

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 51, #8

August 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A New Writer in Town

by Mike Marcucci



Attention in the area. There's a new writer in town. After four years at the helm of the ship, Becky has moved along to that relaxed part of town called true vacation. She took that three-foot gavel of hers and passed it along to me on the last day of our Pasadena Regional. Writing

a monthly column, you say? Guess I have to lube up the old keyboard and spread all the good news to our LA readers for the near future.

First order of business is to thank those members of the District 23 Board who have faithfully served their terms and who will be appearing at all future bridge tables with big grins on their happy faces. All their replacements have big shoes to fill since the originals were all wonderful and tireless workers for the betterment of bridge in LA the last four years (or more). Let's start with Becky Clough, our president.

Becky has quietly served as the catalyst for LA bridge activity during her tenure. Her work behind the scenes never ends. Her love of the game led to bridge excellence and leadership excellence. Behind that soft-spoken lady is a caring for her bridge family around LA that resulted in an ever-rising bridge spirit in all your District Board members that then carried over to your LA tournaments being as enjoyable a place to be as our own homes. We all feel welcome when Becky is

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ACBL Facts and Recent Trends

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



During this past month I received from Horn Lake a Fact Sheet that discusses some recent trends of the ACBL. While there is always room for improvement, I interpret these trends as a positive direction of the League.

Here are some facts from the sheet:

Overall, ACBL membership has increased by 12,249 members since 2006. Membership has increased in seven of the past nine years. The seven years of increased membership resulted in 12,531 net new members while the two years of decline resulted in 282 fewer members.

Over 106,000 new members have joined the ACBL over the past nine years. New member signups have remained strong and consistent each year. The yearly average is 1,283.

Over the past three years, the average age of a new ACBL member is 65.6 years old. This is lower than our overall average age and it is a result of focusing on the baby boomers.

There were 475 school bridge classes held in 2014 at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.

There are 5,427 TAP-accredited bridge teachers who are key drivers of membership and spreading the game across the continent. This number does not include other accredited bridge teaching programs like Audrey Grant's Better Bridge.

The ACBL is a leading example of a volunteer membership organization. Combined, the 25 District Directors volunteer over 8,000 hours annually. There are also 3,736 volunteer officials at the district and unit levels. This does not include the countless volunteers providing help at clubs and tournaments.

The Longest Day has raised more money and more publicity for local clubs than any other effort in the past ten years. Our organization has raised over \$1,000,000

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around.

Roger Clough has been our treasurer and has advised us on fiscal status. One might think that job could be done sitting down but you'd be wrong. He has worn a deep path to our bank and all the crossing guards in Culver City know his name. They will miss his bridge advice while waiting for those stop lights.

Ellen Anten was also tireless in her quest to improve all our tournaments. Who could forget that smile or say no to any request? She melted many hotel management hearts with her friendly and dynamic approach to creating a tournament atmosphere that said "Come on in and enjoy" to all our players. She has popularized the Pro-Am event on our Mondays and we hope to continue the expansion of such events until we fill the

rooms. How she could arrange all her tournament tasks and still have time to amass her 20,000 master-points over the past 15 years is a testament to her partners, her enthusiasm, and her love for the game.

Betty Jackson has put so many partnerships together over her term that it should be a Jeopardy question. Her time at the front desk juggling entry cards with a magician's touch was entertaining to watch. How many friends can you make at one tournament? If anyone has the record, it will be Betty.

Mark Raggio has dreamed of our tournament finance issues so much that his wife is seriously thinking of starting a new career in banking. The worry has not been good for the hairline over his term, but we think he still enjoyed all those calculations that led to such good advice to our committees. He is putting the computer away for a

while and I thought he mentioned a vacation in Tahiti the last time we spoke.

Joan Rubin has another one of those smiles that the good bridge speakers around LA know well as she approaches them. Along with being our secretary and record-keeper for the District, she has bent a few elbows getting interesting bridge subjects on our speaker agendas and encouraging all our speakers to entertain and enunciate! We need to get that secret list from her quickly before it is confiscated by District 22.

Oh, by the way, your new author in this space is Mike Marcucci. The picture was taken down at Coronado while attending some card game in that area. What does the t-shirt say, you ask? "I love the smell of rocket fuel in the morning!" Maybe I need to switch to Starbucks from now on. As we move along the tournament trail together over the next two years, expect to hear a few bridge stories from the past. Put that together with filling in the blanks of our Unit histories back to at least 1955 and we have the recipe for many more columns than one person could write. I'll try to fill in some of the blanks as we go. Meanwhile, hope everyone will take advantage of all the sectionals in the area over the next few months to get ready for our next Torrance Regional in October. I will be seeing you around our fair city (and may just carry that gavel with me).

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What do you think?

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

District 23 District Director Election

The following are candidate statements from the two members running for District Director in the upcoming election. The election is currently scheduled for August 2015.

Kevin Lane



I'm Kevin Lane, candidate for district director.

Last month I urged support for my candidacy based on the common sense that serious problems over a long period of time require fresh, highly-qualified perspectives. This month I will briefly expand

on what those problems are.

The ACBL wrote off \$3.2 million dollars last year for avoidable mistakes. The reason this election is so important is because last year's multi-million dollar waste is NOT the biggest problem facing the ACBL right now – despite the fact that the software problems persist.

The most important problem, in my view, is that members of the national ACBL board have publicly expressed difficulty getting basic information from ACBL management. Furthermore ACBL management has constrained what the board of directors can and cannot tell the membership. To name just one example, at a public technology meeting in March, district directors were asked not to speak – and they didn't.

These fundamental problems severely undermine the critical oversight role of a board of directors.

The ACBL bylaws require district directors to exercise "independent judgment." And common sense says that district directors that take orders from management – rather than the other way around – can not be effective.

Please elect me not only for my energy and business experience, but also to help restore the traditional oversight role of the ACBL board of directors.

Contact me at kevin@acbldistrict23.org - or 562-492-6693 - to share your views or ask about the future of the ACBL or District 23.

Rand Pinsky



Last month I demonstrated with specific examples why I am the most experienced and qualified candidate for District Director. This month I will share with you my positive and pro-active vision for the ACBL and our District.

I support the following:

- The League's long term planning which includes membership growth and Youth Bridge.
- The Tournament Director University which trains and develops new tournament directors.
- The Board and the Management Technology Committees to improve the League's technology programs.
- The efforts of management to develop teaching programs and new programs aimed for Clubs.
- Above all, the efforts of our District to widen our player base by encouraging newer players to enjoy our game. To this effort, I attend every mentor/mentee game that is held in our District and provide any support the sponsoring organization requests. New players will keep our game alive.

I am encouraged by the response our Marketing has received for their development of the "Tricks of the Trade" blog for clubs and for the "Resource Center" which has information for all ACBL members. Also for getting a two page article on bridge in a recent edition of the AARP magazine.

Finally, and most important, I will continue to be the liaison between the staff at ACBL and our members, units, clubs, and teachers to help solve any problems that may arise or to expedite any requests.

Bridge should be fun. I support zero tolerance. Questions? Write me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net. You will receive an answer!

District 23 Board of Directors

The new District 23 Board of Directors was elected in July.

President: Mike Marcucci



Mike has been a regular on the bridge circuit for more than 10 years. He has attended a fair number of tournaments on the West Coast and hopes to attend more. His Unit work has consisted of trying to make the Unit 559 Unit games the best around. As Unit Game Manager, he usually seats folks in all the wrong places but makes up for it by giving everybody good boards when they play him. He is not a popular partner but continues to try hard.

Mike has also worked as the NAP Coordinator for District 23 for about 10 years. He is to blame for all those snacks at the Fall NAP games that folks try hard to avoid but who invariably give in to the aromas swirling around them and succumb at break time.

Mike also continues to litter the tournament walls with those historical lists that cover all the wonderful accomplishments of our District 23 players. While in office as your new president, Mike will continue to sleuth the back rooms and the lists will become more complete until we know everything about everybody! Keep watch and enjoy your cards.

Treasurer: Joe Viola

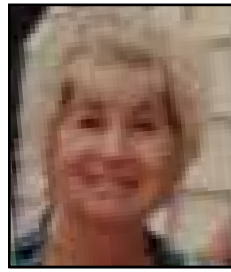


Joe has been playing bridge since high school and became serious about it in college. As he moved around, he stopped playing for a few years, but picked it up again when he moved to California and met one of his college partners. He has been playing regularly in the

Los Angeles area for about 30 years.

Joe served on the Unit 559 board from 1995 to 1997. He has also been a member of the District Disciplinary Committee for the last two years.

Vice President: Penny Barbieri



Penny began playing Party Bridge over 37 years ago. She began playing Duplicate Bridge in 1993 and after her retirement from her position as Assistant Controller from Wells Fargo Bank, she decided to get more involved with her Pomona/Covina Unit. She has served as Unit #551 president, vice president and has been treasurer for the past seven years. Currently she is the current District 23 vice president and will be serving another term.

Penny served on the following District Board committees: Unit #551 District Representative from 2006 to present, Tournament Committee member, and Hospitality/Newcomers 2008 to present.

Penny is a ACBL Certified Club Director, ACBL Certified Bridge Teacher, ACBL National Service Award winner, ACBL National Goodwill Committee member, and ACBL National Charity Committee member.

In addition to bridge, Penny also enjoys shopping and spending time with her grandchildren.

Secretary: Bob Shore



Bob Shore has been involved in bridge administration for the better part of a decade. He has served on the Unit Board of the West Los Angeles Unit for about seven years where he has been vice president and is currently president. At the district level, Bob has served as a Unit Representative to the District Board for several years. He has been chair of the District Disciplinary Committee for four years and will continue serving in that capacity. Away from the table, Bob is a partner at the Beverly Hills law firm Raines Feldman LLP, where his practice focuses on high-end commercial litigation.



Bridge Stories

This recurring series in the Southern California Bridge News includes short bridge stories from District 23 players who earned a new rank last month.

I just started playing duplicate bridge a few months ago at Agile Bridge Club. Jeff Grotenhuis is a wonderful director.

*Howard Schechter
Junior Master*

My husband and I moved to California from Chicago in 1968. We had played duplicate in Chicago, but when we came to Los Angeles, the sunshine beckoned and we gave up bridge for 30 years while we participated in outdoor sports. When my husband retired 17 years ago, we had time to do everything, thus back to bridge. Of course, bidding boxes, new systems, alerts were all new to us so it was a bit like starting over.

*Sandra Carroll
Gold Life Master*

I began playing duplicate in the mid-1960's. Duplicate bridge was very different then. The masterpoint awards were far lower and new players had to "take their lumps" playing in non-stratified fields against expert players. I am actually grateful for those essential learning experiences.

Lew, my husband and regular partner, and I met when we were "fixed up" by a mutual acquaintance to play in a mixed-pair event at an Akron, Ohio sectional. I was living and working as a high school social studies teacher in Youngstown and Lew was working at NASA Lewis Research in Cleveland. The "rest is history!" We moved to South California in 1972.

Over the years we had the opportunities to meet, play against, and kibitz many bridge legends including Goren and Sobel, Sheinwald, Garrozzo, etc., etc., etc. We didn't attend as many tournaments as we could have because we preferred to spend our vacations travelling, mostly abroad. As a result, achieving this level took longer than it should have, but I have no regrets and many wonderful memories.

We play few tournaments these days, so in addition to my sometimes-patient and excellent partner, Lew; I must give a "shout-out" to BBO for conducting ACBL

tournaments with masterpoint awards that helped me reach this goal.

Bridge is an ever-evolving challenge that has provided great mental stimulation and meaningful social interactions (and its share of aggravation!), and I wouldn't have changed a moment of it!

*Rhoda Himmell
Emerald Life Master*



I began my journey at my parent's kitchen table with my brother Phil, all of us learning bridge via the new fangled Goren point-count system – and we had the memory jogger plastic tablecloth with all the basic bids in front of us.

I fell in love with the game and moved on to duplicate in the San Bernardino area and eventually flunked out of Occidental College due to being so mesmerized with bridge that I had little or no time for studying.

I played a lot of bridge in the 60's. I learned the Walsh system from Paul Soloway who lectured a bunch of upcoming (now well-known) bridge players in a house Dave Ashley and I rented near the Al Okuneff bridge club in West Los Angeles.

I spent most of the 70's working like a dog in illustration, then art and not playing much, if any, bridge.

In the 80's, I left it all and moved to Ajijic, Jalisco in Mexico for about five years, just playing and learning how to teach bridge to the expat community there. This forced me to delve deeper into the understand of bridge bidding - not just what bid means what, but why!

When I returned to the USA, I was blessed with expert partners who were much better than I was. First Rick Henderson and then came Gerry Bare who single handedly improved my game tremendously and was my partner in Atlanta when we won the Senior Swiss. After that Jeff Fang (sharpfang) put the finishing touches on what my game has become (whatever that is).

Bridge has become the most important thing in my life (besides my life partner of 27 years who nowadays is my spouse as well). I never planned/dreamed of achieving Grand Life Master status but with great partners and many years of playing bridge, it just sort-of happened.

*Mike Savage (perhaps better known as patomike)
Grand Life Master*

2015-2016 North American Pairs has started

Several clubs in LA have already conducted the first Qualifying games of the NAP season. Are you ready for Reno in March 2016? There will be many chances to qualify at the various clubs around LA. Did you know that you can qualify anywhere? With anyone? As many times as you choose to play? The entire game schedule for all of LA is on the District 23 website and but it should be easy to track your local club on your own.

We are going to try something different this year. District 23 usually has our finals in January. We are going to conduct that game earlier this year to give folks more time to plan their travel. Our aim is to have the semi's, traditionally in October and November, one month earlier this year. Then, instead of waiting till January for the finals, we are looking at settling things all up by Thanksgiving. Let's see how our players, directors, and clubs like this revised schedule for 2015, then we'll decide whether it's an advantage to be the first ones in ACBL to decide our finalists or whether it's still good to be last!

We'll be looking to see more Flight C players this year. A short educational slide set will be sent to all the clubs in LA for all players, especially our C players, to check out. You'll see that this is a great opportunity for everyone to compete for a national title against **only** your own peers. Please check your club bulletin boards for these slides and check out the snazzy logo for Reno 2016. See you in Pasadena.

*by Mike Marcucci
District 23 NAP Coordinator*

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

in the past two years to support the Alzheimer's Association and there have been 50,265,075 media impressions secured for local bridge clubs.

The AARP Bulletin with a circulation over 29,700,000 readers featured an article in its March 2015 edition titled "Bridge to Brain Power." This magazine targeted ACBL's primary market. The article can be found on our website. It has resulted in many inquiries about lessons and membership to the ACBL.

These are just a few noteworthy facts. As always I welcome your comments. You can reach me at Pinsky-4Bridge@earthlink.net.

District 23 Rank Changes July 2015

Junior Master

Kathy Cahalan
Michael Greer
Robert Hildreth
Jerry Rabinowitz
Joyce Rabinowitz
Howard Schechter
Betti Sternberg
Susan Strassner
Jill Terrell
John Walker
Jeanne Weiner
Alice Wong
Leonard Yee

Club Master

Alan Cohen
Mara Cohen
Michael Connell
Jan Drayer
Janice Fischer
Selma Miner
Les Nakasaki
E Ruttenberg
Betz Salmont
Karyn Sue Shatzkin
Rena Slomovic

Sectional Master

Raymond Primus

Regional Master

Philip Berk
Pamela Boyer
Joan Buhl
Douglas Campbell
Hsuehching Chang
Sylvia Hurwitz
Sunny Lee
Joyce Roberts
Mary Louise Shnier
Ira Thierer

NABC Master

Gary Baxley
Dana Brenner
Chihwen Chen
Lynn Danielson
Marlene Felix
Jeff Grotenhuis

Life Master

Frances Every

Bronze Life Master

Robert Bakovic
Elaine Godin
Ken Leech
Lorna Wallace

Gold Life Master

Sandra Carroll
David Cheshire
Amr Elghamry

Diamond Life Master

Mark Tang

Emerald Life Master

Rhoda Himmell

Grand Life Master

Mike Savage

Los Angeles Regional

Torrance, CA October 12th-18th 2015

GOLD RUSH PAIRS Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday!

♠ **New KO's** everyday but Thursday and Sunday, Swiss Teams!

♥ **Star Speakers** - Tuesday through Saturday!

♦ **299er** games twice a day!

♣ **Daylight schedule** all week!



Free 299'er Lesson & Lunch

Free two-hour bridge lesson on Monday Oct 12th from 10:30am to 12:30, followed by lite lunch and free mini 299er game at 1pm.

Registration required!

Please call Jeff Grotenhuis
310-600-4275

Regular 299er game at 3:15pm.

Marriott South Bay Hotel

3635 Fashion Way Torrance, CA 90503

Reserve at 310-316-3636

Reserve early, rooms will sell out!

♠ Room rate \$139 (please refer to ALACBU ATTENDEES Bridge Tournament)

♥ Reserve before

Monday, Sept 28th 2015

♦ Self parking \$6.00 per day,
Wi-Fi \$5.95 per day

♣ Card fees \$14 for paid members,
\$18 for others.

Need partner or team mates?

Diane Sachs

dianesachs@yahoo.com
or 562-981-4884



Tournament manager **Peter Benjamin** 310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com
Director-in-Charge **Brian Russell** Sanction #1510044

Los Angeles Regional

Torrance, CA October 12th-18th 2015

Monday Oct 12th

10:30 AM
299er Free Lesson + Lunch followed by a mini game (reservation required)
AM Side Game Series 1 of 6
First KO Session 1 of 4
Educational Foundation Stratified Charity Pairs 1 of 2

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 1 of 6
First KO Session 2 of 4
Educational Foundation Stratified Charity Pairs 2 of 2
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session
299er Pairs Game

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 1 of 5

Tuesday Oct 13th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 2 of 6
First KO Session 3 of 4
Second KO Session 1 of 4
Frank Grant Memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2
299er Pairs Game

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 2 of 6
First KO Session 4 of 4
Second KO Session 2 of 4
Frank Grant Memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 of 2
299er lecture (2:30) & Pairs Game
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 2 of 5
Stratified Swiss Session 1 of 2

Wednesday Oct 14th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 3 of 6
Second KO Session 3 of 4
Wednesday Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2
299er Pairs Game

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 3 of 6
Second KO Session 4 of 4
Wednesday Compact KO Sessions 3 & 4
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 of 2
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session
299er Lecture (2:30PM) & Pairs Game

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 3 of 5
Stratified Swiss Session 2 of 2

Thursday Oct 15th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 4 of 6
Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+) 1 of 2
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (no player over 3000) 1 of 2
The Marvin Grabel Memorial Open Pairs Session 1 of 2 (0-750/750-2000/2000+)
299er Pairs Game

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 4 of 6
Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+) 2 of 2
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (no player over 3000) 2 of 2
The Marvin Grabel Memorial Open Pairs Session 2 of 2 (0-750/750-2000/2000+)
299er Lecture (2:30PM) & Pairs Game

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 4 of 5
Stratified Swiss Session 1 of 2

Friday Oct 16th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 5 of 6
Frank Jones Memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2
Friday-Sat KO Session 1 of 4
299er Pairs Game

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 5 of 6
Frank Jones Memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/3000 /3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 of 2
Friday-Sat KO Session 2 of 4
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session
299er Lecture (2:30PM) & Pairs Game

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 5 of 5
Stratified Swiss Session 2 of 2

Saturday Oct 17th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 6 of 6
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 of 2
Friday-Sat KO Session 3 of 4
Saturday Compact KO Session 1 & 2
299er Pairs Game

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 6 of 6
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 of 2
Friday-Sat KO Session 4 of 4
Saturday Compact KO Session 3 & 4
299er Lecture (2:30PM) & Swiss Team
Stratified Swiss Team Single Session

Sunday Oct 18th

10:30 AM & TBA
Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+) 2 sessions
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (no player over 3000) 2 sessions
Stratified Fast Pairs (0-750/750-2000/2000+) 2 sessions

♥ **Stratified games:**
0-750/750-2000/2000+

♣ **GOLDRUSH:**
0-100/100-300/300-750
0 (no player over 750 points)

♦ **Bracketed Flight B Swiss:**
Bracketed by average points of team.
- No player over 3000 points
- 3 teams in each bracket earn gold!

♠ **KOs** may be handicapped, games will be stratified by average master points.

Around the Units in District 23

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

August Unit Game, August 8, 2015
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

By the time you read this, our tournament will be but a memory. So, I'll go out on a limb now and offer congratulations to all of you who did well during the regional, the Glendale-Verdugo sectional, and/or the Pasadena-San Gabriel sectional.

Due to the Glendale-Verdugo sectional there was no Unit game in July, so no results to report. Please join us on August 8 for our next Unit game.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

June 28 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Shoichi Yoshihiro/Phil Hiestand, 2nd Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy, 3rd Robert and Richard Bakovic, 4th Dalia Hernandez/Colleen Bilas, 5th Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 6th Steve and Charlotte Sturm. In the B flight overall: 3rd Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid, 4th Susan and Keith Hafen, 5th Usha Bansal, 6th Martin Lipman/Joyce Roberts. In the C flight overall: 3rd Fred Dyle/Barbara Barnat, 4th Jeff Grotenhuis/Liang Fan. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: June 16 through July 15: In the NLM game July 14 Julie Osborne/Bonnie Walsh had a 75.42% game. Congratulations!

Big Masterpoint Awards: June 16 through July 15: June 23 Loren Hilf/Baum Harris won 3.94mp for 1st. In the unit game June 28 Soichi Yoshihiro/Phil Hiestand won 5.25mp for 1st, Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy 3.94mp for 2nd. In the July 4 open game Jo and John Melis tied with Kent Hartman/Robert Shore for

1st, each winning 3.07mp. And July 15 Jo Daigle/Betty Witteried won 4.69mp for 1st, Steve Skinner/Baum Harris 3.52mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all seven pairs!!

Condolences to the family and friends of Richard Dial who passed away last month and to family and friends of Bee Kinman who passed away earlier this month. Bee was a delight as a bridge partner and as a friend. I will miss her sorely, as will many others.

New Members: Ellen Kice, Eileen Kotecki, Alan Olschwang. Welcome to the Club!

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Thomas Percer. New Club Master: Judy Mathias. New Sectional Master: Judy Percer. New NABC Master: Pamela Cronn. New Silver Life Master: Albert Lum. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club

July 13-19: District 22-23 STaC. Silver points. \$12 card fee.

July 24-26: Silent Auction. Bidding 10:30am-5 pm each day. Proceeds from the auction will help purchase a defibrillator (AED) for our players at the Long Beach Bridge Center. If you have a special donation or have access to a donation from a local business, please consider entering it in our Silent Auction.

July 26: Unit Game. Game starts at 1 pm. No lunch. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8. Future unit games Aug 23, Sept 27, Oct 25 and Nov 22.

August 10-16: North American Pairs qualifying games. Extra points, regular prices.

August 17-24: Western Conference STaC. Silver points. \$1 extra/session.

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Unit Rated Game June 18 - Clubhouse #3 Bee Kinman/Dorothy Favre 1 in A. Emma Trepinski/Bud Parish 2 in A, 1 in B. Jeannette Estell/Fred Bene- →

detti 3 in A. Christine Frumen/Jaye Woodington 4 in A. Lee and Ken Miller 5 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Jean Myer/Betty Sichel 6 in A, 3 in B, 2 in C. Dixie Albright/Roger Farmer 4 in B. Linda Nye/Mike Nielsen 5 in B, 3 in C. Melanie and Jerome Smith 6 in B. Julie Mills/Mary Sipple 4 in C. Julie Cunningham/Midge Dunagan 5 in C.

Club Championship Game June 19 - Clubhouse #1 Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid 1 in A, 1 in B. Fern Dunbar/Diane Sachs 2 in A. Verna Burns/Howard Smith 3 in A. Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Slutsky 4 in A. Betty Scharf/Bill Robinson 5 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Sylvia Kaprelyan/William Dilks 6 in A, 3 in B, 2 in C. Joan and Ted Wieber 4 in B. Monican and Paul Honey 5 in B, 3 in C. Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw 4 in C.

70% Games: June 19 at Clubhouse #1: Joyce Henderson and Jane Reid 70.37%

Congratulations to Verna Burns and Joan Tschirki who earned 31.78 master points in the Saturday A/B IMP Pairs at the Los Angeles Bridge Week Regional in Pasadena.

Get Well Wishes to Simone Chitton

Condolences to the family and friends of Bee Kinman. Bee had been a long time resident of Leisure World, a director and teacher of many. She will be missed.

Upcoming Games

Club Championship Games: Clubhouse #3 Aug 10, Sept 10 and Clubhouse #1 August 8, Sept 11, Sept 19.

Unit Rated Games: Clubhouse #1 August 14 and Clubhouse #3 October 12

Pro-Am Game : Clubhouse #3 Sept 21

Phone Number for Clubhouse #3 - Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner: After 12:00 noon: (562) 481-7368. Games are held on Mondays/ Thursdays at Clubhouse #3 and Friday/Saturday at Clubhouse #1 at 12:15. Advanced reservations are requested as Leisure World is a gated community. Please call: Mon. - Midge Dunagan (562) 594 9698 Thurs - Cookie Pham (562) 431 6453 Fri and Sat - Jaye Woodington (562) 799 1089. Any news for next month's column, please e mail me @ jcyj90740@gmail.com results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via email: Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

Upcoming Events

John Waken Sectional

July 31- August 2

La Salle High School

3880 East Sierra Madre Boulevard, Pasadena

Glendale Verdugo Sectional

Jul 24-26, 2015

Scottish Rite

150 North Madison Ave, Pasadena

North American Pairs

The Arcadia Bridge Center will hold NAP. The winners will receive extra masterpoints and will be eligible to continue on to the second round of the event. Districtwide winners and the runner-up team will receive an expense paid trip to the Nationals held next Spring.

Monday, July 20, at 7:15 PM

Saturday, August 15 at 1:00

Monday, August 17 at 7:15

559 Unit Game: Sunday, August 23, 1:00

8 is Enough. Bring your team- see unit 559 website for points calculation

San Marino Community Center

1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino

ARCADIA Bridge Center:

"Beat the House" Night:

Friday, August 21 7:15

~and~

"Winners and Losers"

Sunday, July 19, 1:00

Sunday, August 30, 1:00

Our Members Score!

Unit Game June 28: Flight A: Herman Helber - Shiu-Ming Huang; Flight B: Harold Knowles II - William Dessert; Flight C: Diana Campuzano Pat Campuzano.

Los Angeles Regional July 6-12: Pro-AM Winners: Rai Osborne, Anaheim; Hanna Zhuang, Alhambra; →

Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs: Sharon Wolf, Glendale; Steve Shanker, La Canada

Top Scoring Unit members and the points won at the tournament: Gerald Bare- 51.37; Jeffrey Goldsmith- 51.02; Xingping Kang- 37.23; Herman Helber- 31.42; Jack Futrell- 26.89; Art Gulbrandsen- 23.31; Samuel Wang- 22.82; Steve Shanker- 21.61; Amr Elghamry- 20.85; Joseph Viola III- 20.83; Zu Ming Cheng- 20.53.

OK! We start with a Sing-a-long... to the tune of 'The Night They invented Champagne.' Everybody ready? **Sing!**

*My partner had opened 1♥,
Opponent made a jump
To Unusual NT*

*That's when I invented 'UU'
I didn't know what to do,
Until I thought of a cue*

*My partner had nary a clue
And you folks may doubt this is true
But I swear that to me it was new.*

That's the day I invented UU!

OK, OK! Enough singing! (Boy, some of you really can't carry a tune.)

So here's the story. Yes, it's true- I invented 'UU'... the 'unusual over unusual' convention? Unfortunately, when I devised it I did not know that it had been invented independently many years earlier by a number of high level players.

And, equally unfortunately, I invented it in the middle of an auction.

I was playing at a sectional tournament in New Jersey, about 20 years ago. My partner and I were B level players, though I think I was progressing somewhat faster than he was. I will readily admit, however, that over time he had developed and honed, a 'puzzled frown,' which he used frequently, to great effect.

Playing against an 'A' pair, my partner opened 1♥, and my RHO bid 2NT... showing the two lower unbid suits. I don't recall the exact cards I held, but I had 10-11 high card points, and heart support. If necessary, I will swear under oath that I had **never** before heard of the 'Unusual over Unusual' convention, but our system did include cue-bidding an opponent's suit to show a →



ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL

September 7-13, 2015

Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center • 17900 Jamboree Road, Irvine CA 92614 • 888 230-4452

Tournament Website: OrangeCountyRegional.com

Gold Point Compact KO on Monday, Sept. 7, 3:00 p.m.

Free 90-minute Lesson presented by ACBL Grand Life Master **Marjorie Michelin** on Monday, Sept. 7, 1:00 p.m.

Newly Remodeled Hotel! Newly Remodeled Guest Rooms!

Free Wi-Fi and new dining options! \$5.00 Self-Parking

D22 No. Am. Pairs (NAP) Final on Saturday, Sept. 12

Find Partners or Teammates at OrangeCountyRegional.com

Knockout Teams

Monday Compact Knockout 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Evening Kickoff Knockout (3-sessions) Mon-Tue-Wed 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout (4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday Knockout (4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Thursday-Friday Knockout (4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Friday-Saturday Knockout (4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Saturday Compact Knockout (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Swiss Teams

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday Swiss (single sessions) 3:15 & 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Saturday Swiss (single session) 3:15 p.m.

Wed/Thursday Evening Swiss (two sessions) 7:30 p.m.

Sunday Flight A/X Swiss 0-5000/5000+ (playthrough) 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Bracketed B Teams (0-2000) (playthrough) 10:30 a.m.

Tournament Manager: Tom Shulman 702.301-5856 • tomshulman@gmail.com

Co-Chairman: Barbara Dunkley • **Caddie Master:** Leslie Heid • e-mail: LBridge@gmail.com

Use our online Partnership Desk at OrangeCountyRegional.com to find partners & teammates

Pairs Games

Charity Pairs and 0-100/300 Charity Pairs Monday 3:00 p.m. (note early start time)

Morning Side Game Series Tuesday thru Saturday 10:30 a.m.

Afternoon Side Game Series Tuesday thru Saturday 3:15 p.m.

Evening Side Game Series Monday thru Friday 7:30 p.m.

Gold Rush Pairs (0-300/300-750) Tuesday thru Saturday 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Open Pairs (0-1500/1500-3000/3000+) Tues. thru Sat. 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

0-100 & 0-300 Pairs (single sessions) Tuesday thru Saturday 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Fast Pairs (2-sessions) Sunday 10:30 a.m. & TBD

ACBL Club Director Refresher Course

Monday, September 7, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. & 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

\$35 Fee includes both sessions

Contact Teri Atkinson, teriak@sbcbglobal.net • 661 664-1678

Card Fees:

\$12 for paid ACBL members, \$16 for others, Students half-price

Players having fewer than 5 masterpoints play FREE on Tuesday!

Evening games Wednesday thru Friday cost
only \$2.00 for paid members! (\$6.00 for others)

Host Hotel: [Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center](http://HotelIrvineJamboreeCenter.com)

17900 Jamboree Road, Irvine CA 92614 • 888 230-4452

Bridge Rate: \$125 (mention ACBL) **Cutoff date:** August 16

Hotel Guests: Free Wi-Fi; newly renovated guest rooms; 24 hour room service delivery from the Marketplace; new hotel dining options & food outlets, with a gastro pub inspired restaurant, and a chic and modern bar.

- Easy on/off 405 Freeway Jamboree Exit southeast of 55 Freeway
- Free Shuttle to/from John Wayne Airport

Reserve online at: OrangeCountyRegional.com

limit raise.

What to do? That's when I thought, 'why not cue bid one of RHO's suits?' Which one? Well, the higher one, of course, since I had the equivalent of a limit raise. The lower one should show just a single level raise.

So, I bid 3♦.

Simultaneously, two things happened. The by now familiar 'puzzled frown' appeared on my partner's face, and LHO asked him what my bid signified. My partner, never one of the sharpest arrows in the quiver, paused.... then proceeded to give 3 or 4 possible explanations.... none of which were remotely related to what I had intended. He should have simply and truthfully stated that he had no idea. Admittedly, my invention in mid-auction did not make it easy for him.

As to that board, LHO doubled, my partner passed, RHO passed, I bid 3♥, all passed. We made 3, they complained to the director who dismissed their complaint.

Saturday, at the regional, Bev and I were in 1st place North/South, playing the final board of the day against the East/West 1st place pair. East opened 1♠. Sitting South, I held a ♠-- ♥Qx ♦Jxx ♣AKQxxxx. My bid, 3♠, a western cue, asked partner to bid 3NT if she had a spade stopper. West doubled, and Bev, obediently responded 3NT. Uncooperative East, however, bid 4♦, I passed and West now bid 4♠. Bev, holding 5 spades (Q987x) unhesitatingly doubled. Her bid was absolutely correct....and she won 3 tricks....2 in the trump suit and the ♥K. Unfortunately, I contributed **zero** tricks to the defense. My ♣A was trumped. They made 4♠ doubled, we got an absolute **zero**, matching my contribution to the defense, and though we remained in 1st place, N/S, we....oops, I mean I, fell to 2nd overall.

Obviously, I should have pulled the double and bid 5♣... which makes East (Dealer): ♠K10632 ♥Q2 ♦AKJ42 ♣7

South (Marty): ♠-- ♥J86 ♦Q3 ♣AKQ109854

West: ♠AJ4 ♥A10975 ♦98765 ♣--

North (Bev): ♠Q9875 ♥K43 ♦10 CCJ632

The following contracts make: 6♦ EW, 4♠ EW, 4♣ NS. North South are vulnerable.

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, Aug 15, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, Aug 1, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

To all of you who participated in the Longest Day

by playing, donating, or both – we thank you. The opening session was won by Clinton Lew – Pat Radamaker, followed by Tom Lill – Penny Barbieri and Margie Hall – Ann Raymond. In the afternoon session, Tom and Penny moved up to the top spot, with a 3-way tie for the second spot shared by Judy and Marty Husted, Rosalie Roberts – Patricia Radamaker, and Margie Hall – Ann Raymond.

The June Unit Game was won by Dan Botoaca – Amr Elghamry, then Tom and Penny, Vic and Kerry Sartor, Clint Lew – Pat Radamaker, and Fredy and Lulu Minter.

The July Individual was won by Bob Kakade, followed by Paul Chrisney, Barbara Killebrew, Richard Patterson, and Al Lax.

One promotion this month: Steve Mancini is now a Club Master.

The top game this month was a 72.02% effort by Walt Otto and Clint Lew, just edging out the 71.73% game turned in by Richard Patterson and Roger Ginsburg. Other winners: Claudia Cochran, Gayle Ginsburg, Karen McCarthy, Suzanne Wojcik, Fredy and Lulu Minter, Kim Horn, and Billie Steiner.

Our Unit had some success at the Bridge Week regional in Pasadena. Twenty unit members scored a total of 176.63 master points. The best single performance was turned in by Bill Papa and Vic Sartor, who won the Tuesday A/B pairs to score a whopping 31.96 points. Bill turned in the best overall performance, with 41.96, followed by Vic at 31.96, Sherman Gao with 26.93, Jack Chao with 14.29, and Genise Hasan with 10.19.

For our hand-of-the month, we have a little lesson in passed-hand bidding. You are playing Standard, deal, and pass holding: ♠J92 ♥T7 ♦JT42 ♣AKQ3

LHO passes, and partner opens 1♥. Your turn.

The "book" bid, holding a balanced 11 count, would be 2NT. But do you really want the lead to run up to this hand? For one thing, your hand contains no tenaces, so having the lead run to you won't help much. For another, most of your points are concentrated in one suit. That leaves the likelihood that at least one of the two remaining suits will have a serious weakness.

Instead, bid "where you live." 2♣. If partner has a fit for clubs, he can raise, or pass with a shabby third-seat opener. If he has six hearts, he can rebid the suit and you can pass, knowing you are in an eight-card fit. If he happens to have four diamonds, he can bid the suit, and you can pass or raise the suit as you think best. Finally, if partner has a balanced hand that's a legitimate →

opener, he can rebid 2NT himself, and the contract will be played from the correct side.

At the table, partner – with this less than stellar opening bid: ♠43 ♥AJ982 ♦A ♣JT985 properly passed. Making four for a great matchpoint score (two red aces and eight trump tricks on a cross-ruff). 2NT goes down one. (You have seven top tricks in notrump, but that's it. Before you can set up a heart trick, the opponents will take one diamond, one heart, and four spades – at least. The only way to make 2NT is if the opponents are kind enough (read stupid enough) to lead hearts for you at trick one.

Quote for the Month: “Quarrels would not last long if the fault was only on one side.” (François de la Rochefoucauld,)

Until next month ...

San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Special Congratulations

New Life Master Achievements by Unit 561 Players are: Phil Calloway (Bronze), Gloria Malkin (Silver), and Martin Blain (Diamond – 5,000).

June Top 10 Masterpoints at the 750 Club were Ray Primus 11.84, Ron Malkin 10.76, Phil Calloway 10.43, Bill Raff 9.60, Helen Malzer 8.97, John Tickner 8.59, Marty Hurwitz 7.97, Bunnie Roth 7.61, Don Rosen 7.39, and Gloria Feerst 7.07.

70% Games were achieved by Lorraine Buhai – Marvin Buhai 72.50%, Dwight Hunt – Claude LeFeuvre 70.86%, and Billy Blanchard – Marcia Broderick 70.83%.

Longest Day Games

The 750 Club held three games of bridge on Monday, June 22, for a total of fifty-three tables. All card fees and additional individual donations resulted in a generous contribution of over \$4,500 to the Alzheimer's Association. Winners in the games follow.

Morning Pairs: NS – Richard Wiggins – John Soldano (A1/2, B1/2), James Hawkins – Linda Silvey (A1/2, B1/2), and Robert Filkoff – Pushpa Comer (C1). EW – Carol Hamburger – Barbara Astrin (A1, B1, C1).

Afternoon Pairs: NS – Ruth Fleisher – Marilyn Gaims (A1, B1, C1). EW – Jerry Rose – Don Rosen (A1,

B1, C1).

Evening Pairs: NS – Paula Rosenfeld – Doug Beagle (A1/2, B1/2), Ruth Fleisher – Marilyn Gaims (A1/2, B1/2), Barry Ross – Alan Licht (C1). EW – Samy Antoun – Sheila Singer (A1), Karen Kohn – Mary Young (B1, C1).

August 29 Unit Game

Unit 561 will host a lunch game on Saturday, August 29, at the 750 Club in Woodland Hills. A catered Italian lunch will be served buffet style at 12noon, followed by Intermediate and Open games at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$12.00 and reservations are requested. A sign-up sheet is available at the 750 Club or email mjjubelirer@att.net for reservations/partnerships.

Calendar

Wednesday, August 12, *North American Pair Game, 750 Club, at 11 a.m.

Tuesday, August 25, *North American Pair Game, 750 Club, at 11 a.m.

Saturday, August 29, Unit 561 Game, at the 750 Club. See details above.

Monday, September 7 (Labor Day), the 750 Club will be closed for the night game.

Monday, September 14 (Rosh Hashanah), the 750 Club will be closed for the night game.

Wednesday, September 23 (Yom Kippur), the 750 Club will be closed.

Saturday, December 5, Unit 561 Holiday Bridge Party/Dinner. Please save the date!

Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

The Los Angeles Bridge Week Regional was held July 6-12 in Pasadena. Congratulations to the following teams: Tracy Boys, Eva Seri, Paul Gill and Ruth Baker placed fifth in Tuesday Evening Swiss Teams. The team of Bill Brodek, Roy Ladd, Tracy Boys and Gary Grey placed 4th in the Thursday Compact KO 2. In the Sunday Bracketed “B” Teams, Elaine Moore, Tom Shudic, Robert McBroom and Kathy Flynn came in first place.

In Pairs events, Paul Reukauf played in the Pro-Am with Hal Knilians and was 11th overall with 58.4%. This was Paul's first time playing in a Regional. →

Roy Ladd and Bert Stock did well playing in two Gold Rush events. On Tuesday they were second overall with 63.3% and on Wednesday they were fourth overall with 59.1%. In the Friday Evening Side Game, Elaine Moore and Tom Shudic came in first with 65.83%.

Unit Game Results

Monday, July 13 in Santa Clarita

North/South Winners

- 1 Hansford Rowe & George MacDonald - 63.5%
- 2 Vibeke Gilbreath & Ruth Baker - 57.3%:
- 3 Charles Self & Mary Ann Self - 56.0%:
- 4 Lamonte Johnson & Mira Rowe - 52.6%

East/West Winners

- 1 Bert Stock & Roy Ladd - 60.5%
- 2 Joe Walters & Bob Brothers - 59.4%
- 3 Nell Schanz & Roshen Hadulla - 57.7%
- 4 Paula Olivares & Purshottam Tennarangam - 47.2%

StaC Game Results

Friday, July 17

- 1 Russ Buker & Barbara York - 63.2%
- 2 Paul Reukauf & Carol Reukauf - 54.9%
- 3 Onorita Pallanti & Sharon Lowry - 53.5%
- 4 George Lewis & Sharry Vida - 51.4%

Sunday, July 19th in Palmdale

- 1 David White & Charles Morrin - 63.3%
- 2 Kristi Kubo & Carol Ashbacher - 56.7%
- 3 George MacDonald & Russ Buker - 56.3%
- 4/5 Phoebe Evans & Joanne Freatman - 55.6%
- 4/5 Paula Olivares & Bill Brodek - 55.6%

Mentor Games

The next Mentor Game will be held on Sunday, August 2 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale at noon. A light lunch will be served and reservations are required. Anyone interested in participating should contact Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net) or Beth Morrin (morrin@sbcglobal.net).

Upcoming Unit Games:

Thursday, August 6 in Castaic at 10:00 a.m.
Friday, August 21 in Palmdale at 12:30 p.m.

Magic Mountain Sectional

The Magic Mountain Sectional will be held this year on October 24 and 25. The board voted to hold the sectional again at the Friendly Valley Community in Santa Clarita. Flyers are available on the ACBL Website.

Visit us on facebook for pictures from various tournaments and other activities.

<https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit556>

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: Wednesday, August 5, 6:30 p.m.

North American Pairs Qualifier:

Wednesday, August 12, 11:30 a.m.

NLM Club Championship: Thurs, Aug 13, 10:30 a.m.

Districts 17-23 STAC:

Monday August 17 through Saturday August 22

Swiss Team Championship: Tues, August 25, 7:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Friday, August 28, 11:30 a.m.

North American Pairs Qualifier: Mon, Aug 31, 7 p.m.

Friday Night games on August 7 and 21

Club Championships

The North American Pairs Qualifier on June 17 was led by Ray Mack/Fran Israel in Flight A and Marie Lynch/Charlotte Lewin in Flight B. On June 27 the NAOPQ was won by Kim Wang/Lutrell Long in Flight A with Mike Welsh/Robert Rothman on top in Flight B and Elaine Godin/Norm Imberman leading Flight C. The June 29 NAOPQ was headed by JoAnne and Cal Waller in Flights A and B with Pat Berg/Norm Imberman ahead in Flight C. The July 1 Club Championship was won by Gerri Soffa/John J. McDermott in Flight A and Harry Wessells/Ed Srenco in Flight B.

The Veterans Park Club Championship on June 15 was won by Judith and James Scott in both Flights A and B. On June 17 the Club Championship at Veterans Park was led by Bill McClean/David Cheshire in Flight A with Marsha Winer/Marianne David leading →

Flight B and Carol Hansen/Diane Maye ahead in Flight C. The June 19 Club Daytime Championship at Anderson Park was headed by Margaret Enders/William Baxter in Flight A with Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman ahead in Flight B and Linda Dillon/Shirley Chang on top in Flight C. The June 19 evening Club Championship at Anderson Park was won by Jeanne Tamaki/David Cheshire in Flight A with Katherine West/Margaret Brull leading Flight B and Don and Les Nakasaki ahead in Flight C.

Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night Swiss team games.

- June 16: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken
 July 14: Gabriela Jackson, Gerri Soffa Carlson, Ernie Frank, Charles Goren

TSB Unit Overall Winners during Bridge Week

Following is a list of TSB unit players who took first overall honors during the recent Bridge Week in Pasadena.

Monday Afternoon Side Game: Kim Wang/Bruce Horiguchi

Monday Evening 299er: Marlene Felix/Kathy Shinkle

Tuesday Evening Swiss: Alfred Lee

Wednesday B Pairs: Cal Waller/Les Rawitt

Huntington KO Bracket 2: Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman

Thursday Gold Rush Pairs: Roberta Gottfried/James Alstad

Thursday Evening Flight B Swiss: Steve Ramos, Michael Piken, David Peim, Neil Kleiner

Friday Evening Swiss tie Flight B: Barbara Shortwell, Shirley Chang, Henry Crowder, Jeff Strutzel

Marshall Miles Swiss: Ed and Michael Piken

Honorary Mention: Gerri Soffa Carlson (Second in Friday Flight A Pairs)

Agile Bridge Club

The Agile Bridge Club raised masterpoint limits for their three games in June. Monday is now 199r, Tuesday 299r and Friday 299r. All games are running between 10-20 tables.

North American Pairs for 299rs will be held on Tuesday, November 11.

Beginning Bridge starts at the beginning on Wednesday, September 9 from 9:00-11:00 am. To register for this six week course, contact the City of Manhattan Beach.

Swiss Teams are now the third Thursday of the month (299er). There is also an evening Swiss Teams the first Wednesday evening of each month. The next one is Wednesday, August 5 at 6:30 p.m.

For details on these other events at the Agile Bridge Club, visit www.agilebridgeclub.com or call Jeff Grotenhuis at (310) 600-4275.

GUV Memorial Award

It's pretty unusual to get three slams your way in a session. However in the Sunday Swiss during the Pasadena Bridge Week in one match partner and I had three slams on consecutive hands. On the first hand 6♠ was pretty much a cold laydown 6♠ bid at both tables. On the next hand my pard forgot what trumps were on a Blackwood inquiry and we only bid 6 where 7 was cold in notrump, spades or clubs. Amazingly we gained 2 IMPs as the opponents at the other table also had their bidding problems and bid to 6♣ while we were in 6NT.

By far the most interesting was the third hand. I held the second biggest hand of my life ♠AT ♥AKJx ♦AKQxx ♣AK, 28 High Card Points. After a 2♣ opener by me my pard forgot the specifics of Kokesh after responding 2♦ which showed at least a king. Perceptive as I am, I hoped it might be the ♠K. He held ♠KJ98x ♥xxxx ♦xx ♣Jxx. After a tortured auction we wound up in 6NT rather than 6♥. I swore to myself when I saw the dummy thinking 6♥ was the spot. But the Gods of Bridge decided to make up to me the rotten luck I had suffered all week long as a continuance of the rotten Luck from the Las Vegas Regional. Hearts were 4-1 with the QTxx offside while the ♠Qx was under Partners spade holding and diamonds were 4-2.

This led to me making 6NT where hearts would be down. Apparently the gods were also smiling on the opponents at the other table as they also reached 6NT for a push.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Games on August 3
12:30 p.m. at Beverly Hills and Barrington
7:15 p.m. at Beverly Hills

Ain't It Grand

I had a rare privilege last month, shared by at most a few hundred other people across the world of bridge. I was fortunate enough to be sitting across the table as Mike Savage, one of our Unit's favorite directors and players, acquired the last points he needed to achieve

ACBL's highest rank, Grand Life Master. Mike, who has generously shared his thoughts on conventions and treatments for many years via his handouts at tournaments, was typically low key about the accomplishment. He wasn't even sure until he got home that he'd accumulated the last of the points he needed. Congratulations, Mike! I'm happy to have had a small part in your enormous accomplishment.

Clear Your Weekends

There will be new local excitement on Friday evenings. Beginning on August 7, Beverly Hills will hold a Friday evening game. Don't forget to support this new game so that it will survive, thrive, and perhaps even expand.

New Location

Please make your plans for the upcoming Labor Day Sectional. We've heard and listened to your feedback, and we have found a new location for the tournament. Actually, two of them. On Saturday, September 5, the tournament will begin at Barrington Bridge Club. Then, our Sunday and Monday games will move to Temple Akiba, located at 5249 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City, CA 90230. Please give the new locations a try and let us know how you like the new digs.

If you just can't wait that long for a Unit event, I've got good news. We're holding a pair of Unit Championships on August 3. At 12:30 p.m., we're having a Unit-wide Championship at Beverly Hills and Barrington. Then, that evening, the 7:15 p.m. game at Beverly Hills will also be a Unit Championship. Show up and collect your points!

Returning the Favor

Coming up on October 4, it will once again be our turn to attempt to match the ABA's hospitality when we again host our third annual ABA-ACBL game at Barrington. As usual, it will be a Unit Championship. Lunch will be served at noon and the bridge is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. I have it on the best authority that the two-time defending champion in this event (and author of this column) will strive for a three-peat. Can you knock him off his throne? Come give it a shot. For less experienced players, we plan to include a section for 299ers, so if you don't feel ready to try your →



There's a New Game in Town!

And

It's here at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club.

Starting August 7th
we are adding a regularly scheduled
Open Stratified Friday evening game
at 7:15 p.m.



luck in the open room, there's still a game for you to enjoy.

Dummy: ♠10843 ♥AJ632 ♦J52 ♣Q
Declarer: ♠A97 ♥8 ♦AKQ109763 ♣2

Entering the 21st Century

Thanks to our new Webmaster, Nancy Heck, the Unit is slowing dipping its toes into the 21st Century. Our Web site is up and running. It can be found at <http://www.bridgewebs.com/acblunit562/>. Please don't hesitate to suggest (or even contribute) content for our new Web site.

Pasadena's Not Just for Little Old Ladies

This year's Bridge Week returned to its Pasadena roots, and our Unit made its usual excellent showing. We have to lead off with Ellen and Bob Kent, who scored a hat trick, winning the Roses Knockout Teams, the Huntington Knockout Teams, and the Marshall Miles Swiss, the latter along with Bill Schreiber. Ken Okel and Jim Brunet turned a double play, pairing their win in the Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs with a win in the Friday Gold Rush Pairs.

But we had winners throughout the week. Marlene Felix started things off by winning the Monday evening 299er Pairs game. Pete Benjamin scored a win in the Arroyo Knockout Teams event and Ravnesh Amar prevailed in the Wednesday evening 299er Pairs game. Carole Hamburger and Myrna Frankel tied for first in the Thursday afternoon 299er Pairs game. The team with Rick Turner and Alyssa Kennedy won their bracket of the Huntington Knockout Teams event, and Jackson Tsao won his bracket of the Thursday Compact Knockout. Wayne Karson won the Friday A/B Pairs game, and David and Debra Stern won the Saturday Gold Rush Pairs.

Bragging Rights

I don't often get opportunities like this, so I'm glad I didn't let this one slip past me. As the dealer with everyone white, I held: ♠A97 ♥8 ♦AKQ109763 ♣2

This seemed like an easy 1♦ opener. Left hand opponent overcalled 2NT (showing the expected hearts and clubs, the two lower unbid suits), partner passed, and RHO jacked the auction up to 5♣. Well, the technical term for an eight-card suit is "trump," so I bid 5♦. Lefty doubled, ending the auction, and then she led the ♣K (requesting count):

After winning the first trick, lefty shifted to the ♥K, her partner showing count with the 9. I erred by leading a trump to my hand as RHO showed out, throwing a club. Then I got to counting. If I could trust LHO's bid she had 5 hearts and 5 clubs, and she was now known to hold two diamonds. This left her with only one spade, so a loser-on-loser play might leave her with no winning option. I cashed the ♠A, lefty following with the K, led the ♦10 to the J (RHO threw the ♥5), and then led the heart deuce from dummy, dumping a spade. Lefty, down to hearts and clubs, was cooked. If she led a high heart, I'd ruff and lead the ♦3 to the 5 to cash the ♥J. If she led a low heart, I'd score the ♥J immediately. She tried a club, but I was able to ruff that on dummy as I threw my last spade loser. Making 5.

Why was my play at trick 3 an error? I should have ruffed a heart back to my hand to be sure RHO couldn't win the throw-in trick. What could LHO have done? Her only real chance was to try a swindle by leading a low heart at trick 2. If she had, my only winning play would be to insert the J there and then. If your opponents would have found that play, your game is too tough for me.

Welcome Mat

We had our usual fistful of new members this month. Joining the ACBL are Stephen Feak, Camille Gardner, and Timothy Singer. Coming in from other Units are Suzanne Kanner and Sylvia Landon. As always, please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Picking up a 70% game at Barrington last month were Om Chokriwala and Stephen Yaffe. Club champions were Danny Kleinman and Frani Ridder.

A trio of 70% games at Beverly Hills to report. Bruce Altshuler and Dean Schenker hit the mark, and Rhoda and Lew Himmel touched the benchmark twice.

As always, the Marina City Club holds its games Tuesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at 4333 Admiralty Way. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information or for a partner.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: David Chechelashvili, Tim Lolli, Mr Mealymouth, Rick Roeder, and David Sacks

The August Problems are all taken from the 1978 book "Expert Practice" by Milton L. Stern. This interesting book is a collection of articles written by different experts. These problems were taken from the chapter titled "The Law of Total Tricks – The Key to Competitive Bidding," written by Marty Bergen. All hands were from actual play (some in world championships). Bergen's answers are in accordance with the results on the actual hands, but I disagree on most of the problems I selected. Let's see how the panel feels.

1

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	Dbl	2♠	1♦
?			4♥

You, South, hold: ♠JT8643 ♥A ♦T752 ♣A4

What call do you make?

Mealymouth: 4♠. If I recall correctly, this was a deal from the 2002 Grand Nationals finals. We were playing a team from Dallas, weren't we, John? West duly announced East's 4♥ as being his home state. I'd better accept the transfer, else Texas may secede from the Union again. *[I vaguely remember someone commenting on that. We did play a Texas team early in the event. I guarantee the hand was not from the 2002 finals for two reasons. Number 1, the hand was reported on in 1978. Number 2, alas, we exited the event in the quarter finals, losing to a Minnesota squad.]*

Sacks: 4♠. Clear, even if the raise only promised three. Yes, defending could be right, but worth the risk of double game swing.

Lolli: 4♠. It looks like 4♥ will make, so I bid 4♠. If things don't go well, I hope to hold it to down two doubled.

Roeder: 4♠. These days, most expert pairs have two ways to make a single raise in spades with 3 card support. With transfers starting at 1NT over a negative double *[even with redouble]*, this would be the weaker raise to raise spades. However, since you did not specify, I am guessing this treatment did not apply - which makes the decision closer. My aces are in my short suits, which suggests defending. However, I am se-

duced by the sixth spade in a close call. Best case scenario is to get out for down one against a making 4♥.

Chechelashvili: Pass. This is not an automatic 4♠ transfer situation. Unless partner misdescribed his hand, we have an extremely defensively oriented hand, hoping that 4♥ goes down.

Bergen argues for pass because the likely total number of trumps is 17. He's thinking that North has three spades for his raise, and that both opponents are likely to have exactly four hearts. I agree that East's having exactly four hearts is quite likely. However, North may well have four spades, and just not have the right hand to jump to 3♠ on his first turn. My real point of contention is with assuming that West has only four hearts. With my 9 HCP, at least 6 or 7 HCP for North, an opening bid with significant extras for East, how much is left for West? West is unlikely to have the 10 HCP expected for a 2/1 in competition. Yet the more hearts he has, the more likely he is to make a light negative double. He is fairly likely to have more than four hearts. I think it is quite likely the total number of trumps is 18 (or greater). Our aces are in short suits, though, which could lead to the total number of tricks guess be off. I think this is a close decision. Bergen reports the save was wrong on the actual hand.

2

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
2♥	Pass	1♦	1♠
3NT	Dbl	3♦	Pass
?		4♥	4♠

You, South, hold: ♠KQ ♥A8764 ♦A53 ♣Q74
What call do you make?

This might be the goofiest auction I have ever presented in this column. Stern and Bergen claim the hands were taken from actual play. Does a midnight game after several kegs have been emptied count? North and East have both taken incredible, inconsistent actions. West might have drunk from the same keg, might have a speculative hand, or might have a sane double. We would see how inebriated West looked if we were at the table, but North and East are certainly taking wild views.

Lolli: 5♦. Since when did the drinking start before the end of the game? That's the only explanation for this auction. So, I play along and bid 5♦.

Roeder: Double. This question is incredibly difficult to answer because our esteemed moderator did not mention how many of the players were either drunk or on drugs. *[How would I know? If I had been there, I probably would have helped myself to whatever the others were enjoying.]* Let's count the lunacies: I have a 15 count opposite an opening hand and still got pounded in 3NT. Partner could not be psyching, at unfavorable, since he rebid over 2♥. Partner preemptively ran from 3NT without consulting me. *[Running into the presumed bad heart break!]* If he had felt squeamish, partner could have redoubled to show doubt—a 21st century treatment. Now RHO pretends he is Lazarus, coming to life again with a voluntary 4♠. If every hand were this entertaining, interest in bridge would be booming.

If we have not entered the Twilight Zone, suits are breaking badly. Perhaps my LHO made a speculative double, based on four or five hearts, the ♣A and the ♦K. Partner's diamonds should not be as strong as KQJxxx because that is a good holding for 3NT. Also, LHO could not even muster a 2♠ raise so his

spade support does not rate to be momentous.

Could partner have ♠x ♥KQx ♦QJ10xxxx ♣Kx? This makes 5♦ reasonable. Perhaps the distribution is really freaky and they can make 4♠.

By the way, I lead the ♠K. That is, if my mentally challenged partner does not make another bid, which, I admit, could be right.

Mealy-mouth: 5♦. I can't suppress good three-card support for partner's suit forever. Besides, in the summer of 1930, a scout for the San Francisco Seals told the 15-year-old Joe DiMaggio, who was peeping through a knothole in the stadium's fence, "Never stand on the outside looking in unless it's a jail," so I'm going to join North, East and West in the loony bidding. I'd feel pretty lonesome peeping through a knothole outside.

Chechelashvili: Pass. This is a clear forcing pass situation. Bidding indicates that partner is 2263 (or better), and it is very likely we will make a slam with the right hand. The only way to get there is through Pass and then pulling partner's double to 5♦. Also, hoping that partner will raise to 6♦, with ♠xx ♥Kx ♦KQxxxxx ♣Ax, and pass with a worse hand.

Sacks thinks he can read partner's actions well enough to get his distribution.

Sacks: Double. Double and lead a club. Partner is 1=3=6=3. If his clubs and hearts are good enough to make 5♦, we will definitely get at least 500 and maybe 800.

Bergen thinks he has an exact read on partner's drunken auction. It's long, but for your reading enjoyment I'll quote him in full.

Bergen: 4NT. What started out as a nice tame auction has suddenly taken several unexpected turns. Partner has gone out of his way to emphasize the length and strength of his diamonds, since he obviously had the three hearts needed to raise that suit on the previous round. We can therefore place him with six-three or seven-three in the red suits. It now becomes apparent that this is a big double-fit hand, where we have nine or ten diamonds and they have about nine or ten spades despite West's failure to raise that suit earlier. The doubler must have been playing a waiting game with a heart stack. If we add one to the number of trumps because of the double fit, we get a grand total of about twenty. It now becomes clear that double is out of the question, since if we can defeat 4♠ that we can make eleven tricks in diamonds. However, there is a better bid available than 5♦; since partner can't have too much strength in hearts and spades, he must have a club honor to justify his opening bid. The diamonds are likely to run, based upon partner's 3♦ bid and your holding. Therefore, you should bid 4NT. Partner's actual hand was ♠86 ♥K53 ♦KQT9862 ♣A. In 4♠ the opposition would make either nine or ten tricks."

Where do I start with this analysis? This analysis is as drunken as the auction. The opening bidder, having support for partner's hearts, bids a non-forcing 3♦? He then unilaterally runs from 3NT (which he has no reason to think is going down) to bid 4♥, when he now knows hearts are stacked against us? And I'm supposed to believe that he must have the ♦K and the ♦Q and seven diamonds along with at least one quick trick and ran from 3NT without even redoubling to show doubt? And I'm supposed to play him for this and bid 4NT?!?!? How can he possibly have diamonds this good and run from 3NT?!?!? How can he run from 3NT which might make and run to a suit which should be stacked?!?!? And when will he be sober again?!?!? I'd be saying to him "Don't worry partner! I heard you run from 3NT without even consulting me, but I know you are wrong and I have you covered." And when did East discover that he had some of his spades on the floor? I am certainly sorry I missed this party! Incidentally, on the actual layout, 6♦ makes if West has the ♣K for part of his double because he will get squeezed in hearts and clubs.

Climbing the Ladder

Our newest members to take their first steps, as Junior Masters, on a road that culminates in the status of Grand Life Master are Joel Levine and Preston Wake. Thea Drayer is now a Club Master. Furrokh Dastur, Jane Davis, and Ann Turner have reached Sectional Master status, while Sue Hunter, Allan Sher, and Stephanie Young are now Regional Masters.

Ellen Kent has become an Emerald Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

What do you think?

Send letters
to the editor to:

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

3

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
?		2♥	3♣

You, South, hold:
 ♠K732 ♥QJ ♦QT9 ♣A872
 What call do you make?

Mealymouth: 4♥. I have four working cards (the ♠A, ♠K, ♥Q and ♥J) for play in hearts, and am itching to double 4♣ when West accepts my transfer bid. *[Mealy's weak two bids are like Zia's, great offensive hands. While the rest of the panel is wondering if they should risk 3♥, Mealy is bidding 4♥ thinking it has a play. The difference is not primarily in evaluation, nor tactics, it's the strength of the two bid.]*

Lolli: 3♥. I think it would be hard for EW to double this *[a very good point]*, and I pretty much want a heart lead if we defend, so I go for it.

Sacks: 3♥. I must compete. It's not clear who makes what but we have enough to compete.

Roeder: 3♥. If I held the ♠9, instead of the ♠8, defending is more attractive. This is a violation of the Law of Total Tricks – but my heart honors and likely lack of duplication of club values make me an offender. Give Partner a hand such ♠xx ♥A10xxxxs ♦KJxx ♣x and both 3♣ and 3♥ rate to make. However, in more situations, one contract or the other will make.

Chechelashvili: 3♥. Unless my partner is known for weak NV preempts *[like yours or mine?]*.

Bergen: Pass. Partner has six hearts, and is more likely to have two clubs than any other number (since he has six hearts, he has a total of seven cards in the other three suits, an average of 2 1/3 for each). Therefore we probably have *[exactly]* 15 *[total]* trumps.

Odds change significantly after a three level overcall. East probably has at least six clubs for the three level overcall. My hand has four clubs. That's at least ten clubs we can account for. The preemptor is less likely to have two clubs than West is. One is partner's most likely number of clubs. Bergen's analysis essentially assumes West has at most one club.

4

MPs
no vul

S	W	N	E
?	1♠	2NT	4♠

You, South, hold:
 ♠T752 ♥A87 ♦K843 ♣J6
 What call do you make?

Roeder: 5♦. If the opponents own nine spades, my trump holding is not scary. I can construct hands where a double game swing is in the offing.

Sacks: 5♦ in tempo. Put pressure on. Let them guess.

Lolli: 5♦. I have a useful hand for offense and hopefully I can make. If they bid 5♥ or 5♠, I hope to beat it if partner leads his stiff major.

Chechelashvili: 5♦. The chances that we escape for down two if they make 4♠ are high.

Mealymouth: 5♦. I have four working cards (the ♥A, the ♦K, the ♣J and the fourth diamond). Again, I can't resist raising partner's suits. If all goes well, East will double and lead a singleton king of clubs. Then I shall face my cards quickly and achieve the goal most of my partners set for me, being dummy on every deal (including the next hand). *[Well done! You probably will get a 70% game if you never declare!]*

Bergen: Pass. We can calculate the total trumps as 17 or 18.

Why shouldn't they have nine trumps if they think they can make game? My spades won't be much of a problem. If it isn't clear to bid on this hand, partner must make some really awful Unusual Two No Trump bids. I think this is the easiest hand of the set.

5

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♦ ?	1♥	1♠*	4♥

* shows five spades

You, South, hold:
 ♠K74 ♥6 ♦AJ842 ♣AJ65
 What call do you make?

Roeder: 4♠. Partner can have some pretty trashy hands which still produce game.

Sacks: 4♠. Not as clear but same answer as #1.

Chechelashvili: 4♠. With regular partners this type of hand is shown with double. *[Double at the four level must be a variety of good hands, not just those with exactly three spades.]* However without discussion, I would just bid 4♠

Mealymouth: 4♠. Like #1, I still accept the transfer, in tempo.

Lolli: 4♠. It feels like they have lotsa hearts, and we have lotsa spades, so I bid.

Bergen: Pass. Again 4♠ was bid at the table, and again it was wrong. Since your side guaranteed to hold eight spades in this competitive auction, you shouldn't bid 4♠. Partner probably has two or three hearts, so there are only 17 or 18 tricks in the hand. At best you would be taking a 500 point loss. At worst (which actually happened on this hand) you go down when the opponents were about to go set. Remember partner is still there *[he doesn't know we have spade support though]*. Partner's actual hand was ♠JT875 ♥K74 ♦Q8 ♣Q83. *[He won't always have a quackish hand with three hearts and only five spades.]*

The opponents have announced ten hearts. We have at least eight spades (partner could have more than five spades). The total number of tricks should be at least 18. Unless those 18 tricks are divided 9 versus 9, someone makes game. 4♠ is clear! Maybe they will bid at the five level?

Next Month's Problem Solvers Panel Problems

1. IMPs no vul

South	West	North	East
?	2♥	2♠	3♥

You, South, hold: ♠76 ♥A65 ♦AK765 ♣765
 What call do you make?

2. MPs no vul

South	West	North	East
?			2♦

You, South, hold: ♠3 ♥KQ54 ♦3 ♣AKQJ765
 What call do you make?

3. MPs no vul

South	West	North	East
1♦ ?	Pass	1♥	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠AQ2 ♥Q3 ♦AKQJ9854 ♣void
 What call do you make?

4. MPs no vul

South	West	North	East
		1♠	Pass
1NT ?	Pass	2♥	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠T ♥J3 ♦QT986 ♣QJT52
 What call do you make?

5. IMPs NS vul

South	West	North	East
?			4♥

You, South, hold: ♠AQ9 ♥void ♦654 ♣AJT8764
 What call do you make?