

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 49, #11

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Random Thoughts

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



I was happy to see so many of you at the regional in Torrance last week. I am delighted to announce a 22% increase in attendance from October of 2012. We are presently in negotiations for a new contract at the Torrance Marriott for next year.

The Torrance Regional had many opportunities for non life masters to earn gold points. Some played the Gold Rush Pairs, some played the new under 2000 masterpoint bracketed Swiss Teams and some played multiple sessions of the side games.

I'm very glad these opportunities exist, but I have some concerns. Bridge is a complex game that takes a long time to master—that is part of its appeal. If you earn your gold points too quickly playing in 299er events you may get discouraged later on when your masterpoint total dictates you play in open events where you'll meet players of all skill levels.

Research shows that consistent mental activities such as playing bridge help us avoid dementia and other age-related conditions. We also know that bridge provides a social environment conducive to making friends and finding other people with similar interests. So slow down. Don't worry about not getting those rainbow points too quickly. If you play some of your games in a stratified or open field where you have the opportunity to play against better players while still competing against players at your level, you will improve faster.

So mark your calendars for more bridge. The Fall Nationals begin the Friday after Thanksgiving in Phoenix for ten days. National tournaments have lots of games for everyone and the opportunity to kibitz the finest players in the world.

Other regionals in nearby districts scheduled before our next regional in Woodland Hills in February

PRESIDENT *continued on page 15*

More on Masterpoints

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Last month I discussed issues of masterpoint inflation. I informed the District that Management and the Board would be holding a special session before the Phoenix tournament to discuss this issue. The following is a brief report of the progress of these meetings.

A meeting was held the weekend of September 9. In attendance were four board members, three tournament directors, and various management representatives. The facilitator for the group was Robert Hartman. Most of the information presented below came from minutes of these meeting sessions.

The two main purposes of this three-day meeting were to identify issues with the current event structure and masterpoint plan and start to brainstorm solutions. The goal is to create a cohesive set of changes to present before the Board of Directors in Las Vegas at the Summer NABC in 2014.

A comprehensive communications effort to the Board will be an integral part of the process, beginning with this memo. Time has also been slotted for the Phoenix NABC to update the Board on the activities of the group and seek feedback. When there is relevant information to report, interim updates will be provided to the full Board via email.

After three full days of discussion, seven main projects were identified for further study. A brief description of each project follows.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

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Working Group on Masterpoints & Event Structure

Project #1 - Guidance for Tournament Sponsors & DiCs: Create a Tournament Handbook for DiCs and Tournament Sponsors as well as develop a list that clearly defines the responsibilities of DiCs and Tournament Sponsors.

Project #2 - Event Structure Multiplier: Explore the impact of using a flat multiplier based on the event structure to award masterpoints in open events and eliminate subordinate table calculation at tournaments.

Project #3 - Depth of Awards: Explore the impact of adjusting masterpoint awards to award more places in the overalls while decreasing the top awards, specifically in Gold Rush events.

Project #4 - R Factor for Sectional Awards: Explore the impact of adjusting the R Factor for Sectionals, including the possibility of differentiating between

“sectionally-rated” games at clubs and events at Sectional Tournaments.

Project #5 - Comparison of Masterpoint Awards Between Events: Create a comparison chart of Masterpoint awards between events with similar fields. Explore the impact of changing the T-factor to differentiate between Pairs and Swiss team events.

Project #6 - KO Awards: Explore the impact of adjusting Masterpoint awards for KOs, specifically match awards and the awards for winning two and three matches in a 4-session event and two matches in a 3-session event.

Project #7 - Special Games at Clubs: Explore the impact of changing the number of special games that can be held at bridge clubs.

I welcome any thoughts you may have on any of these issues. Hope to see many of you in Phoenix. Happy Thanksgiving.

You can always reach me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net

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North American Pairs

District 23 Qualifying

Semi-Final #2

Nov 17 2013

11 a.m.

**Beverly Hills Bridge Center
325 S La Cienega Blvd**

A few of the winners from the Los Angeles Regional October 14-20 2013



Barbara Freeman, Ira Thierer, Sue Coggins,
and Leslie Brucker



Kickoff KO teams: Mitch Dunitz Mark Itabashi, Ross Grable, Ed Davis



Dan Williams and Leslie Williams



Gold Rush Pairs: Jim Brunet
and Ken Okel



New Life Masters: Carol Zanio
and Ken Zanio



Tuesday Open Pairs: Liliane
Kirchhoff and Rick Roeder



Beautiful California Weather



Woodland Hills, CA | February 17-23, 2014

The Woodland Hills Marriott features a new poolside Oasis with lush foliage, fire pit and a bar for casual enjoyment. Starbucks is on-site, and the newly restyled Breeze restaurant features indoor and outdoor dining. Enjoy upscale martinis, microbrews and a full appetizer menu at the Q Martini Bar. Many great restaurants are just a few blocks away, and there are shopping choices for all at the nearby Westfield Topanga Mall.



Warner Center Marriott Woodland Hills
21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, California 91367
Reservations: 800-228-9290,
or reserve online at
LosAngelesRegional.com

- Room rate \$129 single or double w/ Free in-room internet
- Reserve by 5:00pm January 31, 2014
- Discounted Parking \$7 or \$10 overnight (obtain discount pass at valet desk)
- The Marriott is a smoke-free hotel

The **Los Angeles Regional** at Woodland Hills includes the **Gold Rush Pairs**, in which you can win **GOLD Points** and *nobody you play will have more than 750 masterpoints*. On Sunday try the **Bracketed B Swiss** with teams in each bracket having similar average masterpoints. Three teams in each bracket of eight win **GOLD points**!

- Tournament Manager, Peter Benjamin, 310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com
- Partnership, Betty Jackson, 562-594-4420, rjackson6277@roadrunner.com
- Card fees \$13 for paid members, \$17 for others

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Brian Russell
Director-in-Charge
Sanction 1402035

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

Life sometimes really turns out well, and if you live in Santa Clarita (or perhaps in the surrounding communities of Newhall and Valencia) life is turning out to be GREAT! The Disney-owed ranch issue has finally been resolved and the result looks like it will spawn hundreds, even thousands of high-wage local jobs. Property values are WAY UP and some new local developments are selling one new home sold per day! A distinctive address is the label being put onto so many Santa Clarita residences and the boats of Newhall and Valencia are seeing the results of this rising tide. With their lifves doing so well, I only wish the very best for our neighbors over the hill and I truly hope that they can duck the coming social chaos. Here on the other side of the hill, we are simply girding our loins and getting ready for ARMAGEDDON IN AMERICA. Is your local club ready?

Bridge is a wonderful diversion and our Unit 556 Sectional, "The Magic Mountain Sectional" just completed in early October and was a success! Thanks to everyone who came to this two day extravaganza. To our local players to those that ventured from afar, we truly appreciate your attendance. Thank you for your loyal support.

The following is a run-down of the outstanding performances logged by our Unit 556 locals.

In the 299'er game Saturday morning October 5 Valencia's own John & Carolyn Heitman won, followed closely by the partnership of Valencian Albert Stock and Jacquie Moor from Santa Clarita. Dan Spector from Palmdale, partnered by Barbara York from Lancaster were third.

The Saturday morning Open Pairs saw Ms. Shari Elias turn in a great performance, partnered by Ms. Ann McClelland. These two finished second! John Langer from Santa Clarita finished 5th overall.

The big Saturday Afternoon Swiss was well attended, but the event suffered a few technical flaws

which did make a few folks quite displeased. But, in the end, the team including Elaine Moore, Tom Shudic and John Langer tied for the win along with the team headed by Kathy Swaine and Rand Pinsky. Castaic's Lamonte Johnson teamed up with Valencia's Basant Shah and Lancaster's Brad Ward to finish third. The Saturday afternoon Open pairs saw Ms. Lola Messhia and Ms. Vivianne Dinehart from "Over-the-hill" in Antelope Valley record a MONSTER 72.4% game to win by a mile. Santa Clarita's Robert McBroom and Kathy Flynn were second and Lancaster's Dave & Marlene-Warren Gasper were third.

The big Sunday Swiss Team event attracted 17 teams and Lancaster's Paul Markarian led the winning squad with a great performance. Tied for third was the team of Brad Ward, Lola Messhia, Marlene and Dave Gasper.

When everything was tallied at the end Mr. Albert Stock was the biggest point winner out of all our local players. He was followed closely by Brad Ward who finished second and Basant Shah followed Brad for third, only .01 points behind him! Congratulations to Mr. Stock for his excellent showing in this tourney.. Thanks again for coming to our sectional, we hope you had a great time.

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

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

Thanks again to Dick Banta for directing the October Unit game, which was accompanied by Merry's delicious "chicken Betty" and yielded the following results:

	N/S
A1	Herman Helber & Jake Frenkel
A2	Karen Alpert & Bob Hogan
A3	Shiu-Ming Huang & Peter Szecsi
A4	Pat Abbey & Merry Besvold

→

	B1	Art Chacanas & Medic Marcar E/W
A1	B1	Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
A2		Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A3		Rae Murbach & Gerry Belcher
A4	B2	David Rozzell & Sharon Wolf
	B3	Paula Olivares & Bill Brodek
	C1	Betsy Josias & Louise Nash

Our next Unit Game is on November 8. There will also be a Board meeting that day. Please join us for pre-Thanksgiving ham and a rousing game of bridge.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: www.acblunit557.org

club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

September 29 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Sankar Reddy/Eric Tang, 2nd Mark Tang/Ron Lien, 3rd Gary Paugh/Lois Abramson, 4th Cathy Bauer/Randy Hamlin, 5th Keith and Susan Hafen, 6th Mark Teaford/Joyce Henderson. In the B flight overall: 4th John Petrie/Orhan Gurbuz, 5th Tybie Becker/Irene Hirschland, 6th Fern and Hank Dunbar. In the C flight overall Kiyu Nagaishi/Renee Hoffman were 3rd, Jane and Tom Gibbons 4th and Jeanette Estill/Anthony Doria were 5th. In the NLM section: 1st Lynn Danielson/Bill Dilks, 2nd Cooie and Jack Dampman, 3rd Thuan Pham Gynn/Joce Basch, 4th Michiko Sharp/Nancy Toussant. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games in the club September 16 through October 15: In the open game Sept 22 Sean Lui/Michael Savage had 70.99%. In the NLM game Oct 7 Susan Bibby/Pam Cronn had 75%. And in the afternoon game Oct 9 Aaron Jones/George Welsh had 69.92%. Congratulations to all three pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards September 16 through October 15: In the unit game Sept 29 Sankar Reddy/Eric Tang were 1st winning 5.24mp, Mark Tang/Ron Lien were 2nd winning 3.93mp. In the open game Oct 7 Betty McClellan/Jon Yinger were 1st winning 4.33mp, Jo Daigle/Ralph Beazley were 2nd winning 3.25mp. In the afternoon game Oct 8 Steve Rowe/Marcus Evans were 1st winning 6.67mp, Steve Mager/Shirley Carroll were 2nd winning 5.00mp, and Carmela Chiurazzi/Walt Schafer tied with John Wong/Louis Shen for 3rd

each winning 3.28mp. In the evening game Oct 8 John Petrie/Om Chokriwala were 1st winning 3.33mp. Oct 9 Marcus Evans/Baum Harris were 1st winning 4.04mp, Bob Mault/Kiyu Nagaishi were 2nd winning 3.50mp. In the afternoon game Oct 11 Ed Barad/Carol McCully were 1st winning 7.17mp (wow!), Carmela Chiurazzi/Walt Schafer were 2nd winning 5.38mp, Janet Logan/Ralph Beazley were 3rd winning 4.03mp, and Bob Goldstein/Larry Topper were 4th winning 3.02mp. In the evening game Oct 11 John and Jo Melis were 1st winning 3.50mp. Congratulations to all!

New Members: Dale Jensen. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Masters: Jim Keese, Linda Lane. New Club Master: Carol Lopresti. New Sectional Masters: Jack Dampman, Dalia Hernandez. New Regional Master: Darlene Harrison. New Life Master and Bronze Life Master: Renee Hoffman. Congratulations to you all!

Get Well Wishes to Steve Skinner and Steve Warner.

Upcoming Events at the Club: Saturday-Sunday November 9-10 Long Beach Sectional. Games both days begin at 10am at the Long Beach Bridge Center (no club game either day). To reserve your Saturday section email: lb2013@acbldistrict23.org. 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.

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

70% Games: Sept 23 Joan Tschirki/Bill Linskey had a 70.99% game.

Club Championship Results: Sept 12—Clubhouse #3 overall winners in A: 1 Bill Linskey/Howard Smith; 2 Betty Jackson/Ralph Beazley; 3 (also 1 in B) Bob and Pat Turansick; 4 Joyce Henderson/Rob Preece; 5 (also 2 in B) Jerome and Melanie Smith; 6 Bee Kinman/Eileen Nelson; 7 (also 3 in B) Dalia Hernandez/Coleen Bilas; 8 (also 4 in B) Cookie Pham/Thuan Gwynn. Oct 3—Clubhouse #3 overall winners in A: 1 John Killian/Joe FioRica; 2 Bill Linskey/Betty Jackson; 3 (also 1 in B) Melanie and Jerome Smith; 4 Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin; 5 (also 2 in B) Howard Smith/Joyce Henderson; 6 Jane and Tom Gibbons; 3rd in B Julie Cunningham/Jack Dampman; 4th in B Joan and Ted Wieber. Oct 4—Clubhouse #3 overall winners →

in A: 1 Diane Sachs/Howard Smith; 2 (also 1 in B) Jean Byer/George Koehm; 3 Joyce Henderson/Rob Preece; 4 (also 2 in B) Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw; 5 (also 3 in B) Joyce Basch/Stam Blitz; 4th in B Richard Norris/Ron Yaffee

Get Well: Get well wishes to Sharon Beran.

Unit Game: Seal Beach Leisure World hosted the September Unit game. We enjoyed having the great lunch at our bright, roomy Burning Tree Clubhouse.

'Last Minute' Phone Number: If you are signed up to play bridge on Mondays or Thursdays at Clubhouse #3 and will be late or have to cancel at the last minute - call (562) 293-8358 after 12:00. You will reach the Club Manager. Also, if you are available to fill in at the last moment, please call this number.

Upcoming Club Championship Dates: Clubhouse #3- Nov 14, Dec 16. Clubhouse #1- Nov 2.

If you have any news for next month's column, please e mail me- jcj90740@gmail.com Results of all Leisure World games are posted on 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.

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marie Nimmrich

Unit Game: Sunday 3 November 1:00 p.m.

Bridge is a sport; bridge is a recreation; bridge is a mental stimulus; bridge is a game of skill, logic, concentration and creativity. Is that why so many people are attracted to a table where a deck of cards is dealt and 13 of these cards have the potential of aggrandizement or frustration? I have heard many reasons espoused for why people come to play: They come for the competition; they come for the social aspects; they come to spend some time away from their troubles. Who is to say which is the right or wrong reason to take up bridge? Why do people struggle to gain master points (for bridge can be a struggle, also)? Just ask Gerry Geremia, who recently achieved the rank of Gold Life Master. Ask Stan Majcher and Dwight McCormick who are now Regional Masters. Consider Michael Hoolahan and Tim Lee who are, as of this date, Sectional Masters;

and Lucy Zhang, a new Club Master. Richard Bentley, Eleanor Edwards, Sherman Gao and William Renter have become Junior Masters. They all worked for their respective ranks, and they all deserve them. But I have purposely left the most important reason people play bridge until the end of this paragraph, because I feel it is the most important. People play bridge for enjoyment. Isn't that so? Therefore, the atmosphere at the games must be kept enjoyable for all participants. Just keep in mind that bridge is a game and the other players are your friends. And it is a fact that people who like what they do also do well at what they do.

September Unit Game: We had a smaller than usual number of players at our September Unit Game - only 13 tables came to play. Bernie Mateer and Peter Szecsi were the winners on this occasion. Second were Carole and Frank Grant; third were Lulu and Fredy Minter; fourth were Margie Gould and Barbara Baeskens. Sandra Franciscus brought the food (loved those chocolate chip cookies!). Why was the attendance so low? Was it the tournament in Oregon (surely not)? Or was it the fact that the game was held on the middle Sunday of the month and not on the first Sunday? We hope more people come in November.

Our next unit game will be Sunday 3 November at 1:00 p.m. at San Marino. We do indeed hope to see you there.

Arcadia Bridge Center: Beat The House night will be on Friday 22 November at 7:15 P.M. Art and Diane are the House Pair (usually); and it is difficult but certainly not impossible to beat their score and win a free play. Fun event; lots of amiable rivalry; and a real treat if you can capture a free play.

Winner/Loser Sunday will be on Sunday 24 November at 1:00. At this game, those who have Won or Lost during the month of October are allowed to play for \$5.00.

The Bridge Center will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday 28 November. When we give our thanks on this special day, let us for sure remember to give thanks for the Bridge Center. It has served thousands of people over the last 40+ years. The figure might even be millions!

Noteworthy News

Our wonderful Miriam Collup has just become a great-grandmother at the age of 100 years. Can you imagine the thrill she got when Aerilyn was born →

into this world? She reached grandmother status at 70 years of age and now this blessing came to her at 100. I have heard that the proud parents came with Aerilyn to visit Miriam in person. Miriam is all smiles these days.

Zach Vedro and his lovely wife Jess have moved to Century City to be near her law firm. However, Zach will continue to be in our unit; and he will visit us to play once in a while, according to Harold Knowles.

Welcome to Robert Riegel who joined Unit 559 in October. We love to see new people come into our unit.

Holiday Charity Party: Can you believe that another year is ending? And can you imagine any nicer way of ending it than to attend our annual Holiday Charity Party? Tickets are now available from board members for this lovely party. Let me give you details:

Date: Sunday 15 December 2013.

Place: Arcadia Community Center
365 Campus Drive, Arcadia

The Arcadia Community Center is located one mile south of the 210 Freeway between Baldwin and Santa Anita Avenue.

Cost: \$35.00 per person

Time: 11:30 a.m. hors d'oeuvres

12:00 noon game begins

Swiss Teams following dinner

Dinner: turkey and ham dinner, buffet style

Silent Auction: Bring any items you wish to sell for the benefit of the charitable cause. These items will be displayed and a minimum price will be set by you. People will bid on the items.

Live Auction: A raffle will be held. Wrapped items to be donated for the raffle would be appreciated. All proceeds from the live auction will be given to charity.

Silent Auction and Raffle: If you can help, please contact Miriam Harrington 626-232-0558.

Charity: Proceeds from the party will be donated to Elizabeth House in Pasadena.

For more information about the party, please call Karen Arase 626-952-4112 or Ann Raymond 626-510-7380.

Board Members with tickets are: Karen Arase, Peter Szecsi, Sandra Franciscus, Ann Raymond, Mike Marcucci, Marie Nimmrich, Clif Cates, Frank Grant, Miriam Harrington, Mary Falvey, Bernie Mateer and Amr Elghamry.

Until next month, a bientot.

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Individual – Saturday, November 2, LaVerne site

Unit Game – Saturday, November 16, 11:00 a.m.

In game news, the October Individual was captured by Roger Boyar, followed by Tom Lill, Clint Lew, Larry Clark, and Margie Hall. This game marked the last of the 2012-2013 series, at which time we use a somewhat bizarre formula to see who won the annual series (and gets his or her name on the plaque, of course). This year's top finishers:

Larry Clark: 0.575

Roger Boyar: 0.574 (talk about a nail-biter!)

Charlotte Capelle: 0.572

Clint Lew: 0.564

Paul Chrisney: 0.563

Richard Patterson: 0.558

Bob Kakade: 0.547

Steve Mancini: 0.545

Linda Tessier: 0.535

Thomas Lill: 0.532

Albert Lax: 0.514

The October Unit game falls well after our publishing deadline, unfortunately. But we can now report the September results. Winning in a cake walk were Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson. Hans Hehnke - Vic Sartor were a distant second. (However, at last report, there were no extra masterpoints for slaughtering the opponents.) In third place we find Eileen Finlay - Timothy Finlay, followed by Kim Horn - Georgiana Battuello.

The top game this month was 69.09% by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa, just edging out Hanan Mogharbel and Charlotte Capelle. Other winners included Lu and Fredy Minter, Penny Barbieri, Roger Boyar, Sandy Jones, Sue Ruoff, Lois Snowden, Don Logsdon, Herb Stampfl, Denise Morgan, Hans Hehnke, Paul Chrisney, Madhu Sudan, Richard Patterson, Ann McClelland, Ron Purkis, Georgiana Battuello, and Kim Horn.

Just one promotion this month: Larry Clark is now an NABC Master. Nice work.

Some assorted Unit business: occasionally, Your Club Manager is asked "how come you don't post the results of the Individual Game (sometimes it's the →

Unit Game)?” The answer is very simple: he does. What y’all have to remember is that the Unit Game and the Individual are held by two different clubs. The Unit Game is held by ... well ... the Unit, which is headquartered in Glendora. The Individual is held by the club Bridge41 (we are sure most of you have gotten the joke by now), which is based in La Verne. To find the game results on the ACBL website, you look under the city where the club is based. Usually the results are posted by the morning after the game,

Another Unit business question that came up not too terribly long ago: “how many free plays does the Unit Board of Directors get?” The answer is: NONE. All board members, including the regular Director, pay the entry fee just like anyone else. So no one is getting a free ride just for showing up a bit early to the

game. Fair enough?

Our hand of the month is one of those “you gotta be kidding” hands. We present, for your amusement, all four hands:

North	
♠ 987	
♥ Q	
♦ AKQ93	
♣ K653	
West	East
♠ 2	♠ QJ65
♥ JT8542	♥ AK973
♦ 864	♦ 72
♣ A85	♣ T9
South	
♠ AKT43	
♥ 6	
♦ JT5	
♣ QJ74	

The vulnerability is irrelevant in this exhibit from the Laurel-and-Hardy School of Bridge. North-South had just finished a discussion

of splinter bids as the new round started. Soon enough this hand, the third of the round, came along. South dealt, and opened 1♠. Well, Roth-Stone wouldn’t agree, but I suppose most people would open this hand. Despite the six card suit, West saw no reason to jump in with his dog hand, and North, despite holding only 3 card support, elected to splinter in hearts. East saw no reason to intervene, at the 5 level, and now we turn to poor South. South decided that the opponents couldn’t possibly have an 11-card fit and not enter the auction, further decided that partner had forgotten about the splinter, and ... passed! West had not learned bridge that morning, so he passed also. South can take one spade, two diamonds, and one club, for down 6! Whereas 4♠ would appear to be a make. Such is life.

Quote for the month: “I walk



January 20-26, 2014

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GOLD POINT PROGRAM

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

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

Online partnership desk at
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Zero Tolerance Policy will be in place
See LVregional.com for full schedule of events

slowly, but I never walk backward..." (Abraham Lincoln)
Until next month ...

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568
SBBC: www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Swiss Team Championship: Tuesday, November 5, 7:00 pm

NLM Club Championship: Thursday, November 14, 10:30 am

Club Championship: Friday, November 15, 7:00 PM
Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening
\$2.00 a player (cheapest game in town!)

There will be a Friday Night games on November 1 and November 15.

Club Championships

On September 24 the Club Championship was won by Booth Tarkington/Mike Savage while in the NLM's Marilyn Morton/Setsuko Miyasaka were on top in Flight A with Johnny Arceri/Mike Sulman taking Flight B. On October 7 the Club Championship was captured by Steve Ramos/Ray Mack in Flight A with Dolores Nawa/Marty Cooper leading Flight B and Beverly Narahara/Carole King on top in Flight C.

There were several Club appreciation championships in October resulting in the following. On October 8 Ernie Frank/Stanley Greengard led the way with Ken Brewer/Neal Hudson winning the NLM pairs. On October 9 Fran Israel/Patty Taylor won Flight A with Mahin Khadivi/Charlotte Lewin leading Flight B. On October 11 Hank Sheehan/Harry Wessells captured Flight A and Judy Colaianne/Sheila Cottle took the NLM pairs. On October 12 Fran Israel/Betsy Amador won Flight A with Arlene and Stanley Greengard leading Flight B.

Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games at the South

Bay Bridge Club.

September 17: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr,
Lucy Gellner, John J. McDermott

September 24: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Becky
and Roger Clough

October 1: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo
Bogema, John J. McDermott

October 8: Kim Wang, Jeff Strutzel, Steve
Ramos, Ed Piken

District 22/23 STAC

Following is a list of pairs that placed in the recent District 22/23 STAC in games played at the South Bay Bridge Club.

Monday Morning, September 16

2A	Gaye Herrington/Lucy Gellner
4B	Pat Schenasi/Carole Mason
6B 4C	Nanci Schultz/Pat Berg

Monday Evening, September 16

1A	Fran Israel/Steve Ramos
4A 1B	Mark Raggio/Stanley Greengard
5A	Gabriela Jackson/Ray Mack
4B 1C	Jean and Harold Brunner
6B 3C	Terry Hane/Neal Hudson
4C	Patricia Westenhaver/Chris Freeland

Tuesday Morning, September 17

6A 3B	Kim Wang/Chein-San Han
2B	Gerri Carlson/Arlene Greengard
3A	Gabriela Jackson/Elizabeth Weinstein
4A 1B	Kim Wang/Cgein-San Han
2B	Adelia Horton/Ernie Frank
3B	Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan

Tuesday Morning, September 17, 499er Pairs

1A	Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson
2/3A	Christine Uriu/Toshiko Saito
2/3A	Dolly Weiner/Jean Brunner

Wednesday Morning, September 18

5A 4B 4C	Dorothy Laird/Arlene Greengard
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Thursday Morning, September 19, NLM Pairs,

1A 1B	Dorothy Joseph and Peter Joseph
2A 2B	Ralph Vidal/Jamila Malikar

→

3A	Jeanette Betts/George Stinson
4A 3B	Charlotte Lewin/Marie Lynch
5A 4B	Fred Swinth/Gerry Ketz
6A	Nancy Collinge/Betsy Miller
5B	Dawn McGill/Linda Bernard
1C	Madge London/Freda Main
2C	Chris and Dave Larsen

Friday Morning, September 20,

6A	Lucy Gellner/Fran Israel
7A	Kim Wang/John Williams

Friday Morning, September 20, 100/50 Pairs

1A 1B	Kathy Shinkle/James Deflon
2A	Ed Bucklin/Carolyn Woo
3/4A	Julie Tan/Joyce Field
3/4A	Rae Yan/Sandy Rathbun
5A	Nancy Raische/Gerry Gastelum
3B	Freda Main/Kathy Miller
4B	Sheila Cottle/Judy Colaianni

Friday Evening, September 21

5A	Mark Raggio/Gabriela Jackson
4B 2C	Joanna Jones-Reed/Ron Prando

Saturday Afternoon, September 21

5A 3B	Joanne and Cal Waller
6C	Joanna Wallis/Booth Tarkington

GUV Memorial Award

My LOL bridge playing mother used to council me by saying “in order to play a 3-3 fit somebody has to bid a 3 card suit”

After playing with Mike Savage in a lot of tournament events I have come to the conclusion that he is one of the worlds luckiest players. One of the reasons for this luck seems to be an uncanny ability to bid a 3 card suit at the right time. However, one time he wasn't so lucky and with a little help from his partner (me) it may have cost us first overall in a recent STAC game. Non Vul versus Vul I held ♠Kx ♥Txxxxx ♦xxxxx ♣--. I restrained myself from an unusual NT call and passed RHO's 1♣ opener. His partner bid 1♠ and Mike passed. RHO's rebid was 2♣ passed back to Mike who bid 2♦. RHO passed and I couldn't resist raising to 3♦ hopefully making it harder for the opponents to compete. This amazingly was passed out. Well Mike went down one for not too good a result our way.

Well, we weren't playing in a 3-3 fit but Mike's balance was based on a holding of ♠QJx ♥A ♦AKQ ♣J9xxxx. Apparently on this hand he wasn't satisfied to settle for a plus 200 or 300 which would have been a top or pretty close to it. As is his wont he was critical of my 3♦ bid saying that I should have bid 2♥ which despite his stiff Ace makes. Of course, I had a little bit to say about his balance but then again we have received a lot of good results on his bidding 3 card suits so I couldn't complain too much.
Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Bali High

We start this month's column with news from the World Championships at Bali. Congratulations to Jill Meyers, who returns from the South Pacific with yet another world title, as she and her teammates captured the Venice Cup. This was Jill's third Venice Cup title.

You're Stuck with Us

Congratulations also to the members of the Unit Board who ran for reelection. No challengers emerged who expressed interest in serving this year, so all of this year's candidates will be deemed reelected. But you don't have to be a Board member to get involved. If you're interested in pitching in, just let me or any other member of the Board know.

The Official Bridge Event of Santa Claus

The West Los Angeles Unit is proud to announce that its Holiday Party has received the official endorsement of Santa Claus. By now, Unit members should have received their invitation to the Holiday Party, held again at the Beverly Hills Country Club on Motor Avenue on November 24. Brunch will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by a scintillating program and Open and 299er Unit Championships starting at 1:15 p.m. You wouldn't want to miss this always-popular event. After all, you might find yourselves on Santa's “naughty” list.

Dallas, by Way of Beverly Hills

The first of two District semifinals for North American Open Pairs was held last month at the Long Beach Bridge Center. For those who didn't feel like trekking down the 405, the second semifinal will take place at our own Beverly Hills Bridge Club on Sunday, November 17. Anyone who took the time to qualify at a club game in June, July, or August should save the date, particularly our non-Life Masters. Did you know that overall awards at the District semifinals are 10% gold? And the District winners in each flight receive a \$700 check from ACBL to defray their expenses to attend the Spring North American Championships, held in March 2014 in Dallas.

Saying Goodbye

We have two departures to report this month. We received word that frequent Beverly Hills player Irena Hak has passed away. We extend our condolences to her friends, family, and partners.

We also learned that Jerry Aronow is no longer with us. I know that many of us have very fond memories of Jerry, and probably less fond memories of the matchpoints and IMPs that always seemed to find their way in Jerry's direction, and away from us. Our thoughts go out to Cyma and the rest of Jerry's family and friends.

The Mike Savage Show

Our most recent reporting period included four Sundays. Mike Savage picked up tournament wins on three of them. At the Woodland Hills Sectional, Mike's team won the Sunday Swiss, and he did it again at the Riverside Sectional. Earlier in the month, Mike capped off a very successful STAC for our Unit by winning the Sunday afternoon Open Pairs event.

Danny Kleinman and Evan Krantz started things off in the STAC by winning the Tuesday afternoon event. Winning all the marbles on Wednesday evening were Suzanne Menck and Farideh Sigari. Peter Benjamin and Pete Knee were the winners Friday morning, while Aram Bedros and Art Zail took first place on Friday afternoon. Joel Schiff won Saturday afternoon.

Finishing off last month's tournament trail, Eva Schondorf and Bill Wickham tied for first in the Sunday Swiss at the Lompoc Sectional. Bill McClean travelled to Las Vegas to pick up a win in the Tuesday evening Swiss.

Why They Win

At IMPs, with everyone vulnerable, you hold: ♠J96 ♥Q4 ♦AQ6 ♣AKQ95.

With silent opponents after partner bids hearts, you find yourself in 6NT with the following dummy: ♠AT54 ♥AK762 ♦K87 ♣J

The opening lead is the ♥J. What's your plan?

At our table, Jeff Goldsmith won the opening lead on dummy, cashed the club jack, and then returned to hand with the heart queen as RHO showed out. Declarer then cashed two more clubs, and LHO showed out. At this point, Jeff ran the spade jack, and when it lost to my queen, he claimed on a marked double squeeze — I had to guard clubs, and my partner had to guard hearts, so no one had room to guard spades. This line proved necessary as both spade honors were off side, so Jeff's line resulted in a well-earned 16 IMPs on his team's way to a blitz and to victory in the event.

Setting the Record Straight

For those who may be wondering, in light of last month's column, it turns out that the points for August's ABA/ACBL game held at Barrington were timely reported after all. I didn't know that because my name was misspelled on the report, leading to my points being credited to someone else's account. All has been straightened out now.

Welcome Mat

A good number of new members have joined our Unit in the last month. Welcome to Ethel Abel, Francine Blaustein, Jan and Thea Drayer, Naomi Goldrich, Marion Hogue, and Nili Weingart. Transferring in from other units were Liang Fan, Helene Greenwood, James Hawkins, George Lewin, and Alan Wollman. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Club champions at Beverly Hills last month were Hugette Galante and Fuad Khuri, Fuad Khuri and Viktor Anikovich, and Lee Hausner and Eddi Samandar. Scoring up 70% games were Cydney Osterman, playing with Jacob Libman and with Viktor Anikovich,

WEST LA *continued on next page*

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, David Chechelashvili, Eddie Kantar,
Mr. Mealy-mouth, and Bill Wickham

1

MPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♣	2♠	3♦	3♥
?			

You South hold: ♠KJx ♥Jxx ♦-- ♣AKJT9xx
What call do you make?

Bare: Pass. And pass partner's double. Anything is a guess. 4♣ seems right, except spades and hearts appear to be offside.

Kantar: Pass. Let partner make the next mistake.

Wickham: Pass. When the opponents have bid two suits below 3NT, a cuebid shows a stopper. *[In this case, 3♠ is ambiguous, lacking the ability to cuebid both suits below 3NT].* 3♠ might get us to 3NT, and if partner has a club fit, we might make it. Of course, partner may not be able to stop hearts, or he may not have any clubs. But why sweat the small stuff? Because we probably do not have a good game, and if we do, perhaps partner can make a better decision. The opponents probably can't make 3♥, but I wouldn't bet money on it. Pass is allowable and is often the best action when you have no clear idea what to do.

Mealy-mouth: No answer. I'd open 4♣, preventing this problem from occurring.

Chechelashvili: Double.

The hands this month were suggested by readers. This problem came from Mark Bartusek, who faced it in a Santa Barbara club game. Mark tried 3NT (a bid I thought might be more popular with the panel, I know other experts that prefer 3NT), and heard it go Pass-Pass-4♠-double. The 2♠ bidder had ♠Axxxxx and ♦xxxxxxx (yes, 6-0-7-0), and made 4♠. Mark scored 4 out of 64 matchpoints. I would double 3♥. Passing and respecting partner's decision may not leave us well placed. We will frequently have something close to a weak NT when we pass, and this hand doesn't resemble a weak NT. Passing and pulling partner's double shows extras because this is a clearly forcing auction.

WEST LA *continued from previous page*

Roy Boucvalt and Rita Levin, Annie Corea and Mike Savage, and Anne Bailey and Eddie Feldmann.

Barrington club champions were Paul Smith and Steven Yaffe, Frani Ridder and Danny Kleinman, Gloria Cohen and Beverly Hinkley, and Aram Bedros and Sheri Rivera. Cyma's club champions were Jim Brunet and Ken Okel and Adrienne Green and Laura Waisler. Hitting 70% at Barrington were Hans Kraepelien and Michael Nash, while Jim Brunet and Ken Okel scored up a 70% game at Cyma's Game.

Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are John Glovkca, Ellen Levitt, and Ken Millius. Judy Freeman is now a Sectional Master, while Al Franken and Tom Lawrence have become Regional Masters.

Beverly Goldner is a new Life Master. Glenn Dicus has become a Bronze Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

2

IMPs
NS vul

East	South	West	North
3♥	?		

You, South, hold:
♠AKQ9xx ♥AT ♦983 ♣Ax
What call do you make?

Chechelashvili: 3NT. It's more likely to find partner with a hand that supplies one trick in 3NT than two tricks in 4♠.

Kantar: 3NT. For Marshall. *[Yes, Marshall would bid 3NT, smoothly and in tempo.]*

Bare: 4♠. Double is tempting because of the controls, but 4♠ is a better description. A jump here is not preemptive.

When the panelists saw the problem, the hand had 14 cards, including an extra small club. The above panelists answered as if a small diamond or a small club was missing, essentially the intended problem. The two panelists below took this opportunity to poke a little fun at me. Since their answers were more humorous than I was accurate, here goes...

Wickham: 3NT. NT clearly looks right as we have fourteen cards, and the last card will be a stopper in something. If we strip away a small diamond, the problem essentially remains the same. Since we are vulnerable, I will take the high road and bid 3NT, which is the most likely game. If we were not vulnerable, I think a simple slightly heavy 3♠ would be quite reasonable.

Mealymouth: 8♠. I remember this board. I was North and held ♠J105 ♥3 ♦A76 ♣KQJ102. My idiot partner bid 4♠. I Blackwooded to 7NT and claimed 13 top tricks, losing God knows how many IMPs when the geniuses at the other table reached 8♠, where declarer won the opening heart lead, ruffed a heart with dummy's ♠J, drew trumps despite the 5-0 split thanks to the key ♠9, cashed the ♦A, and claimed 14 tricks, saying he would throw his two remaining diamonds on dummy's fourth and fifth clubs. So to save IMPs, time and agony, I'll just bid 8♠ directly.

This was Roger Lee's problem, at least until I added a 14th card.

3

IMPs
EW vul

N	E	S	W
p	2♠	dbl	p
4♥	p	?	

You, South, hold:
♠x ♥A9 ♦AQJxxx ♣AKxx
What call do you make?

Kantar: 6♦ and get it over with. Partner didn't open 2♥, so he figures to have some outside strength. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

Bare: 6♦. Clubs might be best, but a cuebid promises a heart fit. Since hearts is the dearest suit, we will not have a chance to play any other suit if we start with a cue bid.

Mealymouth: 5♦. As it's too late to bid 4♦ now (I don't suppose West would be kind enough to condone an insufficient bid), I'll bid 5♦, and hope partner hasn't 7 to 11 high-card points and a 4=5=1=3 pattern. Please send me an email reminding me to remove "Leaping Michaels" from the convention card I use with two of my current partners.

Chechelashvili: 5♦. I think 4♠ promises a heart fit; otherwise, I would choose it.

Wickham: 5♦. Today, a direct jump to 4♦ usually shows five or more spades and five or more diamonds, so my initial alternatives are 3♦, 4NT, or 5♦, none of which paint a very accurate picture. Double followed by 5♦ implies playability in the fourth suit (clubs) and significant extras. *[How do you bid a monster one-suiter in diamonds that isn't playable in clubs?]*

This hand confronted 14-year-old future star Lucy Zheng at the Monday night Caltech game.

4

MPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♣	3♥	dbl	pass
?			

You, South, hold:

♠AQx ♥Qx ♦K ♣AQT9xxx

What call do you make?

Bare: 5♣. I don't know about hearts, but I want to suggest a trump suit strongly.

Wickham: 5♣. I think it is best to bid what you're looking at and not what you hope partner has. 3NT might work, but why should it? 4♣ is pretty conservative. 4♥ might work, but only if partner thinks it is a choice of games, and not just a good 4♠ bid. 4♠ is a big gamble, just as is 3NT. What do I have? A 5♣ bid. Anything else is scary. *[5♣ might work, but that plays partner for something similar to the ♠K, the ♦A, and the ♣K without shortness. That is a significantly bigger parlay than 3NT. 5♣ rates to be down off the top at least as often as 3NT.]*

Chechelashvili: 3NT. It's matchpoints. Sometimes partner will have ♥Ax or ♥Kx, and sometimes bidding 3NT confidently will prevent a heart lead even if partner has a small singleton. *[RHO will frequently bid with honor third.]*

Mealymouth: 4♠. The wonderful thing about modern doubles is their murkiness. In the absence of an alert or footnote, nobody knows what South's double means. *[In this feature, negative doubles are on at all levels, as per today's game.]* In Bridge World Standard, Sputnik *[the negative double]* flies to the level of 3♠, but on the ACBL's official Yellow Card, doubles beyond 2♠ are penalty. Playing ACBL Yellow Card, I would pass, expecting +800 when slam is unmakeable or unbiddable. Playing BWS, I would gamble 4♠ despite the lack of a fourth spade, hoping for +620 when only +600 is available in 5♣. Playing with the ghost of Marshall Miles, I would bid 3NT, fearing that if I did anything else he would dump me for another partner.

Kantar: 3NT. I bet I'm not the only one who bid 3NT, particularly if Marshall is on the panel. *[Sorry Eddie, this month's problems aren't old Marshall problems. This is also a Roger Lee-supplied problem. I'm certain that Marshall would again have bid 3NT smoothly and in tempo. Marshall probably made more 3NT contracts without a stopper in the opponent's suit than any player in the world. Of course he tried more 3NTs without stoppers than anyone else.]*

District 23 Rank Changes September, 2013

Junior Master

Laurence Abramson
James Boehnlein, Peggy Diller
Myrna Frankel, Judy Grushkin
Barry Heller, Joshua Kuschner
Fay Riedel, Fred Roach
Janice Ronci, Shirley Rosen
Barry Ross, Eva Schilk
Sandra Stewart, Inga Stoops

Club Master

Gail Capers, Elizabeth Georgeon
Laurence Gresko, Judy Husted
Ellen Kaminsky, Anand Kumar
Barbara Laier, Felice Levine
David Serbin, Skip Smith
William Sullivan

Sectional Master

Marsha Bocan, Sue Hunter
Linda Katz, Kiran Kumar
Jerry Reid, Barry Segal

Regional Master

Marlene Felix, Sherman Gao
Marvin Rifkin, James Robinson
Charles Sarture, Donald Van Wye
Barbara Wellisch

NABC Master

Jerome Smith, Albert Stock
Sharry Vida

Life Master

Ken Bishop, Coocie Dampman
Ann Raymond

Bronze Life Master

Ken Bishop

Silver Life Master

Arlene Greengard

Gold Life Master

Farideh Sigari

5

IMPs
NS vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠KJx ♥Q9xx ♦ATx ♣Axx
What call do you make?

Bare: 6♥. It's hard to picture partner's hand, but he must have something like ♠void ♥AKxx ♦KOJxxx, ♣Kxx, plus or minus a card or two.

Chechelashvilli: 4NT RKCB. *[When 3NT has been bid naturally, most of the time 4NT is also natural. In this case, however, a certain heart fit has been uncovered, so whether 4NT is RKCB is debatable.]*

Wickham: 6NT. Since you have the ♦A, partner's 3♠ must be a big raise to 4♥. What does partner need for 3♠ instead of just jumping to 4♥? A very good hand. So I would just bid 6NT.

Mealymouth: 6♦. As I'd have bid similarly with the ♣J instead of the ♣A, or with fewer diamonds, I must accept partner's implied slam invitation, but having promised at least four hearts, I won't commit to hearts by rebidding four comparatively weak ones. Instead, I'll bid 6♦, offering partner (whose unbalanced hand may include five or six strong diamonds) a choice of slams. In a heart slam, partner might not survive an unfavorable trump split, but in a diamond slam he may be able to discard a slow heart loser on a spade or on a club if he has ♠KQ doubleton.

Kantar: 5♥. I think this shows both minor suit aces (no cuebid) with a hole in the heart suit. *[That makes sense since we are out of room to make two cuebids without bypassing 5♥.]*

This is from Steve Ramos. I think this is a very difficult hand. No one mentioned it, but 3NT was pretty conservative. The ♠KJ may be wasted in a suit contract, but the ♥Q and the minor aces are gold. 3NT doesn't seem like enough, but there isn't a terribly descriptive bid below the six-level, which may be too much. Partner will rarely pass 3NT with my holding the ♦A, so maybe 3NT is OK, but I must really come to life now. Blasting to 6NT will probably be right more than wrong. Maybe 5NT, pick a slam, is reasonable. If I am not going to force to slam, Eddie's 5♥ is appealing. Our reader didn't fare well on this hand. He cuebid 5♣, which is clearly a cuebid, but confused his partner, who passed.

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

are Palm Springs in December and Monterey and Las Vegas in January. If you attend one or more of these tournaments and they do something special, bring the ideas home to us. Our tournament committee is always working to make our regionals better.

In Torrance we added several new features. We added Fast Results that gets your results delivered to your email and/or mobile device immediately following the game. If you haven't already done so, sign up is easy. Email your ACBL # (typed in subject line) to: FastResultsHelpDesk@gmail.com or Text your last name & ACBL # to 312-800-1790.

We also added a photographer to our tournament staff. Gil tried to take pictures of all our winners. Some are included in this issue. Copies of the pictures were printed for each person of the pair or team. If you forgot to pick up your pictures last week, they will be available at the Hospitality Desk in Woodland Hills in February.

Finally, I want to thank once again the dedicated players who give their time selflessly to make your regional experience special, including:

Ellen Anten, Tournament
Committee Chair
Penny Barbieri, Hospitality
Leo Bell, Web Master
Peter Benjamin, Tournament
Manager
Betty Jackson, Partnerships
Joan Rubin, Speaker Recruitment
Bob Shore, Daily Bulletin
Gil Stinebaugh, Photographer
Jan Wickersham, 299er Program