

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Safety Plays

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



My column has featured bridge personalities and bridge places, but rarely the game itself. Many columns ago I wrote about doubles. This month I'm writing about safety plays.

As declarer, our primary objective is to make our contract. Seasoned bridge players use safety plays to ensure their contract against the worst possible distribution of the opponents' cards. Louis H. Watson writes: "It is analogous to looking both ways before you cross a busy street, or to carrying a loaded rifle with the muzzle toward the ground, or to taking along an umbrella when there is a pretty good chance of rain."

There are basically two types of safety plays: those that guard against adverse distribution without sacrificing any tricks and those that sacrifice a trick in order to guard against the loss of two tricks.

There is no question about the use of safety plays when playing IMPs. Overtricks are not important. However, safety plays that sacrifice a trick at matchpoints can be controversial since duplicate play rewards those who make overtricks rather than those that ensure their contracts.

The nine examples below feature both types of safety plays. The first two examples you already know as something else, but they too are safety plays.

1. Xxx
 KJxxx QTx
 Axx

Against 3NT your LHO leads what appears to be fourth best from a five-card suit. You **hold up** playing

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ACBLscore+

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



One of the most important matters discussed in Las Vegas was a report by Management on the status of ACBLscore+. ACBLscore+ was to be the program to totally replace ACBLscore which was first introduced in 1991. ACBLscore+ was to provide ACBL with all the

necessary tools, bells, and whistles to keep ACBL at the forefront of bridge technology. Unfortunately, it was reported to the Board and then to the Board of Governors that the ACBLscore+ project has been terminated. Management prepared a list of bullet points for discussion. They are:

1. The ACBL has made the decision to discontinue the ACBLscore+ project. A working group consisting of Board members, internal staff, and outside experts determined efforts to develop a completely new system ACBLscore+ fell short of what was required to work for the League's members. The ACBL Board of Directors agreed with this decision at its July meeting in Las Vegas.

2. The ACBL is now moving forward with plans to enhance the features and benefits of its existing scoring software, ACBLscore, and extend the life and functionality of the software for a long time to come. We are doing this because:

-- Our tournament directors, our club owners and operators, and our members and players have confidence in the existing system, in its reliability, in its accuracy.

-- It is a system they know and have confidence in. We want to build on our success.

-- Folks know how to use it; they know it works on their computers; they are comfortable with what they

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

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know, and we want to add on to it.

-- We want our club and tournament directors to be able to run games on their existing computers without expensive upgrades or complicated new lessons.

3. The ACBL is already enhancing the scoring software to give it more features and to integrate it more easily into complimentary systems. For examples, we have integrated data population with TourneyTrax, and we are building integration to create real time result display features on the web.

4. The total capitalized costs of the ACBLscore+ project is in excess of one and a half million dollars and we are determining what portion of the project product can be repurposed into the enhanced ACBLscore.

These four points have generated a substantial amount of discussion between board members and our bridge community. Most of the discussion seems to focus on **why** this happened and **why** was so much money spent on this project before it was determined to terminate. There are as many theories as number of

people commenting on this issue.

From my prospective, there was no one reason for the project to be terminated. I do believe that it was the right decision to make.

That being said, I want to move forward. Points 2 and 3 of the Management Statement discuss enhancements and new features. This is your opportunity to make an impact on ACBLscore. I am asking all club owners, club managers, directors, and anyone else who has used ACBLscore to write to me with their comments and suggestions on the enhancements or changes they would like to have made to ACBLscore. I will then forward them to Management and report on their comments and actions. This will not be an overnight fix, but one that will take some time to complete. In fact I would hope that this will be a "living" program subject to continuous upgrades and changes. This will ensure that ACBLscore remains a viable tool of the ACBL and its members.

As always, if you want to reach me, write me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net.

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**What do
you think?**

Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Bridge Stories

This reoccurring series in the Southern California Bridge News includes short bridge stories from District 23 players who earned a new rank last month, as collected by Rand Pinsky



I am very happy of this achievement and glad to share my humble story with you all.

Bridge is only card game I practice. From the first moment, I fell in love with it. My beginnings were in my modest hometown Damascus, Syria. When I moved to the US last year, my friend Ray Malki introduced me to the club and encouraged me to register at the ABCL.

We then started to play together in the district. I would like to thank the club members for welcoming me with such ease, even with my difficulties with the English language because I originally learned all the bridge bids and plays in French.

I would also like to thank Ray for introducing me to the ACBL and for being patient during my beginnings at the club. And finally I would like to thank the club management for their tremendous work and efforts. So far, ACBL has been only about great bridge tournaments and making friendship.

I am honored to be part of this community.

Marie-Rose Kardous
Junior Master

I am so happy to have reached the 5-point, Junior Master, bench mark. And I owe it all to our director, and my teacher, Jeff Grotenhuis! He is such a positive, warm, helpful, and organized person. His overall attitude draws wonderful people together to enjoy the great game of bridge.

Margaret Bass
Junior Master



I've reached this status by playing at five or six different clubs with varying partners, all good friends and good players.

Freda Main
Sectional Master



I began playing duplicate bridge in about 1997 after about a 26-year hiatus. My then partner and I took part in a few regional tournaments and before we knew what we

were doing we had over five red points. Then I logged into the website and saw that with a few silver points I could achieve sectional master. I made this goal and saw that regional master was within reach. I took a weekend off to go to the recent Santa Barbara regional and was rewarded with almost seven silver points. Regional Master does not necessarily cost a fortune to achieve. If you are close, keep striving. In Santa Barbara I was set up with four partners I had never played with before. I am apprehensive now about the next level and beyond.

James Christiansen
Regional Master

I don't think my "story" is much different from most. I just kept playing with partners Robert Brogan and Mike Keston in regionals and in two nationals until I earned the points. The one unusual aspect is that my pard in Las Vegas when I went "over the line" was David Brown, a friend from high school days. He and I were debate pards in high school; fifty years later, we have reconnected and are occasional bridge pards.

I am grateful to the master players in our unit like our mutual friend Steven Yaffe who have been so friendly and welcoming and who have made helpful suggestions as I have struggled to improve my bridge playing.

Joseph Hooker
NABC Master

**For the latest
District 23 news:**

www.acbldistrict23.org

'Selective' club adds four new members

*Reprinted from
The Bridge Bulletin, July 18 2014*

Since the dormant ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame was brought back to life in 1995, more than 100 players have been recognized as worthy of special honors for their exploits at the table and for their contributions to the game.

Chip Martel, Jill Meyers, Billy Rosen (von Zedtwitz Award) and Peggy Sutherlin (Blackwood Award) were added to the list of achievers in a celebration capped off by the presentation of the Sidney H. Lazard Jr. Sportsmanship Award to Bob Hamman, who was elected to the Hall of Fame 15 years ago.

As emcee David Sokolow pointed out, the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame, with only 118 members, is "very selective."

Other halls of fame, he noted, have many more members with significantly fewer players in their respective histories. For example: Major League Baseball's hall has 306 members, the NFL 287 and the Professional Golfers Association 146.

Martel was the first to be introduced. Lew Stansby, with whom Martel played for 35 years, recalled playing with his friend for the first time in 1977 at a sectional in Berkeley CA, where Martel earned a degree in computer science.

They won the event they played in and were consistent winners for more than three decades, including five world championships and more than 20 North American titles.

Martel, Stansby said, always made it a priority to be prepared for unusual systems, a philosophy that paid off more than once. "It

was amazing how much defense he could discuss in a minute," Stansby said.

"The best bridge decision I ever made," he added, "was to play with Chip."

When he took the podium, Martel said he felt the same about his longtime partner. "Without my successes with Lew," he said, "I would not be here today."

Martel related that his bridge career started 45 years ago when he took Alfred Sheinwold's classic, "5 Weeks to Winning Bridge," off his mother's bookshelf. "It changed my life."

Martel's keen interest in the game did not derail his education. Martel earned degrees in computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the University of California at Berkeley. He chose that school, in part because of "a good bridge crowd."

Martel retired last year from his job as a professor of computer science at the University of California at Davis.

Among his memories, Martel said, is the 1994 Rosenblum Cup (open knockout), in which his team, captained by Seymon Deutsch, was doing so badly that Deutsch went home to Texas. The team rallied, however, and Deutsch had to be summoned back to Albuquerque, where the tournament was played, and the team won the event.

Martel added: "It has been a great ride, which I hope to continue for some time to come."

Meyers was introduced by one of her early mentors and now her brother-in-law – John Swanson, a member of the winning team in the 1987 Bermuda Bowl.



Swanson said Meyers, the most decorated woman in world championship history with seven gold medals, has talent and has capitalized on her opportunities to win because she has the desire to achieve and the willingness to work hard.

"She put herself through law school at night while working for Columbia Pictures," he said.

Meyers met Swanson at a bridge club where she and her sister Nina went to play, not knowing it was a duplicate game. Swanson later married Nina.

"How lucky I was as a beginner," Meyers said, "to have a champion player marry into the family."

Meyers gave top credit to her husband, Sidney Brownstein. "Without him, I wouldn't be standing here," Brownstein, she said, encouraged her to pursue her goals "and gave me the space and support to do it."

She said that on their first date, she asked her future husband what he likes to do. "He said, 'I like to laugh,'" she said. The two are enjoying their life together "and still laughing," she said. →

Meyers also gave thanks to one of her longtime partners, Ed Davis, who she described as super competitive in just about every aspect of life. At one tournament, Meyers recalled, Davis was going on and on about a woman he described as extremely smart. Finally, Meyers said, she tired of all the talk, blurting out, "I'm smart, too." Davis expressed his doubts and an argument ensued about her intelligence.

The next time she saw Davis, Meyers recalled, he produced two identical IQ tests. "If you want to know who got the better score," she said, smiling as she pointed to Davis in the ballroom, "ask him."

Another mentor, Meyers said, was John Mohan, with whom she won the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs in 1999. "If Ed Davis was my teacher," Meyers said, "John Mohan was graduate school. He gave me great bridge ideas. I taught him how to bake a potato."

Recalling that she became a Life Master 40 years ago in Las Vegas, Meyers said, "It is such an honor to be standing here."

The Blackwood Award, presented to Sutherlin, goes to an ACBL member for significant contributors to bridge independent of bridge play. She was presented by Joan Jackson, a frequent partner.

Jackson noted that Sutherlin has volunteered for many tasks, including work on the ACBL Laws Commission, the Board of Governors for Districts 16 and 21, the Competitions and Conventions and Ethical Oversight committees and many others.

"Whenever asked, she was always available without asking for anything in return," Jackson said. The two played on the winning team in the 2000 Women's Teams in the World Bridge Games, formerly the Team Olympiad.

Jackson said the Blackwood Award does not take into account bridge expertise, but she said Sutherlin "is a world-class player and a world-class friend."

Sutherlin is known to speak directly, a trait she exhibited when she applied for a job as a flight attendant for American Airlines. It appealed to her because of the chances for travel to bridge tournaments. "Why," she was asked in her job interview, "do you want to be a stewardess?"

Sutherlin's reply: "So I can go to bridge tournaments." Years later, Sutherlin ran into the woman who interviewed her for the flight attendant job – and hired her. "I knew," the woman said to Sutherlin, "that you would stay." Sutherlin worked as a flight attendant for 37 years.

At the beginning of the evening, Ralph Katz related a conversation with Billy Rosen, this year's recipient of the von Zedtwitz Award, given to members who would have been considered for the Hall of Fame in their heydays but who no longer play much.

Katz said that, Rosen, on being informed that he won the award said, "Why are you doing this to me?" When Katz said he didn't understand, Rosen quipped, "This is going to cost me a fortune. Do you know how big my family is?"

Ron Smith, Rosen's presenter, said he played with Rosen in a regional in Chicago only a week ago. "We won," Smith said, "and Billy carried the team."

Smith said Rosen was a natural at bridge but did not receive as much acclaim as others because "he is a person who devoted his life to his family and his job and didn't just play bridge all the time."

Rosen said Katz's anecdote wasn't exactly accurate, "but I did think it."

In winning five of his eight North American championships in the 1950s, Rosen got to know many of the game's now-deceased superstars, among them Charles Goren, Edgar Kaplan, George Rapee and Barry Crane. "It was so much fun playing against them," Rosen said, "and learning from them. I'm so old I call Bob Hamman 'kid.'"

In accepting the von Zedtwitz Award, Rosen said he felt like President Barack Obama when he received the Nobel Prize for Peace. "I'm not quite sure I deserve it," Rosen said, "but I'm not going to give it back."

Hamman was introduced by Ron Von der Porten, his partner in winning the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs in 1986.

Von der Porten said Hamman is a great player "but he's not perfect." As evidence, he told the story about his team's match Hamman's squad in the final of the 1971 Vanderbilt Knockout Teams. Von der Porten was playing with Chuck Burger, Ira Rubin, Kyle Larsen, Paul Soloway and Eddie Kantar. Hamman's team was the Aces: he, Bobby Wolff, Billy Eisenberg, Bobby Goldman, Jim Jacoby and Mike Lawrence.

After the first-quarter scores were compared, the Aces were leading 96-2. "Hamman insisted it was 96-1," Von der Porten said, "but it wasn't. Nobody beats this team 96-1."

Von der Porten said that at one point in his career, Hamman did a big favor for many young players.

Entering middle age three years ago, Jeff Grotenhuis decided to teach his favorite game to half a dozen guinea pigs. Three short years later, Grotenhuis has turned Hermosa Beach into the epicenter of South Bay Bridge. Players from Culver City to Palos Verdes now travel to Hermosa Beach to learn and play bridge.

Most of Grotenhuis' new students do not know a soul on their first day of class. Because of the social nature of bridge, that soon changes. Jeff will teach his next beginning class 1:00pm Thursday, beginning Sept. 18 at the Kiwanis Clubhouse at the edge of Valley Park in Hermosa Beach.

Grotenhuis' parents and grandparents lured him to the bridge tables at age eight -- they had to wait until his hands were big enough to hold all the cards. By sixteen, Grotenhuis was hurrying to his first bridge tournament. A policeman noticed and gave him his first speeding ticket... Flash forward a few decades. In the past year, no one has taught more people to play bridge in Los Angeles than Jeff.

fascinating once you learn it," Grotenhuis said.

Each class is \$12, and the first four are free. For information call 310-600-4275 or email jeffgro@gmail.com. Ongoing games are Mondays 12:30 to 3:30pm, Tuesdays 11:30am to 3:15pm and at the El Segundo Woman's Club on Fridays 10:15am to 1:30pm. See www.agilebridgeclub.com for maps, class schedules and events.




Los Angeles Regional Torrance, CA October 13th-19th 2014


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Torrance, CA October 13th-19th 2014

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Los Angeles Regional

Torrance, CA October 13th-19th 2014

Monday Oct 13th

299er + Lecture10:15am
Stratified Charity Pairs (single sessions).....1:15 & 7:00pm
299er Pairs (single sessions).....1:15 & 7:00pm
Kickoff KO Session 1 of 4.....7:00pm

Tuesday Oct 14th

AM Side Game Series 1 of 5.....9:00am
Tues/Wed AM Stratified Swiss 1 of 2.....9:00am
Kickoff KO (sessions 2, 3 & 4).....9:00am, 1:15 & 7:00pm
299er Pairs (single sessions).....9:00am, 1:15 & 7:00pm
Midday Side Game Series 1 of 5.....1:15pm
Flight A/B Pairs (0-3000/3000+).....1:15 & 7:00pm
(1st & 2nd sessions)
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750).....1:15 & 7:00pm
(1st & 2nd sessions)
Pumpkin KO (1st & 2nd sessions).....1:15 & 7:00pm
PM Side Game Series 1 of 5.....7:00pm
Stratified Swiss Teams.....7:00pm

Wednesday Oct 15th

AM Side Game Series 2 of 5.....9:00am
Tues/Wed AM Stratified Swiss 2 of 2.....9:00am
299er Pairs (single sessions).....9:00am & 7:00pm
49er Pair.....1:15pm
Midday Side Game Series 2 of 5.....1:15pm
Pat Banks Memorial Flight A/B Pairs
(0-3000/3000+, 1st & 2nd sessions).....1:15 & 7:00pm
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750).....1:15 & 7:00pm
(1st & 2nd sessions)
Pumpkin KO (3rd & 4th sessions).....1:15 & 7:00pm
Ghostly KO (1st & 2nd sessions of 4).....1:15 & 7:00pm
PM Side Game Series 2 of 5.....7:00pm
Stratified Board-a-Match Teams.....7:00pm

Thursday Oct 16th

AM Side Game Series 3 of 5.....9:00am
Thurs/Fri Stratified Swiss 1 of 2.....9:00am
299er Pairs (single sessions).....9:00am & 7:00pm
299er Swiss Teams.....1:15pm
Midday Side Game Series 3 of 5.....1:15pm
Katherine Helber Memorial Flight A/B Pairs
(0-3000/3000+, 1st & 2nd sessions).....1:15 & 7:00pm
GOLD RUSH PAIRS.....1:15 & 7:00pm
(100/300/750, 1st & 2nd sessions)
Ghostly KO (3rd & 4th sessions of 4).....1:15 & 7:00pm
Haunted KO (1st & 2nd sessions).....1:15 & 7:00pm
PM Side Game Series 3 of 5.....7:00pm
Stratified Swiss Teams.....7:00pm

Friday Oct 17th

AM Side Game Series 4 of 5.....9:00am
Thurs/Fri Stratified Swiss 2 of 2.....9:00am
299er Pairs (single sessions).....9:00am, 1:15 & 7:00pm
Midday Side Game Series 4 of 5.....1:15pm
Peggy Brain Memorial GOLD RUSH SWISS
(100/300/750, 1st & 2nd sessions).....1:15 & 7:00pm
Flight A/B IMP Pairs.....1:15 & 7:00pm
(0-3000/3000+, 1st & 2nd sessions)
Haunted KO (3rd & 4th sessions).....1:15 & 7:00pm
Witch's KO (1st & 2nd sessions of 4).....1:15 & 7:00pm
PM Side Game Series 4 of 5.....7:00pm
Stratified Swiss Teams.....7:00pm

Saturday Oct 18th

AM Side Game Series 5 of 5.....10:00am
299er Pairs (single sessions).....10:00am & 3:00pm
Saturday Compact KO (2 sessions).....10:00am & 3:00pm
Flight A/B Pairs.....10:00am & 3:00pm
(0-3000/3000+, 1st & 2nd sessions)
Lois Miller Memorial GOLD RUSH PAIRS
(100/300/750, 1st & 2nd sessions) 10:00am & 3:00pm
Witch's KO (3rd & 4th sessions of 4) 10:00am & 3:00pm
49er Pairs.....3:00pm
Midday Side Game Series 5 of 5.....3:00pm
Stratified Swiss Teams.....3:00pm
PM Side Game Series 5 of 5.....7:30pm

Sunday Oct 19th

299er Pairs.....10:00 am
Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+).....10:00 am & TBA
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams.....10:00 am & TBA
(0-2000)
Stratified Fast Pairs.....10:00 am & TBA

Find out more at
LosAngelesRegional.com

Stratified events:

0-750/750-2000/2000+
(stratified by average points of
pair or team)
Flight A/X: 5000/5000+
Flight A/B: 0-3000/3000+

GOLD RUSH:
0-100/100-300/300-750
Stratified by average points
of pair — no player can be
over 750

Bracketed Flight B Swiss: 0-2000
Bracketed by average points of
team, no player can be over 2000.
3 teams in each bracket earn Gold!

Around the Units in District 23

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Unit Game, September 13, 2014
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

Well, our sectional tournament has come and gone and by all accounts, it was a great success. Congratulations to Patrick Cardullo and Jack Futrell, the top-two point earners in our Unit, and to David Rozzell, our top 299er.

Congratulations also to Unit president Merry Besvold for the excellent job she did organizing the event. We all appreciate the efforts of Board members Adam Barron, Betsy Josias, and Nancy Lyon in setting up the room, Margaret Mataga in staffing the partnership desk, and Adam Barron and Margaret Mataga in bringing bagels, doughnuts, deviled eggs, cookies, etc. Additionally, we want to thank non-Board members Pat Abbey, Karen Arase, and Sandra Franciscus for bringing goodies to share.

Our next Unit game is on September 13. Please join us.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org
Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

July 27 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: John Petrie/Cecil Cook, 2nd Betty Witteried/Christine Frumen, 3rd Pamela Cole/John Killian, 4th Betty McClellan/Steve Rowe, 5th Anita and Jim Bent, 6th Cathy Bauer/Kaye Amdon. In the B flight overall: 3rd Jack and Cooie Dampman, 4th Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson, 5th Barbara Shortwell/Terry Armish. In the NLM section overall: 1st Mari Jacobson/Kathy Soltwedell, 2nd Bonny Walsh/Don Vallens, 3/4/5 tie Nancy Toussaint/Carolee Windsor, Rob Preece/

Margaret Hay, Bill Dilks/Steve Gabel. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: In the evening open game Wednesday July 16 Brandon Sheumaker/George Welsh had 71.58%. Congratulations!

Big Masterpoint Awards July 16 through August 15: July 20 John and Jo Melis won 3.00mp for 1st. July 21 Toni Morford/Steve Rowe won 3.50mp for 1st. July 22 Ted Gibbs/Mike Welsh won 4.67mp for 1st, Jo Daigle/Jon Yinger 3.50mp for 2nd. July 23 Bill Wilson/Bob Goodman won 3.67 for 1st. July 25 Kay Tseng/Cory Hand won 5.33mp for 1st, Cecil Cook/Jon Petrie 4.00 for 2nd, Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein 3.00mp for 3rd. In the unit game July 27 Cecil Cook/John Petrie won 4.39mp for 1st, Betty Witteried/Christine Frumen 3.29mp for 2nd. Aug 4 there was a tie for 1st with Lorie Schramm/Verna Baccus and Mark Tang/Kim Wang all winning 4.09mp. Aug 5 Mark Tang/Chiye Horiguchi won 6.17mp for 1st, Jackie Hess/Steve Skinner 4.63mp for 2nd, Ted Gibbs/Steve Mager 3.47mp for 3rd, Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid 3.09mp for 4th. Aug 6 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger won 4.50mp for 1st, Phyllis Parker/John Petrie 3.38mp for 2nd. Aug 7 Bob Mault/Jackie Hess won 4.33mp for 1st, Shirley Carroll/Steve Mager 3.25mp for 2nd. Aug 8 Cecil Cook/John Petrie won 6.83 for 1st in the afternoon game, Jo Daigle/Marcie Evans 5.12 for 2nd, Lavonne McQuilkin/Carol Murakoshi 3.84 for 3rd. And in the evening game Earl VanDerVord/Mike Daley won 3.50mp for 1st. Aug 9 Jackie Hess/Keith Hafen won 4,00mp for 1st, Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu 3.00mp for 2nd. And Aug 10 Marcie Evans/Jackie Hess won 3.17 mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

New Member: Hartley Kern. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Life Masters: Melanie Smith and Sy Alban. New Silver Life Masters: Pam Kirkner and Tom Ludwig. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club

Western Conference STaC: Monday, August 18 through Sunday August 24. There is an extra \$1.00 charge per session for the STaC event.

August 31: Unit Game. Lunch 12:30, game 1 p.m.

Club Championship Week Sept 8 through Sept 14. Extra points, no extra charge. The Club Championship game for Wednesday evening will be September 17 at 7 p.m. Come early (6:30pm) for free pizza and salad.

Interclub Championship Game Wednesday evening, Sept 10 at 7 p.m. Compete against players in other clubs all across ACBL land for big national overall awards. Free pizza and salad provided.

“Talk Like A Pirate” Unit-Rated Game Sept 18 at 12:30pm. Once again, you have a chance to earn extra points and mutter ARRRGGHH while you’re in the process.

International Fund Week Sunday Sept 22 through Saturday Sept 27. Extra points for all sessions. An extra \$1.00 per session will be charged for the ACBL’s International Fund.

September 28: **Unit Game**. Lunch 12:30, game 1pm. Future Unit Games October 26, November 23, and December 21 (Christmas party at the LBBC).

News From Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Results: July 17 (Clubhouse #3) overall winners: Emma Trepinski/Gary Paugh 1 in A. Jane and Tom Gibbons 2 in A, 1 in B. Bee Kinman/Dorothy Favre 3 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Howard Smith 4 in A, 2 in B. Sibyl Slutsky/Marilyn McClintock 5 in A. Bill Linskey/Eileen Nelson 6 in A. Sue Fardette/Vince Remedios 3 in B. Sally Fenton/Mary Lund 4 in B, 1 in C. Joyce Basch/Nancy Lichter 5 in B, 2 in C. Colleen Gardner/Jane Reid 3 in C. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 4 in C.

July 19 (Clubhouse #1) overall winners: Verna Burns/Larry Slutsky 1 in A. Dick and Linda Stein 2 in A. Diane Sachs/Marilyn McClintock 3 in A. Bee Kinman/Howard Smith 4 in A. Sue Fardette/Dorothy Favre 5 in A. Jeanette Estill/Peggy Spring 1 in B, 1 in C. Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw 2 in B, 2 in C. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 3 in B, 3 in C. Joyce Basch/Bobbie Vann tied with Emma Trepinski/Jack Miller for 4/5 in B.

Congratulations to Marilyn McClintock/Sibyl Slutsky for their 70% game August 9.

Pro-Am game Monday Sept 22 in Clubhouse #3.

Reservations required. Call Larry Slutsky 562-431-8954 or Howard Smith 562-598-6121.

Club championship dates: Clubhouse #3—Mondays—Sept 15 and Oct 13. Clubhouse #1—Friday Oct 10 and Saturday Oct 18.

Unit-rated game: Clubhouse #3 Monday November 17.

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 Marty Weiss

Bev and I and our NJ visitors, Ike and Sonja, drove to Las Vegas July 23, which also happened to be my birthday. We played in a single session Swiss that evening and in the 2-session Daylight pairs on Thursday. We did reasonably well both days. Friday, we played with our friends in a 2-session open Swiss. Bev is not especially fond of Swiss events, commenting, “you now have 3 people angry at you, rather than 1”, or quoting “the long walk back” or as Julio Cervantes quipped “a Swiss team is like a VW, you need all 4 pistons working at the same time for it to operate!”

The field was strong and included many teams which had been eliminated from national events. We found ourselves pitted against a team headed by Fred Hamilton. My partner Bev opened 1NT. Our opponents did not enter the auction. I held the following:

♠XXX ♥AQXX ♦JXXXXX ♣--

I bid 2♣ (Stayman) and Bev responded 2♠. I went into the tank, and when I emerged, passed. I think if asked, Bev would have agreed...that I was all wet. She held: ♠AKJX ♥XXX ♦AKXX ♣QX

Bev made 6♠, along with some pungent comments about my pass. (Incidentally, 6♦ also makes). Fortunately, Fred Hamilton was there to render judgment. His opinion was as follows: He agreed with me that any subsequent action by me after Bev’s 2♠ bid would have been an overbid....but went on to say that he would have bid and risked going down rather than possibly miss a game. So, ultimately, ‘Mea Culpa’. Here however is the interesting post script. At the other table, the auction, contract and result was exactly →

the same as ours.

Margie Hall hosted a three hour morning coffee session at her home. Roy Wilson brought notebooks filled with lecture notes on squeeze plays. They went over how to recognize and setup squeezes, laying out hands to demonstrate. Those attending: Bernie Ma-teer, Ann Raymond, Sandra Rucker, T.J. Wang, Steve Shanker and Richard Halverstadt. Roy has done this perhaps twice a year for about 20 years and some 80-90 players have participated.

Our congratulations to Robert Wang, who recently passed his test to become an ACBL certified Club Director!

Unit Results

NABC Las Vegas July, 2014: 53 players in Unit 559 scored at the NABC in Las Vegas. The top 10 winners with the points earned: Roger Lee- 175.65, John Jones-147.08, Jeffrey Goldsmith-95.51, Nolan Chang-55.28, Liang Fan- 38.41, Joseph Viola -36.79, Xingping Kang-34.62, Nima Badizadegan-30, Jack Chang-30, Shiu-Ming-28.83.

John Waken Sectional: August, 2014: Top 10 winners and points earned from our unit: Peter Szcz-si-12.48, John Jones-12.32, Shiu-Ming Huang-12.05, Jeffrey Goldsmith-10.39, Miriam Harrington-8.82, Teresa Thurman-8.78, Joseph Viola-8.51, Gerald Bare-8.36, Gitta Earll-7.81, Margery Gould-7.02,

70% Games

Martin Weiss- Beverly Weiss : San Marino July 28 72.6%

John Waken- Dennis Semain: San Marino July 28 70.19%

Life Master Milestones

Connie Morris: Junior Master
Angela Peters: Junior Master
George Tien: Regional Master

September Events for Unit 559

Unit Games: September 7 Sunday 1:00

Arcadia Bridge Center: Free Beginning Bridge Lessons - For Absolute Beginners, no bridge knowledge necessary. Courses begin on your choice of two

dates: Tuesday September 16, 11:30, Thursday, September 18, 7:30.

Bridge Brush Up Classes: The week of September 8 before all Rookie and Newcomers Games!

Beat the House Night: Friday, September 26, 7:15 Beat Art and Diane and win a free play.

Winners and Losers: Sunday September 28 1:00 p.m.

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, September 20, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, September 6, LaVerne Site

Our August Unit game was a real squeaker. Rosalie Roberts – Penny Barbieri took first place by less than one match point over Eileen and Timothy Finlay. Margie Hall – Ann Raymond took third, Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson were fourth, and Clint Lew – Walt Otto rounded out the top five.

The July Individual was also a real closely contested affair. The spread between first and fifth places was less than one top board. Jed Cartageha and Rona Schneider tied for first, with Tom Lill, Sofi Kasubhai and Barbara Killebrew rounding out the leader board.

In the promotion department, apparently the results of the summer NABC didn't make the cut, because the "only" promotion this time around is a significant one: Sherman Gao has fulfilled the requirements for Life Master. Congratulations, Sherman, and keep up the good work.

The top game this month was a 68.5% effort by Bill Papa and Vic Sartor, narrowly edging out Fredy and Lulu Minter's 68.0%. Other first place finishers were Genise Hasan, Sandy Jones, Roger Boyar, Walt Otto, Richard Patterson, Rona Schneider, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Hanan Mogharbel, Hans Henke, Sofi Kasubhai, Clint Lew, Evelyn Hubacker, Ken Bloomfield, Kurt Triselmann, Linda Tessier, and Ron Porter.

In tournament play 19 unit members won a total of 48.53 master points at the John Waken sectional. Topping that list were Kiran and Anand Kumar with 7.35. Jack Chao and Sherman Gao each with 7.02, and Vic Sartor with 3.93, round out the top five. At the Glendale-Verdugo sectional the following week, 13 players won a total of 18.71 master points. Susie Emminger topped the list at 3.69, followed by Tim →

and Eileen Finlay with 2.96.

It's still two months until Halloween, but our hands-of-the-month this time come straight from the Chamber of Horrors. First up: you've been picking up your usual bilge in the current session – those 2NT openers always seem to be held by the opponents – but this time, you have really outdone yourself: ♠752 ♥7432 ♦62 ♣9643. In case you are curious (and also lazy), the spots add up to 60. Too bad the game isn't Nullo, you'd have a real rock crusher. (If the hand were inverted, making deuces into aces, and so on, you'd be looking at 23 HCP. To add insult to injury ... during your sit out, a player in your seat actually did pick up 23 HCP!)

Our second exhibit from the C of H doesn't look too bad at first glance: ♠AK543 ♥Q72 ♦Q9432 ♣--. Things go sour in a hurry, of course. LHO opens 1♥, partner overcalls with 2♣, passes, and you call (with some misgivings) 2♠. Of course, partner comes again with 3♣, RHO passes, and it's up to you. What now?

Don't torture yourself: no matter what you do, it will be wrong. Partner has ♠J ♥J84 ♦J87 ♣AK8543. Your best spot is probably 3♦, but unless you have some very unusual agreements, you're not going to stop there. Yes, there was apparently some frisky bidding on both sides. 3♣ goes down 3 (for -300 and not a lot of match points).

Quote for the month: "Bridge is a great comfort in your old age. It also helps you get there faster." (Alfred Sheinwold)

Until next month ...

Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 held its Second Mentor Game of 2014 on Tuesday, August 19, at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita. It was a great success with 13 tables of experienced players paired with beginning/intermediate players. Thanks to all who participated.

North/South Results

- 1 Nell Shanz and Harriet Merjan (67.33%)
- 2 Tracy Boys and Gay Gipson
- 3 David White and Jackie Moor
- 4 Roy Ladd and Meressa Narfulin
- 5 Bill Brodek and Jan Ladd
- 6 Lamonte Johnson and John Kean

East/West Results

- 1 Elaine Moore and Geni Tanner (67.52%)
- 2 Tom Shudic and Dan McGreevy
- 3 Arif Shah and Kathy Cresto
- 4 Kristi Kubo and Joe Merjan
- 5 Bruce Bloch and Dick Greenberg
- 6 John Langer and Melisse Benson

Unit Game Results

Friendly Bridge Club on July 28

- 1 George MacDonald and Russ Buker (72%)
- 2 Bert Stock and Roy Ladd
- 3 Bill Brodek and Nell Shanz
- 4 Paul Gill and Hansford Rowe
- 5 Melisse Benson and Shari Elias
- 6 Kathy Cresto and Anita Walker

Valencia Bridge Studio on August 12

- 1 Bruce Bloch and Raul Mostman (59.55%)
- 2 Kathy Swaine and Betty Pavey
- 3 Hansford Rowe and Roshen Hadulla
- 4 Elaine Moore and Tom Shudic
- 5 Kathy Flynn and Robert McBroom

Castaic on August 14

- 1 Roshen Hadulla and Hansford Rowe (60.74%)
- 2 Bert Stock and Margie Pinkers
- 3 Lamonte Johnson and Fabian Fang
- 4 Dan McGreevy and Anita Walker
- 5 Ted Maki and George MacDonald

Joshua Tree Bridge Club on August 15

- 1 Barbara York and Joanne Freatman (63%)
- 2 Henry Roediger and Sharry Vida
- 3 Rand Franklin and Leah Leavitt
- 4 Bernie Guzinsky and Sue Guzinsky

Magic Mountain Sectional Tournament

Unit 556 will hold its annual Sectional Tournament on Saturday, September 27 and Sunday September 28 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium, 19345 Avenue of the Oaks, in Santa Clarita. Game times on Saturday will be at 10:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. with stratified open pair and stratified 299er pair events. The game time on Sunday is at 10:00 a.m. for open →

and 299er Swiss Team events. Free refreshments and lunch is included in the Sunday play-thru Swiss event (total cost for a team of four is \$100).

For more information, contact Bill Brodek (bbrodek@yahoo.com) or Paula Olivaries (paula@pacbell.net). For partnership information contact Tracy Boys (abigquack@sbcglobal.net).

Upcoming Events

Unit Games: Thursday, September 4 in Castaic; Tuesday, September 23, at the Valencia Bridge Studio, Monday, September 29 at the Friendly Bridge Club and Thursday, October 9, in Castaic.

Next Board Meeting: Sunday November 9 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale.

Unit 556 will sponsor a "Learn Bridge in a Day" event on Sunday November 16 from 1:00 – 4:00 at the Valencia Public Library, 23743 Valencia Blvd, Santa Clarita, 91355.

Unit 556's Annual Meeting and After-The-Holidays Party: Tuesday, January 13 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

Congratulations to Carol and Gary Trender who were first in their section (and second overall) in Saturday Afternoon pair event at the Camarillo 299er Sectional on August 16.

Congratulations to Albert Stock who achieved the rank of Life Master at the Pasadena Sectional on August 1.

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 Championship: Tuesday, September 9, 11:30

Club Championship: Monday, September 15, 7:00

Club Championship: Friday, September 19, 11:30

Friday Night games on September 5 and 19

Club Championships

The July 19 Club Championship was captured by Booth Tarkington/JoAnna Wallis in both Flights A

and B. On July 23 the Club Championship was won by Lucy Gellner/John Farr in Flight A with Lorraine and Michael Kammerman taking Flight B honors. On July 24 the NLM Club Championship honors went to Joanna Wallis/Mary Gillette in both Flights A and B with Madge London/Freda Main on top in Flight C. The North American Pairs Qualifier on July 30 was won by Stanley Greengard/Glen Musicer in both Flights A and B. The August 6 Club Championship saw Pat Schenasi/Ray Mack leading Flight A with Stanley Greengard/Robert Rothman ahead in Flight B and Neal Hudson/Tom Barna taking Flight C. The North American Open Pairs Qualifier on August 9 saw Stanley Greengard/Cal Waller winning both Flights A and B. On August 13 Carol King/Beverly Narahara won both Flights A and B in the Club Championship. The NLM Club Championship on August 14 was won by Sheila Cottle/Jamila Malikyar in Flights A and B.

Team Winners

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

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

August 5: John Brailliar, Bruce Horiguchi, John and Magy Mohan

August 12: Steve Ramos, Ed Piken, Carol McCully, Ed Barad

Torrance South Bay Unit Las Vegas NABC Heroes

A couple of our unit members did well in nationally rated events at the recent Las Vegas NABC. Steve Ramos was on the winning team in the Spingold 1500 point event. Ed Piken placed high in 3 events, the Flight A North American teams, the Senior Swiss and the 10000- Life Master pairs.

Agile Bridge Club Lessons

Jeff Grotenhuis sent me the following to promote Bridge lessons at the AGILE Bridge Club.

Wife Learns Bridge and Husband Follows Suit!

Lila Levine had a problem. What awaited her next in life? Her husband, Don, would not let go of →

managing at the family restaurant but she had retired three years ago and was looking for something to do that might also captivate her husband's attention. A friend suggested bridge classes and she thought it was something they might both enjoy.

Lila likes to share the story that she did not know a soul when she attended the first class. But she immediately sat at a table with three other women who have become dear friends. And she marvels at how many new friends she continues to make through her bridge classes.

A few months later, she invited her husband to join her and, as she predicted, he loved the game. After only five weeks he whisked her off to a tournament!

Learn Bridge in Four Weeks For Free

If you are looking for a new and stimulating pastime, with an opportunity to make new friends and keep your mind active, you might want to follow in Lila's footsteps. You will meet people who enjoy a laugh, heartwarming conversation and the challenge of the world's most coveted card game, bridge. Now is your chance. Experience four free beginning bridge lessons starting Thursday, September 18-October 9 from 1:00-3:15 p.m. Conveniently located, the following classes are at Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club, 2515 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach. For more information call teacher Jeff Grotenhuis at 310-600-4275 or email him at jeffgro@gmail.com or surf www.agilebridge.com

GUV Memorial Award

My candidate for the worst bid at the Las Vegas NABC and a strong candidate for 2014 goes to an unnamed partner of mine in a Swiss Team event. Vul vs NV I held ♠AKQJxxxx ♥xx ♦x ♣Kx. LHO opened 2♦, pard overcalled 2♥ and RHO raised to 3♦. I wanted partner to think that hearts was our suit so I trotted out good old 1430 Blackwood. Pard answered 5♦ which had to be 3 controls. So I bid 6♠. And partner started thinking and thinking torturing me no end. Pard held ♠-- ♥AKQJx DAxxx Cxxxx and decided to make the genius bid of 6NT which with a diamond lead is down 6. However the story has a happy ending. LHO laid down the ♣A providing me with an entry to my spades. Pard said he was confused by my spade bid. I guess he thought I had J9753 in Spades or something like that for my bid.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Viva Las Vegas!

I hope that many of you took the opportunity to play at least some of the Summer Nationals in Las Vegas. As usual, our Unit took more than its share of victories at the tournament. Bob Kent started things out by winning the Educational Fund Knockout Teams event, and then added a second win later in the week in the Wednesday-Thursday Morning Compact Knockout. Joe Lieberman also managed a double, with wins in the First Sunday Midnite Knockout Teams event and in his bracket of the Wednesday Compact Knockout. Maria Pendergast and Connie Fishbach teamed up for a win in their bracket of the First Saturday Compact Knockout, and Bruce Altshuler picked up a win on his way to the airport in the First Sunday Daylight Open Pairs. Charles and Jo Anne Kelley won their bracket of the Monday Compact Knockout, Marsha Bocan grabbed a win in the Second Friday Morning 299er Pairs, and Alan Malloy won his bracket of the MidZip Knockouts.

Valley Girl (and Boys)

We weren't finished with the wins, though. Unit members made quite a showing in the San Gabriel Valley. At the Pasadena Sectional, Peter Benjamin won the Friday morning Open Pairs event, while Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten won the Mike Shuman Open Pairs. Ifti Baqai won the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs, and Mike Savage notched a win in the Sunday A/X Swiss. The following week, at the Glendale Sectional of Pasadena, Mike Mikyska won the Friday afternoon Open Pairs while Mike Savage took home another win in a Sunday A/X Swiss, this one on his way to becoming the tournament's leading master point winner.

More Upcoming Events

Why live in the past, though, when there's so much to anticipate in the next couple of months? I hope everyone had a great time at our farewell performance at the Kayne Eras Center. Next year, the Unit plans to restore our Spring Sectional and check out two new →

sites, one for the spring and the other next fall. We're looking forward to hearing what you think of our new locations.

We had to reschedule our Ice Cream Social to avoid a conflict with the Great Western STAC. The new date will be September 21 at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club. Not only will there be plenty of ice cream and more than a little socializing, the game also will be a Unit Championship. Then, on September 28, it will again be our turn to host the ABA/ACBL Game. Once again, the game will be held at Barrington Bridge Club and we look forward to trying to outdo the ABA's hospitality. They've set quite a high bar, so come on out to see how we do.

October will feature the first District semifinal in the North American Pairs competition, where pairs will vie at Beverly Hills in Flights A, B, and C for the opportunity to win a very nice subsidy to the Spring Nationals in New Orleans. And of course, don't forget to make your plans for the Torrance Regional. The second District semifinal will be held in November at Long Beach.

And of course, I hope you're saving the date for our Unit's annual holiday party on November 23. I hear that Carolyn, Brana, and Marcia have really outdone themselves this year. I can't wait to see for myself. Our holiday party, by the way, also doubles as our Unit's mandatory annual membership meeting so if there are any issues that simply must be discussed by the Unit's entire membership (or at least, by everyone who attends the party), this is your opportunity for a captive audience. And for those interested in serving the Unit in a formal capacity, nominations for a position on the Unit Board will remain open until September 30. Sign-up sheets are posted at Beverly Hills and Barrington.

Card Combinations

White against red at matchpoints, you're the declarer at 3NT after you open 1NT as dealer and partner employs Stayman on the way to 3NT. The opening lead is the heart jack (the opponents' leads are standard) and this is what you see.

Dummy: ♠A105 ♥Q854 ♦Q42 ♣KQ6

Declarer: ♠KQJ4 ♥96 ♦KJ109 ♣AJ2

That's an uncomfortable lead. Fortunately your ♥9 combines with Dummy's 8 to ensure you a stopper. I

covered the heart jack, fetching the king from RHO. He returned a heart to the opening leader's 10. She cashed the ace as her partner discarded and shifted to a black suit. After this defense, it was no surprise that the diamond ace was on my right, and 3NT came home.

This got me a well deserved 1 matchpoint out of 8. What did I do wrong? When we teach beginners about covering honors, we tell them it's usually right to cover the last card in the sequence being led through you. The same lesson holds true for declarers. There was no reason for me to cover the first heart lead. If I'd waited for the second lead, the suit would have blocked. The best result available for the defense against this line, as the cards lie, is to take two hearts and the diamond ace. And if the opening leader had held the diamond ace, my actual line leads to defeat, while the better line still allows me to make the hand thanks to the heart blockage.

Welcome Mat

We welcome new ACBL members Rand McQuiddy and Sydney Tanner, as well as transfers William Allen, Peter Knee, Larisa and Mark Rappaport, Sue Rosenwasser, and Lawrence Sneden. As always, please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the table. Of course, there's no rule mandating that you have to save your warm welcomes for new members.

Around the Clubs

Last month's club champions at Beverly Hills were Jordan Chodorow and Charles Fonarow and Sherman Gao and Pat Bessone. Reaching 70% were Bill Weingarden and Tony Scott, as did Lew and Rhoda Himmell.

Club champions at Barrington last month were Danny Kleinman and Evan Krantz. Danny Kleinman hit the 70% mark twice, and also reaching that threshold were Wayne Karson, Beverly Goldstein, Tom Lesser, Peter Benjamin, Sally Karbelnig, Evan Krantz, Mike Mikyska, and Marty Blain. Next month, I hope to bring you results from the Annual MS Charity Game.

Climbing the Ladder

Taking their first steps on the ladder of bridge

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

your ace until the third round in the hope that your LHO will not be able to gain the lead to cash the setting tricks.

Another example of a safety plan you already use is the **Loser on Loser** play.

2	North	East	South	West
				1♥
	Dbl	3♥	4♠	
		♠AJx		
		♥xxx		
		♦Axxx		
		♣AQx		
		♠KQTx		
		♥x		
		♦Kxxx		
		♣KJxx		

South plays in a 4-3 spade fit. The defense leads and continues hearts. The declarer has four clubs, two diamonds and four spade tricks in total; however, assuming the most probable 4-2 trump break, if South ruffs the second heart in hand, the opponent with four trumps can gain later control of the hand by ruffing one of South's minor winners and cashing the remaining hearts. Thus, South must discard his losing diamonds on 2nd and 3rd heart, allowing the dummy's shorter trumps to ruff the fourth round, or to regain control with a minor-suit winner. After that, South can draw trumps and claim the rest.

3.		9876	
	J		QT32
		AK54	

It is obvious that one trick must be lost in this suit in any event. If the suit breaks 3-2, only one trick will be lost no matter which opponent hold the honors. You hope that neither opponent holds QJT_x, so you begin with the ace. If your LHO plays the Q, J, or T, you must lead next to dummy's 9 and you'll know what to do next.

4.	Kxx
	AT987

Unless the bidding tells you otherwise, lead to the king in the dummy. If the Q or J fail to appear on this trick declarer next leads to the T in the hand to

guard against RHO holding both the Q and the J. If LHO played an honor on the first trick, the principle of restricted choice comes in to play.

5.	Kxxx
	AQT98

This example is the most basic. Declarer must cash the A or Q first and if either opponent shows out, declarer knows how to proceed.

6.	Kxxx
	AQ987

This example seems much like the one above except the T has been replaced by a spot card. If LHO hold JT_{xx}, there is no defense. However, to guard against JT_{xx} in RHO's hand, declarer must lead first to the K in dummy.

7. Refusing a trump finesse

♠Txx	♠QJxx
♥Kx	♥xx
♦Tx	♦QJxxxx
♣JTxxxx	♣Q
♠AKx	
♥AJTxx	
♦Kx	
♣Xxx	

LHO leads the ♣J against declarer's 4♥ contract. When RHO plays the Q declarer cannot afford to take the heart finesse because if it loses, LHO will continue clubs for RHO to ruff, setting the contract.

8. Unblocking by refusing a finesse.

♠Axx	♠xxx
♥Axx	♥KJxx
♦JT9xxx	♦xxx
♣x	♣QJx
♠KQJx	
♥Qxx	
♦Kx	
♣Txxx	
♠Txx	
♥Txx	

♦AQ

♣AKxxx

LHO leads the K against 3NT of spades and declarer duck the trick. LHO continues with the Q of spades which declarer must take because he fears LHO might then switch to hearts. Declarer must now refuse the diamond finesse in order to avoid blocking the suit by leading the A followed by the Q. Declarer hopes that the K is guarded only once and must be won on the second round.

9. Maintaining Communication

♠xxx

♥xxx

♦x

AKQxxx

♠KJxx

♠QT

♥AQx

♦QTxxx

♣x

♥Kxx

♦xxxx

♣JTxx

♠Axxx

♥JTxx

♦AKx

♣Xx

LHO leads his fourth best diamond against 3NT. When the J wins in the dummy, declarer can count ten tricks if the clubs split 2-2. If not, declarer can still fulfill his contract if the clubs split no worse than 4-1 by leading a small club out of dummy at trick two.

I've given you just a few of the many safety plays in bridge. Watson's classic book *Play of the Hand at Bridge* has an excellent section on safety plays and would be worth while reading.



District 23

New Orleans - March 2015





North American Pairs

Semi-Final #1

26 Oct '14, 11:00 AM

Beverly Hills Bridge Center
325 S La Cienega Blvd.

Semi-Final #2

16 Nov '14, 11:00 AM

Long Beach Bridge Club
4782 Pacific Coast Highway

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks ☉ Sodas ☉ Coffee ☉ Gold/Red Points

Mike Marcucci - 818 903-2471

District 23 Rank Changes July 2014

Junior Master

Susan Adkins
Harold Avent
Diane Corwin
Leni Corwin
Fred Glantz
Marv Good
Marie-Rose Kardous
Jordan Kuschner
Bonnie Ledyard
Louis Mucciolo
Don Nakasaki
Sin Orensztein
Dale Quasny
Mary Robbins
Amelia Thomas

Club Master

Ralph Brunson
Mary Ann Carr
Mark Conley
Thomas Fisher
Barbara Fuller
Coral Goldsmith
Arnold Green
Mari Jacobson
Charles Jarai
Sofi Kasubhai
Gerald Koris
Robert Malina
Kathy Miller
Marianne Montgomery
Karen Nieman
Markie Post
Mariann Satin
Charles Strathman
Sandra Young

Sectional Master

William Heck
Michael Kammerman
Freda Main

Regional Master

Adam Barron
Edward Bucklin
James Christiansen
Elaine Dovgard
Jeff Grotenhuis
Gary Jubas
Tim Lee
Ted Maesaki
Homa Nasseri
Linda Nye
James Rozzell
Marcia Schulman
Bob Seizer
Kathleen Shinkle
Linda Stuart
Carolyn Woo

NABC Master

Suzanne Borenstein
Elizabeth Burrell
Claudia Cochran
Melinda Curry
Linda Dillon
Liang Fan
Lynne Finley
John Galligher
Bernhard Haderler
Hilde Harris
Lynn Heckler
Joseph Hooker
Mahin Khadivi
Michael Piken
Debra Stern
Janet Thornber

Adv NABC Master

Susan Bibby
Frances Every

Life Master

Richard Buhl
Myrna Kalman
Julie Kimelman
William Raines
Nanci Schultz
Albert Stock
Sharry Vida
Joanna Wallis
Tien Zee

Bronze Master

Gloria Brown-Cook
William Chu
Cooie Dampman
Doreen Maes
Annette Sincok
Gary Swinhart
Murat Veysoglu

Silver Life Master

Carmela Chiurazzi
Kevin Lane
Carol Rand
Sherry Troeger

Gold Life Master

Robert Shore

Diamond Life Master

Howard Einberg
Sylvia Shallon

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Ed Davis, John Jones,
Roger Lee and Rick Roeder

1

MPs
EW vul

South	West	North	East
	2♠	Pass	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:

♠-- ♥97 ♦AKQ7652 ♣AQ52

What call do you make?

Bare: 3♠. Not clear in many partnerships whether this asks for a stopper or shows 2 suits, but I sort have both covered.

Bartusek: 3♠. Asking partner to bid 3NT with a spade stopper (and hoping hearts won't kill us). 5♦ is a close second choice. There are two reasons why I think 3♠ is best at matchpoints: 1) notrump pays more and 2) this auction will provide partner with an excellent description of my hand if he wants to go slamming (although the follow-up is difficult). It is much more of a guess if I just bid 5♦ since partner could easily be scared away from getting to 6♦ holding 2 losing spades and not knowing that my suit is solid. Admittedly, there are combinations where only 5♦ makes.

Davis 3♠. I play this the same way as if the bid was in the direct position, i.e. 3♠ asks for a stopper and 4m (4♣ or 4♦) over 2M (a weak 2♥ or 2♠ opener) shows the other major and the bid minor.

Jones: Double. 3♠ is possible, but double has a chance for partner to convert, to find a club fit, or maybe even get to hearts when it's right.

Lee: 3♠. I play this as a strong minor one-suiter.

Roeder: Double. Only at these colors. I expect partner to pass and pray we do not have an 11-card diamond fit. If instead, pard responds with hearts, I will be thrilled to introduce a woman's best friend.

As usual, it definitely pays to have a partnership agreement here. If 3♠ shows a good hand with a solid minor, that fits this hand pretty well. If not, I would channel Marshall Miles and bid 3NT, expecting partner to have at least one spade honor. Oh.... and a heart stopper as well! Double is tempting, but my hand might actually be a defensive disappointment.

WEST LA *continued from page 14*

achievement are new Junior Masters Michael Lehrfeld, Peter McKernan, Dr. Murray Salkin, and Charlotte Weinstein. Helaine Blatt and Phillip Rohlin and now Club Masters, while

Ira Thierer has become a Sectional Master. Masha Fleissig and Doug Green have reached Regional Master, and Phillip Calloway is now an ABC Master.

No advances among the Life Master ranks this month, but a little

birdie tells me that won't be the case next month.

Congratulations to all on your achievements.

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

IMPs
NS vul

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

You South hold: ♠AQT ♥9765 ♦AJ7 ♣842
What call do you make?

Davis: 2♠. This is very likely to make even if partner has a minimum. 3♦ is the other possible invitational bid but would be a poor contract opposite something like ♠KJxx ♥Ax ♦Kxxx ♣Qxx. We will not have a game unless partner has enough for another bid over 2♠. If partner has enough for another bid, there is some danger of getting to 4♠ when we belong in 3NT but this isn't too likely as partner will have a singleton (in which case 3NT is likely the wrong contract) or a balanced 18 (in which case we should make 4♠ on power). 4♠ is the only game that makes opposite a hand like ♠KJxx ♥AJx ♦KQxxx ♣x (discard two hearts

Roeder: 2NT. The bid I would have made initially. If partner has a stiff club, there is a good chance he will bid a suit to pattern out. Bidding 3♦ is much more attractive if 1♠ guaranteed an unbalanced hand as I like to play.

This hand is a good advertisement for the agreement that 1♣ 1♦♥ 1♠ shows either an unbalanced hand or a concentration of values. That would certainly steer us away from notrump on this hand and allow us to invite partner in either diamonds or spades.

3
 IMPs
 no vul

South	West	North	East
Pass ?	1♦	Double	Pass 2♠

You, South, hold: ♠A75 ♥9653 ♦AT94 ♣K8
 What call do you make?

Bare: 3♦. If partner has 4 bad hearts, I'll wish I had bid 2NT.

Bartusek: Double. Penalties, assuming partner has a normal takeout double. I have the perfect diamond cards (either able to eventually give partner one or more diamond ruffs or having a defensive diamond trick when declarer has a stiff. 3♥ is somewhat dangerous since it could be a 4-3 fit, and 2NT isn't game (and counts on partner to have spade values also unless East has no entries).

Davis: Double. I have a good defensive hand and a good opening lead (♣K). We might be able to make 3NT or 4♥, but not guaranteed. My high cards (trump ace and ♦A opposite partner's singleton or doubleton) suggest that we will do well defending 2♠X. If RHO runs (quite possible), we can deal with that if it happens.

Jones: Double. I lead the ♣K. John Mohan frequently preaches that players don't double enough

low level contracts. Here's chance to make a low level penalty double of a contract where partner has shown at least 3 cards in the trump suit. And have you noticed what complete rubbish comprise most weak jump shifts (especially non-vulnerable) these days? *[Is double clearly penalty? See Roger's answer below.]*

Lee: Double. It seems fine to start with a responsive double. *[No doubt the double is card-showing, but does it suggest penalty? I'd rather partner pass here than bid.]*

Roeder: Double. They have at most 7 spades (quite unlikely partner has a big one-suiter). Since LHO has at most 1 spade, a 4-4 heart fit is more likely to run into a 4-1 break than usual. If you double confidently enough, LHO might even run with a spade void. Yum!

Most panelists double here, though there is some disagreement as to whether the double is strictly penalty or just "card-showing." Since partner has theoretically promised spades, I think it should strongly suggest that partner pass.



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4

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
	3♦	Double	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠JT85 ♥A83 ♦Q ♣K8754
 What call do you make?

Bare: 4♦. This is an overbid, but if partner has only three spades, we can play clubs. *[Gerry has a reputation as a conservative bidder, so I think his "overbid" is spot on.]*

Bartusek: 4♦. Overbid or underbid? Second choice is 3♠. I'll take the aggressive course of action and over partner's expected 4♥ bid I'll bid 4♠ showing spades and longer clubs. Hopefully we will get to a making contract and not get overboard.

Davis: 4♦. I think I have a bit too much to bid 3♠ so I will force to game with 4♦. I plan on correcting 4♥ to 4♠ to show four spades and longer clubs. With a hand holding 5+ spades, a singleton diamond and slam interest (♠AQxxx ♥Kxx ♦x ♣AJxx), I would have to cue bid 4♦ and then jump to 5♠ over 4♥.

Jones: 4♣. Having a singleton diamond while RHO

passes makes it rather likely that partner has a big hand with a few diamonds and needs room to show his/her big hand. I now have a maximum for my call, and will cuebid 5♦ over 4♥ or 4♠ by partner. *[Yes, but if partner passes there you are playing Gerber]*

Lee: 4♦. I play this shows doubt about strain when followed by 4♠ (in this case, it shows 4 spades and longer clubs).

Roeder: 4♠. A total guess. 4♦ is also reasonable. 3NT should be reserved for matchpoint gunslingers.

When one has a choice of bids, it is usually right to make the one most likely to reach the right strain and right level. While 4♦ could conceivably push us too high, it is likely to identify our 8+ card major suit fit and allow partner to show more than a minimum takeout double.

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South	West	North	East
			2♦*
Double ?	4♦	4♥	Pass

*weak

You, South, hold: ♠AKQ7 ♥A ♦K32 ♣AJ653
What call do you make?

Bare: 4♠. This may get us out of trouble at this point. It describes the strength of the hand, if not the spade length.

Bartusek: 4♠. I was obviously planning on bidding a natural 2NT or 3NT on the second round, but I don't believe 4NT here is natural (or even advisable). Since I didn't bid 3♠ or 4♠ on the first round, I clearly have a very strong hand with spades and clubs (but not extreme length in either...a flexible hand since I doubled initially). Obviously I show a 5th spade with this auction but even a 4-3 (4-2?) fit might work out on this layout since I can potentially ruff diamonds in the short trump hand. Partner should have 5+ hearts but I don't want to lay down a stiff heart in dummy. Very tough problem!

Davis: 5♣. Partner will double 4♦ on hands with 5-4 or 4-4 in the majors and enough values to bid game, so I think partner has lots of hearts or has some club length and very possibly both. I'm encouraged by the fact that partner is unlikely to have more than one diamond and may well have a diamond void. Of course, pass would be better if partner has ♠xxx ♥Kxxxxxx ♦x ♣xx. It will be a lot better if partner has something like ♠Jxx ♥KJxxxx ♦void ♣Kxxx. If partner bids 5♥ over 5♣, I'll pass.

Jones: Pass. Even if 5NT shows something like this (and it probably should), do I really feel comfortable driving to a wrong sided slam with the ♦K getting lead through? Anything I bid could still leave us in the wrong strain, and we are just guessing at the right level. Partner is likely to have enough hearts that 4♥ will make.

Lee: 5NT. This gives partner a choice of slams, since I want to emphasize strains other than hearts. If partner still picks 6♥, we may be too high, but there isn't much we can do about that. Even if he has 4 spades and 6 hearts, he has a 6♦ bid to bring spades into the picture.

Roeder: 5♣. I don't have as much extra as it seems because the ♦K is opposite shortness. Partner will know I was too good to overcall 3♣ and will kick the extra point on many hands where 6 clubs is good.

6 panelists with 5 different answers. Isn't bridge a wonderful game?

Partner's hand was: ♠x ♥JTxxxxx ♦void ♣QTxxx, so 6♣ is a great contract. I think 5♣, 4♠ and 5NT should all accomplish reaching the slam, though partner may be reluctant to abandon his seven card suit.

HALL OF FAME *continued from page 5*

"When we were all quitting our jobs and quitting school, Bob did the unthinkable – he got a job." In so doing, Von der Porten said, "he gave the rest of us a chance."

When he took the stage to accept the sportsmanship award, Hamman said, "Thanks, Ron, for a reasonably good intro." The Vanderbilt score, Hamman noted,

"was actually 97-1"

Hamman said he couldn't figure out why he was chosen for the award that honors Sidney Lazard's late son. "Maybe it was because I have gone two to three years without considering attempting to murder a partner," Hamman said.

Still in a joking mode, Hamman said, he finally figured it was because of a night at a steakhouse

in New Orleans when he and Lazard ordered the Porterhouse steak for three "and I let him eat a third of it – and I did not deprive him of the opportunity to pick up the check."

On a more serious note, Hamman said, "This award is very significant. It means a tremendous amount to me."