

# Southern California Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Bridge in the Caribbean

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



Every November Roger and I take a flight to Miami, New York City, or San Juan to connect to a flight to St. Maarten/St. Martin, a small island in the Caribbean. We spend a week or more at our time share at Royal Palm Beach in Simpson Bay, which we bought sight unseen 13 years ago. Often we invite another bridge playing couple to join us, but we also play bridge with islanders when possible.

St Maarten/St Martin is the smallest land mass shared by two larger nations. The southern part is the Dutch side and the northern part is the French side. The story of how the island got divided between the two is still part of the island's legend. The legend has it that a Frenchman and a Dutchman stood back to back and started walking around the island. Where they met again was to be the other side of the border between the two. However the French ended up with more territory than the Dutch because the Dutchman's progress was slowed by the quantity of liquor he imbibed along the way.

To this day the island is still divided between the two nations with only flags and monuments to mark the

PRESIDENT *continued on page 13*

### Bridge in a Day

by Rob Preece, Unit 557

Bridge is the ultimate card game—a combination of mental exercise, partnership, social engagement, and fun. For prospective players, though, there's a perceived hurdle. It takes a long time to get good enough to actually play. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a quicker way? Wouldn't it be great if people could learn bridge in... a day? Wouldn't it be wonderful if people could try Bridge without having to commit to multiple weeks of classes?

That's the question we've asked ourselves in Unit 557 (Long Beach), and that's a question the teachers at

BIAD *continued on next page*

## New National Committee Members

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



One of the responsibilities I have as District Director is to nominate District 23 members to the National Charity Committee and the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee. This year I am proud to announce the following nominations.

Penny Barbieri and Betty Jackson have been appointed to the Aileen Osofsky Goodwill Committee. Penny, from the Pomona-Covina Unit has been the ALACBU vice president and works the Hospitality Desk at all of our Regionals. She arrives more than an hour before game time and hangs around after the session to make sure all questions are answered. Working right next to her for many years is Betty Jackson. Betty, from the Long Beach Unit, has been the District's Partnership Chair for many years. She also arrives more than an hour early to begin arranging partnerships for our players. It is a strenuous task but Betty has mastered it. Our District is lucky to have these two very hard working volunteers.

Vic Sartor and Cordell Goode, both from the Pomona-Covina Unit garner special recognition for their hard work this past June leading their Unit in raising thousands of dollars for the Longest Day program ACBL sponsored with the National Alzheimer's Association. Their dedication to the cause made them perfect choices for the National Charity Committee.

DIRECTOR *continued on next page*

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WhirlWind Bridge asked as well. At the Atlanta Nationals last summer, they answered it to the affirmative—hundreds of new players turned out to learn the game. They had fun, played Bridge and plan on coming back for more. Seeing that, the ACBL Education Foundation offered a grant to bring the Learn Bridge in a Day? around the country. Our unit recognizes the need for new players and was quick to submit an application... with a hard push from Rand Pinsky and the Los Angeles District. A few days after we submitted, the Education Foundation contacted us... we were selected.

The idea of the “Learn Bridge in a Day” program is to bring new players (as well as players who haven’t played in years or decades) to the game in a non-threatening, fun and low-commitment way. Rather than demand that they sign up for an eight-week class, they’re exposed to enough bridge in one day to let them have fun and make an informed decision on whether it’s the game for them. They’re thrown into play, bidding and scoring, and having a good time. They’re given enough Bridge knowledge to let them play with an experienced partner, sign up for more classes or just have fun with no attempt to make them experts in one day.

Our Learn Bridge in a Day? program will be held at the Long Beach Bridge Center (4782 Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach) on January 26, 2014 between 10:00 and 3:30 (lunch provided). The cost to the student is \$20 which is a great deal. But anyone referred by you, our fellow members of District 23, gets a \$10 discount—the entire day, including lunch, for ten bucks. We really hope you’ll consider letting your non-bridged friends about the program or, better yet, buy them the class as a holiday gift.

Prospective students or gift-givers can make reservations (required) at 562-498-8113—and be sure to ask for the discount.

One of the goals of this program is to get participants enthused enough to sign up for standard classes so any teachers in the area, please contact us with your schedules so we can share these. All District 23 clubs, please send me your newcomer schedules. We’ll include this information in the goodie-bags we’re putting together for students. Contact me at [robprece2@hotmail.com](mailto:robprece2@hotmail.com)

### Southern California Bridge News

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### Phoenix Board Meeting

The most interesting items on the agenda for Phoenix are two motions before the Bridge Committee, which I sit on, having to do with the ACBL Mid-Chart. The first motion seeks to amend the Mid-Chart by clarifying its use in all unrestricted Flight A sectionally or regionally-rated or KO brackets which contain no team with an average masterpoint holding of less than 1500. This motion was suggested by the national Competition & Conventions Committee.

The second motion seeks to move from the Mid-Chart to the opening Bids section of the ACBL General Convention Chart that “Opening two hearts or two spades showing a weak two bid with a “four-card minor”.

Finally, the 2014 Budget will be received by the Board. In budget review sessions, which I was a part, the Finance Committee was working to try to avoid any large increases in dues and sanctions. It has been suggested by Management that another type of “Instant Match Point Game” be created as these types of games do generate substantial income to the League.

It is a Different View from Dummy

As the holiday season is upon us, Kathy and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And, please let me know if your Unit is holding a holiday party as we would like to attend as many of them as possible.

Remember, you can always reach me at [Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net)

# Around the Units in District 23

## Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

Ms. Barbara Shuping, a wonderful Lancaster resident for many decades, has returned to playing bridge at the club after completing the agonizing journey of placing her husband in an adult living facility. She has moved into a new home and visits her husband often, but it was a tough road that she traveled.

Clinical psychologists guide their clients through life's challenges, and for many, the holidays are a very difficult challenge as they remember the great days gone by. I hope that each of our bridge clubs recognizes that they are a tiny community and reaches out to its members this holiday season to help combat loneliness.

I asked my personal clinical psychologist (desperately needed after this exciting year in Unit 556) what I should do as age saps so many of my capabilities. He advised me as follows. "Well Brad, government has been doing such a splendid and honest job, you should follow the example set by Edward G. Robinson in that great American love story, 'Soylent Green.' Check yourself into Obamacare so that you may rest in peace **quickly**. Carrying you has really gotten to be a load on the system"

The Lancaster club continues to struggle to survive, but much to the dismay of a few in Antelope Valley, the club is still hanging on. A new unit board will be elected at the January Rand Pinsky gala in Santa Clarita where the torch will be passed, just as many of the prior board members exit the unit.

Rita, Paula, and Kathy continue to work hard to offer quality environments for bridge. For some, "all for the betterment of bridge" is not just an empty platitude, but a daily reality.

Paula's club saw George MacDonald and Russ Buker win twice last month. Anita Walker-Ken Ross, Vibeke Gilbreath-Ruth Baker, Basant Shah-Paula Olivares, Nell Schanz-M. Eileen Engels and Bert Stock-Bill Brodek Jr. also chalked up wins.

Rita's club saw the partnership of Marguerite

Pinkers- Bert Stock win twice last month. The partnerships of Jackie Moor-Rosemary Frankain and Basant Shah-Lamonte Johnson, Aggi Oschin-Paula Charnock-Millar also garnered wins. A special congratulations must go out to Aggi Oschin who has seen her game make huge progress this past year, topped off (so far) with a big win in the Unit game partnered with Nell Schanz.

Rand's club saw Lamonte Johnson-Markle Vandervort bag three wins last month. Ted Maki-George Macdonald. Karen Frazer-Shari Elais, Tom Shudic-Elaine Moore, Arif Shah-Roshun Hadulla, Rand Pinsky-Alene Friedman, Tom & Barbara Jones, Ruth Baker-Carol Provost and Rosemary Frankain-Betty Pavey round out the winners circle.

The Nationals in Phoenix and the popular Palm Springs Regional start out December with a bang.

## Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

December Unit Game & Holiday Party

December 14, 2013

Lunch at noon, game at 1:00, \$15.00

**Important notice:** Beginning in January 2014, all Saturday games, including Unit Games, will begin at **noon** instead of 1:00. For the Unit Games, brunch will begin at 11:15 and will continue to be a catered affair.

Be sure to save Saturday, December 14 for our annual Holiday Party. A catered meal will consist of turkey, all the trimmings, and an obscene assortment of desserts. As usual, there will be a raffle of goodies and we will also be collecting bears for the Children's Court in Monterrey Park. This courthouse services all children in Los Angeles County. Children of all ages are held away from the courtrooms until it is their turn. Older children receive books and the younger ones are given bears (like a security blanket). They are able to take the bears home with them, so there is a constant

→

replacement need.

Our November Unit game featured Honeybaked ham, scalloped potatoes, green beans, salad, and desserts. Results were as follows:

N/S

A1	Madelon Liebman & Helen Malzer
A2/3	Caroline Cohen & Tim Lolli
A2/3	Mike Marcucci & Gitta Earll
A4	John Barrow & Karen Arase
A5	Bernie Mateer & Peter Szecsi
B1	Eva Seri & Lyle Wiedeman
B2	Gloria Balfour & Carol Lessin

E/W

A1	Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A2	Jack Futrell & Rae Murbach
A3 B1	Temo Arjani & Robert Novell
A4	Roshen Hadulla & Carol Provost
A5 B2 C1	Ann Raymond & Bill Martin
B3	Betsy Josias & Nancy Lyon
C2	Bob Hogan & Fay Chu

We extend our condolences to John Villalobos and his family on the loss of his father. And we welcome Gloria Balfour back to the bridge table after an extended medical leave.

Please join us for our annual Holiday Party on December 14.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)

club website: [www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

**October 27 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Steve and Charlotte Sturm, 2nd Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle, 3rd April and John Berg, 4th Pamela Cole/John Killian, 5th Joan Kaye/Renee Alpert, 6th Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu. In the B flight overall: 5th Kevin Lane/Robert Shore, 6th Lina and Simon Cheng. In the C flight overall Liang Fan/Xingping Kang were 5th. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games** in the club October 16 through November 15: In the open game Oct 17 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger had 70.24%. In the Wednesday evening Bridge Plus game Nov 6 Nancy Cunningham/Marie

Benson had 70%. And in the NLM game Wednesday evening Nov 11 Sharon Biederman/Joyce Henderson had 73.21%. Congratulations to all three pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards** October 16 through November 15: Winning 1st in open games Oct 21 Loren Hilf/Baum Harris won 3.14mp, Oct 22 Lois Abramson/Lina Cheng won 3.79mp, Oct 23 Fern Dunbar/Rob Preece won 3.14mp, Oct 24 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 3.03mp. On Oct 25 John Crabtree/Toni Morford won 6.05 for 1st, Mark Tang/Lowell Andrews 4.88mp for 2nd, Kevin Lane/Mark Teaforde 3.66mp for 3rd, Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein 3.09mp for 4th. Oct 26 Bob Mault/Pamela Cole won 3.03mp for 1st. In the Unit Game Oct 27 Charlotte and Steve Sturm won 4.68mp for 1st, Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan 3.51mp for 2nd, April and John Berg 3.10mp for 3rd. Congratulations to all!

**New Members:** Nancy Cunningham, Claudia Norwood and William Power. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New Club Master: Laurence Gresko. New Sectional Master: Jerry Reid. New NABC Master: Jerome Smith. And New Life Master: Cooie Dampman. Congratulations to you all!

**Condolences** to the family and friends of Steve Warner and Bea Bralliar, both of whom passed away earlier this month.

**Get Well Wishes** to Gary Paugh and Steve Skinner

**Upcoming Events at the Club:** November 24 Unit Game is a potluck. The Unit will provide two turkeys and a ham. Players should bring a side dish or make a donation to the Long Beach Women's Shelter. Potluck begins at 12:30, game begins at 1pm. The next Unit Game is December 22. Lunch at 12:30, game begins at 1pm.

## News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson.

**70% Games:** On October 13 Bee Kinman and Howard Smith had a 71.42% game. On October 17 Eileen Nelson and Bill Linskey had a 70.14% game.

**Club Championship Results:** November 2—Clubhouse #1 Overall winners: A1 and B1 Joyce Henderson/Colleen Gardner. A2 Linda Carder/Jaye Woodington. A3 Bee Kinman/Eileen Nelson. A4 Linda Nye/John Wong. B2 Joyce Basch/Stam Blitz. B3 Lottie Kostar/George Koehm.

**Halloween Party:** On October 31 we had some unusual guests at our very large game (17 tables) →



at Clubhouse #3. A few were not recognized by their regular partners and opponents until they spoke!! Thanks to Larry Slutsky, Ted Wieber and the other board members for the great BBQ dinner following our game.

New 'Last Minute' Phone Number: After 12:00—Clubhouse #3 Mondays or Thursdays call if you have signed up and will be late or have to cancel at the last minute. Call Club manager at (562) 293-8358. Also, if you are available to fill in at the last moment, please call this number.

Clubhouse #1—After 12:00 Friday and Saturday if you need to contact the Club Manager at Clubhouse #1 call (562) 431-6586

ext 381 for cancellations, late arrival or availability

**Upcoming Club Championship Dates:** Clubhouse #3 Dec. 16

If you have any news for next month's column, please e-mail me at [jcj90740@gmail.com](mailto:jcj90740@gmail.com). Results of all Leisure World games are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)

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](mailto:jyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marie Nimmrich

Unit Holiday Party  
Sunday 15 December 12 at noon

Last week I was driving to the doctor's office, when en route I passed the Arcadia Bridge Center. A bridge game was starting (It was shortly before 11:00 a.m.), and I thought to myself: "Wouldn't it be a great idea to disregard the doctor, make a u-turn and head on in to the bridge game?" There would be friendly faces and a pleasant greeting from Diane (Art would be in the lesson room.). And then everyone would sit down to a challenging game of bridge. Such a placid, peaceful way to spend a few hours of the day. Alas, I did not treat myself to such a diversion. But it struck me that bridge offers more than a few hours of entertainment. There are friendships to be made and sustained; there is mental stimulation to keep the brain cells active; there is an engrossment from the cares and vicissitudes of life. There is also the feeling of "getting it right" which follows good card play. We need these adjuncts in our lives. Blessed are the people who play bridge!

Most people obey Law 7B(2) from the Laws of Duplicate Bridge. But there are some, like your writer, who do not. Law 7B(2) states that "Each player counts his cards face down to be sure he has exactly 13." This law may seem trivial; and it is, indeed, difficult to enforce. However, a flagrant example of disregarding this most basic rule happened a few weeks ago at a →

### Ventura 299er Sectional in Camarillo

January 18-19, 2014

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Points

Silver  
Points

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**Saturday, Jan 18**

10:00 A.M. & 3:00 P.M.  
Single Session 299er Pairs

Speaker at 2:15 P.M.

  
**Sunday, Jan 19**

10:00 A.M. & 3:00 P.M.:  
Single Session 299er Pairs  
3:00 P.M.: 299er Swiss Teams (1 Sess.)

Speaker at 2:15 P.M.

Unit 547 Sanction # SN1401119

Director In Charge: Tom Ciacio  
Tournament Chair: Bob Gruber  
(805-983-7178;  
[yubridge@aol.com](mailto:yubridge@aol.com))



Partnerships: Susan Lang  
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Monday game in San Marino. Phil and Ann were north/south. And they bid and made a grand slam on the very first hand of the afternoon. Imagine their pleasure. The next round was called and the boards were passed. The director was shortly called. North had 14 cards and east had 12. Back to Phil, who was sitting north, to see what card he did not have. Alas, he had played the hand with 14 cards. There was no way to rectify the fact that neither he nor the east player had counted their cards. So the slam was forfeited. The hand was redealt and hopefully Phil learned a lesson. And maybe you readers will respect this law and count your cards before viewing them.

Several years ago—in fact many years ago—Art Gulbrandsen issued some rules regarding bridge and the Olympic games. I wish I had the newsletter in which he stated these conditions. He offered prizes, such as a trip to the Olympics, a gold medal, etc. for outstanding feats that could probably never be accomplished. However, one of his dictates was to offer a free play to anyone who won 10 games in a row at the Bridge Center. It sounded impossible. Ten in a row. Just another of Art's dream prizes. But, it was lately discovered that someone did indeed win ten games in a row at the Bridge Center and Art honored that accomplishment with a free play. And the winner was Herman Helber. He did this a couple of years ago. I don't think too many people were aware of this distinction. Last week on Thursday, he won up to nine games. But on Saturday, he was second and so must begin the win streak again. Peter Szecsi also has come close to winning ten games in a row. I think he said he made it to eight. They have a super partnership. Everyone wants to sit in the opposite direction because odds are that they will win.

Speaking indirectly about Art Gulbrandsen; he had a rare accomplishment which is much admired. Art ran in and finished the New York Marathon. He ran (and walked some) over 26 miles. He was wearing a medal the size of a saucer. Congratulations, Art.

November Unit Game: On to more mundane matters. Attendance was up at our last unit game and we were glad to see some new faces. Ron Moeckel and Ann Banta were number one and were rewarded with free plays as well. Second were Bernie Mateer and Peter Szecsi; third were Shiu-Ming Huang and Amr Elghamry; fourth were Frank and Carole Grant.

We enlisted two new members into our unit at the November Unit Game. Liang Fan and Jack Futrell have joined Unit 559. Welcome to you both.

**New Members:** Besides the abovementioned, we also welcome Janice Mangerind, Richard Siefert and Xuhong Zhou.

Next Unit Game: Sunday 15 December an event will take place that you do not want to miss. It involves bridge, dinner and bridge. Unit 559 presents its annual Christmas Holiday Party to be held at the Arcadia Community Center. I call it our Christmas Party, which it was so named for years, because that is the theme of the party. Yes, you will enter a Christmas wonderland at the Arcadia Center. A big lighted Christmas tree will greet you along with several of our distinguished board members. Inside the playing area will be red and green decorations, symbolic of Christmas ever since I can remember. And Julio might even be there with his Santa Claus hat. It is not too late to get your tickets for only \$35.00. This is an item which has not, contrary to present circumstances in our society, been raised in price. It includes a bridge pairs event in the afternoon, a catered dinner by Chef's Restaurant and a swiss team game in the evening. Tickets can be purchased from any and all board members. Please don't miss this special event of the holiday season.

Noteworthy News: It is with a feeling of such happiness to see Nancy Nakanishi back at bridge after recuperating from surgery. Nancy, you are truly a beautiful person.

Marion Miller and Janet Bennett left on a week long cruise today for Mexico. Was it a bridge cruise? I am sure I was told but memory does not serve me well these days.

There is a rumor (and mind you, it is just a rumor) that the Friday morning game at San Marino will be moved to Wednesday mornings after the first of the year. Only Cathy Martin knows for sure and can enlighten us.

I wish you all a blessed and peaceful Christmas season (Hanukkah has already passed, unfortunately). Until next time,

Pax vobiscum

**Pomona Covina**  
by Tom Lill

Unit Game: Saturday, December 21, 11:00 a.m.  
Individual: Saturday, December 7, 9:30, LaVerne  
site

→

In game news, October Unit game overall champions were Bill Papa – James Griffin, followed by Amr Elghamry – Shiu-Ming Huang, Clinton Lew – Patricia Radamaker, David and Susan Ruoff, and Anand and Kiran Kumar. The November Individual was captured by Steve Mancini, followed by Paul Chrisney, with Bob Kakade, Larry Clark, and Tom Lill all tying for third. The November Unit game was captured by Amr Elghamry – Shiu-Ming Huang, narrowly edging out Vic Sartor – Hans Henke. Next in line, and first in flight B were Sandra Rucker – Ann Raymond. Homer Wallace – Stuart Bates took top honors in flight C.

Our Unit was well represented among the top finishers at the Long Beach sectional, at least in the 299er games. (Note, in the bracket designations given, I'm translating to A-B-C from E-F-G, for clarity.) The Kumars took a first in C, a second in A, and some other assorted placings to bring home 7.16 silver points, the top finish from our Unit. Larry Clark took a second in A, and in the Swiss, the team of Judy and Marty Husted, Peggy Diller, and Linda Hedden took second in A.

The top game this month was a paltry 73.65% by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa, just edging out Amr and Shiu-Ming at 72%. Other winners included Lu and Fredy Minter, Dave Ruoff, Clint Lew, Walt Otto, Ken Bloomfield, Sue Ruoff, Charlotte Capelle, Kurt Trieselmann, Don Naf, Herb Stampfl, Denise Morgan, Hans Hehnke, Hanan Mogharbel, Barbara Killebrew, and Richard Patterson.

The January Individual game (scheduled for January 4) will be a "FUND" game. What this means to you is that it will be paying enhanced master points at no extra cost. A portion of the entry fees go toward supporting our Unit's Grand National Teams entries. And in case you missed it, our District's Flight C team brought home first prize this year.

Promotions this month:

Peggy Diller to Junior Master

Judy Husted and Anand Kumar to Club Master

Kiran Kumar to Sectional Master

We have two somewhat interesting hands for you this month. Not the usual sort, however...

In the finals of a regional knockout, you find yourself dealing and looking at:  
 ♠QT987532 ♥AK9 ♦none ♣QJ

Well? 12 HCP and two quick tricks, but that club holding is nauseating and the long suit is a bit porous. Oh well, you open 1♠, figuring the auction surely won't end there. Indeed it doesn't. LHO calls 3NT. Pass, pass, to you. 4♠ is obvious, of course – LHO surely has a potful of diamonds and a spade honor or two (or three). BUT – here's the zinger. Partner went into the tank a long time before passing. Can you call 4♠ now? You know you will get a director call. What do you do?

Oh well, you call 4♠ anyway, figuring there is no logical alternative. You indeed get the director call, "play on," the usual.

You make 12 tricks. Partner comes down with ♠KJx (LHO has the bare ace), ♥Qxxx, ♦Txxx, ♣Ax. As expected, the ♣K is on side.

The ruling? From the Director: "I shopped this →



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hand around. No one passes 3NT.” Result stands. Flat board – identical auction at the other table, without the huddle. 3NT is only down one.

Our second hand is an opening lead problem. You are treated to this auction by the opponents:

RHO	LHO
1NT	2♥ (transfer)
2♠	3NT
pass	

And you have to find a lead from: ♠9653 ♥KJT ♦75 ♣AQ43

At IMPs, no problem— you lead the obvious ♣3 and hope to catch partner with Kxx or better.

But it's matchpoints. Let's look further. RHO has 16 HCP, give or take. LHO has not fewer than 9, and could have as many as 15. Add in your 10, and partner is left with anywhere from 0 to 6. The odds of a favorable club holding are not promising, are they?

At every table but one, the obvious club was led. Dummy came down with the maximum, 15 HCP. With declarer holding ♣KTx, 10 or 11 tricks rolled home. A heart lead would have been equally futile. At the one maverick table, the ♦7 was led, and with a passive return at every opportunity, declarer was held to 9 tricks for a clear top. (A spade lead would have worked equally well in this case, but might have picked up partner's Qx, making it not such an attractive lead.)

Sometimes you just gotta throw those bridge maxims out the window and do what your brain tells you. It's an easy game, really. (In our dreams, of course.)

Quote for the month: “There are three kinds of lies: lies, damned lies, and statistics.” (Mark Twain)  
Until next month ...

## Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: [www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568](http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568)

SBBC: [www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc](http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc)

### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Tuesday, December 3, 11:30 am  
Unit Christmas Party: Sunday, December 8, 1:00 pm  
Club Championship, Monday, December 9, 7:00 pm  
Club Championship: Friday, December 13, 11:30 am  
Great Western STAC: Monday, December 16 thru  
Saturday, December 21

Handicapped Swiss Teams Tuesday Evenings (\$2)  
Friday Night games on December 6 and 20

### Unit Christmas Party

The Torrance South Bay unit Christmas party is scheduled for Sunday, December 8 at 1:00 p.m. Food will be served at noon. The game will be stratified pairs. Reservations are requested either at the club or by email at [unit568news@yahoo.com](mailto:unit568news@yahoo.com).

### Club Championships

The Club Championship on October 23 saw Roberta Brown/Joan Stillwell sweep Flights A,B and C. The NLM Club Championship on November 14 was won by Nancy Collinge/Betsy Miller in Flight A and Ralph Vidal/Jamila Malikyar in Flight B.

The Club Appreciation Championship on October 21 at Veterans Park was won by Judith and James Scott in Flights A and B. The Club appreciation Championship at the same venue on October 23 was won by David Cheshire/Joyce Nakasaki in Flight A with Betty Williams/Susan Hoose taking Flight B and Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman on top in Flight C. The Club Appreciation Championships on October 25 at Anderson Park saw Bill Malcolm/Florence Niwa winning Flight A and Margie and Chuck Thorell leading Flight B in the afternoon game. The evening game was led by Larry Harris/Bruce Horiguchi in Flight A with Barry and Rachel Simon winning Flight B.

### Team Winners

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

October 22: Luis Gamio, Mike Savage, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

October 29: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

November 5: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

November 12: Gaye Herrington, Bruce Horiguchi, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

### Milestones

Sadly it is reported here that Bea Brailiar →



passed away in November after a battle with cancer. All of our condolences go to her husband John who was her oftentimes partner. They piled up a very credible record of Bridge successes over the years. Bea and John were regulars at the South Bay Bridge Club for many years. I first remember playing Bea at the old King's club back in the 70's. We all will miss her cheery demeanor at the table.

### **Torrance Regional**

The following list mentions unit members who were first overall in events played at the recent Torrance Regional.

Monday Afternoon Charity Pairs:  
Flight A) Gaye Herrington/Lucy Tredennick

Monday Afternoon 299er:  
Flights D & E) Elizabeth Biggins/Catherine King  
Flight F) Christopher and Sally Earnest

Tuesday Morning Swiss Teams:  
Flt A) Bill McClean

Tuesday Morning 299er Pairs:  
Flights D & E) Freda Main/Madge London

Tuesday Morning Swiss Teams:  
Flight B) Linda Dillon, JoAnne Puleo, Laura Gastelum

Tuesday Afternoon 299er Pairs:  
Flight D) Marie Lynch/Marilyn Skolich  
Flight E) Joyce Klossner/Roberta Brown  
Flight F) Kathleen Keller/George Davall

Kickoff KO Teams: Ed Davis

Wednesday Morning 299er Pairs:  
Tie Flight D) Hugh Parker/Stan Corbett and Georgeann Dorn/Kathleen Johnston

Wednesday Afternoon Side Game:  
Flights A & B) James Hieatt/Thomas Robinson

Wednesday Afternoon 299er Pairs:  
Flights D & E) Marie Lynch/Marilyn Skolich

Wednesday Afternoon 49er Pairs:

Flight G) Joanne and James Deflon  
Flights H & I) Jaqueline Keenan/Laura Gastelum  
Wednesday Compact KO Bracket 2: Bill MCClean

Tuesday/Wednesday KO team  
Brackett 1: Bruce Horiguchi/John J. McDermott

Thursday Afternoon Side Game :  
Flights B & C) Lilyan Frank, Ernie Frank

Thursday Evening 299er Pairs:  
Flights D & E) Joyce Klossner/Roberta Brown  
Flight F) Jeff Grotenhuis/John Meek

Thursday A/X Swiss:  
Flight X) Alfred Lee

Thursday 0-2000 Teams  
Bracket 1: JoAnne & Cal Waller, Hank Sheehan, Bob Bacharach

Friday 299er Pairs:  
Flights D, E, F) Dave and Chris Larsen

Friday Afternoon Side Game:  
Flights A & B) Kim Wang/John Williams

Friday Evening 299er Pairs:  
Flights D & F) Joanna Jones Reed/Ron Prando

Saturday Morning 299er Pairs:  
Flight D) Kathleen Shinkle/James Deflon

Saturday Side Game Series:  
Flight B) Kim Wang/Chein-San Han

Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs:  
Flight D) Colleen Bilas

Saturday Gold Rush Pairs:  
Flight 3) Joanna Wallis/Nanci Schultz

Saturday Compact KO Bracket 2: Bill McClean

Saturday Evening Side Game:  
Flight A) Ray Mack/Fran Israel

Sunday A/X Swiss Teams:

Bruce Horiguchi/John J. McDermott

Sunday 0-2000 Swiss Teams

Bracket 1 Steve Ramos, Neil Kleiner

### GUV Memorial Award

An unusual pairing occurred in the A/X Swiss on the final day of the recent Ventura Regional. I was paired with Bruce Horiguchi. Bruce had won more masterpoints than anyone else at the tourney. I probably had won fewer than anyone else at the tourney. Well we did well enough for Bruce to hold his position as number one and for me to escape the cellar. Bruce modestly attributed his success to a lot of dumb luck and it continued through this Swiss. In a match against a reknowned Pro Bruce picked up ♠AQTx ♥Qxx ♦-- ♣AQJTxx and opened 1♣. I held ♠K ♥9xxx ♦AKQT ♣Kxxx and responded 1♥.

Bruce then made a somewhat pushy game forcing jump shift to 2♠. I temporized with 3♣ and Bruce tried 3♥. With my 15-count facing a jump shift it looked like we had a slam so I wheeled out 1430 Blackwood. I had

no intention of playing hearts but apparently this was the Key card suit. Bruce made the somewhat inconvenient response of 5♠ so I was committed to a slam off 2 keycards. Luckily we had bid hearts enough that the Pro didn't lead one. So we took an easy 12 tricks gaining a bunch of IMPs and winning the match by a full IMP. The pro took it very well and Bruce said I kept a very straight face during the quick play. He also said that one hand was worth the card fees.

I once coined the term Roger' Rule in honor of Roger Clough who suggested that when you are defending and a suit is led that you have an unexpected void in then you should discard a suit of the same color. A play Roger made using his rule enabled a team I was on to win a Board-a-Match some number of years ago.

I would now like to honor Bruce by naming a new rule the "Bruce slam lead avoidance rule." Basically this rule says if you are trying to avoid the lead of a particular suit, you and partner should bid and raise that suit before retreating to 6NT.

Na Zdrowie

→



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Director-in-Charge  
Sanction 1402035

## West LA by Robert Shore

### L'Chaim, by Mark Twain

In last month's column, we reported the passing of Irena Hak. Subsequent to publication, we learned that rumors of Ms. Hak's passing appear to have been greatly exaggerated. Our apologies to Ms. Hak, and to her friends and family for any unnecessary concern we may have caused. We look forward to continuing to enjoy her company.

### Nice to Know Someone Reads Us

A number of people remarked to us that the report from the Torrance Regional was missing from last month's column. That was a feature, not a bug. With rare exceptions, my cutoff for inclusion in a column is the 15th of the prior month. Torrance, which concluded on October 20, was always slated for our December column. As another example, the report on our Unit's Holiday Party will have to await next month's column.

This report was worth the wait, because we have a ton of winners to report. We kicked off the tournament in grand fashion when our Unit's team of Susan Coggins, Leslie Bracker, Barbara Fisher-Freeman, and Ira Thierer won the Monday afternoon 299er Charity Swiss Teams event. Paula Nataf and Brian Richardson kept things going Monday evening by winning the Charity Pairs event, while E. Johnson and Faustina Floyd won the Charity 299er Pairs.

Ken Okel and Jim Brunet won the Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs event in their rush to render themselves permanently ineligible for Gold Rush events. Bill Wickham's team won the Kickoff Knockout Teams. On Wednesday, David Pelka, Alan Daniels, and Bill McClean won their bracket of the Compact Knockout Teams. Roger and Becky Clough won the A/X Swiss Teams event on Thursday. After a day of rest, we returned to the Winner's Circle Saturday in a big way. Robert and Ellen Kent teamed with Peter Benjamin to win the Compact Knockout Teams event, while Bill McClean again won his bracket of the same event. Your Humble Scribe added a contribution by winning the Saturday A/B Pairs event. We closed the books on Torrance when Peter Knee and Mike Mikyska won the Sunday A/X Swiss.

## North, South, and East of Eden

Believe it or not, Torrance was not the only tournament where we had winners last month. Looking first to the north, Roger and Becky Clough won the Santa Barbara Compact Knockout Teams event, while the Terrors of Flight B, Joel Schiff, Bill Rogers, Rick Turner, and Alyssa Kennedy, added the Sunday B/C/D Swiss to their growing collection of wins. This reporter, for one, looks forward to them joining the big leagues.

In a similar vein, looking south to the Long Beach Sectional, Myrna Blaufarb's team took advantage of the 3000 point limit to crush their competition in the Sunday B/C/D Swiss. The team's performance was so dominant that they had the event one before the fifth round (of six) was half over.

Turning now to the east, Alan and Sherie Schneider teamed with Mauricio and Lidia Epelbaum to with the Friday afternoon Swiss at the Palm Desert Sectional. At the same tournament, Mike and Leslie Mikyska picked up a win in the Sunday A/X Swiss.

### Back on the Horse

Our condolences go out to the friends and family of Geri Rosen on the occasion of her passing. Anyone (including this reporter) who ever encountered Geri at the table cannot help but remember her unfailing good cheer. Arriving at Geri's table was always a bright spot in my day, and she will be missed.

Cyma Aronow announces that she will hold a Memorial Game in honor of her late husband, Jerry, on Tuesday evening, January 14, 2014. Please join me in showing our respect and affection for Cyma and Jerry by giving her as big a turnout as she can handle.

### The Only Chance

This month's hand comes from the Torrance Regional, where my partner and I were fortunate to enjoy a good result on our way to victory. In second seat with all red at matchpoints, you hold: ♠9 ♥4 ♦AK9863 ♣KQ985. The bidding starts with a pass and you open 1♦. LHO doubles and partner chimes in with 1♠. RHO now enters the action with 3♥. Right or wrong, you trot out your second suit with 4♣ and LHO again finds his red card. Partner pulls to 4♦ and after a long break, RHO hits it, for the final contract: pass-1♦-double-1♠, →

3♥-4♣-double-4♦, double-all pass.

The opponents heard the auction too, so the opening lead is a trump and you're playing 4♣ doubled with the following collection:

Dummy: ♠KT532 ♥Q832 ♦Q52 ♣4

Declarer: ♠9 ♥4 ♦AK9863 ♣KQ985.

You're going to lose two major suit aces and club strength rates to be behind you so the defense will probably be able to negotiate at least one more trump lead before you can start ruffing clubs. So how do you plan to avoid losing two clubs?

There's really only one realistic chance — an intrafinesse. Win the first trump on dummy and lead a club from dummy, inserting the 9. It loses, as expected, to the 10, and a second trump comes back, both opponents following. Now win this trump in your hand lead a spade toward the king, for an extra chance in case clubs break 5-2. The defense leads a heart through the queen and you ruff the second round. Now lead the club K for a ruffing finesse. You're hoping that RHO started life with Jx or Jxx, in which case the jack will fall under the KQ and your club spots will be good. That is, in fact, the layout, so 4C CCdoubled comes home.

Why do I say this was lucky? Because I was one of the defenders and declarer wasn't able to find this line. Plus 200 was worth 14 matchpoints out of 17. Minus 710 would have been a cold bottom.

### Welcome Mat

I don't know whether the game is growing, but our Unit sure must be. Please help me extend the welcome mat to new members Arie Alkalay, Jamie Berger, Carolyn Brice, Leslie Dean, Harriet Finebaum, Eveline Ginzburg, Elizabeth James, Don Levine, Anita Miller, Karen Nieman, Nancy Polacheck, and Murray Salkin. Look for them at the table, and I'm sure we'll be seeing some of these names reported among our future winners.

### Around the Clubs

We'd like to start this edition of "Around the Clubs" by thanking Rhoda Himmell for her many years of service in tracking and reporting news, big games, and championships from the Beverly Hills Bridge Club. Rhoda has informed us that she will be stepping down

from this role. As Thomas Jefferson said about Benjamin Franklin when Jefferson took over as Ambassador to France, no one can replace her. But I'd surely appreciate it if someone would step up as her successor.

Beverly Hills saw Millie Fraider and Ludwig Uri turn in a 70% game. This month's club championships were won by Fran and Robert Malina, Diane Licht and Janet Cooper, Annie Corea and Mike Savage, and David Raphael and Richard Weinberger.

We also have a full week of Club Appreciation Month champions to report. Fran and Robert Malina picked up a win on Monday, as did your Humble Scribe and Myrna Blaufarb. Maria Pendergast and Joanne Minken-Levy were Tuesday's winners. Victors on Wednesday were Sandy Satlin and Roy Boucvalt and Rahim ("3NT") Israel and Lou Papp. On Thursday, Rahim made it two in a row, playing with Delia Juul-Dam. Rhoda and Lew Himmell won Friday's game, while Huguette Galante helped Rahim to his third win of the week on Saturday. Roger and Becky Clough brought the week to a close by winning Sunday's game.

Quite a few 70% games last month from Barrington. Hitting that mark were Aram Bedros, Art Zail, Dawn Lee, Jodie Rachmil, Chuck Maltz, Paul Smith, Dorothy Lank, Gloria Frankel, Sandy and Robert Carroll, Mike Kesten, Tom Oakley, Gil Stinebaugh, and Harvey Katz. Paul Smith and Chuck Maltz won two of Barrington's Club Appreciation Month championships. Adrienne Green and David Bohnett picked up the win in a third championship. The remaining games were won by Aram Bedros and Art Zail and by David Joseph and Peter Menotti.

### Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Myrna Frankel, Fred Roach, and Janice Ronci. Felice Levine, David Serbin, and William Sullivan are now Club Masters, while Marsha Bocan and Sue Hunter have become Sectional Masters. Achieving the rank of Regional Master were the fast-rising Marlene Felix, along with Barbara Wellisch.

Ken Bishop became a Life Master, and immediately achieved Bronze Life Master status. Farideh Sigari is now a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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



PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

border points. Each side has its own laws, but they have lived peacefully together for more than 300 years. Though the island covers a mere 37 square miles it features 37 beaches along 44 miles of coastline. Add great shopping and dining and you have the perfect sunshine getaway.

This year our guests were John and Susan Kissinger from San Clemente. We played bridge every evening after dinner. Monday nights on the French side and Wednesday on the Dutch side there is an official duplicate game which we enjoy attending. The game on the French side was a real challenge because we don't speak the language and the face cards and suits are different. Instead of K Q J, the French have R D V to represent the Roi, Dame and Valet. Instead of spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs, the French have piques, coeurs, carreaus and

treffles. We had several disasters due to mixing up the roi and the valet. But the players were warm and welcoming and invited us to come back next year.

Due to very special event on the Dutch side, we only got to attend their bridge game during our first week. During our second week, The Holland House where the duplicate game is played was closed for such activities due to a visit from King Willem-Alexander and wife Queen Máxima of the Netherlands. Though we never got to see them, we knew they were there because motorcades went back and forth to the airport daily and we stayed away from Phillipsburg, the capital of the Dutchside on the days celebrations were scheduled to avoid the traffic. However, we did attend the game the first week of our St. Maarten vacation. Because everyone speaks English, we had no problems except understanding their scoring. Two



Becky and Roger in the Caribbean

of the regular attendees of the Phillipsburg game was a couple from Michigan who spend 6 months in St. Maarten each year. We hope to see them soon at the nationals in Phoenix.



Beautiful California Weather

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# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

Panelists: Paul Ivaska, John Jones, Roger Lee, Jill Meyers, Rick Roeder, Michael Shuster, and John Swanson

# 1

IMPs  
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♥	pass	1NT*	2♣

\*forcing

You South hold: ♠AQ2 ♥AQT743 ♦K ♣QT2  
What call do you make? (double = takeout)

**IVASKA: Double.** My plan, if I may presume to call it that, is to remove (the likely) 2♦ to 2♥, hoping that partner will realize that I have better than a 2♥ rebid. If North raises to 3♥, I'll try 3NT. I admit that I'm relatively unfamiliar with this method, but it does seem to offer some extra sequences, so that a wider variety of holdings can be described.

**JONES: 2♠.** Reversing into 2♠ is certainly not perfect, but looks more accurate than an off-shape double or a very off-shape 2NT. 2♠ is more flexible than 3♥, and 2♥ is just not enough.

**LEE: 3♥.** Not sick enough for 2NT.

**MEYERS: 2♥.** Not enough for 3♥. Partner will play me for values or some other reason to bid freely.

**ROEDER: 2NT.** Bidding any number of hearts looks wrong when my ♣Q could get ruffed.

**SHUSTER: 2♥.** It is very close between this and

overbidding with 2NT. The auction makes it likely that no game is going to make; hearts is fraught with danger, and the club stop cannot be held up in notrump. White at IMPs is a good time to take conservative positions on close decisions. If anyone bids over this, I'll know exactly what action to take.

**SWANSON: 2♠.** I'm hoping for a heart preference. I'll bid 3NT on the next round. 2NT is possible but is an underbid by a queen or a king and suppresses the heart suit. 3NT is right on values but shows a better heart suit.

*Many bidding panel problems have no good answer, and the panelists' goal is to find the least bad action. This problem appeared originally in The Bridge World; a penalty double was awarded the top score. Most experts now play that double is takeout, so that option isn't available. I agree with the panelists who claim 3♥ should show a better suit. Hand transportation could be an issue, so I take the low road with 2♥.*



Woodland Hills, CA | February 17-23, 2014

2

IMPs  
all vul

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

\*does not promise extra values

You, South, hold: ♠Q ♥KJ ♦A432 ♣A98654  
What call do you make?

**IVASKA: 3♥.** I have an excellent mesh with partner, especially after 2♣, so I want to set the trump suit. If North has as little as ♠KJ10x, ♥AQxxx, ♦KQx, ♣7, admittedly a perfectly-fitting hand with an extra king or so, slam is almost laydown. King-jack doubleton is much better support than three small, with which people routinely raise. Of course, I won't go beyond game unless partner makes a move.

**JONES: 3♦.** 4th suit. Not 3♣, because I don't want to emphasize my clubs. I hope partner can rebid his hearts. *[That would be nice, but if partner is 4-5-2-2 with no diamond stopper, isn't he likely to bid 4♣?]*

**LEE: 2NT.** All other bids seem like a bigger distortion.

**MEYERS: 2NT.** My clubs are not good enough to rebid, and my diamonds are bad. We also may belong in hearts, and 2NT gives partner the best chance to describe his or her hand.

**ROEDER: 3♣.** A "stall." I don't wish to overstress a weak suit, but I dislike suggesting notrump prematurely if our only stopper in a suit is the ace.

**SHUSTER: 3♥.** My quick tricks, heart honors, and ruffing value all suggest making a strong suggestion for hearts to be trump. Additionally, my poor diamond spots mean that unless partner can bid notrump from his side, we may struggle to find nine tricks in 3NT.

**SWANSON: 3♥.** The minor suit aces along with good honors in partner's suits will be useful for slam if partner indicates extra values. My interest in notrump is minimal with the minor suit aces and spaces.

*I held this hand and chose (and regretted) to bid 3♣. Partner assumed my clubs were better and drove to 6♣. No slam was great, but 6♥ was much better than 6♣ and, in fact, made at the other table. In retrospect, I really like 3♥. Even though it normally promises three hearts, I think it's the bid most likely to get us to the right spot. 2NT would also have worked.*

## District 23 Rank Changes October, 2013

### Junior Master

Thomas Fisher  
Coral Goldsmith  
Darlene Hoy  
Ann Igawa  
Umesh Jindal  
Esther Johnson  
Joan Lawver  
Lila Levine  
Ubaldo Marson  
Rosalee McEntyre  
James Morrow  
Hanna Olson  
Hugh Parker  
Valerie Parrish  
Brigitte Prince  
Marilyn Rohlin  
Alfred Salido  
Charles Strathman  
Arden Watkin

### Club Master

Brenda Berland  
Cheri Bitar  
Zu Ming Cheng  
Julie Crum  
George Davall  
Christopher Earnest  
Sally Earnest  
Phoebe Evans  
Laura Gastelum  
Sue Gocke  
Rita Goodman  
Marty Husted  
E Johnson  
Beverly McLeod  
Ron Melnick  
Shelly Melnick  
Melanie Moran  
Paula Nataf  
S Peterson  
Stephen Rosen, Tony Smalarz  
Lois Snowden, Arnold Stein

continued on next page

3

MPs  
NS vul

South	West	North	East
	pass	pass	1♠
double	2♠	pass	3♠
?			

You, South, hold: ♠K ♥AQ963 ♦AKJ ♣AQ97  
What call do you make?

**IVASKA: Double.** The choice is between double and 4♥. 4♥ is too unilateral and will probably be a disaster if partner holds short hearts, which is not unlikely. I plan to try 4♥ over a minor suit response in case North has three hearts or a doubleton honor(s). I hope that North will realize that I don't have a one-suiter, because I didn't bid 4♥ directly over 3♠. Double also has the advantage of allowing us to defend 3♠ doubled if partner has a flat hand with a spade trick.

**JONES: Pass.** My hand is far better on defense than it is on offense. If double were penalties, I would choose it, but it is takeout. If we declare, we may have a very hard time reaching partner's hand. I want a plus score at matchpoint scoring.

**LEE: Double.** I'm going to bid 4♥ over partner's four of a minor to show suitability for five of a minor if partner thinks that's right.

**MEYERS: Double.**

**ROEDER: Double.** A third-seat white versus red opener can be quite enterprising, so partner may not be entirely broke. The harder decision will come when partner bids four of a minor. I think 4♥ is in order then. To bid that now is too committal as to strain.

**SHUSTER: 4♥.** I don't think I need to double first for partner to realize I have length in other suits, and doubling first introduces complications if partner advances 4♣. *[Will partner assume your hearts are longer/better?]*

**SWANSON: Double.** I assume 3♠ was alerted as preemptive, *[probably this treatment is not alertable, but certainly was intended as a blocking bid]*, but it really doesn't affect my bid. Double allows for play in any suit, including spades.

*On the actual hand, partner will bid 4♣ over double. Do you pass 4♣? If not, then I think it's either right to pass or bid 4♥ now.*

## District 23 Rank Changes (continued)

### Sectional Master

James Deflon, Peter Giotta  
Steve Goeden  
Joanna Jones-Reed  
Nancy Karnes, Catherine King  
Gayle Knapp, Chris Larson  
Dave Larson, Joseph Lieberman  
Pamela Morton, Richard Ruby  
Ronald Smith, Anita Walker

### Regional Master

Robert Brogan, Leslie Brucker  
Margie Bulmer  
Marilyn Daeschner  
Joyce Field  
Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten  
Shirley Knopf, Mary Landroth  
Frankee Victor, Elaine Wagner  
Katherine Weisberg, Al Zirkes

### NABC Master

Susan Bibby, Frona De Covnick  
Robert Glasser, Linda Krause  
Phil Rabichow  
William Raines  
Dianne Sax  
John Paul Shaby  
Roy Tomooka  
Karen Watson

### Adv NABC Master

Kenneth Okel

### Life Master

Leah Levitt, Carol Sherman  
Robert Sherman

### Bronze Life Master

Nona Stokes, Madhu Sudan

### Silver Life Master

Steve Ramos, Jr

### Diamond Life Master

Lucy Gellner



4

MPs  
nol vul

South	West	North	East
2♠ ?	pass	2NT*	3♣

\*asks for feature

You, South, hold: ♠KJ9642 ♥83 ♦AJ ♣962  
What call do you make?

**IVASKA: 3♦.** Partner asked for a feature, so I shall honor her/his request. It seems unlikely that North has a penalty double, and he may think that I don't have a feature if I pass. The knowledge that I have the diamond ace may be all North needs to bid a game or even a slam.

**JONES: 3♦.** Showing the requested feature.

**LEE: Pass.** I want a club card to double.

**MEYERS: 3♦.** In situations where my partner has "asked" me something, I like the bid I would have made if RHO had not interfered, assuming it's a legal bid, to retain the same meaning as if RHO had passed.

**ROEDER: 3♦.** This is a problem? *[Rick must be*

*channeling Al Roth, who was famous for responding with, "what's the problem?"]*

**SHUSTER: 3♦.** Partner asked for a feature, and I have one. The director must have something in mind here, but I can't guess at what it might be.

**SWANSON: 3♦.** Showing my feature.

I guess I should explain my motivation for including this "non-problem." It appeared in The Bridge World several years ago, and the responses were far from unanimous. 3♦ was the most frequent response, but double and pass were chosen by many. At matchpoints, East's bid could be simply lead-directing. I think 3♦ should be encouraging toward game, and three small clubs seems very discouraging to me.

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5

IMPs  
no vul

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

\*promises extra values

You, South, hold: ♠KJT3 ♥AKT74 ♦A3 ♣A4  
What call do you make?

**IVASKA: 6NT.** My first reaction was a quantitative, if a bit conservative (or even cowardly) 4NT, but then I reflected upon some typical hands partner might hold. For example, if he has something like ♠Qxx ♥xx ♦KQJxx ♣KQx, 6NT is as cold as the proverbial mackerel, but he'll instantly pass 4NT. So, I'll take the bull by the horns and bid what I think we can make. Without the major suit tens, a somewhat pusillanimous 4NT is advisable.

**JONES: 5NT.** Pick a slam. 4NT quantitative is possible on high cards, but this hand is too control-rich.

**LEE: 5NT.** My initial reaction was to bid 3♦ or 4NT, but many 12-counts have excellent play for slam, so I'm just going to force us there and ask partner to pick one.

**MEYERS: 4NT.** I have extra values.

**ROEDER: 3♦.** We are en route to at least 6NT, which is an OK bid if you are playing Fast Pairs. Maybe partner has five chunky diamonds; 3♦ caters to some hands where 13 tricks are more readily available in diamonds than in notrump. *[Maybe so, but how can partner know you have only two diamonds?]*

**SHUSTER: 4NT.** Too good for 3NT, not long enough diamonds for 3♦, and not quite strong enough to force slam.

**SWANSON: 4NT.** Was my result so poor on Problem 2 that I changed my system? *[We like to keep you on your toes.]* I still have extras, but not quite enough to force to slam. When fractional bidding is allowed, I'll try 4.25 NT. *[Good idea John, but that would make for some long auctions!]*

This is another hand that doesn't quite fit any bid. 5NT clues in partner that diamonds is a playable strain and still keeps 6♥ or 6NT in the picture.

*Thanks to our December panelists. Congratulations to Jill Meyers for recently adding a world championship to her impressive bridge resumé. Happy holidays to all, and may visions of sugarplum double squeezes dance in your heads.*

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*From John Jones, Problem Solver's Panel editor: We are just past Thanksgiving, but I'll express my thanks to the many people who help make this column a reality. I want to thank my editor, Jennifer Einberg, for her hard work and flexibility about my schedule. I wish to thank Leo Bell for co-moderating this column this year. I also wish to thank Jeff Goldsmith and Miriam Harrington, my frequent proofreaders. I especially want to thank all my panelists, without whom this column wouldn't exist. Finally, I wish to thank my readers, particularly those who have sent me difficult hands which I have been able to use as problems. If you wish to share a difficult problem, email me at johndjones44 at yahoo.com*