

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Going to the Nationals

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



Have you ever attended a National Bridge Tournament? If not, you should put it on your bucket list. Not only can you play bridge for 3 or 4 sessions a day if you so choose, but you can play against players from all over the world who use a myriad of conventions and systems. I know that some people are intimidated by this, but I believe opening our minds to new ideas keeps us young.

Going to a National Bridge Tournament also gives one the opportunity to explore three new cities each year. I like the 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. schedule because it gives me the opportunity to explore the city morning. Such was the case at the Spring National Tournament in Memphis.

Many attendees visited Graceland to reminisce about Elvis. Others visited the new ACBL Bridge Museum at our new headquarters in Horn Lake, Mississippi, just across the Mississippi/Tennessee border from Memphis.

Opened last year, the museum is a state of the art facility with interactive, multimedia displays about the history of the game. The trophy collection is impressive and touch-screen technology allows visitors to research the history and winners of each trophy.

One of my favorite sections was the Hall of Fame which included the biography and many photos of each

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Emphasis on Youth

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



The Board meetings in Memphis were very positive for youth participation. After much work by the Junior Task Force headed by Phyllis Harlan, two motions of major significance passed.

The first motion provided that "Upon receiving a budget from the USBF (United States Bridge Federation) for the 2012 Junior and Youth World Championship expenses by April 30, 2012, ACBL management is authorized to contribute up to \$50,000 from the Junior Fund to the USBF. 75% of the approved funds will be given to the USBF in June 2012. The remaining 25% will be paid upon presentation of all receipts for approved expenses, if actually spent." This motion still provides the USBF

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

Pinsky Elected Treasurer of the ACBL Meyers, Cook Appointed to ACBL Committees

At the 2012 Spring NABC in Memphis, District 23's representative to the National Board of Directors, Rand Pinsky was elected to serve a one year term as treasurer of the ACBL commencing May 1, 2012.

The duties of treasurer include the following:

1. Present a report in writing at each regular meeting of the Board of Governors.
2. Ensure that the annual audited financial statement and the Treasurer's report is provided to the Board of Directors, to the Board of Governors and at the annual membership meeting.
3. Ensure that a summary of the annual audited financial statement and the Treasurer's report is published in the principal publication of the ACBL.
4. Have such other duties as may be assigned to the office by the Board of Directors.

ACBL BOARD *continued on page 2*

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

with the \$50,000 they have received in the past, but now there are more safeguards over how the money is spent by requiring presentation of all the receipts for approved expenses.

The second motion entitled

ACBL Board continued from page 1

Cecil Cook, past president of the ACBL and member of the ALACBU board was appointed to the Hall of Fame Committee for a three year term.

Jill Meyers, District 23's distinguished world and national champion was appointed to the Ethical Oversight Committee for a three-year term.

"Define purposes of the Junior Fund" provided for joining of funds for purposes of the Canadian Bridge Federation and the USBF youth activities with accountability of expenditures being presented to the ACBL management. Also future budgets will indicate income and expenses for junior/youth activities as separate line items. The motion also set guidelines as to when management will provide the funds to the USBF and CBF.

The third motion entitles any junior under the age of 21 to "junior coupons" which will have a face value of \$10 per session at NABCs Juniors under the age of 19 will receive free plays for each session of a regionally rated event. Finally, any junior under the age of 26 who is a

full time student will be entitled to junior coupons that can be used for any event and which also will have a face value of \$10 per session.

I believe that this policy is a good one and I will be suggesting that ALACBU adopt a similar one at our July meeting.

Youth Activities in District 23

This past month, District 23 held our first Los Angeles Scholastic Bridge Tournament at the Barrington Bridge Club, organized by John Jones and Carol Frank. Seven tables were in attendance. It was exciting to see a yellow school bus pull up to the front of the club and a bus load of children from the Elizabeth Learning Center get out, lead by their principal Sharon Sweet and their vice-principal Susan Marquez-Gawthrop. Adrian Green has again volunteered her club next year to hold this event and we are hoping to at least double the number of tables. I have told John that, as treasurer of the ACBL Educational Foundation, I will help in any way I can to obtain a grant from the Foundation for next year.

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email bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

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

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**It's a Different View
from Dummy**

It was great to see that the Long Beach Bridge Center, The Beverly Hills Bridge Club, and The Barrington Bridge Club all made the TOP 50 Bridge Clubs for 2011. Whoever said "Bridge is dead in Los Angeles" is definitely **wrong**.

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

www.acbldistrict23.org

Treatments for Improving Results at the Bridge Table

by Ifti Baqai and Mitch Dunitz

This is the first of several articles by District 23 players Ifti Baqai and Mitch Dunitz to guide players struggling to improve their bridge results.

How do Sally and John get better results at local bridge club? An important question without a clear answer or a single solution but a recurring challenge for any serious partnership. We advise aspiring bridge players to focus on two things:

1. Have concise agreements
2. Try and build a better mousetrap to deal with bidding in competition.

Regarding the question of agreements, you'll find it to be an evolving and moving target. Remember that an agreement doesn't have to be the most comprehensive and complex one but having one in place will already give you a leg up on most of your competition. How does your partnership handle jump bids in competitive auctions today? A common approach is to use simple jump bids in partner's suit to indicate preemptive values while jumps in a new suit show a fit with partner and shortness in the bid suit.

We love the use of fit bids in competition, both after a takeout double, or an opponent's overcall or when we have overcalled ourselves. The purpose of a fit bid is to assist partner in judging how high they should compete **and** help partner defend if the opponent's buy the hand. **We love anything that makes the game easier for partner** (please say this 3 times before every session).

Here's a simple rule:

A jump in competition to a suit that is more than a simple raise of partner's suit, but less than a double raise promises the values to compete to two level higher than partner's original bid with most of your strength in your second suit.

And here are some examples:

1♠-X-?	♠Qxxx ♥xx ♦AQxxx ♣xxx	Bid 3♦
1♥-X-?	♠KJTxx ♥Kxxx ♦xx ♣xx	Bid 2♣
1♥-2♣-?	♠x ♥Qxxx ♦AJTxx ♣xxx	Bid 3♦

1♥-X-?	♠Jxxxx ♥Kxxx ♦Qx ♣Qx	Bid 2♥
	(bidding your weak 5-card suit would mislead partner in evaluating his hand)	
1♥-X-?	♠xxx ♥KQxx ♦KQxxx ♣x	Bid 4♣
	(bidding more than a double raise shows shortness, be sure to have a firm agreement with your favorite partner)	
P-P-3♣-3♦-?	♠KJTxx ♥xxx ♦x ♣JT9x	Bid 4♠

Do these rules cover every hand? Of course not. For example, you pick up:

♠Txxx ♥-- ♦KQJ9 ♣QTxxx

With no one vulnerable, partner opens 1 ♠ and RHO doubles.

Lets analyze the choices:

#1: 4♠. Pros: The opponents rate to have a huge heart fit— this will force them to guess what to do at the 5 level. Also, it increases the chances of playing 4♠ doubled, a contract that will make much of the time. Cons: Partner (and you) will have no idea what to do if the opponents bid 5♥.

#2: 4♥ (Splinter). This is way too rich. It suggests slam aspirations which we simply don't have.

#3: 3♣ (fit bid). Right on length (we have 5 clubs), but this is not the big feature of our hand.

#4: 2♠ ("walking the dog"). This approach, assumes the opponents will compete-you will end up bidding 4 ♠ and maybe, get doubled, and maybe get a plus score. Our buddy Rick Roeder lives for this and other "dark side bidding maneuvers". Of course this bid violates our rule of helping partner make the right decisions.

#5: 3♦. Pros: It's where our home is and we'll be thrilled if partner leads a diamond if the opponents end up declaring. Cons: only 4 diamonds.

Our choice: We bid #5: 3♦.

So, what's the plan if partner signs off in 3♠? We will raise to 4♠. Partner won't be able to envision our playing strength, so we will carry on.

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

There certainly are other spots in this publication that will trumpet the election of Mr. Rand Pinsky as the new treasurer of the ACBL. We in unit 556 are so very pleased to work with Rand as a member of our unit Board of Directors every single month. For several years now it has been my personal pleasure to serve with Rand on our board and his character and clear thinking under pressure has truly been exemplary. He is a great guy to work with. He will make a splendid treasurer for the ACBL. **Congratulations Rand!**

As normal, the Valencia and Castaic games have been very well supported and continue to be a testament to the hard work of Kathy Swaine and Rita Vanatter and all those that work with them. The Lancaster Club is continually blessed with loyal supporters and not enough can be said about the hard work done by Ms. Marlene-Warren-Gasper. A big thanks has got to go out to these three amazing ladies.

This last month at Valencia was certainly Hugh Bartlett and Marguerite Pinkers month as Hugh and Marguerite chalked up **three** wins. **Wow!** Mary Anne Self and her husband Charles also tallied a win along with Freddie Strass and Donna Davidson and the partnerships of Marlene-Warren-Gasper and her husband Dave. Arif Shah was superb in winning **twice**, once with John Langer and again with Paul Mostman as his partner.

Last month at Castaic was a great month with Bill Brodek and Hugh Bartlett garnering two wins in hotly contested games. Paul Mostman and Jan Richter tallied a win along with the partnerships of Albert Stock-Marguerite Pinkers and Lamonte Johnson-Basant Shah.

The games at the Lancaster Club were dominated by some really wild, distributional hands all month long. It was great to have Linda Young back in the area again and she posted a fine win with Russ Buker. May Abagi

and Leah Levitt joined the winners circle along with Sandi Niren and Kristi Kubo. It was also excellent to see Dan Spector win in partnership with Sylvia Feiman. Brad Ward was able to post wins **twice** with Marlene-Warren-Gasper and once with Sylvia Feiman and Bob Hart and Lola Messia and Dave Gasper. Sandi and Ron Oest won **twice** and Marlene-Warren-Gasper also won again, this time in partnership with Lola Messia.

The food quality and quantity is legendary at the unit games in Lancaster and April did not disappoint. A huge thank you to all our friends in the Santa Clarita and Castaic clubs that support our monthly unit game. The April game was won by Brad Ward and Bill Brodek in a squeaker over Rand Pinsky and Sathy Swaine. It has been said that if folks in the San Fernando Valley knew what a value the meal at Lancaster was, there would not be enough room to accommodate the crowd. I look forward to dealing with such a problem!

Glendale Verdugo By Ron Lifshutz

The results of the April 14 Unit Game are listed below.

N/S	
A1	Carolyn Cohen and Tim Lolli
A2	Herman Helber and Jacob Frenkel
A3	Joan Rubin and Martin Blain
A4	Bernardine Mateer and Peter Szecsi
A5	Ann Banta and Ronald Moeckel
A6	B1 Sandra Franciscus and Sofia Pineda
	B2 Arthur Chacanas and Barbara McKissick
	B3 Mike Doll and Patrrick Cardullo

E/W	
A1	Bob Tayrien and Bill Holmquist
A2	Andy Vinock and Marta Monheim
A3	B1 Harold Knowles and Zachary Vedro
A4	Samuel Wang and Gregory Tapia
A5	Ellen Anten and Steve Gross

→

A6 B2 C1 Lyle Wiedeman and Eva Seri
 B3 Margaret Mataga and Tom Miyaoka
 B4 Sharon Wolf and Temo Arjani
 C2 Ann Raymond and Tai Wang

The ham was prepared by the folks at “Honey-Baked Ham.” The scalloped potatoes were prepared by Merry Besvold. The corn bread was prepared by Pat Abbey. The salads were a joint effort by Nancy Lyon and Betsy Josias. The desserts were supplied by Margaret Mataga.

Bob Hogan is recovering from a fall and head injury. We hope to see him back soon.

Our next unit game will be held on May 12, 2012. The luncheon menu will include fried chicken, cole slaw and biscuits. Please join us then.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

March 17 St Patrick’s Day unit-rated game: Overall results: 1st in A: Cayce Blanchard/John Melis, 2nd Bob Mault/Sherry Troeger, 3rd Todd Knapp Roger Farmer, 4th Mark Tang/Sam Wang, 5th John and Bea Bralliar, 6th Betty McClellan/Steve Skinner. B flight overalls: 4th George Welsh/Mary Thomas, 5th Al and Sharon Appel. C flight overalls: 2nd Marllys Haraden/John Ready, 3rd Judy Jones/Judy Lorber. Congratulations to all!

March 25 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Rob Preece/Paul Pettler, 2nd Sean Lui/Bob Mault, 3rd Muxin Li/Don Garner, 4th Mary Thomas/George Welsh, 5/6 Fred Willbanks/Henefi Erten tied with Aaron Jons/John Petrie. B flight overalls: Keith and Susan Hafen were 6th. C flight overalls: 2nd Usha Bansal/Steven Alt, 3rd Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu, 4th Barbara Shortwell/Ralph Moskowitz. Congratulations to all!

April 1 April Fools Day unit-rated game: Overall results: 1st in A: Steve Mager/Gerri Carlson, 2nd Bea and John Bralliar, 3rd Kaye Amdon/Betty McClellan, 4th Jo and John Melis, 5th Judy Elbogen/Gaye Harrington, 6th Bob Mault/Phyllis Parker. B flight overalls: 2nd John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 3rd Lois Perovich/Jean Matz, 4th Janet Logan/Carmela Chiurazzi, 5th Paul Pettler/Hanefi Erten. C flight overalls: 2nd Ralph Moskowitz/

Barbara Shortwell, 3rd Hashim Mahmoud/Judith Jones. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games in the Club March 16 through April 15: In the NLM afternoon game March 23 Bonny Walsh/Karen Watson had 71.53%. In the 99er game March 28 Sally Gordy/Bernie Dow had 71.25%, and in the open game Wednesday evening April 11 Keith Hafen/John Melis had 70.24%. Congratulations to all!

Big Masterpoint Awards: 1st over-all big point awards March 16 through April 15: March 17 Cayce Blanchard/John Melis won 3.83mp. March 18 Eileen Nelson/Julie Cunningham won 3.33mp. March 19 Loren Hilf/Steve Skinner won 4.83. March 20 Stanley Snyder/Ron Lien won 5.83mp in the afternoon game, Gayle Grub/Bob Lavery won 3.00mp in the evening game. March 21 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger won 5.83mp. March 22 John Petrie/Ron Spain won 4.33mp. March 23 Fern Dunbar/Mike Ullman won 6.83mp and in the March 25 unit game Rob Preece/Paul Pettler won 3.83mp. Big awards for 2nd and 3rd overall: March 19 John Melis/Kay Tseng won 3.6mp for 2nd. March 20 Mark Teaford/Sean Lui won 4.37mp for 2nd, Irwin Bender/Kiyo Nagaishi won 3.28mp for 3rd. March 21 Eileen Nelson/Nancy Schwantes won 4.00mp for 2nd, John and Suzie Hand won 3.00mp for 3rd. March 22 Lois Abramson/Gary Paugh won 3.25 for 2nd. March 23 Mike Daley/Earl VanDerVord won 5.12mp for 2nd, Betti Harris/Sharon Hammer won 3.84mp for 3rd. Congratulations to all!

New Members: Jim Keese, Eve Rae, Richard Shaeffer, Robert Goodman. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: Junior Master: William Dilks; Club Masters: Judy Percer, Toni Whitesell; NABC Master: Sy Alban; Life Master: Doreen Maes; Bronze Life Master: Karen Horton; and new Silver Life Master: Betty Wittreid. Congratulations to you all!!

Upcoming Events at the Club: Monday, May 7 Great Western STaC. May 10 ACBL-wide International Fund Game. Sunday, May 13 Mother’s Day Great Western STaC. May 14 Inter-Club-Championship game. May 20 through May 26 Club championship week. May 27 Unit Game: lunch at 12:30, game at 1pm. STaC games: hand records, extra points, \$11 fee. Other special games—extra points, regular prices.

News from Leisure World from Gene Yaffee

There will be a unit game on Thursday, May 3, in Clubhouse #3 at 12:30 p.m. To make a reservation →

for the game, call Cookie Pham at 562/431-6453.

By popular demand, there will be a Swiss Team Game on Monday, May 14, at 12:30 p.m. in Clubhouse #3— this will replace the regular game on that day. For more information 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

Get well wishes are being sent to Barbara Zarzycki.

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 Marie Nimmrich

Unit Game 6 May at 1:00 p.m.

May is the month for Mothers. And if you are so

blessed as to have your mother still with you, please tell her how much you appreciate her and how much you care for her. No one does as much for us in this life as our mothers. It is well to honor them.

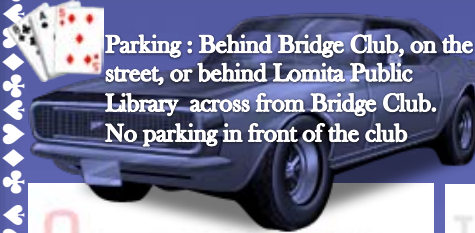
April Unit Game: We gathered once more for our monthly unit game at San Marino and produced 18 tables for a friendly game. Bernie Mateer brought the food and it was delectable. You should be aware that all the good food we have at unit games is provided each month by one of our Unit Board members. The unit is pleased to give to the players a full, free lunch each month. The winners of the April unit game were from the nearby Glendale Unit - John Villalobos and Sharon Wolf. They will be presented with a free play to a future unit game for their accomplishment, as are all winners of unit games. Second overall were Edward Hsi and Samuel Wang; third were Harry Torossian and Mike Marcucci; and fourth overall were Lynn Ryan and Charo Holdo. May as well mention fifth being Ron Moeckel and Ann Banta.

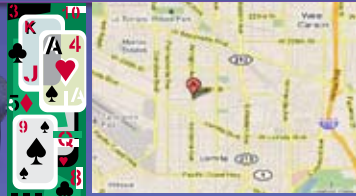
Our next unit game will be held Sunday 6 May at 1:00 p.m. at San Marino. Be sure to come early for the luncheon. →

TORRANCE – SOUTH BAY SECTIONAL (UNIT #568)

MAY 25TH, 26TH, 27TH SANCTION NO. S1205114

SOUTH BAY BRIDGE CLUB 24100 NARBONNE AVE. LOMITA, CA90717 (310) 325-7222

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



FRIDAY, MAY 25TH

6:30 PM

- Stratified Open Pairs
- Single Session Swiss*

Stratification

Pairs:

A = 2000+ B = 750 – 2000
C = 0 – 750

Swiss Teams:

A = 2000+ B = 750 – 2000
C = 0 – 750

SATURDAY, MAY 26TH

10:00 AM

- Stratified Open Pairs
- 299ers Pairs Game*
- Round 1&2 Compact KO

3:00 PM

- Stratified Open Pairs
- 299ers Pairs Game*
- Round 3&4 Compact KO
- Single Session Swiss*

All Open Pairs are single session events

**Attendance Permitting*

SUNDAY, MAY 27TH

10:00 AM

- Swiss Team – Session 1
- Stratified Open Pairs*

3:00 PM

- Swiss Team – Session 2
- Stratified Open Pairs*

Tournament Director:

Peter Knee

Tournament Manager:

Morris Lorber 310-328-9592

Partnership Chairperson:

Gabby Jackson 310-8318727

Card Fees:

ACBL Member - \$12 per session

Non Member - \$13 per session

18 and Under – Free

Arcadia Bridge Center: The Bridge Center held some STAC games in March and the unit did well overall in the event. Friday evening, Jack Chang and Yichi Zhang were fifth overall in the district. And on Saturday afternoon, Frank Shih and Ernie Wong won the whole tournament with a 70+% game, winning 14.7 silver points. Very impressive. **And** Amr Elghamry and Dan Botoaca were second overall with a 67+% game, garnering 11.03 silver points. Very nice. Also placing from the Bridge Center were Joe Viola and Bob Johnson and Nona Stokes and Ramona Hernandez.

And I am sure you are all waiting to hear results from the March Beat the House Night at the Bridge Center. This time the pair to beat were Diane and Art Gulbrandsen themselves. And those who beat the house were: Madhu Sudan with Jim Rodgers; Arlene Johnson with Charo Holdo; Ernie Wong with Bob Johnson. Lots of free plays won. And also winning a free play for a 50%+ game were Ray Malki and Nancy Nakanishi.

The Bridge Center will be holding STAC (silver point) games the week of 7 May. Please call for specific dates: 626-445-3797.

San Marino Bridge Club: San Marino will be holding STAC (silver point!) games on Monday 7 May and Wednesday night 9 May. Come on over and try your best. On Wed. night the jackpot keeps building up and up and up. Remember we add \$6 per game and no one has won it for a couple of years. So you can imagine...

Las Vegas Sectional: A big **wow** to Karen Arase and Gitta Earll for winning not one but **two** knockout events. Congratulations to you both. They also had a section win in Flight B. They received the most points of anyone from our unit at this tournament - 15.96 master points.

If there are others who did well at Las Vegas, I do not know about it. Please pass on all newsworthy happenings and your name will be in print.

Memphis Nationals: Amr Elghamry and Dan Botoaca qualified for all four sessions of the prestigious Silodar Pairs. They barely missed the overalls.

Advance in rank: New Bronze Life Master - Charlotte Brackmann; new NABC Master - Dave Solin; new Club Masters - Michael Bazdarich, Richard Halverstadt, Barbara Leider and Farryl Weitzman.

Bridge Regulations

Let's learn what dummy can and cannot do. Dummy has rights and penalties, too!

Dummy can

1. give information, in the Director's presence, as to fact or law
2. keep count of tricks won and lost, thereby having the right to follow the play and see all cards as they are played
3. play cards according to direction of declarer
4. only inform declarer that a trick is turned wrong if done so immediately
5. ask declarer if he has a card of the suit led when he fails to follow suit to a trick
6. warn declarer regarding leading from the wrong hand
7. draw attention to any irregularity but only after play is concluded.

Dummy cannot

1. initiate a call to the Director during play
2. call attention to an irregularity during play
3. participate in the play or make any comment or ask any questions concerning the bidding or play
4. exchange hands with declarer
5. leave his seat to watch declarer's play
6. on his own initiative look at the face of a card in a defender's hand.

Now check out the penalties involved if any of the above infractions occur.

Penalties

1. Declarer may not enforce any penalty for the offense if dummy is the first to draw attention to a defender's irregularity
2. either defender may choose the hand from which the declarer shall lead if dummy warns declarer that he has led from the wrong hand.

Until we meet again, pax vobiscum

Pomona Covina
by Vic Sartor

Unit Game
Saturday, May 19, 11:00 a.m.

We'll start this month's column with some →

well-earned congratulations. First of all, kudos to Denise Morgan, who made Silver Life Master with a nice performance at the San Diego Regional. She, Genise Hasan, and teammate Eric Tan finished second in a knockout event to put Denise over the top. Morgan, Hasan, and Tan finished 1-2-3 among local point winners at the event, followed by Warren and Mary Ann Wotring. Other notable recent promotions include Hanan Mogharbel (Regional LM) and Karen McCarthy (Bronze LM). A somewhat belated acknowledgement is also due Tom Lill, who made Life Master. His honor was announced unofficially earlier, but now that its in print in such a prestigious journal as the ALACBU newsletter, we can assure Tom that the ACBL can't take it back. And while we're in a congratulatory mood, we'd like to give a special pat on the back to Lulu and Fredy Minter for their 75.9% game, not only the top local score of the month but their lifetime best.

Other La Fetra winners included Val Fletcher, Kathy and Herman Helber, Mary Miller, Karen Olin, Roger Boyar, Clint Lew, Denise Morgan, Sandy Jones, Penny Barbieri, Walt Otto, Vic Sartor, Lary Alba, Pat Radamaker, Charlotte Capelle, Kurt Trieselmann, Bob Kakade, Tom Lill, Helen Wang, Karen McCarthy, Suzanne Wojcik, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Ron Purkis, and Ann McClelland.

Eileen and Tim Finlay were first overall in the March unit game, with Ned Sissel and Ron Purkis winning in opposite direction. Also placing overall were Charlotte and Stepen Sturm, Vic Sartor and Hans Hehnke, Roger Boyar and Richard Patterson, and Dave and Susan Ruoff. The April Individual was won by Clint Lew.

Our hand of the month shows the power of extreme distribution and is a good test of your evaluation skills. In third seat, both sides vulnerable, you are dealt the following slightly unbalanced hand:

♠T97xxx ♥-- ♦AKJ9xxx ♣A

Partner passes, RHO bids 1♥, and you, of course, make a Michaels cuebid of 2♥. LHO jumps to 4♥. Your passed-hand partner now comes in with a 4♠ bid, which comes around to you. Do you get excited? What do you bid, if anything?

If you analyze your hand, it is very likely that your only possible losers are in spades. What could pard have in spades that would induce him to jump in with a vulnerable 4♠ bid? A mere Axxx would make

6♠ a big favorite. Even Axx or KQx would give you a reasonable shot. But if you're not comfortable bidding your partner's for him (bless you!), how about asking him? How?

How about a cuebid of 5♥? Logically this should tell him that you have no worries about ether minor and have first round heart control. The only question you could be asking is, "How good are your trumps?" Pard, looking at AKxx of spades, has an easy jump to 6♠. If he were sure you had six spades he could reasonably bid 7. Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

We had a large turnout for the March 24 Unit Game and the day was a great success. Special thanks to players who completed a brief survey regarding the Unit game. Their comments and recommendations will be helpful in planning future unit games.

Upcoming Events

This is a reminder that The San Fernando Valley Sectional will be held on May 18 thru May 20. All games will be at the 750 Club, located at the Prince of Peace Church, 5700 Rudnick Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. This location has ample parking for all players.

On Friday and Saturday there will be two sessions of stratified open and 299er pairs beginning at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The fee for each game is \$10.00 for current ACBL members and \$11.00 for non-members. Players may provide their own lunch or visit one of the local eateries listed on the website at www.750bridgeclub.net.

On Sunday, there will be one session for Swiss Teams (20VP Scale) with five matches. Play will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the fee is \$50.00 per team.

As always, reservations are not required but are appreciated and are a helpful planning tool. Please send e-mail reservations to Doug Beagle at wdb eagle@gmail.com or add your partnership names to signup sheets posted at the Bridge Academy and the 750 Club. We look forward to a large turnout and enjoyable games.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for March 2012

750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 12.75, Jim →

Lechner 9.77, Larry Kussin 9.47, Jim Gardner 7.04, Paul Endler 6.70, Linda Silvey 6.57, Gloria Malkin 6.40, Bud Shapiro 6.26, Eva Seri 6.12, Jody Lombardo 5.35.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Masterpoints: Gregory Bozin 4.00, Khera Lababidi 3.92, Sheila Singer 2.79, Carol Stein 2.52, Bobbi Le Feuvre 1.82, Stephen Rosen 1.75, Paul Fuson 1.72, Mark Gould 1.63, Ron Adler 1.63, Ron Adler 1.63, Zenobia Osadca 1.62.

Bridge Academy Open Masterpoints: Joan Rubin 13.86, Gary Frans 12.24, Sara Wilson

11.13, Leda Danzig 11.08, Gilbert Stinebaugh 9.41, Barbara Pinchuk 8.90, Armand Szulc 8.62, William Carlson, Jr 8.20, Ellen Anten 7.62, Sheila Bozin 7.55.

70% Games for March: March was a great month for 70% games at both Clubs. Congratulations to high scoring pairs at the Bridge Academy headed by Gary Frans & Leda Danzig who had a 79.37% and 72.02% games. Mike Mintz & Barbara Kellerman scored 72.92% followed by Skip Smith & Lou Hasson who can boast a 71.67% game.

At the 750 Club high scores went to Bunnie Roth and Margie Bulmer 72.63%, Billy Blanchard & Monica Fastovsky 71.48%, and Ron Malkin & Paul Endler at 70.09%..

Player News

More good news from March as congratulations go to Bobbi Le Feuvre who recently became a Life Master.

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

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit website:

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

SBBC website:

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

The annual Torrance South Bay Unit 568 Sectional will take place Memorial Day weekend May 25-27. The location is at the South Bay Bridge Club, 24100 Narbonne Ave in Lomita. The sectional starts on Friday night and runs through Sunday.

Team games are a Swiss on Friday night, a Compact KO on Saturday and Swiss teams on Sunday. There will be pair games Friday evening and Saturday and Sunday. These include 299er games on Saturday.

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Los Angeles Summer Regional

July 2 - July 8, 2012

New Times - New Schedule

Pasadena Hilton, Pasadena CA

Contacts

Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin
310-720-6050

Partnerships: Betty Jackson:
562-594-4420: before 7/2/12
626-665-0596: after 7/2/12

DIC: Betty Bratcher
www.acbldistrict23.org

Pasadena Hilton

168 South Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91101
1-626-577-1000
1-800-Hiltons

\$109 guaranteed until June 20

Valet Parking \$9
Self Parking \$9
Overnight Parking \$18

Entries

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

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

Club Championship: Thursday, May 3, 7:00
 Western Conference STAC: May 7-12
 Club Championship: Monday, May 21, 11:30
 Club Swiss Team Championship: Tuesday, May 29, 7:00
 Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening
 Friday night games on May 4 and May 18

Club Championships

The April 2 Club Championship was led by Gaye Herrington/Wayne Otsuki in Flight A with JoAnna Jones-Reed/Martin Gilbert ahead in both Flights B and C. On April 11 the Club Championship was won by Carole King/Beverly Narahara in both Flights A and B with Jamila Malika/Mahin Khadivi capturing Flight C. The unit game for Non Life Masters on April 15 was won by Jeanette Betts/David Lyons in Flights A and B with Barbara and Paul Green on top in Flight C.

The March 26 Club Championship at Veteran's Park saw Robert Fieselman/Robert Stensrud winning Flights A and B followed by Judith and James Scott leading Flight C.

Team Winners

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

March 13: Jeff Strutzel, Masae Kato, Andy Anderson, Mark Raggio
 March 20: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
 March 27: Fran Israel, Gabriela Jackson, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
 April 3: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott
 April 10: Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Charles LaFranchi, Marty Cooper

MDR

This column was negligent last month in not reporting unit members who captured top spots at the recent Marina Del Rey Regional. So belatedly we report the following.

Neal Kleiner and David Peim did well in winning Flights B and C of the Santa Clarita Open Pairs and teaming with Henry Crowder and Hank Sheehan to capture the Catamaran KO Bracket 2. Alain Fleurot/

Diane Elliot won the Thursday 300/750 Gold Rush Pairs.

Sharon Biederman paired with Susan Bibby to win first overall in all brackets of the Friday morning side game. The Sea Shell KO Bracket 1 was won by the quintet of Kim Wang, Jeff Strutzel, Chiye Horiguchi, Andy Anderson and William Ng. Gary King and Steve Mager were on teams that won Flight A in the Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon Swiss events. Mike Savage and Steve Mager were on a team which won Flight A in the Saturday afternoon Swiss while Elaine Godin, Robert Svensrud, Neal Kleiner and Ed Srenco finished on top in Flights B and C of this event.

The King is Dead, Long Live the King

You may have noticed in the previous paragraph that the same names popped up a few times in the afternoon Swiss events (a.k.a. Losers Swiss). One of them was Gary King who long has been known as "King of the Losers Swiss". When Gary qualifies for this event all the other contestants are wrought with fear. However, those days may be over as there is now a new King of the Losers Swiss event at District tournaments. I now modestly claim the title having won three of these events at Marina Del Rey to Gary's two. However, Gary should still get some honorable mention for my performance, especially as my partner he greatly helped me qualify for two of these events.

Milestones

Sadly we report that two of our unit members James Lynch and Harold Karp recently passed away. They regularly played in NLM games at the South Bay Bridge Club.

GUV Memorial Award

A couple stories worth mentioning this month. While in Memphis at the NABC Bruce Horiguchi and partner decided to do some fishing prior to bridge one morning in the Mississippi River and caught an eight-pound catfish. They brought the fish back to their room and threw it in a refrigerator in their rush to go off and play bridge. When they returned the catfish had gotten out of the fridge and managed to slop up the carpeting in their room. Apparently the fish still made a good dinner. Personally I felt kind of sorry for the fish. →

The luckiest player around? No doubt our erstwhile director, Mike Savage. On the very first board in the San Diego Regional Swiss Mike went for 1700 on a hand which might make a game the other way. How many IMPs did this cost you may wonder. To be precise, exactly zero as the result was a push, -1700 at both tables.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Mayhem on the Mississippi

Last month saw the Spring Nationals in Memphis. Not many of us made the trek to the banks of the Mississippi, but those who did made splashes both at the table and away from it. Congratulations to Cecil Cook on his reappointment to the Hall of Fame Committee, and congratulations also to Jill Meyers on being named to the Ethical Oversight Committee. At the table, Robert Kent's team won the Friday-Saturday Compact Knockout and, partnered with his wife, Ellen (a candidate for Chair of the ACBL Board of Governors), also won

their bracket of the Mississippi Bridge Knockout.

More from the Tables

Thanks to everyone who showed up for the April Fool's Day Individual event, for your patience as we figured out just how many people showed up and how to move them all around with as few collisions as possible. Next year maybe we'll just skip the bridge and hold a square dance. Susan Somogyi proved herself the most individualistic player of the night. The St. Patrick's Day game was intended to be a unified Unit Championship, but for some reason that we have been unable to pin down, the clubs did not use the same boards for the event. Thus, we had separate winners. Joel Schiff and Marty Cooper prevailed at Beverly Hills, while Adrienne Green and Mim Spertus took top honors at Barrington.

Moving farther afield, Ifti Baqai's team won the Sunday Swiss at the San Diego Regional. Trying unsuccessfully to sneak one past the intrepid Unit Reporter, Patrick Cardullo tiptoed out to the Las Vegas Sectional, where his team tied for first in the Thursday Board-A-Match event. Congratulations to these players for their successes at the table. →



LAS VEGAS REGIONAL

JUNE 18-24



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2901 Las Vegas Blvd.

Room rate \$59.00

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Free parking and no resort fee.
Free Wi-Fi for hotel guests.

Need a partner? Need teammates?
Visit our online partnership desk at
LVregional.com

Tournament Chairman: Tom Shulman
702-301-5856 or Tom@LVregional.com

♥

Gold Point Program

♦

♠ Speakers will present helpful bridge tips before the 0-299er games most afternoon and evening sessions. ♣

Looking for **Gold Points**? The entire tournament schedule is packed with **Gold Point events** including the popular **Knockout Teams** and our newest game, the daily **Gold Pairs** in which you can win **Gold Points** and *nobody you play against will have more than 750 masterpoints.*

See full schedule of events at LVregional.com ♦ Zero Tolerance Policy will be in place ♦ Thank you for not wearing fragrance.

On a sadder note, unit member Claire Chodorow, a relatively recent arrival from the East Coast, passed recently, as did her husband Val. For those who may be wondering, I understand that the couple was not to Jordan Chodorow. Our condolences to their friends and family.

Three Days in May

We're trying something different for the annual Spring Sectional. Instead of holding the event at the Kayne Eras Center, as we have in recent years, we've set it up as a STaC. The tournament starts Friday afternoon, May 4, at both Barrington and Beverly Hills, at the usual Friday game time of 12:30 p.m. For those who just can't get enough, there will be a Friday evening session beginning 7:30 p.m. at Barrington only.

Saturday is Different. Both Barrington and Beverly Hills are holding two sessions on Saturday, May 5. Neither game starts at the usual time. The morning game will begin at 10:30 a.m., and the afternoon game will start at 3:00 p.m. Barrington will hold a 299er game in the morning, and Beverly Hills will do the honors in the afternoon.

On Sunday, May 6, all of the action will be at Beverly Hills. Once again, the club will hold two sessions, at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. So that's a grand total of six sessions of sectional bridge in a single weekend, all at your local club. I hope to see you there, and please don't hesitate to let us know what you think of the new format.

Busybodies

Both Beverly Hills and Barrington have managed repeat performances on the national stage. Both clubs were recognized for being among the top 50 clubs nationwide, by table count, in 2010. Both clubs pulled off the trick again in 2011. Beverly Hills clocked in at spot number 24, with 7,188 tables during the year, while Barrington's reported table count of 5,925 was good for number 48 on the list. These figures are a testament to the hard work put in by everyone associated with the clubs in making them an attractive venue. Be sure to thank club management when you get the chance.

What's My Line?

A play problem to mull over. You've reached 6♥

against silent opponents after dummy showed spades and then splintered in clubs. The opening lead is the club deuce.

Dummy: ♠AK874 ♥QJ1095 ♦J6 ♣5

Declarer: ♠J52 ♥A8763 ♦A ♣AK97

I think the line that happens to win on this layout is also the best percentage line. After winning the opening lead, cash a second club, pitching a diamond and ruff a club. Now cash the diamond ace and both high spades before returning to hand with the heart ace (foregoing the finesse), and then trump your last club. If no one has ruffed in yet, exit a heart. This line wins when the heart king is singleton, the spade queen is singleton or doubleton, and also when the same hand has doubletons in both majors. When the hand was played, only two pairs out of 13 brought home 12 tricks, and both of them bid the slam. Well done.

Around the Clubs

Lots of activity to report from the clubs this month. Barrington club championships went to Chuck Maltz and Denny Seltzer and to Bryan Conley and Leslie Rawitt. Susan Somogyi and Al Spaet picked up the club championship at Cyma's game. Barrington was 70% central last month. Aram Bedros led the field by hitting the mark three times, while Art Zail, Rodger Harbin, Jaclyn Hatfield, and Sherry Tunnell rang up that score twice each. Other 70% games belonged to Evan Krantz, Mannu Krupin, Stephen Goldstein, William Rogers, Connie Fishbach, Sally Karbelnig, and Danny Kleinman. Club champions at Beverly Hills were Farideh Sigari and Rahim Israel, while the team of Betsy Lutz, Viktor Anikovich, Guy Green, and Sam Haveson won the team club championship. Scoring 70% or better were Chuck Fonarow and Sam Namer, Brian Richardson and Zalman Perelman, Joan Feldman and Viktor Anikovich, Michael Brand and Rahim Israel, Viktor Anikovich and Alan Schneider, Joyce Lelah and David Segal, and Nancy Heck and Danny Kleinman. To all of you — please take it easy on me when I arrive at your table.

Climbing the Ladder

District 23 Rank Changes March, 2012

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Suzanne Barbis, John Chohlis
Connie Held, Margaret Holliday
Martin Klein, James Rozzell
Bette Treiman, Yichi Zhang

Club Master (20 MPs)

Marsha Bocan, Jane Davis
Audrey Hill, Inger Hogan
Michael Hoolahan, Tor Hylbom
Anthony Kordich, Gerry Thomas
Sandra Vogel, Kay Wardell
Russell Weis, Peter Woiceshyn

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Linda Dillon, Darlene Harrison
James Hawkins, Donna Kupfer
Rand Macquiddy, Roberta Swanson
Katherine Weisberg

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Robert Goodman, Michael Newman, Joyce Shuford

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Richard Ashbacher
Robert Bakovic
J Brunet
Jing Dong Chen
Elaine Godin
Chein-San Han
Jeffrey Hartmann
Alan Laub
Kiyo Nagaishi
Arlene Todd

Life Master (300 MPs)

Bobbi Le Feuvre

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Carol Klein
Rhoda Weisler

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Robert Chen
Henry Crowder

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

This month's panelists: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Becky Clough, John Jones, Mr. Mealy-mouth, David Sacks, and Bill Wickham

1

MPs
NS vul

West	North	East	South
3♠	pass	pass	?

You, South, hold: ♠92 ♥K7 ♦AKJ943 ♣K76
What call do you make?

Bare: 4♦. I suppose Marshall bid 3NT.

The hand is from an old Bridge World panel and he did indeed bid 3NT.

Bartusek: 3NT. Hey, it's only one board at matchpoints. The vulnerability makes it very likely that either partner has a stopper or spades are blocked. 3NT has a much bigger upside than 4♦ for the risk involved.

Clough: 4♦.

Jones: 4♦. I'll give up on trying 3NT without a stopper. I've tried that before and normally end up singing "I'm a loser" like Ringo in a country twang. Given this six loser hand, we aren't extremely likely to make 5♦, even if partner bids it. If 3♠ is making then we may well be right to bid anyway.

Mr. Mealy-mouth: 4♦. Living dangerously and showing values for a Marshall Miles 3NT. With the right hand for 3NT (the diamond queen, a spade stopper and the ace of clubs or hearts), partner can

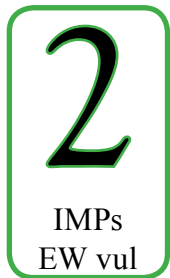
convert to 4NT, which in a minor-suit auction must be natural.

Sacks: 3NT (in tempo). We are a huge favorite to either have a stopper, a blocked suit or opener having to make an unusual lead. (considering that we are showing a stopper by bidding).

Wickham: 3NT. At favorable vulnerability, the only way we don't have a spade stopper is if the suit blocks – East would have raised to 4♠ with any sort of a fit, and West would not open 3♠ at this vulnerability with a solid suit. Just a spade stopper and a round ace should produce a red game bonus. (Obviously this must be wrong, as I see no other possible answer.)

Some claim matchpoints is closer to bluffing in poker than to sound bridge. On this hand, the gamble seems warranted since partner rates to have some values and at least one spade stopper.





South	West	North	East
1♣	1♠	dbl	pass
pass	4♥	5♣	4♦*
pass	6♠	pass	5♦
?			pass

*fit-showing

You, South, hold: ♠J53 ♥T ♦Q86 ♣AKJT97
What call do you make?

Bare: 7♣. It's a guess whether E/W can make 6♣. We may go for 1100 which would still be a good save. It depends on the opponents and table feel. If I have to guess, I'll bet they can make it.

You are right!

Bartusek: 7♣. We will probably go for either 800 or 1100 which is a nice pick-up against -1430. I doubt we can beat their slam with the little defense I have.

Clough: 7♣. I don't think I have much defense.

Jones: 7♣. I know the hand. Despite holding the potentially valuable ♦Q, it's right to save. When I was given this hand to bid, I bid 5♣ on my second call. The opponents have found a fit and very likely have a vulnerable game. Partner, who is short in spades but passed in first seat at favorable, is likely to have enough clubs that saving is right. Bidding 5♣ would have made it easy for partner to save in 7♣ on the actual hand and also would take away the opponents' ace-asking or 5♣ cuebid.

Mr. Mealy-mouth: Pass. I'd bid 7♣ if I were sure that West would double (I love my opponents to double

me), but I fear that he would pass. Then I'd have to bid 8♣ over East's 7♠. I don't think my teammates would like that.

Sacks: 7♣. I'll take the bait, even if I do have a ♦ trick, that may be our only trick and 7♣ could conceivably go for less than the value of game.

Wickham: 7♣. After spending an inordinate amount of time working out the most likely distribution based on the auction, I've decided that someone must be crazy. When in doubt, it's best to believe the vulnerable bidders. 500 or even 800 is acceptable opposite a 650, and 1430 may be available. Hey, even 2210 may be out there, but kudos to them if they bid 7 and make it after I save.

This hand is from the most recent Vanderbilt quarterfinals. The North hand passed 6♠ which lost the match. The slam does indeed make for -1430 and 7♣X is down 4 for -800. In discussing this hand with John Mohan, he suggested that playing negative slam doubles at favorable vulnerability works well. In contested auctions at the slam level, a double would express having no defensive trick whereas a pass would show a reasonably sure trick.

AROUND THE UNITS *continued from page 12*

A fair amount of movement in the ranks this month as well.

Roselyn Martov, Andrea McNichol, Ronnie Stabler, and Jerry Weissman all reached the rank of Club Master.

Larry Nathan is now a Sectional Master while Debra Stern has become a Regional Master. Phyllis

Selig-Kerns, the Ace of Clubs champ in her category last year, is now an NABC Master.

Carol Boyd has become a Life Master, while Stephen Massman has reached Bronze Life Master status. New Silver Life Masters are Nelly Gordon, David Joseph, Barbara Nusbaum, and Trudy Sokol. Congratulations to all.

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



South	West	North	East
			1♦
dbl	pass	1♥	4♦
?			

You, South, hold: ♠AK843 ♥AQ3 ♦-- ♣AKQT7
What call do you make?

Bare: 5♦. Partner expects a fit, but nothing begins to describe this hand.

Bartusek: 5NT. Generally a 5♦ cue bid would agree to partner's suit as being trumps. 5NT should imply 2 or more places to play and partner can offer his suggested alternative. I will bid 6♥ over partner's 6♦ call.

Clough: 5♦. Too much for 4♥, but double might work best.

Jones: Double. This double is again for takeout, but I expect partner to pass it frequently. It is by far the most flexible call since partner can pass, rebid his suit, or bid a new suit. Despite 6.5 quick tricks and 22 HCP, I don't think this is a juicy situation. East knew he was vulnerable and facing a near worthless dummy when he bid 4♦. He was prepared to be doubled. I doubt seriously that we are beating this more than two tricks, and maybe not at all.

Mr. Mealy-mouth: 5♦. Why, oh why, didn't I overcall

1NT, showing the top and bottom unbid suits? Then I could bid 4♥, showing a monster 5-3-0-5 hand, over partner's 2♣ or 2♦ reply, whether or not East still jumped to 4♦. Having trapped myself by my initial double, I have no choice but to bid 5♦ and hope partner will know what to do.

Sacks: 5♦. Ouch! I hate to make a punt bid like this, but it probably has the best chance of getting us somewhere playable. Impossible hand for all but those with really detailed partnership agreements.

Wickham: 5♦. Anything less should be considered a criminal offense. My plan is to bid 5♠ over the expected 5♥, 6♦ over 5♠, 7♣ over 5NT, pass over 6♣, 6♥ over 6♦, pass over 6♥, and raise 6♠ to 7♠. Of course, partner will probably turn up with ♠xxx ♥J9xx ♦Kxxx ♣xx and my nice plus score will have evaporated.

I think 5♦ takes up too much room to be able to describe your hand at a safe level. I wouldn't expect partner to pass 4♦X, so perhaps I can find out more information and stay 1 level lower by doubling.

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

inductee. After selecting an inductee of my choice (Eddie Kantar and Fred Hamilton) I sat down on the provided bench to watch a YouTube like presentation featuring that person as he or she spoke about their bridge life and how it all began for them.

Another favorite section was the film shorts featuring Ely Culbertson and his famous challenge matches. He was a key leader in the growth of contract bridge during the 1930's.

In addition to the museum, we continued to explore Memphis at night, eating authentic barbecue and listening to blues music.

Over the years, weather permitting, we have explored Chicago, Boston, Orlando, Houston, Atlanta, Toronto, Seattle, Birmingham, San Diego, Salt Lake City, San Francisco and Washington, DC. I still remember the Summer Nationals in Boston many years ago. Roger and I took time to walk the Freedom Trail. One of the information plaques along the way told us we were looking at a

church that had replaced a smaller one. The new church had been built around the old one. When the construction of the new church was complete, they simply tore down the old one and threw it out the windows.

So what cities are next? July, 2012 the Summer Nationals are in Philadelphia and in November, the Fall Nationals are in San Francisco. Make your plans to attend one or both whether for one event or for the entire week. Make the time to explore the city you're in. It's worth it.

4

IMPs
both vul

South	West	North	East
-------	------	-------	------

?

2♥

You, South, hold: ♠J7542 ♥6 ♦KQ7 ♣AJ93

What call do you make?

Bare: Double. I'm short in hearts and the fifth spade makes up for lack of high cards.

Bartusek: Double. I really don't want to bid such a bad spade suit especially with such a bad hand. Holding heart shortness means I should strive very hard to enter the auction. Pass could work, but double should be safe.

Clough: Double.

Jones: Double. I have near perfect shape (well, at least my bridge hand), and it's important to act aggressively when we're short in the opponent's suit. I would double with a jack less in most of my partnerships, and note that Rodwell and Meckstroth are doubling about two jacks lighter than this. Double is much better than 2♠ given my poor support and my excellent support for the minors.

Mr. Mealy-mouth: Pass. I'll do so in tempo, having planned this auction while East was picking up his hand and sorting his cards. I would have doubled 1♥, but I'm a wee bit shy here. The higher the opening, the more I need to enter. It was mighty rude of East to have shut me out of my 1♣ opening.

Sacks: 2♠. A hand with shortness stretches to bid. Slight nod over double. The primary problem occurs when left hand opponent now bids 3NT, leaving partner on lead.

Wickham: Double. I have shortness in the enemy suit, four of the other major, and opening bid values (almost). So, what else do I need: an engraved invitation to bid? If partner is stuck, he will bail into his three card spade suit at the 2 level. Partner will rarely balance if I pass, so somebody has to do the dirty work and I've been elected.

As Bill points out, you may be able to end up in your 5-3 spade fit even if you double for takeout. Bidding such a weak suit risks being doubled for penalty and hearing partner pass with two small spades.

TREATMENTS continued from page 3

Can we get in trouble bidding like this? Probably not, but let's take a look at the actual hand:

North

♠ AQJxx
♥ AJxxx
♦ x
♣ Ax

West

♠ xx
♥ 9xxx
♦ Txx
♣ KJ9x

East

♠ Kx
♥ KQTx
♦ Axxxx
♣ xx

South

♠ Txxx
♥ --
♦ KQJ9
♣ QTxxx

West	North	East	South
	1♠	dbl	3♦
pass	3♥	pass	4♠
pass	5♣	pass	5♠
pass	pass	pass	

It is not clear that partner should make a slam try and bid 5♣. A fertile topic for another day. While they will beat us if they lead a club, the ♥K will probably be led. And so, our first column ends with the boys skating at the 5 level.



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

You, South, hold: ♠KJ2 ♥9862 ♦AQJ97 ♣3
What call do you make?

Bare: 2♥. Bare: 2♥. This is the most interesting hand of the set. When you bid 1♦ you apparently decided to force to game or otherwise you would have bid 1♥ instead. I would not have forced to game. *[Some pairs simply bid up the line, so 1♦ doesn't always commit to game]* Now I must bid 4th suit forcing. I play that in most sequences 2NT can be passed, therefore opener must bid 3NT with a good 14. In this case partner may think 2♥ is a game force, so I've gotten myself into a guessing game.

Bartusek: 2♠. Systemically promising exactly 3-card spade support since 1♦ generally denies a 4-card major unless game-going strength. This is a slight underbid but should land us in a safe spot. 1♠ by partner generally denies a balanced hand so my 1♦ bid worked out reasonably well. We might miss a game, but I don't like any alternative.

Clough: 2♠. 1NT has two flaws - club singleton and no heart stopper.

Jones: 2♣ (assuming XYZ). My hearts are weak, but I would show them rather than diamonds in all of my partnerships since I have less than a game forcing hand. Playing Joe Kivel's XYZ convention makes this hand easier. 2♣ is artificial, showing at most an invitational hand and asking partner to bid 2♦ on hands where he doesn't have extras. After he bids 2♦, I

have a choice of a mildly invitational 2♠ or a strongly invitational 3♠. I'll choose 2♠ since I only have three trumps, but I like Moysian fits in general and this one rates to play well.

Mr. Mealy-mouth: 2♠. Eddie Kantar says, "A direct raise of a second suit promises four-card support (in blood)." I say, "Let it bleed!" I hope my extra high-card strength will repay what I owe partner (a fourth spade). Save the notrumps for those who have a doubleton king of hearts. If partner demands a pound of flesh, I'll accuse him of anti-Semitism.

or anti-mealy-mouthism

Sacks: 2♠. The hand is a little heavy on HCP but a trump and shape light on value.

Wickham: 2♠. This is the value bid. I would bid this in the absence of any sound agreements. In some methods that I favor, 2♠ would show a sound 3-card raise, but that requires some discussion about the use of XYZ and the sort of hands that would skip diamonds to bid a major.

Obviously, partnership style would strongly influence your bid here but it seems like in standard methods 2♠ feels right.

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.