

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 49, #5

May 2013

Published By ALACBU

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A Bridge Invitation

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



We've been invited to a special ABA game to be held at the Los Angeles Bridge Unit on Sunday, June 2, 2013. The location is:

LA Bridge Unit  
134 N Market Street  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
310 672-7705

Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and the game begins at 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$10.00 and door prizes will be given. Reservations are recommended.

The ABA was founded in 1932 to provide African-American bridge players an opportunity to play duplicate bridge in a club environment. Unfortunately, in the early days of bridge, certain groups were excluded from exclusive clubs. In 1967, the ACBL amended its bylaws so that no person shall be denied membership because of race, color, or creed. The ABA remains a predominantly, but not exclusively, black organization. It holds two national tournaments each year. The ABA has its own masterpoint system. This is similar, but different, from the ACBL masterpoint system. Joint tournaments between the ABA and the ACBL are held in various parts of the United States. In my research for this column I came across the mission statement of the ABA. Part of the mission is to "provide challenging bridge games in an atmosphere of respect, tolerance, courtesy, kindness and friendship." Sure works for me.

My second topic this month centers on youth bridge in District 23. Saturday, April 6, 2013 was the 2nd Annual Los Angeles Scholastic Tournament held at the Barrington Bridge Club. A school bus brought 16 students, two parents, the principal and a teacher from Elizabeth Learning Center in East Los Angeles to play in the tournament. They were joined by four of this year's scholarship winners and other young players and interested adults for the 10-table game. Some of the

PRESIDENT *continued on next page*

## A New Grand Life Master

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Congratulations to Leo Bell who became a Grand Life Master last month during the Mesa Senior Regional.

### ABA / ALACBU Bridge Game

I have been told by Candy Scott that a bridge mixer will take place with the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Bridge Association. The game will take place on Sunday June 2. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and game time is 2:00 p.m. Card fees are \$10. The address for the game is 134 North Market St., Inglewood. The telephone number of the club is 310-672-7705. Please call the club for reservations and also let me know if you are going. From past experience, I know that the members do not dress casual for their games. I will be wearing a coat and tie.

## ALACBU Elections

Every two years during our July regional ALACBU holds elections for new officers. This July we are scheduled to hold our bi-yearly election. Our current officers are Becky Clough – President, Penny Barbieri – Vice President, Roger Clough – Treasurer, and Sheila Bozin – Secretary.

As chair of the Nominating Committee the bylaws state that I need a committee of five members of different units to serve. Anyone interested in serving on this committee please contact me immediately.

DIRECTOR *continued on next page*

## Inside This Issue

Balboa Sectional.....	page 6
District 23 Regional .....	page 3
GNT.....	page 16
Problem Solvers Panel.....	page 13
Torrance Sectional.....	page 5

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

students had just begun to learn the game, but they all played and had a good time. Back on campus, these students will continue to play bridge during recess and lunch breaks and twice a week after school.

The person responsible for all this is our very own John Jones who teaches at Elizabeth Learning Center. John began the bridge club on campus after teaching a six-week summer school class on bridge for which students earned math credits. The impetus for this bridge program was John's realization that District 23's Scholarship Program had had no applicants several years in a row. One of the requirements for an applicant is to have some connection

to bridge. In the past scholarship winners had been caddies or were related to a bridge player. Since the students at Elizabeth Learning Center do not come from bridge playing families, to be eligible to apply, they need to become bridge players. This year six of the scholarship winners came from the Elizabeth Learning Center.

John, age 60, began playing bridge in 1974. He became a life master in 1977 after winning the ACBL Master of the Year award for surpassing all records for masterpoints earned by a non life master. John has played in the Reisinger finals and five world championships.

John comes from a family of teachers but he did many other

things before becoming one himself. He has taught math in LAUSD for 25 years. Fifteen of those years have been at Elizabeth Learning Center, the other ten at South Gate Middle School. This year he has a unique position. He spends five periods a day working with kindergarten through fifth graders teaching computer skills. His sixth period is Honor Statistics for mostly seniors. Students in the class have to have passed advanced algebra to be admitted. John also coaches the Girls Varsity Softball Team. In 2012 John was appointed to the ACBL's Goodwill Committee for his work promoting youth bridge. He has coached students from both Cal Tech and UCLA for the ACBL Intercollegiate Tournament.

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 DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

Currently, Becky has volunteered to serve as president, Penny as vice president and Roger as treasurer. Sheila has decided not to run again for secretary. I want to thank her for undertaking this job for the past two years. In her place, Joan Rubin, a member of the San Fernando Valley Unit has volunteered to serve as secretary. If anyone wishes to run for office, please let me know. Also, if you know of anyone who will make a good officer, let me know. Besides officers, there are many committees on which one can serve.

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

By the time you read this Kathy and I will have returned from attending the Gatlinburg Regional. This is our first time there and if we were not going to share a cabin with our granddaughter, her husband, and our two great grandsons, we would not be going. Being great grandparents has its advantages.

Reach me at [Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net).



**LosAngelesRegional.com**

Tournament Manager:  
Peter Benjamin 310 720-6050

# Los Angeles Regional

at Long Beach

Looking for **Gold Points**? The entire tournament schedule is packed with **Gold Point** events including our newest game, the **Bracketed B Sunday Swiss** where the top three teams in each bracket of eight win **Gold Points**, and nobody in the bracket will have more than 2000 points. We also have four days of **Gold Rush Pairs** in which you can win **Gold Points** and nobody you play against will have more than 750 masterpoints.

## July 1 - 7, 2013



REVISED  
SCHEDULE!

### Highlights

Gold Rush games, 0-2000 Bracketed Swiss, Fast Pairs, 299er games & a 4-session Marshall Miles Swiss

Bracketed 0-2000 mp Sunday Swiss--no players over 2000 masterpoints and lots of Gold Point awards

Monday morning Free Lesson for 299ers

Monday afternoon Pro-Am Game

Early 10/3 Playing times on the Fourth of July so you don't miss the Fireworks!

Stratified games: 0-750/750-2000/2000+  
 Flight A/B and Flight A/X: 0-2000/2000+  
 Gold Rush: 0-100/100-300/300-750  
 Bracketed B Swiss: 0-2000

Knockout events with only one bracket may be handicapped



The Westin Long Beach

333 East Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, California 90802  
Telephone: 888 627-8403

The beach is a short walk from the hotel.

\$129 or \$149 w/breakfast  
Reserve by June 10  
LosAngelesRegional.com

### Partnerships

**Betty Jackson**  
562 594-4420 Before July 1  
626 665-0596 After July 1

Need a Partner? Need Teammates?  
Visit our on-line partnership desk at  
**LosAngelesRegional.com**

### Entry Fees

\$13.00 per session for all events  
\$15.00 for non-paid members or non ACBL members  
Players with 0-5 MP play FREE

Sanction #R1307014  
Gary Zeiger, Director in Charge

*Long Beach has many waterfront attractions, including a new, state-of-the-art aquarium with a fabulous shark exhibit, two excellent art museums, charming shops, and lots of recreational activities along its eight-mile stretch of beach.*

#### Monday, July 1, 2013

10:15: 299er Free Lesson

1:15 PM  
Pro Am Game  
Educational Foundation Stratified Charity Pairs

7:00 PM  
Educational Foundation Stratified Charity Pairs  
299er Game  
**Mike Pudlin** Memorial KO Session 1

#### Tuesday July 2, 2013

9:00 AM  
AM Side Game Series 1 of 5  
**Mike Pudlin** Memorial KO Session 2  
Single Session Swiss  
299er Game

1:15 PM  
Midday Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
**Mike Pudlin** Memorial KO Session 3  
Minute Men KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Game

7:00 PM  
PM Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
**Mike Pudlin** Memorial KO Session 4  
Minute Men KO Session 2  
299er Game  
Single Session Stratified Swiss

#### Wednesday, July 3, 2013

9:00 AM  
AM Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Summertime AM Single Session Swiss  
299er Game

1:15 PM  
Midday Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Minute Men KO Session 3  
Paul Revere Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Game

#### 7:00 PM

PM Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Minute Men KO Session 4  
Paul Revere Compact KO Sessions 3 & 4  
299er Game  
Single Session Stratified Swiss

#### Thursday, July 4, 2013

10:00 AM  
AM Side Game Series 3 of 5  
4th of July Stratified Swiss 1 of 2  
299er Game

3:00 PM  
Midday Side Game Series 3 of 5  
4th of July Stratified Swiss 2 of 2  
299er Game

10:00 AM & TBA  
**Miriam Collup** Fast Pairs

7:30 PM  
PM Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Single Session Swiss

#### Friday, July 5, 2013

9:00 AM  
AM Side Game Series 4 of 5  
**Marian Beerman** AM Swiss 1 of 2  
299er Game

#### 1:15 PM

Midday Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Benjamin Franklin KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Game

#### 7:00 PM

PM Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Benjamin Franklin KO Session 2  
299er Game  
**Mike Emminger** Single Session Stratified Swiss

#### Saturday, July 6, 2013

9:00 AM  
AM Side Game Series 5 of 5  
**Marian Beerman** AM Swiss 2 of 2  
299er Game

1:15 PM  
Midday Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Benjamin Franklin KO Session 3  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Samuel Adams Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2  
Marshall Miles 4-Session Swiss Qualifying  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Game

7:00 PM  
PM Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Benjamin Franklin KO Session 4  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
**Marshall Miles** 4-Session Swiss Qualifying  
Single Session Stratified Swiss  
299er Game

#### Sunday, July 7, 2013

10:00 AM & TBA  
**Marshall Miles** 4-Session Swiss Finals  
Flight A/X Swiss (0-2000/2000+)  
Bracketed B Swiss Teams (no player over 2000)  
\$124 per team includes lunch

10:00 AM & TBA  
**Mary Jane Farrell** Stratified Fast Pairs  
\$62 per pair includes lunch

Stratified games: 0-750/750-2000/2000+  
Flight A/B and Flight A/X: 0-2000/2000+  
Gold Rush: 0-100/100-300/300-750  
Bracketed B Swiss: 0-2000

LosAngelesRegional.com

# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Board of Directors meeting: May 11, 2013 at 11:30  
Unit Game: May 11, 2013  
Lunch at noon, game at 1:00

Please be advised that starting in April, the card fees for our Unit Games increased to \$12 to help offset the cost of a catered luncheon.

The April Unit game was dedicated to Bob Tayrien, a long-time member of our Unit who passed away recently and will be greatly missed at the Regency. In addition to a lunch of pulled pork, beans, and coleslaw, the April Unit game honored recipients of the 2012 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs awards. On hand to accept Mini-McKenney awards were Temo Arjani, Sharon Wolf, and Tim Lolli. On hand to accept Ace of Clubs awards were Temo Arjani, Art Chacanas, and Tim Lolli.

Results of the Unit game:

N/S

A1	Tim Lolli & Carolyn Cohen
A2 B1	Temo Arjani & Robert Novell
A3	Mike Doll & Art Chacanas
A4	Pat Abbey & Merry Besvold
A5	Phil Dessert & Steve Shanker
B2	Leon Alexander & Kathy Berrnick

E/W

A1	Jack Futrell & Rae Murbach
A2 B1 C1	Eva Seri & Lyle Wiedemans
A3 B2	Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
A4	Paula Olivares & William Brodeck
A5/6 B3/4	Sharon Wolf & David Rozzell
A5/6 B3/4 C2	Ann Raymond & Sandra Rucker

Our next Unit game is on May 11. Please join us for cottage pie, salad, rolls, and a tempting array of desserts.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

**March 24 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: John and Bea Bralliar, 2nd Steve Skinner/Bob Lavery, 3rd Fern and Hank Dunbar, 4th Samuel Wang/Xingping Kang, 5th Eric Tang/Alfred Lee, 6th Lois Abramson/Gary Paugh. In the B flight overall Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson were 2nd, Sharon and Al Appel were 3rd, Keith and Susan Hafen were 4th, Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu were 5th, Judith Jones/Wayne Rapp were 6th. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games** in the club March 16 through April 15: In open games-- Weds evening March 27 Bea and John Bralliar had 70%, and in the Weds evening game April 10 George Welsh/Aaron Jones had 69.88%. In the NLM game April 1 Bonnie Walsh/Anne Munchow had 73%, in the evening NLM game Collen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez had 70.83%, and in the NLM game April 15 Susan Bibby/Melanie Smith had 71.45%. And in the 199er game April 3 Martin Lipman/Rick Schaeffer had 73.75%. Congratulations to all six pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards** March 16 through April 15: In the Unit Game Mar 24 John and Bea Bralliar were 1st winning 4.25mp, Steve Skinner/Bob Lavery were 2nd winning 3.19mp. Apr 1 Rich Wasser/Steve Skinner were 1st winning 3.83mp. Apr 2 Betty Jackson/Ralph Beazley were 1st winning 3.58mp. Apr 3 Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein were 1st winning 3.25mp. Apr 5 Judith Jones/John Bakulich were 1st winning 4.23mp and John Petrie/Gabrielle Sills were 2nd winning 3.17mp. Congratulations to all seven pairs!

**New Members:** Bruce and Kaitlin Thompson; transfers from other clubs: Linda Dillon, Marilyn Landau. Welcome to you all!

**Status Changes:** New Junior Masters: Janice Fischer, Dalia Hernandez; Club Masters Richard Berger, Peter Giotta, William Heck; Regional Master: Susan →



Bibby; Life Master: Sharon Biederman; Silver Life Master: Janet Logan; Gold Life Master: Beverly Shafer. Congratulations to you all!

**Upcoming Events at the Club:** May 6 through 12 Great Western STaC week— games every day: regular prices, extra points, hand records . May 18 Unit Game-lunch 12:30, game at 1pm. May 27 Memorial Day unit-rated game—extra points, regular prices.

Get Well Wishes to Mary Thomas and Skip Genebach.

### News from Leisure World by Joan Tschirki:

A graceful lady passed away—a friend of many. Bette Willner will be missed.

Our gracious Bee Kinman turns 90 years old on the 20th of the month. Happy Birthday Dear Bee; Happy Birthday to you.

Clubhouse 1's April 5th championship NS Bee Kinman and Joan Tschirki and EW Verna Burns and

Howard Smith (72%) NS Jack Dampman and Bob Lofstrum EW Ted and Joan Wieber. May 11th will be the next championship.

Clubhouse 3 NS Ruth Kaller and Fern Beckerman A NS Midge Dunagan and Jean Byer B EW Verna Burns and Judy Carter-Johnson A EW Ann Landstra and Ron Yaffee B

Thursday the 18th: free lunch and game. RSVP. Keep shuffling...

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

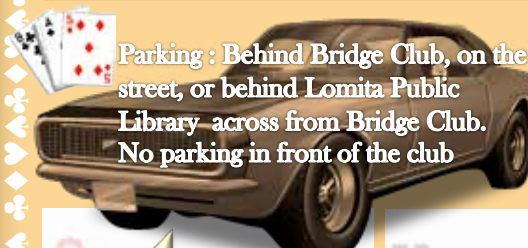
Results of all Leisure World games are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)

→

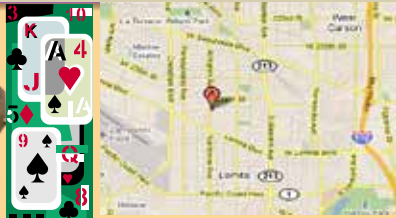
## TORRANCE – SOUTH BAY SECTIONAL (UNIT #568)

**MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>, 25<sup>TH</sup>, 26<sup>TH</sup>, 27<sup>TH</sup> SANCTION NO. S1305117**

**SOUTH BAY BRIDGE CLUB 24100 NARBONNE AVE. LOMITA, CA 90717 (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



New for 2013: Tournament will be by **reservation only** to Gerri Carlson, [gsoffa@aol.com](mailto:gsoffa@aol.com), 310-377-0316. Open games are 2 session events, with lunch provided between sessions. 299er games are single session events.

**SPACE IS LIMITED! PLAYERS MUST RSVP FOR ALL GAMES**

### FRIDAY, MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>

**7:00 PM**

- Single Session Pairs

!!! Play for \$5.00 !!!

#### Stratification

Pairs:

A = 2000+ B = 750 - 2000 C = 0 - 750

Swiss Teams:

A = 2000+ B = 750 - 2000 C = 0 - 750

### SATURDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>

**10:00 AM**

- Stratified Open Pairs session 1/2\*
- 299ers Pairs

**3:00 PM**

- Stratified Open Pairs session 2/2\*
- 299ers Pairs

\* Open Pairs is a two-session event

### SUNDAY, MAY 26<sup>TH</sup>

**10:00 AM**

- Stratified Open Pairs session 1/2\*
- 299ers Pairs

**3:00 PM**

- Stratified Open Pairs session 2/2\*
- 299ers Pairs

\* Open Pairs is a two-session event

### MONDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup>

**10:00 AM**

- Swiss Team Session 1

**TBA**

- Swiss Team Session 2

Tournament Director:

Peter Knee

Tournament Manager:

Ray Mack 310-21-8008

Partnership Chairperson:

Gabby Jackson 310-831-8727

Reservations:

Gerri Carlson 310-377-0316

[gsoffa@aol.com](mailto:gsoffa@aol.com)

Card Fees:

ACBL Member - \$12.00 per open game session, lunch included; \$10 per 299er session; and \$5 Friday, May 24

Non Member - \$13 per session 18 and Under - Free

s 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 Chuck Cordaro

The Unit Game is coming. Our monthly unit game is on Sunday May 5 2013. Extra masterpoints, good food, and the event is flighted so everyone wins.

### STaC Games

Do you need Silver Points? STaC games are sectionally rated but played at clubs and the Arcadia Bridge Center will have four of them next week. The card fees are \$10.00. The dates are:

Tuesday, May 7, 7:15 PM

Thursday May 9, 11:00 AM

Friday May 10, 7:15 PM

Saturday May 11, 1:00 PM

In addition, there will be a Beat-the-House Night Friday May, 17 at 7:30 p.m. and a Winners and Losers Special: Sunday, May 19 at 1:00 p.m.

Hope to see you all there.

While thinking of the many good friends we have lost in recent years, I am reminded of the playwright Oscar Wilde's supposed last words: "Either this wallpaper or I shall have to go."

## Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, May 18, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – 9:30 a.m., date and location TBD →

#### TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR Arleen Harvey

#### TOURNAMENT MANAGERS

Hans Giroux  
Day 949.387.5477  
Eve 949.336.7843  
Jody Pedri  
714.546.4685

Day of Tournament  
949.300.7234

#### PARTNERSHIP DESK

Sat. Ruth Watkins  
949.856.2154  
Ruthw@cox.net  
Sun. Laura Brooks  
714.963.2164

BeaniesbyLaura@hotmail.com

#### CARD FEES

\$12.00 Per Person/Per Session  
\$13.00 Non or unpaid ACBL Members

#### STRATIFICATION LEVEL

Pair Average  
Flight A/AX 3000+/0-3000  
Strat A 1500+  
Strat B 750 to 1500  
Strat C 0 to 750

#### **299ers**

Strat A 300  
Strat B 100  
Strat C 50

KOs might be Handicapped

#### Food Policy

Coffee will be provided before both sessions.  
LUNCH will be available for purchase Sunday only.



Sanction No. S1306077

**New Location**

# 2013 Balboa Sectional

Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>

**10:30 AM**  
299er Swiss One Session  
Stratified Open Pairs  
Compact KOs (Rd 1 & 2)  
**3:00PM**  
Stratified Open Pairs  
Compact KOs (Rd 3 & 4)  
299er Pairs  
Single Session open  
Swiss

**Costa Mesa  
Community  
Center**  
**1845 Park Ave  
Costa Mesa**

#### **DIRECTIONS**

Take the 55 Frwy to Costa Mesa, continue south on Newport Blvd. Turn west on 18th St. and very shortly south on Park Ave. From Harbor Blvd, turn west on 19th St. and then east on Park.

Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

**10:30 AM**  
Stratified  
Swiss Teams  
Two single Sessions  
0-199er Swiss Teams  
**Second Session**  
Time TBA



In the April Unit game, the top spot was captured by Bernie Mateer – Peter Szecsi. Next up were Fredy and Lulu Minter; Cordell Goode - Genise Hasan; Georgiana Battuello - Kim Horn (1st in B); and Ann McClelland - Thomas Lill. Taking the flight C honors were Ray Malki - Bob Verhoef.

The April Individual was won by new member Homer Wallace, who posted a 66.7% game. Charlotte Capelle, Roger Boyar, Clint Lew, and Paul Chrisney rounded out the top five.

The best performance this month was an impressive 72% by Charlotte Capelle–Billie Steiner. Other winners last month included Penny Barbieri, Clint Lew, Karen Olin, Paul Chrisney, Cordell Goode, Denise Morgan, Richard Patterson, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, and Fredy & Lulu Minter, Susie Emminger, Ann McClelland, Billie Steiner, Kim Horn, Genise Hasan, Kathy and Herman Helber, Dave and Susan Ruoff, Sandy Jones, Mary Miller, Carolyn Siracuse, Hans Henke, and Herb Stampfl.

Planning for the “Longest Day” event is still proceeding. No news has been received regarding a joint venture with the District, so we are going to plan on our own stand-alone event for now. We plan to start out with the usual Friday morning pairs game at La Fetra, then retire to the Knights of Columbus hall for afternoon and evening sessions. Exactly what event we will hold are yet to be determined: we would like to hold some combination of pairs, teams, and an individual game; perhaps even some rubber bridge for the non-duplicate fans.

Our long – dormant unit web site is still not up and running soon. The webmaster suffered another physical indignities. Indeed, he provided much comedy relief at the April unit game.

We are happy to report two promotions this month: Susie Emminger to Bronze Life Master, and Ray Malki to Sectional Master. Congratulations to you both.

This just in (as I write this): the May Individual was scheduled for May 4th at Lois Snowden’s in La Verne, but she has just informed me she has to bail out. The game will probably be held at one of our alternate sites; if not, it will be at Lois’ place on the 11th. Call the club number (909-518-6403) at least one day before the game, or check with Roger at La Fetra. Now if the bozo webmaster will only get the site back up ...

Our hand for this month isn’t – for a change – a wild freak, a real dog, or a rock crusher. In fact, it’s pretty run-of-the-mill – at first glance. Partner deals at

unfavorable vulnerability, and you find yourself looking at this modest collection: ♠ K752 ♥ T7542 ♦ K2 ♣ AT. Partner passes, RHO passes, and it’s up to you now. Do you open this hand?

There are three reasons you might want to open: (1) opening 1♥ blocks a minor-suit opening by LHO; (2) you have both majors and can probably out-compete the opponents; and (3) it’s your turn to call. On the other side of the ledger, there are three reasons you might not open this hand: (1) you really don’t want partner to lead from honor-empty-third in hearts, should LHO end up declaring; (2) if both passers are broke, and there’s a big hand at the table, it is behind you; and (3) you would be delighted to defend a major suit contract. Well?

When Yours Truly kibitzed this hand, the holder thereof – a good player and an aggressive bidder – elected to open 1♥. OK, I wouldn’t, but then I’ve never been invited to the Cavendish, either. Neither is the Bermuda Bowl selection committee interested ... Anyway, fourth player calls 1♠, partner raises to 2♥, RHO raises spades, and now ... what?

At the table, opener bid 3♥. This doesn’t look right to me, especially at these colors, since partner will expect a full opening bid (and a better suit, to boot) from you.

What follows is what you’d expect. The opponents competed further, partner went to 4♥, out came the red card, and a few minutes later, it was 800 time. At other tables, the opponents scored anywhere from -110 (someone made 2♥ your way) to +150 in part score contracts. So yes, aggression can be effective: but there’s a time to dial it back, too. (By the way, partner’s hearts were ♥Q98. Ewww. The rest of his hand wasn’t very exciting, either.)

Until next month ...

Quote for the month: “Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing.” (Robert Benchley)

## San Fernando Valley by Deborah Levinson

Greetings and Salutations! What a wonderful month this was!

### Achievements

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for March →

2013

## 750 Bridge Club

1. Ron Malkin - 14.03
2. Paul Endler - 8.55
3. Gloria Malkin - 7.65
4. Lee Skupen - 6.40
5. Vera Mandell - 6.01
6. Jody Lombardo - 4.88
7. Bob Williams - 4.86
8. Gary Baxley - 4.60
9. Margie Bulmer - 4.55

## The Bridge Academy (Open)

- 1 Deborah Levinson - 11.27
- 2 Seymour Zemlyn - 8.95
- 3 Armand Szulc - 8.68
- 4 Sheila Bozin - 8.54
- 5 Tom Wylie - 8.54
- 6 Marel Bates - 6.41
- 7 Gilbert Stinebaugh - 6.02
- 8 J Raymond Bush - 5.96
- 9 Tammy Purkin - 5.53
- 10 Dick Lum - 5.29

## The Bridge Academy (&lt;750)

- 1 Deborah Levinson - 11.27
- 2 Richard Ruby - 2.45
- 3 John Van Egmond - 2.17
- 4 Beverly McLeod - 1.97
- 5 Paul Fuson - 1.89
- 6 Douglas Timmer - 1.58
- 7 Samy Antoun - 1.58
- 8 Ruth Fleisher - 1.55
- 9 Marilyn Gaims - 1.55
- 10 Earl Beer - 1.25

**70 Percent Games**

## 750 Bridge Club

- 72.36 Ron Malkin and Paul Endler - 72.36  
 72.34 Fred Upton and Steve Woelfer - 72.34  
 70.78 Fred Upton and Steve Woelfer - 70.78  
 70.58 Larry Gordon and Om Chokriwala - 70.58  
 70.10 Gloria Malkin and Ron Malkin - 70.10

**Tournaments****Thousand Oaks Spring Sectional Winners**

## Friday Aft Open Pairs

- Flight A - Gilbert Stinebaugh, Van Nuys CA; Sara Wilson, Woodland Hills CA  
 Flight B - Lorraine Adams, Granada Hills CA; Eve Pohlo, Northridge CA  
 Flight C - Richard Plotin, Newbury Park CA; Phil Rabichow, Tarzana CA

## Saturday Aft Open Pairs

- Flight A - Martin Blain, Sherman Oaks CA; Susan Somogyi, Encino CA  
 Flights B & C - Richard Plotin, Newbury Park CA; Phil Rabichow, Tarzana CA  
 Pacific Southwest Regional Winners

## Morning Sidegame Series

- Flight A - Sara Wilson, Woodland Hills CA; David Lodge, Rancho Mirage CA

## Friday Gold Rush Pairs

- Om Chokriwala, Sherman Oaks CA; Carmela Chiurazzi, Sunset Beach CA

## Saturday Afternoon Side Game Series

- Flight A - Gilbert Stinebaugh, Van Nuys CA; Sara Wilson, Woodland Hills CA

## Friday - Saturday KO Teams

- Bracket 2 - Joel Schiff, Los Angeles CA; Martin Cooper, Torrance CA; Susan Ledford, San Ramon CA; Freddie Straus, Encino CA

**STaC**

## Thursday Eve 999er Pairs - 12 Tables

- Flight B Samy Antoun - Gabe Rosenberg; 750 BRIDGE CLUB

## Monday Morning Open Pairs - 33.5 TABLES

- Leila Greenfield - Dovid Crum; The Bridge Academy \*\*\* 70.66% Game! \*\*\*

## Monday Morning Pairs - 25.5 TABLES

- Flight A Melvin Lerner - Phil Jones; 750 BRIDGE CLUB  
 Flights B & C Daniel Strauss - Shoshana Blumenfeld; 750 BRIDGE CLUB

## Monday Evening Pairs - 15.5 TABLES

→



Flights A & B Wayne Beagle - William Raines;  
750 BRIDGE CLUB  
Flight C Ann Trygstad - Lawrence Trygstad; 750  
BRIDGE CLUB

Tuesday Day Open Pairs - 22.0 TABLES

Flight A John Clark - Tom Wylie

Tuesday Eve Open Pairs - 48.0 TABLES

Flight B Bruce Altshuler - Marel Bates

Remember - if you are reading this, and you want your name to be here, and you do not see it, it is because you did not send your "news" to Deborah Levinson at [dlevinson@acesupms.com](mailto:dlevinson@acesupms.com) or leave a note in the "Bridge News" envelope at either of our clubs!

### Milestones

Celebrating Gil Steinbaugh! He did it in April, but in time to get it into this column. Please join me in congratulating Gil Steinbaugh in achieving Emerald Life Master. A Celebration Game will be held in his honor on May 11, 2013 at The Bridge Academy. Food will be served. Reservations required. Call 818-999-9131.

No new Life Masters, members, or first points to report this month.

Remember! New ranks? Life events? Let me know!

### Upcoming Events

The 750 Club is hosting May Madness Week.

**Monday, May 20:** Munchies Monday Plenty of salty/sweet munchies to share!

**Tuesday, May 21:** Two Free-Play Tuesday There will be a drawing for Free plays for the players who wear their name tags.

**Wednesday, May 22:** Wake-up Wednesday Continental breakfast served/

**Thursday, May 23:** Thirsty Thursday - Serving Root Beer Floats during the lunch break & before the night game

There will be a **Pro-Am Game** at the Upcoming Los Angeles Regional at the Westin Hotel in Long Beach on July 1, 2013 - 1:00 p.m. Not an "expert?" Come play with an experienced partner for just the cost of a card fee! (Players 0 - 5 points play free!) Amateurs:

Contact Deborah Levinson for reservations 323-719-3190 or [dlevinson@acesupms.com](mailto:dlevinson@acesupms.com). Pros: Contact Ellen Anten to be involved 818-634-3231 [ellenanten@aol.com](mailto:ellenanten@aol.com).

Column News: Make certain that your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Deborah Levinson ([dlevinson@acesupms.com](mailto:dlevinson@acesupms.com)) with the subject BRIDGE COLUMN.

## 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)

The annual Torrance South Bay Sectional will once again take place over Memorial Day weekend May 24-27 at the South Bay Bridge Club, 24100 Narbonne in Lomita.

IMPORTANT! Please note that due to space limitations reservations will be required. Please call Gerri Carlson at 310-377-0316 or E-Mail her at [gsoffa@aol.com](mailto:gsoffa@aol.com) to make reservations. The first pair session Friday evening will only charge \$5.00 per person to enter. There will be 2-session pair games on Saturday and Sunday and a Swiss event on Monday, Memorial Day.

### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Great Western Spring Fling STAC: May 6-11  
Club Swiss Team Championship: May 14, 7:00 p.m.  
Club Championship: Friday, May 17, 7:00 p.m.  
Club Championship: Thursday May 30, 7:00 p.m.  
Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening  
Friday Night games on May 3 and 17

### Club Championships

On March 19 The Club Championship was won by Sumi Tokufuji/Iyoko Kawamura in both Flights A and B. The March 29 Club Championship saw Kim Wang/Rocky Williams capture both Flights A and B. The April 6 Club Championship was won by Fran Israel/Gabby Jackson in Flight A with Beverly Narahara/Del Horton taking Flight B honors. On April 10 the Club Championship was led by Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Andy Anderson/Cal →

Waller on top in Flight B and Joan Stillwell/Beverly Colaianne winning Flight C.

The Club Championship at Veterans Park on March 25 was won by Patricia Wells/Hal Hichborn in Flight A with Barbara and Peter Shen taking Flight B. The Championship at Veterans Park on March 27 saw Larry Harris/Gary King leading Flight A with Jeanette Betts/Anne Andres capturing Flight B and Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman on top in Flight C. On March 29 the Club Championship at Anderson Park was led by David Cheshire/Bill McLean in Flight A with Robert Fieselman/Robert Svensrud capturing Flight B. The Club Championship at Anderson Park on April 5 was won by Joe Thomas/Roy Young in Flight A and Elaine Godin/Nanci Schultz in Flight B.

### Team Winners

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

March 19:	Gabriela Jackson, Harry Wessells, Mark Raggio, Robert Rothman
March 26:	Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, Wayne Otsuki, John J. McDermott
April 2 :	Gabriela Jackson, Bob Rothman, Harry Wessells, Mark Raggio
April 9:	Lucy Gellner, Ed Piken, John Jones, Steve Ramos

### GUV Memorial Award

At the recent St. Louis NABC there were a couple memorable moments. In the Silver Ribbon Pairs I played in a first time partnership with Jack Waller. During the second qualifying session we came up against Cecil Cook and Gene White. Cecil and I are never at a loss for words when it comes to needling each other at the bridge table. This round was no exception. Partner and I wound up in 4♠ with a moth-eaten 8-card trump fit. I went down a trick although I could have made with double dummy play of the trump suit. A much easier contract would have been 3NT which was cold and which we were in for a moment till one of us preferred spades. We didn't get much on the board and I could tell by Cecil's chortling that he was happy. As it turned out, Jack and I qualified relatively easy while Cecil and Gene qualified with next to nothing to spare. Without

our contribution on the aforementioned board Cecil would have been looking for a pair to play the compact KO the next day. I mentioned to him that he owed me one.

During the final the next day Jack and I had a bad second session and apparently missed the event overalls. Perhaps it was a little annoying to see that Cecil and Gene had made the last overall position (50th) and Gene rubbed a little salt into the wound by mentioning to me afterwards that they had beaten us. But Jack came to the rescue with his best play of the second final session. He discovered a scoring error where we were credited with a near bottom where we should have had a near top. After about an hour Jack tracked down the pair who we had played the board against and a correction was made. Guess what! The correction got us up to 49th overall and knocked you know who out of the overall standings. I guess I owe Cecil and Gene one now.

During the second final session of the Mixed Pairs, I was playing with Gerri Carlson when we came up against a pair that were quibbling when they came to the table. They didn't do well the first board and on the the second board the lady opened 2♠ and her partner with 16 HCP and ♠Ax made no game try and passed. The lady started giving him hell when the dummy came down and she wrapped up an easy 5. After they left the table I saw Gerri cracking up. Turning around I saw why. The male member of the pair we had just played had walked over to where a container holding scoring pencils was laying. He had picked up a handful of pencils and stuffed them in his mouth.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by Robert Shore

### Things to Come

Lots of points and lots of fun available at your local clubs this month. We'll start things off with the Spring Sectional, once again held as a STAC, the weekend of May 3-5. Immediately after our STAC concludes, another one begins as the Western Conference STAC gives us a full week of silver points and enhanced awards from May 6 through May 12. The Unit returns to action after the Western Conference STAC concludes by →

sponsoring Unit Championship games May 13, 15, and 17, as well as a split Unit Championship May 14 and a Unit Championship Team Game at Beverly Hills the evening of May 16.

A special treat and first-time event will take place June 2. You may not have known it, but there are two bridge organizations in Los Angeles, the ACBL, and the American Bridge Association. The two are joining forces on June 2 with a special game. Lunch will be served at noon and the game will follow at 2:00 p.m. If you've never attended an ABA event, you're in for a treat. For more information and reservations, call (323) 246-9386.

The following Sunday, June 9, will feature John Jones moderating a "Master Solvers Live" show beginning at 12:15 p.m. This show will precede a special Unit Stratified Novice game, which will start at 1:00 p.m., all for the usual \$10.00 price. And, as a special treat to encourage the novice players to show up in time for the panel, the Unit will provide a continental breakfast. Regular players: you'll just have to settle for the Club's usual fare. John puts on a great show; you won't want to miss it.

### Roads to the Nationals

There are two events that can end up with a check in your hands to help defray your expenses to the Nationals, and both are coming up. In the Grand National Teams competition, all four flight winners—Championship Flight (open), and Flights A (0-5000), B (0-2000), and C (non-Life Masters with 0-500)—earn the right to represent our District at the Summer Nationals in Atlanta. In addition, any Unit members (as of September 1, 2012) on a District winner who play the Atlanta event will get a subsidy from the Unit (on top of anything awarded by the District) of \$150. By the time this column sees print, the Championship Flight and Flight B will have been conducted, but it's not too late to show up for Flight A or C. The event will take place at the Barrington Bridge Club May 18 and 19.

Another road, this one ending at the Spring Nationals in Dallas, begins in June. Each flight of the North American Open Pairs—Flights A (open), B (0-2000) and C (non-Life Masters with 0-500)—will qualify three pairs for the Spring Nationals. The ACBL will pay both members of each first-place pair \$700 (contingent on playing the Dallas event), and each member of the second-place pair \$350 (also contingent

on playing in Dallas). In 2012, the District supplemented that payment for the second- and third-place pairs in each flight. The event begins with club-level qualifying games. The Unit's June games will take place on June 22 at Barrington and on the evening of June 10 and the afternoon of June 16 at Beverly Hills. Additional games will take place in July and August, and the Unit will up the ante at the June 16 game by holding our annual ice cream social. I look forward to seeing you there.

### Transitions

We have heard the sad news that Marilyn Abrams has passed after a long illness. Marilyn was a long-time member of the Culver City Unit Board (one of our current Unit's predecessors), and with Jan Cohen, part of a very formidable pair. We extend our sympathies to Marilyn's family and friends, particularly her husband, Len, and her sons, Jay and Mark.

On a happier note, a number of new members have joined our Unit. Please join me in welcoming Donna Falcon, David Glickman, David Meltzer, William Phiher, and Jessie Sullivan.

### Trophy Time

St. Louis seems to have sucked up most of the available tournament action this month, but there are a few success stories to report. At the San Diego Regional, Joel Schiff's team won their bracket of the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams event. Reese Milner's team won their bracket of the Saturday Swiss at the Fort Lauderdale Regional. Closer to home, Charles and Jo Anne Kelley won the Friday afternoon Open Pairs at the Oxnard Sectionals. Congratulations on the wins.

### A Fun Position

Playing matchpoints with everyone red against silent opponents, you end up in 3NT, not 4♥, looking at the following collection:

Dummy: ♠K64 ♥KQT82 ♦9 ♣AQ97

Declarer: ♠AT5 ♥A53 ♦K854 ♣K42

The opening lead is the ♦6, and realizing that all of the heart bidders will eventually lead a diamond to the K in an effort to pitch a spade, you fly. RHO cashes the AQ of diamonds (as you pitch a spade), but then →

shifts to the ♣J!

At this point, of course, you realize you've gotten very, very lucky. Diamonds are apparently 6-2 and it looks like you have a finesse position in clubs as well. But if both of these assumptions are true, you don't need to take the club finesse. LHO is guarding diamonds in front of dummy's diamond threat, and RHO is guarding clubs in front of declarer's club threat. You've already corrected the count by losing two diamond tricks. Thus, on the run of the hearts, no one will be able to guard spades.

So cash five heart tricks, throwing a club and a diamond. Assuming the ♦8 isn't good yet, cash three rounds of clubs, pitching the diamond, which has done its job. Everyone is down to three cards, LHO still has a diamond, and RHO still has a club, so neither opponent has room for three spades and you take the last three tricks with the AK6 of spades, having successfully executed a double squeeze.

### **Around the Clubs**

Club champions last month at Barrington were Aram Bedros-Art Zail and Chuck Maltz-Paul Smith, while Aram Bedros and Wayne Karson won the club championship at Cyma's Game. Jill Richmond hit the 70% mark three times, while Paul Smith, Aram Bedros, and Art Zail tallied that benchmark twice each. Also putting together 70% games were Marty Blain, Pete Benjamin, Steve Yaffe, Evan Krantz, and Danny Kleinman.

Club champions at Beverly Hills were Joyce Lelah and David Segal Michael Brand and Rahim Israel, and Phyllis and Mario Mory. Michael Brand and Rahim Israel notched a 70% game.

### **Climbing the Ladder**

Robert Malina and Bruce Schelden are the Unit's newest Junior Masters, while Susan Lava and Bobbi Zifkin have reached the rank of Club Master. Geoffrey Breskal and Barbara Fisher-Freeman are now Sectional Masters, and Eileen Miech and Rachel Simon have reached NABC Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

Got news? Send it to me at [Bob78164@yahoo.com](mailto:Bob78164@yahoo.com).

## **District 23 Rank Changes March, 2013**

### **Junior Master**

Faye Callen, Judy Colaianni  
Deborah Downs, Carole Eglash-Kosoff  
Sue Gocke, S Hunt  
Jacqueline Keenan, Gerald Koris  
Benjamin Kushner, William Renter  
Miles Rubin, Robert Singer  
Premi Thomas

### **Club Master**

Sheila Cottle, Joan Davidson  
Rosemary Frankian, Beverly Garfunkel  
Mary Jean Giotta, Donna Moody  
Paul Reukauf, Rennie Tejada  
Sally Weil

### **Sectional Master**

Bonnie Butler, Paul Chrisney  
William Dilks, Shari Elias  
Bobbi Endler, Richard Halverstadt  
Dennis Hill, Bennett Kerns  
Minerva Krevoy, Barbara Leider  
Linda Nye, Glenn Silcott

### **NABC Master**

Donald Garner, Margie Lee  
Karen Olin

### **Life Master**

Ramona Hernandez, Deborah Levinson  
David Lyons, Nona Stokes  
Renee Wishengrad

### **Bronze Life Master**

Barbara Coe, Ramona Hernandez

### **Silver Life Master**

E.E. Black, Susan Raphael

### **Gold Life Master**

Dan Botoaca

### **Diamond Life Master**

Cecil Cook



# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Jeff Goldsmith, Rick Roeder, and David Sacks

## 1

IMPs  
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♥	dbl	4♥	4♠
?			

You South hold:

♠J753 ♥AJT84 ♦A ♣AQ5

What call do you make?

**Goldsmith: Double.** I'll guess to double. Maybe partner has ♠Q ♥Qxxxx ♦QJxx ♣xxx. If he has ♠--♥Kxxxx ♦xxx ♣JTxxx, I got it wrong.

**Bartusek: 5♥.** We can probably beat 4♠, but 5♥ rates to make. I'm not going to play partner for perfect cards and a spade void.

**Bare: 5♥.** I play that partner would have bid 3NT with a little defense. 5♣ is tempting but my playing strength is a little light for a slam.

**Roeder: 5♥.** If partner has a spade void, 5♥ should make. It is far from clear to impute a spade void in partner's hand, since the range of hands for 4♠ is Grand Canyon-esque. If partner has a stiff spade, he will likely need the ♥K and the ♠J to make 5♥ a heavy favorite— not an extraordinary catch. It would be helpful to know if my partnership was using 3NT over the double as a raise to 4♥ with an outside defensive

trick. I rate 5♥ as 65% to make and 4♠ as 85% to go down, and when 4♠ goes bade, it will usually fail by just one trick. Bidding 5♥ has another upside: If a heart void is lurking, you might get a crack at 5♠.

**Sacks: 5♣.** I am on lead, so this must be asking partner to bid more with club values.

**Miles (from "Marshall Miles Teaches Logical Bridge" 1967): 6♥.** This is a gamble, but partner needs very little strength for a slam if he has a void in spades. If he has a singleton, he may have the ♣K.

*Marshall's 6♥ blast puts pressure on the opponents, but David's 5♣ slam try looks on target to me.*

---

This is the second in a series of problems first published by the late Marshall Miles, the former editor of this column.

## What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to:  
[bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)

2

MPs  
EW vul

South	West	North	East
pass	1♥	2♠	4♥
5♦	5♥	pass	pass
?			

You, South, hold:  
 ♠JT763 ♥A82 ♦void ♣J9543  
 What call do you make?

*Some choose to bid more.*

**Bare: 5♠.** Cheap insurance and I can beat 6♠ with a diamond lead.

**Sacks: 5♠.** I got my lead director in to beat 6♥.

**Bartusek: 5♠.** Obviously we can beat 6♥, but 5♥ rates to make with West's probably having a spade void. 5♠ surely is going for less than the value of their game.

*Some pass, trusting partner to have made the decision.*

**Goldsmith: Pass.** At these colors, partner does not have as much as ♠KQxxxx ♥x ♦xxxx ♣xx [He would bid 3♠], so we do not have much chance to make. Partner may have a defensive trick, and since we have told him what to lead, even if we don't beat 5♥, we may well get a fair share of the matchpoints by holding them to five.

**Roeder: Pass.** On this auction, West's bid is 100% to make. You made a questionable decision not to chirp 4♠. [The lead directing 5♦ looks excellent to me.]

Partner should know that 5♦ is a lead director with spade support because of your initial pass. Oh, you play with a Flannery-phile such as Mitch Dunitz – quel dommage. You have put partner in the loop and he has elected not to bid 5♠. Does the presence of your diamond void give you enough confidence to overrule North's judgment? It would be helpful to know if West was Garozzo or Ma Kettle. Partner's most likely distributions are 6043 or 6052. [At favorable opposite a passed partner, partner could easily have a five card suit.] With 6043, he would probably choose to pass. With the latter, it looks right to bid. What tips the scale is that if 5♠ does not make, you are already behind those fortunate enough to buy the hand in 4♠.

*Marshall doubles, hoping partner has a defensive trick.*

**Miles (from Bridge World, January 1976): Double.** That's why I bid 5♦, isn't it?

*The 1976 Bridge World panel voted 31 for 5♠, 2 for double, 2 for pass, with 1 vote for 6♠.*

LosAngelesRegional.com

Tournament Manager:  
 Peter Benjamin 310 720-6050

# Los Angeles Regional

at Long Beach

Looking for **Gold Points**? The entire tournament schedule is packed with **Gold Point** events including our newest game, the Bracketed B Sunday Swiss where the top three teams in each bracket of eight win **Gold Points**, and nobody in the bracket will have more than 2000 points. We also have four days of **Gold Rush Pairs** in which you can win **Gold Points** and nobody you play against will have more than 750 masterpoints.

**July 1 - 7, 2013**

3

IMPs  
NS vul

East	South	West	North
1♦	pass	pass	dbl
pass	?		

You, South, hold:

♠KT ♥KJ74 ♦KT42 ♣A63

What call do you make?

**Bartusek: 2♦.** If we have a heart fit, then 4♥ should be a good contract; otherwise, I'm bidding 3NT. (Nice ♦10!) Sure, balancers can have a queen less than direct seat doubles, but it seems too big a gamble to stop below game vulnerable at IMPs.

**Bare: 2♦.** I plan to play 4♥ or 3NT.

**Sacks: 2♦.** Unless we find hearts, we are headed towards 3NT. I cue bid, then bid 2NT over 2♠.

**Goldsmith: 2NT.** I'd like to cut partner some slack, but most of the time, the points are going to be divided roughly 1/3 me, 1/3 opener, and 1/3 partner, and he's not bidding again over 1NT. Hearts might be better than notrump, and if so, partner might try 3♦ over 2NT with, say, 4-4-1-4 shape. I think it'll be hard to get back to notrump if I bid 2♥ now, and impossible to judge between hearts and notrump if I cue bid, so 2NT seems best.

**Roeder: 2NT.** 3NT 85%. Thanks for the ♦10 and holding so much stuff behind the opening bidder.

**Miles (from Stronger Competitive Bidding, 1992):** 2♥, 2♦, or 2NT are reasonable bids. 2♥ allows for partner having shaded his double in fourth position. 2NT also allows for a light fourth hand double, and the hand may belong in notrump even when there is

a 4-4 heart fit. A cue bid gives you a chance to find a heart fit on the way to 3NT. I don't like a penalty pass. The level is too low, and if partner has a singleton diamond, your offensive prospects are better than your defensive prospects. As it so happens, game can be made in either hearts and (sic) notrump, but 1♦ can't be set.

*Welcome to Family Feud! Representing the bridge players we have Marshall Miles! 2♦, good answer! 2♥, good answer!! 2NT, good answer!!! Unfortunately, in bridge we are limited to just one answer. Marshall is correct that passing the double looks wrong. So which of the three reasonable choices is actually best? 2♥ looks like it's giving partner a little too much rope while making no effort to offer notrump. 2NT versus 2♦ looks pretty close to me. The cue bid gains when partner responds 2♥, and hearts is the best strain (which won't always be the case just because we have a 4-4 heart fit). If we cue bid and partner rebids 2♠, we will bid 2NT and are slightly behind because an alert opening leader will be less likely to lead a heart. When partner rebids 3♣, we will have a tough time staying out of game whether we intended on forcing to game or not. I'd prefer the cue bid if I was going to force to game, but I don't think the hand quite merits forcing to game opposite a balancing double. I don't hate either 2♦ or 2♥, but I think 2NT is best in the long run.*

LosAngelesRegional.com

Tournament Manager:  
Peter Benjamin 310 720-6050

# Los Angeles Regional

at Long Beach

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July 1 - 7, 2013



4

IMPs  
all vul

West	North	East	South
4♥	pass	pass	?

You, South, hold:

♠AQT97 ♥-- ♦KQ76 ♣A932

What call do you make?

*Some panelists think this decision is close between double and 4♠.*

**Sacks: Double.** Close versus 4♠. I know I will lose the fifth spade, but the possibility of a penalty conversion gives double the edge.

**Roeder: Double.** Ouch! Impossible problem. If partner yanks the double, we will likely be in a slam. Partner should not yank a 4-level double out of fright.

*Others think that double is clearly best.*

**Bare: Double.** 4♠ works best only when partner has 3 spades and a poor hand.

**Goldsmith: Double.** Not close. Partner could have ♠xx ♥xxx ♦Axxxxx ♣Kxx or ♠xx ♥KJx ♦Axxx ♣Kxxx. If he has ♠KJx ♥xxx ♦Axxx ♣xxx, we'll play 4♥ doubled instead of 4♠, but we might get 500 vs. 620 or +200 vs. -100, so that's not terrible.

**Bartusek: Double.** The most flexible action since it leaves open a large range of contracts (including 4♥ doubled, 5 of a minor, and minor suit slams). The major risk is that we belong in a 5-3 spade fit, but in that case, we might get 500 from 4♥ doubled.

**Miles (from Competitive Bidding in the 21st Century, 2000): 4♠.** I know partner might hold ♥KJ987, but he is more likely to hold a balanced hand with ♥K975, in which case the penalty will be inadequate to compensate you for your missed game in spades. Partner will make his 'Law' decision based on the assumption that you have at least one heart, and he can't bid spades with a three-card suit (and he may not bid them at the four-level even with a four-card suit).

*I think double is significantly more flexible than 4♠. Double follows the sound principle of "When in doubt, let partner help with the decision." It allows partner to convert, bid 5♣ or 5♦, or even try 4NT (normally both minors).*

## 2013 District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying

All games at Barrington Bridge Club  
(310-966-4144)  
at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

April 27-28: Open Flight (0+ MPs)  
Flight B (0-2000 MPs)

May 18-19: Flight A (0-5000 MPs)  
Flight C (Non Life Master < 500)

The winning teams can represent District 23 in Atlanta this summer. They receive partial refunds for trip expenses. All teams must have 4, 5, or 6 players.

It is Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday KO. Players can enter more than one event (one separate weekends).

Call Howard Einberg (310-

475-9784) or Bill Wickham (310-234-3238) with questions. Complete Conditions of Contest at the ALACBU website:

[www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)



5

IMPs  
NS vul

East	South	West	North
2♠	pass	3♠	dbl
pass	?		

You, South, hold: ♠T964 ♥Q53 ♦J85 ♣JT8  
What call do you make?

*This hand was played in the 2004 US Senior Trails. Marshall used it as a panel problem in December, 2004. Several of the current panelists were also panelists in 2004, so I've included both answers.*

**Roeder: Pass-- and pray; even if agnostic.** While praying, lead a trump. If partner shows up with a trump, you can take yourself off life support. -530 might not be a total travesty since you might go -200 or -300 if you pick the wrong 3 card suit...or even worse, if the red card gets put on the table.

*Some changed their mind 9 years later.*

**Bare (2004): 4♣.** 3NT would be natural. Tough hand. Pass could be right if partner has two spades or a spade honor.

**Bare (2013): Pass.** Impossible to know what to do, 3♠ should go set even if partner is void. If partner has a spade honor it should go set 2 or 3.

**Goldsmith (2004): 4♣.** At IMPs, avoiding disaster is winning strategy, so bid 4♣, since it's least likely to doubled.

**Goldsmith (2013): Pass.** Plead a sudden emergency. Pass is the normal choice, but it could work out extremely poorly. Bidding could lead to -800, so there's no panacea.

*Some stayed with their original guess.*

**Sacks (2004): Pass.** Anything could be a disaster, but I might as well make the bid that has some upside. My little bits in my fragments could be useful on defense,

and I have an easy ♣J lead.

**Sacks (2013): Pass.** There's not much difference between minus 530 and minus 500. We might even beat it.

**Bartusek (2004): Pass.** Any bid I make could easily wind up in a 4-3 or even a 3-3 trump fit. Thus, let's hope partner has a stiff spade honor or the makings of five defensive tricks in combination with my scattered values. It will be easier taking five tricks than ten tricks. Probably doubled.

**Bartusek (2013): Pass.** Hmmm, -500 versus -530. It's a guess, but it seems percentage to try to beat them. Bidding is dangerous, because 4♥ can easily be doubled, and 4♣ might be a 3-3 fit. I'd be more comfortable making a decision if I knew the opponents' style.

*Other 2004 panelists included Jill Meyers, who bid 4♣ intending to redouble if doubled, and Michael Schreiber, who passed, stating 4♥ was his second choice.*

*One hand proves little, but in this case it reminds us that our opponents can occasionally be insane. Opener held a risqué ♠AKJxx, and his partner made a grotesque raise on a singleton queen. Doubler held 23 HCP with three small spades, and declarer scored only his five trump tricks for -800.*

*Marshall was more inclined to make close passes of part score doubles than any other partner I've ever had; he loved this hand!*