

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Local Masterpoint Races

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



When non bridge players ask what Roger and I do for recreation or where we are going on a trip when we attend a regional or national tournament, they always ask if we win money. I tell them no, we earn – no money, just glory. Well I have some glory to pass around

this month. The following people from District 23 are leading in the Mini-Mckenna Race in their particular category:

MP	Current leader, current total
0 – 5	Yichi Zheng, 46
5 – 20	Stephanie Woelfer, 30
20 – 50	Linda Silvey, 21
50 – 100	Linda Dillon, 19
100 – 200	Kiyo Nagaishi, 33
200 – 300	Jack Chang, 56
300 – 500	Karen Schwartz, 71
500 – 1000	Alan Polansky, 92
1000- 2500	Marcus Evans, 151
2500 – 5000	Gary King, 187
5000 – 7500	Bruce Horiguchi, 192
7500 – 10,000	Leo Bell, 167
Over 10,000	Ellen Anten, 443

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Charity Begins at Home

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



The ACBL Charity Foundation since 1964 has made substantial contributions to a wide range of charitable organizations. For many years the Foundation awarded \$100,000 per year to the ACBL designated charity. However, in an effort to respond to the needs of

charity in our local areas, in 2005 the ACBL Charity Foundation began issuing grants to Districts rather than granting one \$100,000 contribution to a national Charity of the Year.

The ACBL Charity Foundation is a 501(c) 3 organization, and contributions are fully tax deductible.

The Charity Foundation has grouped the Districts of the ACBL into a four year cycle. Within each cycle the districts are assigned a year to receive a District Grant. For our District, 2012 is our designated year. As I have done in the past, it is my intent to divide the grant into as many parts as I can by the Charity Foundation rules to enable as many of our Units to participate. At the last ALACBU Board meeting in March, I first announced that it was our District's turn to receive a Charity Foundation Grant. Since then I have heard from the San Fernando Valley Unit, the Antelope Valley –Santa Clarita Unit, the Pasadena San Gabriel Unit and the West Los Angeles Unit. The total grant we will receive is \$30,000. I can divide it into five \$6,000 individual grants. I am trying to get the Foundation to allow me to divide it into six \$5,000 grants so as to maximize the number of units that can receive this grant.

The criteria that I have used in the past to award these grants are that the Unit should be supporting the charity. Second, the charity must be a 501(c) 3 organization. Third, I would like the charity to provide publicity to the local unit upon presentation of the check to them. In the past I have had the charity provide local

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

Transfers with a Twist

Ifti Baqai & Mitch Dunitz

A word of warning - some of the methods described in this article are currently ACBL Midchart methods. It has been strongly suggested that the ACBL revise the Midchart lists, but until then, consult the director to ascertain which methods are allowed in an event.

Most duplicate players are familiar with Jacoby transfer bids, commonly used by the responding hand over partner's opening bid of 1NT or 2NT. The idea behind transfers is fairly simple yet quite logical; it enables the stronger HCP hand to declare from the strong side, benefitting from the lead coming into it rather than through it. Experience shows that this ability to have stronger hand declare is often worth one trick or more in gaining timing and tempo in play of the hand, resulting in superior matchpoint or IMP scores.

The same concept can be employed to one's

advantage in other situations to with minimal additional effort. We are going to outline two transfer sequences that can be easily incorporated in one's repertoire with one's favorite partners:

1. **Transfer Jump Overcalls (Dunitz - Baqai treatment)**
2. **Transfer responses to partner's 1♣ opening bid**

Transfer Jump Overcalls

Transfer Jump Overcalls can be viewed as NAMYATS overcall after your RHO opens at the one level. Some typical sequences would be:

- a) 1♣ - ? (you)
 with: ♠x ♥AKQ10xxxx ♦x ♣xxx
 Bid: 4♣ letting partner bid 4♥ with ♠QJxx ♥

TRANSFERS *continued on next page*

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

newspaper coverage of the event. I will again be discussing this topic at our next ALACBU meeting during our July Pasadena Regional. Finally, as I have done in the past, any "unused" money will be donated to our ALACBU Scholarship Foundation.

Until next month, you can reach me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net

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www.acbldistrict23.org

TRANSFERS continued from previous page

xx ♦AKxx ♣Kxx and giving your side an excellent chance of making 4♥ while a direct overcall of 4♥ is doomed to failure with a possible ♣ lead and 4 quick losers.

b) 1♥ - ? (you)

with: ♠AQJ10xxxx ♥xx
♦xxx ♣void

Bid: 4♦ letting partner bid 4♠ with ♠xx ♥Kxx ♦AJ10xx ♣KJx and, again, giving your side the advantage of timing and tempo, even when both diamond honors are offside.

If a pair is willing to play slightly different methods depending on the opponents' opening bid, it is a small improvement to play that 4♥ is the transfer bid to 4♠ after a 1♥ opening. This retains 4♣ and 4♦ with their normal preemptive meanings and also gets 4♥ as NAMYATS for spades.

With the above sequences, the partnership gives up little in terms of 4-level minor preempts but gains a lot in terms of right-siding the play of the final contract.

Transfer responses to partner's 1♣ opening bid

Transfer responses to partner's 1♣ opening bid are similar to transfer responses to 1NT opening bid except there is no presumption of a balanced hand on the part of the opener. The logic behind this sequence is that at least half of all contracts end up where one hand has many more HCP than the other. Having the stronger hand declare yields the same advantage as in Jacoby transfer sequences over 1NT/2NT openings. Here are the details:

- Transfers are on over standard 1♣ opening ONLY
- Transfers are off over overcalls but on over doubles
- Opener, generally, bids as he/she would to a normal 1 of a major response

1♣ (opener) - ?? (You)

1♦: 4 or more hearts

1♥: 4 or more spades

1♠: no 4 card major, balanced hand, trying to get partner to play hand

Opener's Rebids:

1♣-1♠-1NT (promises balanced hand or 4-4-1-4 and less than reversing strength)

1♣-1♠-2♣

2♦-non-forcing, 6+ pieces

3♦-invitational, 6+ pieces

2M-fragment w/ invitational values

3♣-invitational

1NT – standard sequence, 9 + to 11 HCP

2♣ - standard or inverted raise

2♦ - natural, game force

Opener bids 2M - natural

3♣ - natural

3M - shortness

Opener's Rebid 1♣ (opener) - 1♦ (responder) -

Opener can rebid 1♥ with 3 hearts or distributional minimum with 3 hearts (opener can refuse transfer with 3♥ if his hand warrants it)

Opener rebids 1♠ with 4-3-x-x or 1♥ or 1NT (bypassing 3 card holding)

Opener can bid 1♥ with 3 hearts and 6 clubs or rebid 2♣

Some other typical sequences after 1♣-1♦-1♥-??

1♣-1♦-1♥-2♣ - offer to play (4 hearts and 4+ clubs)

1♣-1♦-1♥-2♦ - offer to play (4 hearts, and 5 diamonds)

1♣-1♦-1♥-1NT - promises 4 spades with non-invitational values

1♣-1♦-1♥ - all jumps are pure hands, GF

The same basic idea can be applied over a 1♥ opening where the meaning of 1♠ and 1NT are reversed to enable having the strong hand declare, should NT be the final contract.

The treatment of reversing the responses of 1♠ and 1NT over a 1♥ opening is credited to the late Edgar Kaplan, and is generally known as Kaplan Inversion or Kaplan Interchange.

We advise to add these gadgets to your system in a slow and methodical manner, without overloading the partnership circuits.

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

Realizing that we are a rapidly dwindling community is tough sometimes. Another of our friends and a stout competitor in Lancaster passed away in mid-May. Guess we all should make an extra effort to enjoy the games we have and the folks we get to see at the clubs each week. This is another reason to try to be especially nice and respectful each time you play.

Kathy Swaine and Rita Vanatter are continuing to do a great job running their clubs and all those that labor tirelessly to help them deserve great thanks. Everyone that enjoys playing in Valencia and in Castaic should thank these folks for all their hard work and for offering us a great bridge experience each week. Despite the many challenges, the Lancaster Club continues to survive. Congratulations must go out to both Bill Brodek and Mira Rowe for passing their directors tests and now becoming acknowledged as ACBL certified directors!

The winners from contests in mid-April through mid-May (mid-month-to-month is our normal reporting cycle for publishing on day one of the following month) included familiar names as well as some fresh ones clawing at the top and all of Unit 556 is grateful for the support given by our players.

The Valencia game saw the partnership of Lamonte Johnson and Markle Vandervort win twice! Arif Shah also tallied two wins, one playing with John Langer and another with Gary Grey. Peggy Fleming and Anna Schmidt chalked a solid win as did Basant Shah and Roshen Hadulla. Nell Schanz and Paula Olivares were also a winning pair as was Hugh Bartlett and Marguerite Pinkers.

The Castaic game saw Hugh Bartlett and Bill Brodek garner two solid wins. Mira Rowe and Fabian Fang joined Lamont Johnson and Basant Shah as well as Mary Anne Self and her husband Charles as winners.

There are more games played at the Lancaster

club than at Valencia or Castaic so more winners are acknowledged, Marlene-Warren-Gasper lead the way this past month with four wins, two of those wins with Lola Messhia and one with Brad Ward and one with Doris Thompson. Russ Buker tallied three wins, two with Linda Young and one with Barbara Shuping. We are sorry to say farewell to Linda young for a few months as she leaves the area to tend to her many business interests. A couple of nice wins were posted by the Oests as well as a pair of wins by Onarita Pallanti and Mary Stauf. Alfred Miller, Sonja Plahn, Bob Hart, George MacDonald and Rick Jackson joined the pool of winners this month in Lancaster.

Many Unit 556 players are planning to travel to the Las Vegas Regional in mid-June, so look for a lot of news next month.

Glendale Verdugo By S ron Wolf

Unit Game 1:00 pm Saturday, June 9
12:15 Buffet Lunch

It is not too early to make plans to attend our Unit Sectional at the Scottish Rite Temple in Pasadena on August 10-12. We will have a full slate of contests, including stratified pairs on Friday at 10:00, 2:30, and 7:30 and on Saturday at 10:00 and 2:30, compact knockouts at 2:30 & 7:30 on Friday and at 10:00 & 2:30 on Saturday, and stratiflighted Swiss teams on Sunday, starting at 11:00. As you know from the past, it is an excellent venue.

We wish speedy recoveries to Karen Alpert and Barbara McKissick, both of whom have had recent hospital/convalescent home stays.

The May Unit game included a luncheon of chicken, both flame-broiled and fried, cole slaw, biscuits, tortillas, and rice, along with pies and cakes for dessert. And then there was bridge, with the following results:

→

N/S		
A1		Carolyn Cohen & Tim Lolli
A2	B1	Madelon Liebman & Helen Malzer
A3		Pat Abbey & Merry Besvold
A4	B2	Patrick Cardullo & Mike Doll

E/W			
A1	B1		Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
A2			Samuel Wang & Gregory Tapia
A3			Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A4	B2	C1	Ann Raymond & Tai Wang

Our next Unit game is June 9. Please join us...

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

APRIL 22 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Jo and John Melis, 2nd Sankar Reddy/John Crabtree, 3rd Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy, 4th John Petrie/ Aaron Jones, 5th Mark Leonard/Phil Clayton, 6th Sibyl and Larry Slutsky. B flight overalls: Sue Fardette/Vincent Remedios were 5th and Carmela Chiurazzi/Marcus Evans were 6th. C flight overalls: Usha Bansal/Steven Alt were 3rd, WayneRapp/Karen Horton tied with Janet Wagner/Bill Brooks for 4/5, and Sharon Beran/Todd Knapp were 6th. Congratulations to all!

MAY 10 unit-rated International Fund Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Lois Perovich/Paul Langerman, 2nd John Petrie/Earl VanDerVord, 3rd Aaron Jones/ Steve Sturm, 4th John Killian/John Wong, 5/6 Jay and Connie Young tied with Richard and Robert Bakovic. B flight overalls: 5th Marcus Evans/Carmela Chiurazzi, 6th Diane Starbuck/Thad Mikols. C flight overalls: 3rd Melanie and Jerome Smith, 4th George Welsh/ Mary Thomas, 5th Phyllis Greenstein/Doreen Maes. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games in the club April 16 through May 15: May 4 John Bralliar/Cecil Cook had a 69.88% game. May 8 Earl VanDerVord/John Petrie had 73.61% in the evening game. May 9 Mark Teaforde/Irwin Bender had 75.64%. May 10 Lois Perovich/Paul Langerman had 71.13%. May 11 Suzie and John Hand had 70.14%. And in the NLM game May 14 Sunny Harper/Rich Schaeffer had 70.50%. Congratulations to you all!

Big Masterpoint Awards: Big point awards for 1st, 2nd or 3rd in open games April 16 through May 15: April 16 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 5.50mp for 1st, Wei Pei/Steve Sturm won 4.13mp for 2nd, and Greg Tapia/Les Rawitt won 3.09mp for 3rd. April 17 Steve Mager/Dean Kaloudes won 5.00mp for 1st, Steve Rose/Betty McClellan won 3.75mp for 2nd, and in the evening game and Fred Willbanks/George Thompson won 3.17mp for 1st. April 18 Phyllis Parker/John Petrie won 5.50mp for 1st, Lavonne McQuilken/Sherry Troeger won 4.13mp for 2nd and Bill Ensley/Hanefi Erten won 3.09mp for 3rd. April 19 John Petrie/Aaron Jones won 4.50mp for 1st, Mark Teaforde/Kimi Matsumoto won 4.13mp for 2nd. April 20 Greg Tapia/Sam Wang won 6.00mp for 1st, Alfred Lee/Louis Shen tied with Mark Teaforde/Mark Leonard for 2nd, each winning 3.94mp, and in the evening game, Mark Leonard/Aaron Jones won 3.17mp for 1st. April 21 Gary King/Mike Savage won 4.67mp for 1st, Betty McClellan/Steve Skinner won 3.50mp for 2nd. April 22 John and Jo Melis won 4.68mp for 1st, Sankar Reddy/John Crabtree won 3.51mp for 2nd. May 10 Lois Perovich/Paul Langerman won 4.83mp for 1st and Earl VanDerVord/John Petrie won 3.62mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

New Members: Margaret Hay and Jackie Hess (transfer). Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: Sectional Masters: Darlene Harrison, Donna Kupfer; Regional Masters: Joyce Shuford, Robert Goodman; NABC Masters: Kiyoko Nagaishi, Robert Bakovic. Congratulations to you all!!

Upcoming events at the club: Friday evening June 1 Worldwide Bridge Contest. Saturday June 2 Worldwide Bridge contest—day two. June 3-June 9 North American Pairs qualifying week. Sunday June 17 unit-rated Father's Day game. June 18-June 23 NAP qualifying week. June 24 Unit Game: lunch at 12:30, game at 1pm. WBC and NAP games: hand records, extra points, \$11 fee. Other special games—extra points, regular prices.

News From Leisure World *from Gene Yaffee*

Overall winners in the Club Championship game on May 5 were Gloria Sedore & Linda Carder; 2nd--Verna Burns & Joan Tschirki; 3rd--Eileen Nelson & Bee Kinman.

Special upcoming events: Monday, June 18, BBQ dinner immediately following the bridge game. →

Special Unit-rated game on Thursday, June 28. For more information on either of these events call Ruth Kaller, Club Manager, at 562/430-0316 or Ted Wieber, President, at 562/596-8661. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Our condolences go out to the families of Barbara Zarzycki and Pandju Merali.

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 jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Chuck Cordaro

Unit Games

Sunday 3 June 3 at 1:00

Sunday 24 June 24 at 1:00

You meet some interesting people playing bridge. Back in the 80s, my company opened a new division in the foothills outside of Tucson. We moved because we were having trouble hiring engineers owing to the high price of houses in California.

My wife and I didn't know anyone and so joined a bridge group sponsored by Welcome Wagon. There we met a gentle lady who once led a demonstration in Tiananmen Square. We never would have known this, except for the student protests we were watching on TV back in 1989.

Isabelle's demonstration took place back in 1937; it was a friendly assembly, exhorting her government to take a stronger hand in stopping the Japanese conquest in a war that took about 40 million lives. As president of her high school class, Isabelle was appointed leader of her cohort. It's good that the atmosphere was cordial. In earlier demonstrations other regimes would clear the square by setting up tripods with interlocking fields of fire.

After the war, Isabelle and her husband Richard moved to the states, where he took a degree in →

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Monday, September 10

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Round 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Round 2 of 3

Tuesday, September 11

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Final Round
1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Round 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Round 2 of 3

Wednesday, September 12

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Round
1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Round 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Round 2 of 3

Thursday, September 13

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Final Round
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, September 14

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

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chemical engineering at Notre Dame. His hobbies were bridge, chess, and horse racing. As a boy he was taught that you can gauge the quality of a horse by feeling its chest muscles.

At one of our bridge parties, I teased, "So Richard, how is it being married to a woman who led a demonstration in Tiananmen Square?" I could see my impertinence surprised him, but all I got back was the barest hint of a smile.

Sectional Tournaments at the Club

We had two STAC games in May. Ellen Anten and Steve Gross got top score in the first one with a 68-percent game. In the second game Lynn Ryan and Joan Mesias won first place with a 62.5-percent game. Two C players surprised the field of A and B competitors by coming in first east-west: congratulations to Claudia Henry and Marion Miller who scored 54.58 percent, barely edging out Diana Borgatti and Cathy Martin by less than half a point. "I tell you, we were shocked," said Marion. No less surprised was Claudia, who had made a point of leaving before the scores were announced.

Those placing in the overalls for the STAC games were Bernie Mateer and Arlene Johnson (Monday at San Marino), Amr Elghamry and Madhu Sudan (Wednesday evening at San Marino), Lynn Ryan and Joan Mesias (Thursday morning at the Bridge Center), Jim Rodgers and Stan Majcher (Friday evening at the Bridge Center), Joe Viola and Bob Johnson (Saturday afternoon at the Bridge Center).

Upcoming Events

The Bridge Center will host the World-Wide Pairs in June on Friday night at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. Please call for the dates.

Art and Diane will be holding their beat-the-house night on June 15.

May Unit Game

Thanks go to Jan Wickersham for her "Seis de Mayo" luncheon at our May unit game. Jan makes the best chicken enchiladas and is famous for her guacamole (as those of us at the Wednesday night game know very well). Margie Gould and Barbara Baeskens won the unit game that day. Second were Samuel Wang and Michael Lo. Third overall were Cathy Martin and

Diana Borgatti.

The unit will hold two unit games in June. The first one will take place on Sunday 3 June. And we will be having our July unit game in June on the 24th. Please come and join your fellow bridge players and friends.

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game

Saturday June 16, 11:00 a.m.

For those who haven't checked a calendar lately, this year's summer regional (known in our younger days as Bridge Week) is only a month away. It might not be a bad idea to find a schedule and plan some games with your favorite partner(s). A lot of two-session events require players to stay for a night session, so you may also want to put in a supply of No-Doz. If you think this heads-up is slightly premature, I have a little personal example of how things can sneak up on you. I just had to go out and buy a sports coat so I could have something presentable to wear to my upcoming 50th high school class reunion. Yikes! It looks like I may soon be getting this column out from the reading room at the California Home For The Seriously Bewildered.

Getting back to the regional, there's a special Pro-Am event scheduled for the first day of the tournament - Monday, July 2, at 1:00 p.m. If you're an "Am" (any non-life master) you will be able to draw the name of a "Pro" (at least a Silver Life Master) just before game time. At the end of the session, there will be a reception for all the participants. It should be a fun event. If you meet the criterion of a "Pro," we could use more volunteers. If you're an "Am" and want to play, you need to register in advance. In either case, please sign up by calling Penny Barbieri at 909 599 4818.

Moving on to the social scene, Pat and Ted Radamaker will be celebrating what Pat calls "60 years of irreconcilable differences" on June 2. Congratulations are obviously in order.

The April unit game ended in a flat-footed tie as directional winners Amr Elghamry and Eric Tan and Hans Hehnke and Vic Sartor each chalked up a 63.99% game. Also finishing in the overalls were Dave and Susan Ruoff, Ron Purkis and Ned Sissel, and Rosalie Roberts and Penny Barbieri. The May individual was won by Penny Barbieri with a nice 70.1% game. →

Also placing were Luan Schirmer, Michael Horn, Pat Radamaker, Tom Lill, and Georgiana Batuello. Penny and Sandy Jones also posted the top pairs game of the month with an all-time personal best 72.2% result.

Other La Fetra winners were Clint Lew, Walt Otto, Mary Miller, Karen Olin, Denise Morgan, Sandy Jones, Hans Hehnke, Genise Hasan, Joe Unis, Milt Kalikman, Tom Lill, Michael Horn, Vic Sartor, Dave Ruoff, Richard Patterson, Donald Naf, Eileen and Tim Finlay, Ann McClelland, and Ron Purkis.

Our hand of the month comes from a recent STAC event. Your hand is ♠ AQxx ♥ KQJ9xx ♦ AQx What do you bid if your partner opens 3♣? How about a gambling 3NT?

When the opening is 3♣, you are on the spot. If you bid your hearts you probably won't be able to get to 3NT, which may be the only makeable game. If you bid 3NT you might miss an easy 4♥. On the other hand, passing 3♣ might be the only route to a plus.

An opening 3NT bid gives you a different problem. Pard obviously has AKQxxxx of clubs, but he may not ever get to his hand in NT. To make things worse the hand is wrongsided. The opening lead of an honor through one of your tenaces could easily sink a contract that might make if you were declarer. Bidding 4♣ would be safe (but cowardly) while 4♥ or 5♣ seem like reasonable shots at game. Your choices? I don't think there is a 100% right answer in either situation, but for the record partner had :

♠xxx ♥xxx ♦x ♣AKQxxxx

3NT from your side looks good, but A10xx of hearts in RHO's hand gives the defense time to set up the setting tricks in spades or diamonds. 5♣ makes, but the heart bidders win the kewpie doll with +420 or 450. Before they get too cocky however, they should picture dummy's red suits reversed. Til next time...

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: Friday, June 1, 7:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Tuesday, June 5, 11:30 a.m.

Unit Handicapped Swiss Game, Sunday, June 10, 1:00

Club Championship: Saturday, June 16, 3:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Monday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening
Friday Night games on June 1 and 15

Club Championships

At the South Bay Bridge Club on April 19 the NLM Club Championship was won by Nancy Collinge/Betsy Miller in Flight A with Dorothy and Peter Joseph capturing both Flights B and C. On April 27 the Club Championship was won by John Brailliar/Bruce Horiguchi in Flight A with Carole King/Dolores Nawa taking Flight B honors.

At Veterans Park the April 25 Club Championship was won by Bill McClean/David Cheshire in Flight A with Neal Kleiner/David Peim on top in Flight B and Barbara and Peter Chen leading Flight C. On April 27 the Afternoon Club Championship was led by Valerie Takahashi/Chuck Thorsell and the Evening Championship was captured by Barbara Shortwell/Henry Crowder.

Team Winners

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

- April 17: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott
- April 24: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott
- May 1: Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Ernie Frank, Ron Carlson
- May 8: Gabriela Jackson, Elizabeth Weinstein, Ernie Frank, Ron Carlson
- May 15: Henry Crowder, Booth Tarkington, Bruce Merchant, Keith Davidson

Estimation Algorithm

I humbly submit my theory for estimating your →

score in any given matchpoint game. Your score is inversely proportional to the number of minus 140's on your card. A variation on this is to subtract 5% from 70% for every minus 140 you have. Obviously this algorithm isn't perfect but simply a seat of the pants estimate of your matchpoint score. While I haven't made a statistical study on the average percent board you will receive for minus 140, I would bet it is well below 50%.

GUV Memorial Award

In a recent Regional Swiss I opened 1♦ in first seat. Pass by LHO, 1♦ by my partner, pass by RHO. My RHO was a well known pro who knew when the opponents were off to a bad start bidding and wisely accepted the insufficient bid. I wasn't too sure whether my partners 1♦ bid was forcing but followed the theory when you don't know what partners bid means, bid again. Holding ♦AQT9xx, it looked like 2♦ was safe. Pard now tried 2NT and confident that we had at least 6 diamond tricks plus a couple more tricks in my hand alone I raised to 3NT. WRONG....

we actually lost 2 diamond tricks in the play and went down 1 since pard had a singleton diamond. His explanation was that he he had meant to bid 1♥ but didn't realize he put down the 1♦ card. I could accept that, but got a little upset when he said I should have realized that was what happened. Sorry pard, my bidding acumen hasn't yet advanced to the point where I can accurately interpret this kind of partner bidding insanity. And remember I had a lot of experience in this regard, I am the guy who partnered the late Norm (GUV) Hogarth for many years. GUV probably held the world record for bidding insanities.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Farewell to a Friend

We start this month with a sad farewell. Late last year, long-time Unit Board member Toby Green stepped down in order to concentrate on her battle with illness. That battle ended in late April, and we are poorer for her loss. Our condolences to Toby's family. Toby was always willing to take on the thankless tasks that make the bridge world a better place to be, whether staffing the partnership desk at a tournament, collecting tickets for a unit event, or serving as a fill-in willing to partner with pretty much anyone. In recognition of her service, the board has decided to name this year's edition of the annual Pro-Am Game in Toby's memory.

Sluffing on the Schuylkill



Los Angeles Summer Regional

July 2 - July 8, 2012

New Times - New Schedule

Pasadena Hilton, Pasadena CA

<p>Contacts</p> <p>Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin 310-720-6050</p> <p>Partnerships: Betty Jackson: 562-594-4420: before 7/2/12 626-665-0596: after 7/2/12</p> <p>DIC: Betty Bratcher www.acbldistrict23.org</p>	<p>Pasadena Hilton</p> <p>168 South Los Robles Avenue Pasadena, CA 91101 1-626-577-1000 1-800-Hiltons</p> <p>\$109 guaranteed until June 20</p> <p>Valet Parking \$9 Self Parking \$9 Overnight Parking \$18</p>
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Entries

\$12 Per Session (All Events)
(Fees are \$2 extra for non-ACBL & Unpaid members)

Juniors under: 21 Free
Juniors under 25: \$8

Our district completed the process of selecting its representatives for the Grand National Teams competition this summer in Philadelphia. This month saw the Flight A (0-5000) and Flight C (0-500 non-Life Master) competitions, and once again Unit was well represented in the competition. In fact, we were assured of a Flight A representative when both teams that reached the finals boasted members from our Unit. Repeating their victory from last year, the winning team included Robert Kent, Victor Anikovich, Howard Einberg, and Roberto Scaramuzzi, joined by first-time winner Fred Zhang. Congratulations to all of the winners, and good luck in Philadelphia.

Tournament Travelogue

Some familiar names racked up wins at various tournaments both near and far. At the uber-Regional held in Gaitlinburg, Tennessee, Charles and Jo Anne Kelley won their bracket of the Metcalf Bottoms Compact Knockout. For those who aren't familiar with Gaitlinburg, the opening day knockouts featured no fewer than 25 brackets, each with 16 teams, for a total of 400 teams in play. Reading about it reminds me of my early days in the game, when Bridge Week monopolized both sides of the Pasadena Convention Center. I'm looking forward to the days when we revive our tournament's popularity.

Moving closer to home, some local players acknowledged their age long enough to play the Senior Regional at Chandler, Arizona. Gary King picked up a win in the Tuesday Open Pairs Game, while Roger and Becky Clough made theirs a double, winning the Prickly Pear Knockout Teams and the Sunday Swiss Teams. Continuing our return to the home front, we submit for your entertainment the latest installment of the Mike Savage show, with Mike winning the Sunday Swiss at the Oxnard Sectional as well as the Compact Knockout and (along with the Cloughs) the Sunday A/X Swiss at the Westlake Village Sectional.

And now, the report you've all been waiting for — our own Unit's Sectional, held this year as a STaC. Aram Bedros paired with Art Zail to win the Friday afternoon event and then made it a double by also winning the Saturday morning event. Mim Spertus managed to carry Adrienne Green to victory on Saturday afternoon. Betsy Lutz and Viktor Anikovich were winners on Sunday morning while Myrna Blaufarb and Farideh Sigari rounded out the defense of our home turf by winning

the Sunday afternoon event. Powered by his double victory, Aram Bedros collected the most masterpoints at the tournament. Running the Spring Sectional as a STaC this year was an experiment for the Unit. Please take a moment to let a member of the Unit Board know whether you liked it this way, or whether you prefer the event as the more usual sort of tournament.

Getting out the Crystal Ball

Looking into my crystal ball, I foresee a fun weekend of bridge on June 9 and 10, the second annual Unit Championship Weekend. Both Beverly Hills and Barrington will host a Unit Championship Saturday afternoon, June 9, and then Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. Beverly Hills will host our annual Barometer Game. On Sunday the action continues at Beverly Hills, where another Unit Championship Sunday afternoon will be followed at 7:00 p.m. by the Toby Green Pro-Am Unit Championship, where non-Life Masters will be paired with Life Masters. This is a fun event giving our less experienced players the opportunity to gaze into their own futures by enjoying a session with an experienced player.

Well Played?

I had a fun little hand at the Friday evening session of our STaC. With everyone read at matchpoints and playing one of the best pairs in the room I held:

♠ AQ95 ♥ Q7 ♦ J ♣ AQJ762.

I opened 1♣, heard a Michaels cue bid on my left, and ended up in 4♣ after RHO voluntarily bid hearts. The opening lead was the heart ace and dummy tracked with:

♠ K6 ♥ 83 ♦ KQT975 ♣ T84.

RHO encouraged and LHO continued with a second heart to his partner's king. RHO then led the 10 of spades and I had a decision to make. If the spade was a doubleton, the easy way to handle my fourth spade was to win the trick in my hand and knock out the diamond ace, saving the spade king as an entry to cash a second diamond and then try the club hook. But if the spade was a singleton, that plan would result in a spade ruff. →

District 23 Rank Changes April, 2012

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Bonnie Cox
Judith Forster
William Osterman
David Serbin
Carole Sheehan
John Smart
Shari Smart
Judith Stone

Club Master (20 MPs)

Joel Clifton
Joyce Clifton
Judith Eber
Toni Gold
Gerald Ketz
Carol Levin
Elizabeth May
Carol Provost

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Albert Stock
Ralph Vidal
Ron Yaffee

Regional Master (100 MPs)

O Chokriwala, Michael Lo
Robert Newsome

NABC Master (200 MPs)

June Harwell

Life Master (300 MPs)

Norma Krueger

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Laura Waisler, John Williams

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Miriam Harrington, Albert Kiechle
Denise Morgan, Warren Wotring, Jr

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Beatrice Kinman

I decided not to take that chance and found an alternative line. I needed the club king on side to make the hand, and I couldn't believe that LHO would use Michaels red with only an ace and two jacks, so if the club hook was winning then LHO had to hold the diamond ace. I won the spade on the board and led the club 10 for a winning finesse, LHO playing the 9. I repeated the finesse and then ran all my trump, coming down to ♠ AQ9 ♦ J while reducing dummy to ♦ KQT9. LHO threw 1 spade and a bunch of other cards while RHO threw a spade. I then exited with the diamond jack. LHO had to keep three spades as his other cards (or I could have dropped his spade jack), so he was endplayed into leading a spade around to my AQ9. Making four.

Well played? Not exactly. I give myself an A for technical skills, but a B for bridge judgment. I didn't have the entries to pick up the club suit if they broke 4-0, so I had to assume LHO had at least one club. But if there was any danger of a spade ruff, then LHO had to be 6-5-1-1. My strip squeeze only works if he had the diamond ace, but if he had that hand, then after seeing his partner's encouraging heart at trick 1 he would have cashed the diamond ace before crossing to his partner for a diamond ruff. In other words, if the strip squeeze worked, it couldn't be necessary, and if (contrary to my expectations) RHO held the diamond ace I would have gone down a ton.

Around the Clubs

Barrington club champions last month were Danny Kleinman and Evan Krantz, and Gary King and Steve Mager. Art Zail rang up a pair of 70% games, and solos were scored by Cyma Aronow, Harvey Katz, Peter Knee, Martin Blain, Gary King, Connie Fishbach, Sherry Tunnell, Lenore Haim, Michael Nash, and Hans Kraepelien. Danny Kleinman and John Lu added a 70% game at Cyma's Game. Beverly Hills club champions were Richard Gliksman and Fuad Khuri, Rhoda and Lew Himmell, and Charles Fonarow and Joyce Lelah. Picking up 70% games were Stephen Massman and Viktor Anikovich, Rahim Israel and Jacob Libman, Phyllis Selig-Kerns and Gerson Rapfogel, and Herb Ehrmann and Don Krauss.

Climbing the Ladder

This month's new addicts, er, Junior Masters are

AROUND THE UNITS *continued on page 14*

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

This month's panelists: Leo Bell, Ross Grabel, John Jones, Jon Wittes, Mitch Dunitz, and Eddie Kantar

1

IMPs
both vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠853 ♥JT76 ♦AJ7 ♣J83
What call do you make?

Leo Bell: 2♦. If I were playing XYZ, I would bid 2♣, which relays to 2♦. My second choice would be to pass 1♠, but I have no ruffing value, and that allows the opponents to balance with 1NT or 2♣.

Ross Grabel: 1NT. The spades aren't good enough to pass 1♠, but passing could easily be right opposite something like ♠AKxx ♥Axx ♦Kxxxx ♣x.

John Jones: Pass. Eddie Kantar taught me that hands like this should normally bid 1NT, and at matchpoints I would bid 1NT. This could gain us 10 points (80 versus 90). However, this is IMP scoring, and 1♠ should be an acceptable place to play. I can't accept any game that partner invites, so let's not tempt partner to bid again when I don't want him to.

Jon Wittes: 2♣ (XYZ), demanding 2♦, which I will pass. This also allows for the hand where partner might have some big 5-6 hand. If partner should bid

2♠ rather than 2♦, I will bid 4♠.

Mitch Dunitz: 2♣ if playing XYZ (forcing 2♦). Otherwise, I'll bid 2♦. I would bid 1NT with this distribution much of the time. However, with most of my values in diamonds, I'm going down the other road.

Eddie Kantar: 2♦. I don't consider this a problem, but some of the others...**help!**

I think 1♠ should be virtually forcing, perhaps only passing with 5 to 6 HCP and shortness in diamonds. I think the choice should be among those bids that would tend to lead to a plus-score opposite partner's various possible minimums and be the most descriptive opposite partner's strong unbalanced hands. With the concentration in ♦, I would bid 2♦ either directly or via XYZ, if playing that.

July Pasadena Regional Pro-Am

by Ellen Anten

Make your plans early.

We are proud to kick off our July Pasadena Regional with a one-session Pro/Am event. It will be held at the Pasadena Hilton at 1:00 on Monday, July 2, 2012. We suggest you arrive early.

All the Pros will be Silver Life Masters or higher. The Ams will pay regular card fees while the Pros play for free. All pairings will be random draw.

What an exciting way to begin a regional – playing with a Pro and getting a lot of expert advice for free. A reception will follow the game.

Please RSVP to Ellen Anten at 818-634-3231 or ellenanten@aol.com no later than June 22, 2012.

2

MPs
both vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	3♣	4♠	5♣
?			

You, South, hold: ♠KQT875 ♥AK ♦AT865 ♣--
What call do you make?

Ross Grabel: 6♣. Should imply first round controls in all suits and invite partner to cue bid a 2nd round control with a solid 4♠ bid. We may still get to 7 with a slow diamond loser, but the opponents have made it tough.

John Jones: 5♦. I won't bid 7♠ by myself, but if I can get partner to bid 6♦, then I will bid 7♠, hoping for the ♠A and KQ of diamonds.

Jon Wittes: 5♦. I plan to play at least 6♠. If by some miracle partner bids 6♦ over 5♦, I will bid 6♥. If I can do all that without the A of spades, partner should know what to do looking at that card.

Mitch Dunitz: 6♠. At first blush I bid 5♦, trying to get partner involved. However, with no heart control, it will be hard for him to get excited. Obviously, there are a wide range of hands that can bid 4♠. That said, I'll grab the bull by the horns and just bid 6♠.

Eddie Kantar: 5♦. I'm not giving up on a grand just yet.

Leo Bell: 5♦. That should allow partner to evaluate his hand for slam. With ♠Axxx ♥QJxxx ♦Qxx ♣xx, he should sign off in 5♠. With ♠Axxx ♥Jxxx ♦KQx ♣xx, he should bid 6♦ to suggest a grand.

I believe it is wishful thinking to imagine that we can accurately bid a grand slam on this jammed auction. That said, if I wanted to have a chance at a grand, I would start with 5♦ and follow with 6♣ or 6♥ as available bids. Unless one has 30 years-of-agreements like MeckWell, it is so dangerous to make these bids. At the table I bid a direct 6♠, not giving the opponents the off-chance of making a Lightner double, if I were to bid 5♦ first (yes it should be for the only other bid suit in this type of auction). Jumping to 6♠ will make it difficult for opening leader to lead diamonds if we happen to have a big side diamond fit.

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

In the Ace of Clubs race, the following people are leading in their categories:

0 – 5
Walter Briggs, 14
5 – 20
Nancy Koss, 11
20 – 50
Linda Silvey, 18
50 – 100
Robert Feinberg, 17
100 – 200
Jeanette Betts, 27
200 – 300
David Lyons, 24
300 – 500

Fuad Khuri, 54
500 – 1000
Sally Karbeling, 47
1000 – 2500
John Petrie, 79
2500 – 5000
Danny Kleinman, 100
5000 – 7500
Aram Bedros, 119
7500 – 10,000
Peter Benjamin, 27
Over 10,000
Steve Mager, 49

The Mini McKenna race tallies all the points you earn in a year. You can earn unpigmented points on line, black points in clubs, silver

points in sectionals, red and gold points at regionals and nationals and platinum points at nationals. The Ace of Clubs race tallies only those points earned in club games.

Most of us are not among the top echelon of players who win multiple national championships. These races allow us to be “big frogs in little ponds” and receive recognition at our level.

The names on this list are leaders as of May 6, 2012. This gives the rest of us plenty of time to catch up. Keep playing. And don't forget to make plans to play at our upcoming regionals-Pasadena in July and Torrance in October.



South	West	North	East
	pass	1♣	pass
1♥	3♦	3♠	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠AJ ♥AJ9532 ♦J432 ♣4
What call do you make?

John Jones: 3NT – Partner shows long clubs on this auction, possibly ♠KQxx ♥x ♦x ♣AKQxxxx or a 5-6 hand. My first reaction was to bid 4♣, because the 3♦ preemptor won't have solid ♦, and his partner may have the missing honor. Upon reflection, my partner may have the missing honor, maybe there is a blockage, and, maybe, the preemptor does have AKQ of diamonds and was too strong to act in first chair. There are several ways for this to work, and I really am not fond of giving a preference with a singleton.

Jon Wittes: 4♠. This is the toughest problem of this set. Most likely scenario is that partner is 5-6 in the black suits. If his 3♠ bid is based on heart support, hopefully he'll find another bid over 4♠. If partner has the 5-6 hand I expect, 4♠ might not be enough, but I hate getting carried overboard with 2-1 in partner's suits. If partner has as little as ♠KQ10xx ♥x ♦x ♣AKQxxx, 6♠ is a good proposition, but a little less quality in one of the suits, and game should be plenty.

Mitch Dunitz: 3NT. Tough hand! My partner failed to double 3♦, so I think he's got a massive 2 suiter. Nothing is appealing. I might have a diamond stopper. My hearts are almost good enough to play opposite a singleton. I vote for 3NT. At least it will liven the

discussion at the bar after the session.

Ross Grabel: 4♥. It is possible that partner has a 5-6 hand, but I'm not in a position to take a preference to 4♣ or to raise to 4♠, and 3NT seems downright ugly. If partner bids a black suit over 4♥, I'm done.

Eddie Kantar: 4♥. This doesn't look right, but my other choices: 3NT, 4♦ or 4♠ don't look so hot either. Clearly, this is a good problem.

Leo Bell: 3NT. Partner is likely 5-6 or better in the black suits with a very good hand. I'm not thrilled with 3NT, but it may be our only makeable game contract unless partner rebids 4♣ or 4♠. Over the former I'll bid 5♣, and I'll pass the latter.

This is one of those problems where I think the panel might make a different bid depending on what day they look at the problem. If you are sure that 3♠ shows a fifth piece, then, yes, 4♠ is probably best. Since you did not promise more than four hearts with your first bid, then 4♥ should seriously be considered because partner will not correct from 3NT with a doubleton heart. But, on further constructs, since most hands that make 4♥ will probably also make 3NT, I choose 3NT.

AROUND THE UNITS *continued from page 11*

Suzanne Barbis, Connie Held, have become NABC Masters.
Martin Klein, and Bette Treiman. Rhoda Weisler is now a Bronze
Marsha Bocan, Jane Davis, Inger Life Master and Robert Chen
Hogan and Gerry Thomas have has become a Silver Life Master.
reached Club Master. New Sectional Congratulations to all on your
Masters are Rand Macquiddy and achievements.
Katherine Weisberg, while Jim Got news? Send it to me at
Brunet, Alan Laub, and Arlene Todd Bob78164@yahoo.com.

www.acbldistrict23.org



South	West	North	East
	2♠	dbl	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠873 ♥JT5 ♦K73 ♣AKQ8
What call do you make?

Jon Wittes: 3♠. If partner bids 3NT, I'll pass. If partner bids 4 of a minor, I'll raise. If partner bids 4♥, I'll pass. Hopefully, if partner had a really big hand with hearts, he would bid 4♠ over my 3♠.

Mitch Dunitz: Pass. This could definitely be a sad story.

Ross Grabel: Pass. Aside from having no guarantee of a game, I may even pick up a cheap trump trick when partner has Jx. I'll go for what I estimate as an 80% plus score versus what may be a 0% to 50% game. Of course, this could backfire, but in Board-A-Match there are a lot of ways to lose a board.

John Jones: Pass. I have no quarrel with those who bid 3NT and play, that because of Lebensohl, 3NT denies a stopper. However, I confess that I don't play it that way after a double of a weak two bid. I play that a direct 3NT advance shows 1 stop and shows doubt as to whether NT is best. My RHO's failure to raise increases the chance my partner has two spades. Even if that doesn't include a high spade honor, we have a good chance to beat this. It will be tough for declarer

to find one side suit trick, much less two, to make his contract.

Eddie Kantar: 3♠. I'm assuming 3♣ is not forcing whatever methods are being played.

Leo Bell: Pass. This may be the only form of scoring where I would consider this action, although it could be right at matchpoints. I'm gambling the opponents can only take 6-7 tricks in spades, and we have no game. This could be spectacularly wrong.

I probably made a mistake being cute and adding a Board-A-Match scoring hand. This hand actually came up in a random IMP pairs situation on BridgeBase. Assuming Lebensohl is on, I bid 3♣ figuring we still had some chance at getting to game, and we were virtually assured of getting a plus-score. I think cuebidding 3♠ totally randomizes one's result as it is then virtually impossible to sort out what lengths suits bid are. If the opponents have nine spades, it is highly likely they will be down one or make. I will take a plus score versus that.

West LA Unit Championship Weekend *by candy*

June 9-10 the WLA unit is having the second annual Unit Championship Weekend. It starts Saturday Afternoon with a Unit Wide Championship at both Barrington and Beverly Hills Bridge Clubs. The hands will be the same at both clubs with overall winners in three stratifications. Saturday Evening at Beverly Hills there will

be a Barometer game. Everybody plays the same hand on the same round. The results of that round are posted the next round. Card fees \$20 for the pair. Sunday afternoon there will be a Unit Championship game at Beverly Hills. Our Pro-Am game will complete the weekend on Sunday evening. This is one of the unit's premiere events of the year and this year it's in honor of Tobe Green.

Card fees - Free for Pros and \$10 for Ams. Afternoon gametimes

1:00 p.m., evening 7:00 p.m. Sign-ups at the clubs or call Barrington at 310-966-4144 or Beverly Hills at 310-657-6933. So get rid of that June Gloom and join your friends for a weekend of fun.



5

Individual
IMP pairs
NS vul

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

What do you bid with ♠T97 ♥AQ52 ♦AT9765 ♣--
when you had responded
a) 1♥ b) 1♦ ?

Assume Bridge World Standard

Mitch Dunitz: 2♠.

Ross Grabel: a) 3♦. The answer to this depends to some degree on what I think of my partner's ability. I would normally bid 1♦ with this hand, and, over 1♠ I would invite in diamonds. The club void might tempt me to bid 2♦ with a weaker partner because he would have a tendency to want to keep bidding with a misfit.

John Jones: a) 2♠. b) 2♠. In BWS the correct response to 1♣ is 1♦. In some of my partnerships we show hearts first if the hand is not game forcing, but that requires some special understandings. Whichever response I choose, if partner rebids 1♠, there is no guarantee of a game. I like Moysian (4-3) fits, and this looks like it will play well at a low level. I have enough that I don't want to pass 1♠, so raising to 2♠ looks like a reasonable compromise. In some of my partnerships XYZ would apply here, but that is not part of BWS. Also, we should note that if we choose 1♥ as our response, and partner is 4-3-1-5, he should rebid 1♠ in BWS (it's in the BWS system notes), not raise to 2♥ as I would normally do with a minimum. Yes, in an individual I might worry about how well my partner could play a Moysian fit, but my regular partners all play Moysian fits well.

Eddie Kantar: a) 3♦. After 1♦ (what I would have responded), then I'll rebid 3♦. I'm afraid if I bid 2♥ now, things will get out of hand. I am uncomfortable bidding four-card suits ahead of six-card suits. **b) 2♠.**

If I had responded 1♥, then I would raise to 2♠ and refuse to comment. The torture set is over!

Jon Wittes: a) abstain. b) 2♥. Playing Bridge World Standard creates big problems on this hand. However, given the conditions, I would still always bid 1♦ over 1♣. Over 1♠, I would bid 2♥, and then support spades. If partner doesn't prefer diamonds. Worst case scenario, we get to 4♠ on the Moysian fit, and with my good texture, we might have a play. Far preferable, playing with a regular partner, I would bid 2♣ over 1♠ (XYZ). If partner bids the expected 2♦, I would bid 2♥, showing an invitational hand with 5 or 6 diamonds and 4 hearts. If partner bids 2NT, I would bid 3♠, completing my pattern.

Leo Bell: a) 2♠. Obviously, the person who originally held my hand was stricken by his bad 1♥ bid and I am now filling in. I can't fathom bypassing my 6-card suit, but since I am walled on the auction, I make the bid most likely to achieve a plus-score. **b) 3♦.** I'll make an unambiguous invitational bid since I'm no longer concerned about missing our heart fit. Playing XYZ, I could bid 2♣, and, over partner's forced 2♦, I would bid 2♠, which should show an invitational 3-card raise.

We likely have a good hand for a Moysian (4-3) fit. I did not realize that BWS mandated a 1♦ response. That said, I think it is clear to raise ♠ if you responded 1♥, and either to raise spades or use XYZ if you bid 1♦. Often it is an important trick that the opponents can blow on opening lead if they do not know your hand type for your in-tempo raise.