last but not least, appreciation goes to the Bridge Academy and the 750 Club for providing venues for bridge players throughout the year.

Arrangements for the 2012 Holiday Party must be made almost a year in advance. Therefore, the Unit Board is asking for your feedback on the recent event. Don't be shy, speak up and help to recommend changes or additions for another great event. Please send your comments to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com with the subject line "Party Feedback."

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for November 2011

750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 10.48, Margie Bulmer 7.33, Bob Glasser 6.10, Larry Kussin 5.86, Bud Shapiro 5.96, Herb Zweig 5.32, Rochelle Lotto 4.87, Dick Berg 4.82, Bob Williams 4.74, Elaine Roth 4.62.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game: Carol Stein 3.82, Marjorie Romans 2.62, John Van Egmond 2.55, Jerry Goodman 2.54, Harriet Smuckler 2.52, Annette Cohen 2.52, Ron Stewart 2.31, Paul Fuson 2.14, Carmela Kochman 2.05, Arlene Newman 2.04

Bridge Academy Open Game: Gilbert Stinebaugh 9.50, Ellen Anten 8.50, Steve Gross 8.43, Harvey Witt 8.27, Tom Wylie 7.86, Michael Wiener 7.63, Larry Gordon 7.52, Freddie Straus 7.21, Carol Diamant 7.11, J Raymond Bush 7.06

70% Games for November

Congratulations to the November high achievers at

the Bridge Academy who scored 70% or better. Peter Knee & Andrew Vinock 71.30, Skip Smith & Carole Sheehan 70.70, Marion Weiss & Russell Weis 74.63, David Leonard & Robert Rice 73.00, Harriet Smuckler & Annette Cohen 73.00, Ellen Anten & Steve Gross 77.54, Michael Wiener & Harvey Witt 72.22, Howard Simon & Denise Simon 71.05

Looking Ahead

As we move forward into 2012, the Unit Board members wish all of our players and their families Good Health, Good Friendships, and Good Bridge.

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

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit website:

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

SBBC website:

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Monday, January 9, 7:00
Club Championship: Wednesday, January 18, 11:30
Club Team Championship: Tuesday, January 24, 11:30
Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening
Friday Night games on January 6 and January 20

Club Championships

The NLM Club Championship on November 17 was captured by Karen and Mike McKittrick in Flights A and B with Ralph Vidal/Jamila Malikyar winning Flight C. On December 2 the Club Championship was won by Gabriela Jackson/Mark Raggio. The unit Christmas party Flight A/X pairs was led by Mary Ann Coyle/Bo Bogema in Flight A followed by Bea and John Brailliar finishing second and Dolores Nawa/Marty Cooper taking third. Dolores and Marty also took Flight X followed by Sheryl Kohlhoff/Patti Taylor in second and Arlene and Stanley Greengard on top in third. In the BCD pairs at this same party Linda

and Bill Lama were on top in Flight B with Chris Freeland/Patricia Westenhaver taking second and Jean and Harold Brunner third. Flight C was led by Joyce Klossner/Marilyn Skolich with Dolly and Bruce Weiner in second and Tajie Major/Loretto Russell in third and also leading Flight D..

Team Winners

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

November 22: Barbara Shortwell, Henry Crowder, Bruce Merchant, Keith Davidson
 November 29: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
 Dec 6 STAC: Lucy Gellner, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

Western Conference STaC

Following is a list of overall finishers during the recent Western Conference STAC (December 5 - 1A

December 11) for games played at the South Bay Bridge Club.

Monday Morning, December 5
 12A Claire Hulett/John Farr

Monday Evening, December 5
 10A 7B Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio
 9B 5C David Peim/Neil Kleiner

Tuesday Morning, December 6
 1A 1B Kim Wang/Chein-San Han

Tuesday Morning, December 6, NLM Pairs
 2A 2B 2C Joyce Klossner/Joyce Field
 5A 3B Marilou Lieman/Neal Hudson

Wednesday Morning, December 7
 5/6A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott
 17A Lucy Gellner/John Farr

Friday Morning, December 9 99er Pairs
 1A Joyce Klossner/Elaine Wagner

LAS VEGAS

March 26-30, 2012

Monday to Friday

GLITTER GULCH SECTIONAL

Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino
 Phone: 800 634-3434



Bally's is conveniently located
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

Thank you for not wearing Fragrance

Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino
 3645 Las Vegas Boulevard South
 Las Vegas, NV 89109-4307

BALLY'S
LAS VEGAS

**Need a Partner?
Need Teammates?**
 Visit our online
 Partnership Desk at
www.LVsectional.com

Director-in Charge:
Bill Michael
 Tournament Co-chairs:
Barbara Dunkley
 Tom Shulman 702 301-5856
 Tom@LVsectional.com

Bally's Room Rate

Reserve by \$70
 March 5

"Mention code SBACB2"

Reservations 800 358-8777
 or book online at
LVsectional.com

LVsectional.com

Sanction S1203025

GUV Memorial Award

I was playing in the nationally rated Senior Mixed Pairs event in Seattle and received a doublers dream hand. I held in fourth seat all vul ♠x ♥ Txxx ♣A ♣KQJT8xx. My LHO opened 2♣ and after partner's pass RHO bid 2♥. I tried 5♣ and LHO bid 5♠. My RHO now bid 5NT which apparently LHO interpreted as some kind of grand slam force and bid 7♠. I was thinking that I must make a Lightner double to steer Pard off a Club lead when Lo and behold RHO saved me the problem and bid 7NT. Not being Mr. Nice Guy I made a sporting double. I did not lead the Club King.

Happy New Year

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Party Like It's 2011

I'm not sure why I'm bothering to write about it, since I'm pretty sure everyone who was anyone was there to enjoy the festivities. Nevertheless, in the words of someone or other, "a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires" that I record the events for posterity, lest they fade from memory entire. We held our annual holiday party at the Beverly Hills Country Club. Entertained by the dulcet tones of Loree Myers, who successfully competed with a heavenly steel drum, we recognized the Unit's Volunteer of the Year and its Player of the Year. Rand Pinsky, the Player of the Year, was unable to attend because board meetings had already started in Seattle. Betsy Lutz, our Volunteer of the Year, ensured an early arrival of Thanksgiving by giving thanks, by name, to pretty much the entire unit.

Then it was time for bridge, accompanied by enough sweets to keep every dentist in the city employed indefinitely. Vicky Ebin and Vera Mandell were champions of the open game, while JoJo Stevens and Keith Miller teamed up for the honors in the 299er game. And please take a moment to thank Marcia Fisher, Brana Hall, and Carolyn Taff who gave of their time, energy, and creativity to make the event a reality.

Tournament Trail

Leading off this month's tournament report, Jill Meyers made it a sweet sixteen North American titles in Seattle as a member of the winning team in the Marsha May Sternberg Women's Board-A-Match Teams. Congratulations, and best of luck on your quest for the next sixteen. Staying in Seattle, Carol and Robert Sherman had themselves a wonderful day on Monday, winning back-to-back 299er games. Keep that up and they won't be eligible to keep playing those games.

Moving to more local locales, Viktor Anikovich and Nina Glazer headed up the road to try their luck at the Santa Barbara Sectional. They returned with a victory in the Saturday morning pair game. The Unit also picked up two victories in the Great Western STAC, which encompasses most of the western half of the continent. William Inglis and John Stokdyk won the Wednesday afternoon event, and Mike Savage won the Saturday afternoon game.

Puzzles Solved

The Beverly Hills Club responded to the issue raised in last month's column concerning master point awards in Monday afternoon games, assuring me that awards from the open game will include credit for the concurrently run 99er game. ACBL Management advises that it will look into the issue raised about an apparent limitation in ACBLScore's ability to score an individual event with a three-board movement.

Talent Search

The unit board is considering whether to join several other units in the district and across the country by creating our own website. If you're interested in submitting a proposal, let a member of the Unit Board know. Links to the sites maintained by other units can be found via our district's website or on the ACBL's website.

Expanded Horizons

It will surprise no one to learn that there are far more issues raised at the national level than we can expect any one director to report upon. While doing my usual trolling to keep up with tournament news, I happened across the Western Conference's Web site (<http://www.thewesternconference.com>), where newsletters with three more District Director reports can be found. I

found the discussion of starting times for the Atlanta nationals, spending to support international teams, and possible changes to master point formulas to be particularly enlightening. If this sort of thing interests you, poke around to see what you find, and raise any concerns with Rand Pinsky.

Upcoming Events

The District Finals for the North American Open Pairs will be held on January 15. The winners of each Flight will earn an entry to the Spring Nationals in Memphis, as well as a subsidy from the ACBL. And it's not too late to form your teams for the Grand National Teams. The Open Flight and Flight B will be held in early March, and Flights A and C will be held in April. Awards at the District level for these events are much larger than for comparable events at our regional – last year, our Flight B winners picked up 27 gold points for defeating two other teams. Don't miss this opportunity.

Around the Clubs

There's too much happening in the Unit for any one reporter to keep up unassisted. Rhoda Himmel and Sandy Rink have been reliably providing me with news from the clubs since the start of my tenure, and we all owe them our thanks. Club champions at Beverly Hills were Rhoda and Lew Himmell. William Inglis and John Stokdyk racked up a 70% game on their way to the STAC win reported above, and Rahim (3NT) Israel paired with Fred Mautner for another 70%er. At Barrington, club champions were Jill Richmond playing with Steve Yaffe, Cyma Aronow playing with Art Zail, Anita Levine playing with Art Zail (starting to detect a pattern?), and Cecil and Ted (Beanie) Glaessner. Picking up 70% games were Donna Massman, Jill Richmond, Sally Aminoff, Sue Ann Simon, Hans Kraepelien, Michael Nash, Sheri Rivera, and Aram Bedros.

Climbing the Ladder

Courtesy of Roger Clough, we learn that there's been lots of movement this month up the ranks. Taking their first steps as Junior Masters are Susan Chapman, Irene Rosenthal, Joan Stein, and Bobbi Zifkin. Advancing to Sectional Master are Judy Hopkins and Gail Windisch. Our Unit's six new Regional masters are

Michael Abeles, Sydell Aronson, Rochelle Blumenfeld, Suzanne Borenstein, Melinda Curry, and Leah Levin.

Quite a month for William Inglis, as he joins Karen Schwartz and Clay and Eleanor Levine as Life Masters. In fact, the Levines jump immediately to Bronze Life Master status, while Richard Gliksman, Donna Massman, Neil Sherman, and Kris Sommer were content with the one-step-at-a-time route to that title. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

The Continuing Adventures of PatoMike and Sharp Fang *by Mike Savage*

This hand occurred on Bridge Base Online vs. the Westside Boys (Nick Martino and Paul Ryan). North overcalled 2♥ on a poor suit, anticipating a spade raise – planning to reopen with a double.

IMPs	North	South
no vul	♠9	♠xxxx
	♥T9752	♥Q
	♦AKJ4	♦Qxxx
	♣AKx	♣Q9xx

North	East	South	West
			1♠
2♥	pass	pass	2♠
dbl	pass	2NT	pass
3♦	all pass		

Lead: ♦3

Some players might have preferred to make a takeout double over the 1♠ opener but our North did not want to miss a 5-3 heart fit – as if one existed, 4♥ might be the only game. Be that as it may our North, per his plan, backed-in with a take-out double over 2♠ and caught his partner with 4-4 in the minors. Not knowing which minor to bid, South felt that if he hadn't bid 2NT the first time, 2NT now must be "pick-a-minor". Understanding South's intent with 2NT, North bid 3♦ and had no trouble taking ten tricks. Plus 130 was a 1.8 IMP gain as no other pair found and played in their diamond fit.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

This month's panelists: Mitch Dunitz, Ross Grabel, John Jones, Eddie Kantar, and Roger Lee

These problems are from an old Australian Bridge

1

IMPs
NS vul

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

* promised a solid suit

You, South, hold: ♠J6 ♥-- ♦AT73 ♣AKQT93
What call do you make?

Dunitz: 4♦. A solid suit-hmmm. That being the case, I'll cue bid 4♦. Partner, pleazzzz cue 4♠.

Grabel: 4♦. Clearly this question can't be answered without knowing more about the 3♥ bid. Whether or not it is solid opposite a void; does it deny an outside A or K? In any case, since I have to bid something, I'll guess to bid 4♦ and see what partner bids. If partner bids 4♥, I will pass. Over 4♠, I will key card, and if partner has the spade ace, I will bid 7NT. If the control is a K, I will bid 6♥ to protect it.

Jones: 4♣. 3♥ showing a solid suit is a treatment

that had completely lost favor before I started playing bridge. Many expert partnerships play Fitted Jump Shifts (at least five hearts, at least four clubs, limit raise strength or better). Several possibilities, including psyching 3♠, are possible. I'm going to go with a straightforward rebid of my solid seven-card suit. Over a 4♥ rebid by partner, I'll cue bid 5♦ and let partner take it from there.

Kantar: 4♦. Seems like a no-brainer.

Lee: 4♣. This cue bid seems normal. Let's find out if we have a spade control.

Top 45 Seattle Fall 2011 NABC District 23 Masterpoint Winners

1	Roger Lee	216.11	16	Chien-Yao Tseng	54.30	31	Paul Markarian	23.41
2	Jill Meyers	162.70	17	Sidney Brownstein	50.75	32	William Wickham	23.41
3	Andrew Vinock	96.69	18	Gerri Soffa Carlson	40.09	33	Bruce Horiguchi	22.91
4	Leo Bell	95.35	19	Walter Schafer Jr	32.86	34	Michael Klemens	22.74
5	Jeffrey Goldsmith	92.22	20	Alan Malloy	31.41	35	Elaine Moore	22.16
6	Ron Feldman	90.81	21	Steve Gross	31.39	36	Carol Frank	22.11
7	Mitch Dunitz	82.29	22	Ellen Anten	30.20	37	Roberta Le Feuvre	21.77
8	Robert Kent	76.91	23	Iftikhar Baqai	27.43	38	Alan Schneider	21.26
9	Ed Davis	75.63	24	Bill Papa	27.19	39	Sherie Schneider	21.26
10	Reese Milner	73.06	25	Rand Pinsky	26.64	40	Peter Glatzel	21.17
11	Ellen Kent	68.63	26	Kathy Swaine	26.21	41	Eric ChenTeh Tang	21.09
12	John Jones	67.67	27	Alfred Lee	25.83	42	Howard Einberg	20.64
13	Rebecca Clough	59.30	28	Michael Mikyska	25.26	43	Jordan Chodorow	20.45
14	Roger Clough	59.30	29	Jim Looby	25.08	44	Gary King	20.45
15	Pam Wittes	58.97	30	John Herriot	23.80	45	Steve Mager	18.46

2

MPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♦	pass	1♥	pass
2♣	pass	2♠	pass
?			

* 2NT would not be forcing

You, South, hold: ♠752 ♥7 ♦AKQJ9 ♣AKJ7
What call do you make?

Dunitz: 3♦, natural, forcing. Sounds like a good 6-4. This hand qualifies. I wouldn't consider 2NT with this hand.

Grabel: 3♦. I presume that is forcing (I play 2NT forcing) but if not, then 3NT.

Jones: 3♠. It matters not that 2NT would not be forcing (which it would be in my partnerships). 2NT isn't even close to being on my radar. 2NT by me would wrong side NT, show a spade stopper and a minimum; inaccurate in all senses! 2♠ is Fourth Suit Forcing, showing at least an invitational hand (in my partnerships it's game forcing). My 3♠ bid shows extra values and close to my actual shape (it matters a little which sequences a partnership plays as forcing after Fourth Suit Forcing.) 3♠ is an easy bid, it's my follow-up bid that's critical. If partner rebids 3NT, I'll raise to 4NT. If he bids 4♣, slamish with club support, I'll cue bid 4♦. If he rebids 4♦, slamish with diamond support, I'll jump to 6♦. If he rebids 4♥ showing a good hand with long

hearts, I'll raise to 5♥, knowing it will be wrong sometimes.

Kantar: 3♠. I know what it means, but will my partner?

Lee: 3♠. I'd bid 3♠ and then plan to pull 3NT to 4♦ to show a 3154 slam try. The spades are bad, but it

seems better than starting with 3♦ and then having partner guess our shape. It's true that partner won't like whatever small diamonds they have, but they will love intermediate spade cards, the ace of hearts, and dislike intermediate heart cards, which is what we want anyway.

WWW.
acbldistrict23.
org



District 23
Memphis- HERE WE COME!




North American Pairs

D23 Finals

15 JAN 2012, 11:00 AM
Barrington Bridge Club
11514 Santa Monica Blvd

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks ☉ Sodas ☉ Coffee ☉ Gold/Red Points

3

B-A-M
all vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠AKT76 ♥AQJT ♦7 ♣KQT
What call do you make?

Dunitz: 4♥. Assuming a 3♦ jump shift directly over 1♠ is invitational, then 4♦ should be a cue bid. I'll start with 4♥, and see what partner's next bid is. There is some chance of missing a slam, but unless partner has the spade queen or five hearts or four hearts to the K9, slam is no bargain. Assuming 4♦ is natural (not in my methods), I'll bid 4♥ and probably have good play. Do I get to collect for my honors?

Grabel: 4NT. I play that we don't introduce new suits at the 4 level after a jump shift, but I also play that a jump to 3♥ in this auction shows 5 so I'm not sure what the partnerships methods were. Since 4♦ is a cue as far as I'm concerned, I Blackwood the hand and bid the appropriate number of hearts.

Jones: 4NT (Pass if 4♦ is natural in my partnership agreement). Some partnerships play 4♦ is a cue bid for

either major (opener assumes hearts unless responder bids spades), while other partnerships play the 4♦ bid is weak with diamonds. My partnerships which have discussed it, play 4♦ is a cue bid. Over that, I'll try RKCB, assuming that partner has heart support (if he has spade support, he has a 3 card limit raise, and the auction will be confusing, but we'll probably arrive at 6♠ regardless. If we are playing 4♦ as natural, I'm done; even 4♦ might go down on a bad day.

Kantar: 4NT [*An email problem left Kantar reading his hand as ♠AKT76 ♥AQJT ♦KQT7 void*] I assume my partner has just made a cue bid with heart support. 4NT, RKB for hearts should be safe.

Lee: 4NT. Partner just cue bid for hearts, and we are happy to comply. The proper meaning of 4♦ is not an issue of serious debate to me.

4

IMPs
NS vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠QJ8652 ♥75 ♦AT9 ♣KT
What call do you make?

Dunitz: 3♥. Worth a peep.

Grabel: 3♥. Dare I ask, "What's the problem?"

Jones: 2NT. There are several invitational bids available to me. 3♠, 3♥, and 2NT are all invitational. 2♠ is not invitational but is constructive, and normally has more than a minimum response. 2♠ might be my favorite call at MPs, but vulnerable at IMP's, I think I need to be a little more encouraging. That leaves

me choosing between the invitational sequences. I'll choose 2NT; I have great minor spot cards, and 2NT is lower than either of the other invitational sequences, allowing a bit more room for exploration.

Kantar: 3♥. If partner is short in spades, as it appears, I have enough in the minors to try for game.

Lee: 3♥. We have a normal invite in hearts. I can't imagine doing anything else.



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

* 2♠ does not guarantee 4

You, South, hold: ♠K743 ♥J72 ♦AKJ ♣753
What call do you make?

Dunitz: 2NT. I need to make one try with this diamond holding despite the sterile distribution.

Grabel: 2NT. Artificial ask for partner to describe hand. Otherwise 3♦.

Jones: 3♦. 3♦ should be forcing at match points if we have a style of raising fairly aggressively on three card support. This is true because partnerships which raise aggressively with three trumps normally have 2NT available as a gadget bid, which asks partner to describe whether he is minimum or maximum, and if

he has 3 or 4 trumps. Yes, I should have four diamonds for my 3♦ bid, but AKJ is probably good enough. This will allow me both to find out if partner has 4 trumps and to ascertain if he is minimum or maximum. If he insists on 5♦, he might be right.

Kantar: 3♦. I don't care whether it is forcing or not, I have the right hand for either possibility.

Lee: Pass. I'm a big believer in being conservative on this auction with 4 bad trumps.

District 23 Rank Changes November, 2011

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Barbara Barishman
Leslie Brucker
Jack Dampman
Geri Dunford
Judith Gale
Rafael Gishri
Rollie Greene
Ferne Hayes
Audrey Healy
Clare Hivner
Lei Jin
Janet Jones
Gary Jubas
Ellen Kaminsky
Melanie Moran
Homa Nasseri
Url Ram
Linda Rasmussen
Roger Rasmussen
Esther Shapow
Richard Treiman
Cheng-Hung Yeh

Club Master (20 MPs)

Gulshan Amar
Ravness Amar
Richard Barrack
Edward Bucklin
Susan Cohen
Bob Hoherd
Nathaniel Marks
Sharyn Miller
Carolyn Woo

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Robert Feinberg
John Galligher
Toby Idol
Seymour Stoll
Daniel Strauss
Ira Teller

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Nancie Barrier
Donald Garner
Kay Hyland
Muxin Li
Yurii Mukhin
Cole Sachs

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Terry Arnush
David Lyons

Life Master (300 MPs)

Carmela Chiurazzi

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Georgiana Bierman
Carol Jurgens
Evan Krantz
Janet Wagner

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Shariq Raza