

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Racing to the Finish

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



An idea was posed recently to conduct one of our LA Regionals over the holidays. As many bridge players know, the Reno tournament between Christmas and New Year's was very popular for many years until lately when it folded its holiday tent.

Our LA tournaments have been in February, July, and October for a number of years, and, while stability is good, we did look at the time frame change as something to consider. Perhaps switching from October to December would allow players to flock to LA with both bridge and holiday cheer on their minds. That holiday period worked for Reno and seemed to be popular and well-attended. We found no other Regional on this coast in that time slot with Kansas City the closest around. What could go wrong?

Upon closer examination, we found that week 52 had a catch. Where Reno did not have competition for several weeks before and several weeks after (in its heyday), something changed the picture over time – Monterey moved into the week 1 or week 2 slot.

Now no one can argue that Monterey is a great location for a tournament. Who wouldn't want to go enjoy their hospitality if time allowed? But how does that attractive selection for our bridge crowd affect other tournaments within a few weeks to either side?

Well, it seems to have taken a few years for the full effects to show, but the organizers and hosts up in Reno decided that the main effect was to shrink attendance at their tournament to the point of cancellation.

Yes, it appears that our bridge audience has choices. Even among good choices, there is a limit to how many tournaments players can attend, and when they are close together in time and space, it is possible for some to suffer. Warmer weather coupled with only a

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A few STAC motions

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



I have reviewed all of the motions that will be before the Board in Denver. The following are some of the ones I think are interesting.

The first one is a cost savings proposal regarding the board and the Fall NABC. This motion would reduce the reimbursement policy in that expenses would be covered by the ACBL through the day before Thanksgiving instead of through the Sunday after Thanksgiving. There are some exceptions provided.

A second motion is a deferral from Chicago regarding Allowable Strats at Regionals. The concept is to give the 2,500+ish player a comfortable place to play and not get beat up by the 5,000+ players. I will follow the discussion during the board meeting, but I do think it is a good concept to consider.

Finance is always a major matter during the fall. Preliminary discussions with management indicate that some fees will need to be raised in 2016. Sanction fees, tournament director fees, and membership dues are all areas that are being reviewed.

There is also a finance motion that for team games, the entry fees for events of more than two sessions be based upon a per person basis instead of per team basis.

The next motion of interest is one which a committee be formed of the Board, Management, Board of Governors and at large members to review the current size of the Board, areas from which they are selected,

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and the method by which they are selected. Currently the membership by district varies greatly from approximately a high of 19,000 to a low of approximately 3,500. The underlying concept is to reduce the number of districts, thus fewer board members, creating a "more efficient" board.

Finally, the Club committee that I chair has a motion regarding STaCs and limited and invitational clubs. The motion states that a club which has a masterpoint limit regularly may not declare such games as open when there is a STaC which they are eligible to play in their unit.

Best wishes to all for a happy holiday season.

As always I welcome your comments. You can reach me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net.

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difference of a week or two caused Monterey to be the better choice for players wanting to attend a Regional in that end-of-year, beginning-of-year time frame. Those few players chasing Mini-McKenney awards who needed the end-of-year opportunity were not enough to swing the balance. I hear they have great steaks in Kansas City.

The distances may be different in the Regional selection equation, but similar reasoning holds for Sectionals. And that affects us right here in LA. After examining the scheduling of all the LA Sectionals back to 1950 (don't laugh – you know it's true), I noticed that the schedulers spaced them out over the months. Did you know that the Sectionals back in the 60's drew crowds that today would be typical for Regionals? Yes, Culver City had table

counts over 1000 in some of those years. And 700, 800, or 900 tables were typical. Our last two Sectionals in LA this year had attendance of 63 and 137 tables. There are lots of reasons for this. The point of this column is only to touch on one contributing factor.

Our Sectionals should be spaced out in time over the year. I believe when they are too close together, players may be faced with choosing one over the other, particularly when, in addition, they are close geographically. That confluence **cannot** be good for us. Since that exact situation occurred recently and is going to happen again next year (too late to resolve) the District and our Units are going to discuss this scheduling over the next few months to see if we can produce a more balanced schedule for District 23 players to choose from in going for those silvers.

Hope everyone enjoys the holiday season, makes sincere resolutions to lose all those holiday calories afterwards, and then prepares for joining all your D23 friends at the LAX Sheraton in February for our next Regional.

Looking for a Club?

Did you know how easy it is to find a bridge game in LA? This url brings you to a great ACBL page: <https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

All 34 Clubs in Los Angeles are listed (including one new one that I didn't know about) and you can look up all the game times, locations, and contact info. Some of them even offer cookies - the good kind!

Go out and try them all. Wonder who holds the record for most club games in a week? Any claims?

- by Mike Marcucci

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Los Angeles Regional at LAX

Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016

GOLD RUSH PAIRS Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

♠ **New KO's** Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

♥ **Star Guest Speakers** Tuesday through Saturday

♦ **299er** games daily, **299er Swiss** Thursday

♣ **Daylight schedule** all week



Free 299'er Workshop & Lunch

Free two-hour bridge workshop
and lesson on Monday Feb 15th
from 10:30am to 12:30, followed
by lite lunch.
Game at 1:15

Registration required
Please call Jeff Grotenhuis
310.600.4275
JeffGro@gmail.com

Four Points by Sheraton at LAX 9750 Airport Blvd., LA 90045

Reserve early, rooms will sell out!

1-800-529-4683

- ♥ Room rate \$126 (please refer to ALACBU ATTENDEES)
- ♥ Reserve before Monday, February 1st 2016
- ♥ Complimentary WiFi, access to 24 hour fitness center and swimming pool, and free airport shuttle
- ♥ Convenient transportation to Manhattan Beach shopping and restaurants
- ♥ Self parking \$10.00 per day
- ♥ Card fees \$14 for paid members, \$18 for others.



Need partner or team mates?
Diane Sachs 562-981-4884 or
dianesachs@yahoo.com

Tournament manager Peter Benjamin
310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com
Director-in-Charge McKenzie Meyers

Sanction #1602047



Los Angeles Regional at LAX

Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016

Revised

Monday Feb 15th

10:30 AM
Free 299er Workshop & Lunch
(reservation required)

1:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 1 of 6
Stratified Charity Pairs 2 of 2
(0-1500/3000/3000+)
299er Pairs Game

7:00 PM
PM Side Game Series 1 of 5
Stratified Charity Pairs 2 of 2
(0-1500/3000/3000+)

Thursday Feb 18th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 3 of 5
Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+) 1 of 2
Abe Lincoln KO 3 of 4
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams
(no player over 3000) 1 of 2
Pat Banks Memorial Open Pairs
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
Abe Lincoln KO 4 of 4
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
Pat Banks Memorial Open Pairs
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)
299er Swiss Team

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 4 of 5
299er Pairs Game

Tuesday Feb 16th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 1 of 5
George Washington KO 1 of 4
Rita Corwin Memorial Open Pairs
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
George Washington KO 2 of 4
Afternoon Side Game Series 2 of 6
Rita Corwin Memorial Open Pairs
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 2 of 5
299er Pairs Game

Friday Feb 19

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 4 of 5
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2
Teddy Roosevelt KO 1 of 4
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 5 of 6
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2
Teddy Roosevelt KO 2 of 4
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)
299er Pairs Game

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 5 of 5

Wednesday Feb 17th

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 2 of 5
George Washington KO 3 of 4
Abe Lincoln KO 1 of 4
Wednesday Compact KO 1 & 2
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
George Washington KO 4 of 4
Abe Lincoln KO 2 of 4
Wednesday Compact KO 3 & 4
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)
299er Pairs Game

7:30 PM
PM Side Game Series 3 of 5

Saturday Feb 20

10:30 AM
AM Side Game Series 5 of 5
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2
Teddy Roosevelt KO 3 of 4
Saturday Compact KO 1 & 2
299er Pairs Game

2:30 PM Guest Lecture

3:15 PM
Afternoon Side Game Series 6 of 6
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2
GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2
Teddy Roosevelt KO 4 of 4
Saturday Compact KO 3 & 4
299er Pairs game
Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)

♥ Strats determined by
MP averages, but no player
can exceed the event limit.

♥ Open Events and side
series are stratified
0-1500/3000/3000+

♥ Gold Rush Pairs award
gold points to overall
winners and 0 - 750
section tops; red points to
0 - 300.

♥ All KO's are bracketed,
random draw and may be
handicapped.

Sunday Feb 21st

10:00 AM & TBA, 7 seven-board
matches with short lunch break:

A/X Swiss Teams (0-5000/5000+)

Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams
(0 - 3000), 8 teams per bracket;
3 in each bracket win gold

Stratified Fast Pairs - 2 sessions
(0-750/750-3000/3000+)

Bridge Stories

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



I hope to live long enough to become a Life Master! I love the Bridge. I am addicted to it. I was born and raised in Sofia, Bulgaria. There a card game called Bellot is similar to Bridge without the no trump. No conventions, pretty basic. My parents played it regularly with friends and I learned it there.

In 1969 my family emigrated to the US after a stop in Beirut, Lebanon, where the emigration papers were processed. There I learned Rubber Bridge. Lacking any furniture we played on a table which was actually a large boxed oil painting from our home in Sofia.

In the US, I worked in a large engineering and construction company where four people played rubber bridge regularly during the lunch break. I started subbing first and eventually became a permanent member of the four until I moved to a different department and lost touch with my bridge partner.

My responsibilities at work and at home grew and there was no time for bridge at work or otherwise until I retired at 70. Life suddenly was empty. To make things worse, my husband was diagnosed with Alzheimers. I was looking for a day program for people with dementia and somebody advised me to check a large seniors center in Burbank. They did not have such program but had bridge lessons. I took a refresher course and was back in the bridge business after 20 years of not playing. They had two bridge clubs- party bridge and duplicate bridge- that were not associated with ACBL. I played in one ACBL bridge tournament and the bridge class instructor was pleased that a student from his class participated. I joined ACBL and found a bridge club in Glendale where Pat Abbey was the director.

These days I play in the Arcadia Bridge Center. Unfortunately, I can play only once a week. My husband's illness has progressed. In addition to the enjoyment from playing, we get the benefit of keeping our aging minds active. For me the game is also therapeutic. ACBL keeps me informed, the monthly magazine is educational, and I like it a lot.

Madeleine Rongey, Junior Master

I am thrilled to have earned Regional Master Status. However knowing the achievements of many of the players in District 23, I am very humbled.

I believe being courteous, respectful and friendly is essential to this game. When I moved to Valencia a little over three years ago I had not played duplicate bridge for decades. So I was a little nervous when I first entered Friendly bridge club and Valencia Bridge club. However I met fun, friendly people who welcomed me (and who still forgive me when I have a bad day). Since then several wonderful friendships and partnerships have developed,

Whether a player at the club has few masterpoints or thousands, this is a great group of people and I am grateful to be part of this District.

Anita Walker, Regional Master



The road to this milestone for both my husband and me has been a story of starts and stops. I grew up in a household where my parents played party bridge and I didn't want to learn "that old people's game." When I was a freshman at UCLA, a group of handsome and charming male grad students played a weekly evening bridge game at my Kappa Delta sorority house. I quickly changed my mind about the merits of the game and learned to play bridge.

After graduation, I stopped playing bridge. Several years later my career took me to Mattel Toys where I joined a lunch time bridge group. My partner in that game invited one of his car pool buddies to learn to play bridge (and "get to know the brunette"). That attempt at matchmaking was quite successful. Mike learned to play bridge, and we were married two years later. As our careers advanced, we stopped playing bridge.

Twenty years later we found ourselves in Penang Malaysia, Mike still working for Mattel and me with plenty of free time on my hands. Another American expat and now very dear friend, Sue Griffin, twisted my arm and convinced me to start playing bridge with →

the international woman's group. It was an interesting experience, including playing against a local who insisted it was okay to double her partner's bid!

After seven years we returned to our home in Torrance. I knew that I wanted to continue playing bridge and took a lesson from Gerri Soffa Carlson through the Torrance adult school. I met many delightful women in that class, one of whom is Susan Genta. Susan invited me to play in a tournament with her and after that I was hooked on duplicate bridge (and took another class from Gerri).

When Mike retired from Mattel, I convinced him to take a 2-Over-1 class from Gerri. That class got Mike started back to bridge. Our game has improved in part due to the graciousness of a handful of A and B players who have taken the time to teach us new conventions (and when appropriate, constructively point out the errors of our ways.) We recently enjoyed playing in an "8 is Enough" game and learned from playing with our more experienced teammates. We've also gained useful knowledge from the lessons we've attended at Regionals. I would encourage everyone to attend both the I/N classes and the lunch break classes. We are lucky to have so many bridge players willing to share their time and knowledge!

In addition to the starts and stops, our game is a series of ups and downs. A definite up was winning several of the Gold Rush games at the recent Torrance Regional which gave us both the points for Bronze Life Master. And then there is the flip side: Each time we learn a new convention our game briefly deteriorates, as is well evidenced by our all time low of 37% this week as we are attempting to learn Lebensohl!

Karen McKittrick, Bronze Life Master

My good fortune is due to a wonderful 57 year partnership with my wife both at and away from the bridge table. We both became Life Masters in our 20's but put the game on hold for 30 years while I maintained an active surgical practice. Upon retirement we returned to the game we love. Our accomplishment pales in comparison to some of our friends who have reached Grand Life Master status. Nevertheless we plan to compete at the local level and continue to strive to improve our game. The exciting thing about bridge at our level is that there is always something to learn.

Bob Carroll, Gold Life Master

District 23 Rank Changes October 2015

Junior Master

Ronald Bloom, Richard Coulter, Helene Eisenberg
Larry Feldman, Friedl Jalili, Susan Johnson
Karen Krull, Joanne Millius, Barbara Olschwang
Madeleine Rongey, Joseph Sessa, Alexander Wiles

Club Master

Andre Dimarco, Lynn Edelson
Marjorie Frank, Fred Glantz
Arnold Glick, John Hagman
Robert Hardaway Jr, Glenn Hatfield
Andrew Limbach, Lawrence Mann
Judy Savitsky, Diane Schwartzman
Vincent Vilker

Sectional Master

Gregg Alsdorf, Jennifer Macfarland
Michael Schiff

Regional Master

Tsu Jan, Kathleen Pecarovich
Richard Ruby, Gary Tenda
Anita Walker

NABC Master

William Dilks, Nathan Gittleman
Nancy Karnes, Daniel Strauss

Life Master

Karen Olin, Lee Sagendorf

Bronze Life Master

Karen McKittrick, Mike McKittrick
Victor Woodworth

Silver Life Master

Dwight Hunt

Gold Life Master

Valerie Aron, Rose Boot
Robert Carroll, Om Chokriwala
Ernie Frank, Vic Sartor

Diamond Life Master

Lulu Minter

Around the Units in District 23

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Unit Game and Holiday Party, December 12, 2015
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon
Card fees are \$15

Our next Unit game, on December 12, will be our annual holiday party and will include a catered turkey dinner with all the trimmings (hence a slightly higher card fee). This is always a popular event. Please let us know you are coming, so we can be sure to order enough food and arrange for enough tables and chairs.

Morris (Mojo) Jones has been kind enough to direct the last two Unit games and to bring with him pre-dealt boards featuring hands from The Common Game. The same boards are played nationwide and the website, www.thecommongame.com, includes not only comparative results but interesting hand analyses, as well. Mojo will be directing our Unit games on and off throughout 2016.

Results of the November Unit game were as follows:

N/S	
A1	John Villalobos & David Rozzell
A2 B1	Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
A3	Ann Banta & Dick Banta
B2 C1	Lyle Weideman & Rufus Rhoades

E/W	
A1	Jack Futrell & Rae Murbach
A2 B1 C1	Sandy Rucker & Margie Hall
A3	Joseph Viola & Amr Elghamry
B2 C2	Temo Arjani & Robert Novell

Three of the winning pairs, Jack Futrell & Rae Murbach, John Villalobos & David Rozzell, and Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo, finished among the top 20 pairs in the nation, of roughly 480 pairs playing in each direction.

Our next Unit game is on December 12. Please join us and please make a reservation.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

October 25 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 2nd Steve Sturm/Phil Hi-estand, 3rd Steve Skinner/Jackie Hess, 4th Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan, 5th Peggy Waitte/Hashim Mahmood, and tied for 6/7 Lawrence Laughlin/Randy Hamlin and David Peim/Neal Kleiner. In the B flight overall: 4th Usha Bansal/Rob Preece, 5th Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid, 6th Fern and Hank Dunbar. And in the C flight overall: Nancy Toussaint/Rai Scime were 3rd. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: October 16 through November 15: In the evening NLM game Oct 26 Marilou Lieman/Madge Weinstein had 70%. Congratulations to you two!

Big Masterpoint Awards October 16 through November 15: In the Unit Game Oct 25 Sankar Reddy/John Petrie won 4.67mp for 1st, Steve Sturm Phil Hi-estand 3.0mp for 2nd. In open games: Oct 31 Sean Lui/Earl VanDerVord won 4.81mp for 1st, Sankar Reddy/Yas Takeda 3.61mp for 2nd. Nov 2 Loren Hilf/Baum Harris won 3.94mp for 1st. Nov 3 John Petrie/Ralph Beazley won 4.96mp for 1st, Marcus Evans/Phyllis Parker 3.72mp for 2nd. Nov 4 Bob Mault Verna Baccus won 3.65mp for 1st. Nov 5 Shirley Carroll/Steve Mager won 3.65mp for 1st. Nov 6 Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger won 4.81mp for 1st, Verna Baccus/Al Beebe 3.61mp for 2nd. And Nov 7 Usha Bansal/Sean Lui won 3.50mp for 1st. Congratulations to all 9 pairs!!

Get Well Wishes to Lois Perovich and Bob Mault.

New Member: Marc Gould. Welcome to the Club!

Status Changes: New Sectional Masters: Warren

Harris and Alan Olschwang. Congratulations to you both!

Upcoming Events at the Club

December 7-13 Western Conference STaC
Silver points, Card fees \$12

December 20
Unit 557 Holiday Party and Unit Game

December 21-28 Club Championship Week
Extra points, regular prices

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs
by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Games

October 10 - Clubhouse #1: Marilyn McClintock/Diane Sachs 1 in A. Gary Paugh/Howard Smith 2 in A. Jeanette Estell/Sibyl Slutsky 3 in A. Louise Seifert/Stam Johnson 4 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Linda Nye/Alan Olschwang 5 in A, 2 in B, 2 in C. Joyce Basch/Simone Chottin 6 in A, 3 in B. Betty Scharf/Bill Robinson 4 in B, 3 in C.

Unit rated game Oct 12 Clubhouse #3: Christine Frumen/Bill Linskey 1 in A. Dorothy Favre/Bud Parish 2 in A. Jeanette Estell/Marilyn McClintock 3 in A. Bob Goldstein/Larry Topper 4 in A, 1 in B. Fred Benedetti/Philippe Varda 5 in A. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 6 in A. Carmen Gross/Norma Krueger 2 in B. Jean Byer/George Koehm 3 in B, 1 in C. Coorie Dampman/George Alemshah 4 in B. Bea Aron/Tybie Becker 5 in B. Ellen Kice/Pei Chen 2 in C.

Nov 12 Clubhouse #3: Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 1 in A. Simone Chottin/Fred Benedetti 2 in A, 1 in B. Joan and Ted Wieber 3 in A, 2 in B. Fay Beckerman/Betty Jackson 4 in A. Nancy Lichter/William Dewell 5 in A, 3 in B, 1 in C. Sue Fardette/Bud Parish 6 in A, 4 in B. Monica Gettis/Peggi Spring 5 in B. Winnie Warga/John Hagman 6 in B, 2 in C. Ellen Kice/Ted Galardoes 3 in C. Sally Fenton/Carol Ramseyer 4 in C.

Congratulations: 70+/- - On Nov 2 Dick and Linda Stein had a 70.19% game.

Get Well wishes to Ruth (Paddy) Kaller, Bob Mault, Sharon Baren and Lottie Kostar.

Upcoming Games

Club Championship Games: Clubhouse #3 December 21 and January 11.

Any news for next month's column, please e mail me @ jcj90740@gmail.com results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

Happy holidays. Unit 559 has many parties planned!

Unit 559 Holiday Charity Party

Sunday, December 13 at 11:30 a.m.

Tickets must be purchased by December 9

11:30 Hors D'oeuvres

12:00 Pairs Game

Dinner

Raffle featuring our Unit 559 Elves—Gitta and Abby
Swiss Team Game

You can buy tickets for the party from any of the board members: Mary Falvey, Mary Downey, Peter Szecsi, Bernie Mateer, Sandra Franciscus, Karen Arase, Miriam Harrington, Richard Halverstadt, Marie Nimmrich, Ann Raymond, Linda Stuart, or Beverly Weiss. This is a two-session event (\$35/person) and includes dinner. If you are not from the unit but want to buy tickets please email or call any of the addresses on the unit 559 website.

San Marino Holiday Party

Monday, December 7;

11:00 Hors D'oeuvres

11:30 Lunch

12:00 Play

Arcadia Bridge Center

Rookie/Newcomers Holiday Party

December 18, Friday 7:15

Arcadia Bridge Center Holiday Party

Sunday, December 20 at 1:00

Please bring special holiday treats

Sectional at the Club, extra points

Arcadia Bridge Center

Thursday, December 10 at 11:00

Friday, December 11 at 7:15
Saturday, December 12 at 1:00

Arcadia Bridge Center
Winners and Losers Game
December 27, Sunday 1:00

New Year's Eve Potluck Dinner and Party
5:30 Potluck
6:30 Bridge game

The club will be closed Thursday and Friday December 24 and 25. The club will be open December 31 in the afternoon and evening.

Unit Game Winners, December 8

Flight A: 1st Margery Gould- Barbara Baeskens, 2nd Joan Mesias- Jeanette Deverian. Flights B & C: 1st Zu Ming Cheng -Edward His, 2nd Robert Novell-Robert Verhoef.

Recently, at one of the games in our area, my opponents landed in a contract which did not work out well for them. They were down two, and the moment the last trick was taken, the partner who was dummy began berating the declarer, who sat there, silently absorbing the punishment being meted out, which included lots of 'you always' and 'you nevers.'

I have learned that in any disagreement or discussion, and this is not limited to bridge, it is best to eliminate 'you always' and 'you never'. They only add anger and emotion, and quickly squash any possibility of a fruitful discussion.

Of course, it's obvious that one should not be attacking their partner, and particularly not while you are still at the table with your opponents. It is bad form, bad bridge, and it just 'ain't nice'. And, other than giving the attacker an opportunity to 'vent their spleen,' it serves no purpose, and will usually result in some further disasters because now your partner is really upset. He or she undoubtedly felt lousy even before being attacked.

Here is a story: I was a relatively new attorney, and my partner and I were having lunch with an older, very experienced lawyer who had sort of taken us 'under his wing'. We had just come from a meeting with a potential substantial client, during which my partner had made what I thought were unnecessary and unfortunate remarks.

My partner and I didn't agree, and we asked the

opinion of our lunch companion. The following was his reply: "I have this imaginary hat... sort of like a baseball cap," he started. "I wear it whenever I am doing anything I think is important. It's got a stick like a dowel, about a foot long, sticking out from the peak.' My partner and I looked at each other. Was our friend losing it?

He continued, "and there's this little sign, that hangs down from the dowel which I read before I open my mouth. It says: What have you got to gain!"

I absorbed that story many years ago, and have, since then, carried my own imaginary hat and sign with me. Especially at bridge.

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Sat, December 19, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – Sat, December 5, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

Last month we promised you some news from the Torrance Regional, so here goes. Unit participation was somewhat light, a shame because it was a very nice tournament (especially the Daily Bulletins ... ahem!). A brief scan of the results shows that 111 Unit 551 members took home a total of 67.77 master points. The top winner was Sherman Gao with 26.02. Rounding out the top five were Penny Barbieri (7.22), Yours Truly (5.69), Sofi Kasubhai (4.56) and Hanan Mogharbel (4.33). Event winners were Hanan, 1st in the Monday Charity Pairs; Sherman, who captured a couple of side games, and Genise Hasan-Susie Emminger, whose team captured bracket 2 of the Sunday Swiss. Congratulations all, and see you (we hope) at the February Regional in LA.

In the annual two-session Unit Championship Game, Fredy and Lulu Minter took overall honors, edging out Joseph Viola - Amr Elghamry who were leading after the morning session. Susan Emminger - Genise Hasan were first in flight B, while Linda Tessier - Linda Stuart won the C flight.

In the normal course of events, October would have featured our annual (required by ACBL regulations) Membership Meeting, during which we elect the Board of Directors for the coming year. This year, we decided to postpone it for a month, to November, in the hopes of getting some fresh meat talent on the board. Watch for the results next month.

The November Individual, Ann McClelland again took the top spot. Paul Chrisney was second, followed by Margie Hall, Roger Boyar, and Clint Lew.

The top game this month was a monstrous 78.01% turned in by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Other winners: Richard Patterson, Roger Boyar, Clint Lew, Roger Ginsburg, Linda Tessier, Walt Otto, Penny Barbieri, Genise Hasan, Joe Unis, Sandy Jones, Pat Radamaker, Barbara Killebrew, Paul Chrisney, Chuck Lohr, Vic Sartor, Sofi Kasubhai, and Yours Truly.

Congratulations are due to Claudia Cochran and Hanan Mogharbel, who qualified for the North American Pairs District Finals, to be held in January.

One promotion this month: Don Nakasaki is now a Club Master.

For our hand of the month, we have one of those oh-shucks-what-do-I-do-now hands. With partner as dealer you find yourself looking at this collection:

♠A5 ♥J ♦KQT4 ♣QT9762.

Partner opens 2♦ – Flannery, showing 4 spades and 5 hearts. Isn't that just ducky? Now what? (As we are fond of saying, Flannery will get you nowhere)

It turns out that partner is 4=5=1=3 and the hands fit well for no trump play. Would you find the cold 3NT?

Quote for the Month: "A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject." (Winston Churchill)

Until next month ...

San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Special Congratulations

New Life Master Achievements by Unit 561 players are: Joan Feldman, Gilbert Frank (Bronze), and Irwin Novick (Gold – 2,500).

October Top Ten Regular Masterpoints at the 750 Club were Susan Raphael 8.54, Fuad Khuri 6.98, Marty Hurwitz 6.83, Larry Kussin 6.81, Vera Mandell 5.85, Don Rosen 5.68, Ray Primus 5.66, Linda Silvey 5.52, and Cheri Bitar 5.10. Jerry Goodman and Bob Soll achieved a 71.18% game.

October Top Winners for "Club Appreciation Week" at the 750 Club were Bill Morton 5.52, Ron Malkin 5.50, Gary Baxley 4.92, Ray Primus 4.81, Arlene

Newman 4.39, Shoshana Blumenfeld 4.23, Dan Strauss 4.23, Larry Kussin 4.03, Doug Beagle 3.84, Joan Swedelson-Gray 3.83, and John Gray 3.83.

Special Activities at the 750 Club

The 750 Club observed "Giving Thanks Week", November 9 – 13, with a generous donation of \$1485 to the West Valley Food Pantry, the Club's next-door neighbor. These funds were provided by \$1.00 from each card fee and additional monies collected from the day and evening players. The Pantry was most grateful for this contribution that enabled them to purchase Thanksgiving provisions for many needy families in the San Fernando Valley area.

December activities at the 750 Club: "Free Play" gift cards with holiday themes are available for purchase. These make excellent presents for your bridge friends, loyal partners, and even worthy opponents!

STaC games will be held the week of December 7 – 11 for Silver Points (\$1.00 extra fee). Club Championship Games (extra black points, no extra fee) will occur during the week of December 14 – 18. The 750 Club will be closed on Thursday evening, December 24; Friday, December 25; Thursday evening, December 31; and Friday, January 1, 2016.

Calendar

Saturday, December 5, Unit 561 Holiday Bridge Party/Dinner (2 and 6 p.m.). For information, contact mjjubelirer@att.net.

Monday, December 14-18, Club Championship Week at the 750 Club.

Thursday evening, December 24 and Friday, December 25, the 750 Club will be closed.

Thursday evening, December 31, and Friday, January 1, 2016, the 750 Club will be closed. Happy New Year, everyone!

Tuesday, January 19, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night, starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley

by Beth Morrin

Unit Game Results from November 5 in Castaic

First with 63.5%: Dick Stark – Lamonte Johnson
 Second with 59%: Hansford Rowe – Mira Rowe
 Third with 58.5%: Ruth Baker – Bert Stock
 Fourth with 56.5%: Roy Ladd – Bill Brodek

Congratulations to Aggi Oschin and Jackie Moor who won the Saturday AM 299er Pairs at the Ventura Regional on October 31st with a 64% game. Also, on Saturday at the Regional, George MacDonald and Ted Maki won the Saturday Afternoon Side Game with 63%.

District 23 Results for the Instant Matchpoint Game

First with 61.07%: Aggi Oschin and Carol Provost (10 points)
 Second with 60.88%: Bill Brodeck and Paula Olivares (7 points)
 Third with 66.86%: May Abagi and Leah Leviitt (5 points)
 Fourth with 54.88%: Henry Roediger and Sharry Vida (3.5 points)

Upcoming Events

Unit Games in December: Friendly Bridge Club on Monday, December 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita. Thursday, December 10 in Castaic at 10:00 a.m. Valencia Bridge Studio on Tuesday, December 22 at 6:45 p.m. at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

Unit 556's Annual Meeting and "After the Holidays – Holiday Party" is Tuesday, January 12 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita. This will be a Unit game and general membership meeting. A new board for 2016 will be selected. Anyone interested in serving on the board should contact Paula Olivares.

Happy Holidays to all and best wishes for 2016.

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, December 1, 11:30
 Club Championship: Monday: December 7, 11:30
 Club Championship: Friday, December 18, 6:00
 Friday Night games on December 4 and 18

Unit XMAS Party

The Torrance South Bay Unit will have its annual Christmas party Sunday December 13 at the South Bay Bridge Club. Lunch will be served at Noon with the game starting at 1 PM. It would be wise to make a reservation by calling the SBBC (310-325-7222) since the number of tables is limited.

Club Championships

The October 21 Club Championship at the SBBC as won by Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Betsy Amador/Pat Schenasi taking Flight B and Bruce Merchant/Norm Imberman on top in Flight C. The NLM Club Championship on November 5 was led by Gerri Ketz/Fred Swinth in Flights A and B with Kathy Miller//Jan Warner taking Flight C. On November 13 the Club Championship was captured by Betsy Amador/Cal Waller.

Team Winners

October 27: Sharon Biederman, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken, John Jones
 November 3: Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, Wayne Otsuki, John J. McDermott
 November 10: Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, Wayne Otsuki, John J. McDermott
 November 17: Sharon Biederman, Steve Ramos, John Jones, John Brailiar

Milestones

It is with great sadness I report the passing of →

my friend and frequent Bridge partner Dick Cheng. I first got to know Dick over 50 years ago when some of his partners were named Bob Hamman and Don Krauss. It's a good bet that if he stayed with the game at that time he would have had success rivaling that of the aforementioned partners. However Dick retired from Bridge in the early 60's and I didn't see him again till around 1996 when he showed up at the South Bay Club coming out of Bridge retirement.

We struck up a partnership and I played with him quite often till a few years ago. Not to brag but we did quite well in Regional Pair events thanks mainly to Dick doing a good job of fielding my maniacal bidding and playing hands very well.

We will all miss Dick who was always both a great partner and opponent. Our condolences to his wife and family.

GUV Award

There is a saying "Its better to be lucky than good" that Bridge players can relate to. I guess I related to it during a recent session with my longtime partner and good friend Shirley Carroll. I like to call her Sweet Shirley for good reasons. Over the 40 years I have played with Shirley, I have never awarded her the GUV award and I think she felt bad about that. Well Shirley there is no need to feel bad any longer because my Christmas gift to you is the December GUV Award.

During a recent session at the Long Beach Bridge Club Shirley and I had a game over 65%. I must confess that I had little to do with this high score. To call Shirley lucky in this session would be something of an understatement. On one hand Shirley tried 1430 Blackwood, found out she was off two controls. Undeterred she bid the slam anyway. The opponents cashed an ace but forgot to cash the second ace. By cashing the first Ace they set up a suit to get rid of all losers in the other missing Ace suit. Thank you opponents.

But my favorite hand was when I held ♠xx ♥JTxxx ♦63 ♣KQxx. Shirley held: ♠KQx ♥KQ ♦Kxxx ♣Axxx. Her RHO opened 2♠ and she tried 2NT. I bid 3♦ as a transfer to 3♥ which I was planning to pass. I didn't get a chance to pass as Shirley had a mental aberration and passed 3♦. So here I was playing 3 Diamonds in a moth-eaten 4-2 fit.

Having declared many bad contracts over the years I have learned to never give up in the play because you might salvage a matchpoint or two which could make a

difference in the overall score. With a lot of help from the defenders, I actually got out for down two non vulnerable tricks and a score of minus 100. It turns out that Hearts were splitting 5-1 and a lot of people at other tables were getting belted in Heart contracts going down a few. In fact, we wound up getting 10 of 12 matchpoints, perhaps the most undeserved 10 matchpoints in my personal Bridge history. However, once again it proved that luck can triumph over skill on any given hand.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Games

December 14, 21, and 31 at 12:30 p.m.

One of the Greats

By now, many of you have probably heard that Hall of Fame member Mary Jane Farrell passed away. Mary Jane has been a fixture of our community for as long as I can remember. Although she's been away from the table for the last few years, she's never been far from our thoughts. Locally, her legacy is illustrated by the award that bears her name, which goes to the junior player winning the most points at our Unit's Sectionals in a year. Coffee with Mary Jane was another way that Mary Jane showed a welcoming face to our less experienced players. Nationally, of course, her career is legend. You can expect a write-up in the January issue of the Bulletin. Our condolences to her family and friends.

We also offer our condolences to the friends and family of Manny Krupin. Manny's indefatigable spirit was often present at Barrington. He will be missed as well.

The Soviet Unit

You may have noticed that we held no election this year. It turned out to be unnecessary. Bob Chen stepped down from the Board, and the Board had no difficulty selecting the only new candidate, Lee Hausner, to fill the resulting vacancy. Lee has been contributing behind the scenes for a while now by providing me with news from the Beverly Hills Club. I hope you'll join me welcoming Lee to the Board.

→

Near, Far, Wherever You Are

Our Unit saw the usual complement of people filling the winner's circle at the Torrance Regional. Barbara Federman, Sue Ann Simon, and Michael Abeles won their bracket of the Wednesday Compact Knockout Teams event. Peter Benjamin won the Thursday Flight A/X Swiss Teams. Irwin and Patricia Jaeger topped the field in the Saturday morning 299er Pairs event, and Marlene Felix's team won the Saturday afternoon 299er Swiss Teams.

Moving around the state, John Ramos and Alex Kolesnik teamed up to win the Final Compact Knockout Teams event at the Ventura Regional. Your Humble Scribe won his flight in that event as well. Bill Mc-

Clean's team won the Alene Friedman Swiss Teams event at the Magic Mountain Sectional. At the Long Beach Sectional, Ifti Baqai won the Saturday morning Open Pairs event, Mike Savage won the Compact Knockout Teams, and Myrna Blaufarb won the Sunday morning Open Pairs.

Do You Believe in Magic?

After an auction where you've shown a huge balanced hand after starting with a 2♣ opener, you find yourself in 5♣ facing a trump lead with the following hand:

Dummy: ♠J7643 ♥K ♦5 ♣KJ8753
Declarer: ♠AK9 ♥AJ73 ♦AKJ3 ♣A9

The trump lead is a pretty good indication that the club queen is off-side, and there's also a chance of a spade loser. Watch, though, how technique can make that potential loser disappear.

Win the first trick on dummy. Clear the ♥K, lead a diamond to hand, and ruff a diamond. Cross back to hand with the ♣A. When the queen fails to appear, you know you have a club loser, but you're not done yet. Cash the ♦K, hoping to see that ♦Q. It doesn't appear either. Cash the ♥A and ruff a low heart, because maybe the ♥Q will come down. It doesn't. Cross back to hand with a high spade and ruff one of those red jacks. Everyone follows. Return to hand with the other high spade and ruff your last red card. Everyone follows again. You've now played 12 tricks, winning them all. Your hand and dummy each have a losing spade, which LHO will win with the queen while RHO has to ruff with his black queen. You've forced the defense to take both of their winners on the same trick. (Of course, the play in 6♠ is much easier, but much less fun.)

Welcome Mat

As usual, we welcome a fistful of new members to our Unit this month. New members of the ACBL are Patricia Baker, Polly Bell, Tom Creed, Carole Gillie, Kerry Goldstone, Bill Kessler, and Peggy Shapiro. Joining us from other units are Kenneth Kidd, Joyce Neibert, Henry Sands, Brenda Siegler, and Carol Spiegelman.

Around the Clubs

District 23
Grand National Team Trials
Representing Units
551,553,556,557,559,561,562,564,568
Teams must be a member of a unit in District 23.

**SAVE
THE
DATE
2016**

**Flight
A and C
April 16, 17th**

**Flight
B and Open
April 30th &
May 1**

Represent District 23 at Washington DC Nationals in August.

Flight & GOLD POINTS

OPEN	0 - unlimited	36 Gold
Flight A	0 - 6000	30 Gold
Flight B	0 - 2500	15 Gold
Flight C	0 - 500 non life master	15 25% Gold 75% Red

GNT rated event with gold points for over all winners

Only master points earned prior to August 6, 2015 are considered.

The teams flight is determined by the player on the team who has the most points.

Players may play in more than one flight.

All teams must register 15 minutes before game time. Games will begin at 10:00 AM.

Location: Long Beach Bridge Center . 4782 Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach . Ca

For more information contact Grand National Team Coordinators:

Howard Einberg
Janet Logan

howardeinberg@yahoo.com
janlogan99@gmail.com

Hitting the 70% mark at Barrington were Marty Blain and Armand Szulc, Aram Bedros and Steven Yaffe, George Wagner and Steve Yaffe, and Gerry Bare and Peter Benjamin. Effie and Shuli Katz won the club appreciation game. Eileen Miech and John Gibson were club champions, joined by Marty Blain and Armand Szulc and Peter Benjamin and Om Chokriwala, as well as Wayne Karson and Gil Stinebaugh.

Chuck Fonarow and Rahim Israel won the Veteran's Day Unit-wide Championship. Club champions at Beverly Hills were Chuck Fonarow and Richard Gliksman as well as Sue Ann Simon and Judy Freeman. Hitting 70% at Beverly Hills were Farideh Sigari and Maria Pendergast, Lew and Rhoda Himmell, Doug Kuschner and your Humble Scribe, Suzanne Menck and Zalman Perelman, and Alan Palansky and David Peim.

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.

Climbing the Ladder

Taking his first step on the ladder of achievement as our Unit's newest Junior Master is Jerry Ellingson. Peter Exline and Joyce Powell have reached Club Master Status, and Shirley Lee is now an NABC Master.

Our Unit's newest Life Masters are Michael Kes-ton and Richard Neumeyer. Sharon Aronson and Bobbe Korbin are now Silver Life Masters. Congratulations to all on your achievements.

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

Beach Cities Sectional (299r) January 15-17, 2016

Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club - 2515 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach CA 90254 - 310.600.4275

EVENT	FRIDAY 1/15	SATURDAY 1/16	SUNDAY 1/17
299r / 49r Pairs 3 Strat Sections: 0-50, 50-100, 100-300	10:00 AM* 2:30 PM**	10:00 AM* 2:30 PM	10:00 AM*
Swiss Teams 5 boards / 4 rounds			2:30 PM

* Lessons held at 9:30 AM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday

** New players with 0-5 master points play free on Friday at 2:30 pm!

♠ **FUN** ♥ **FOOD** ♦ **SILVER POINTS** ♣

Pre-order \$7 lunch before 10:00 AM

Coffee - Variety of snacks

Tournament Chair:

Jeff Grotenhuis (310) 600-4275
jeffgro@gmail.com

Partnerships:

Jan Drayer (707) 478-6654
drayerji@gmail.com "Bridge" in subject

Unit 568

Sanction S1601084



Card Fees:

Pair Games - \$14 per player
Sunday Swiss - \$56/4 person team

\$4 surcharge per session for unpaid or non-ACBL members

Pre-dealt hands for all pair games

Results: www.agilebridgeclub.com



Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Phil Clayton, Ed Davis, Mark Itabashi, Tim Lolli, Jill Meyers, Rick Roeder, and David Sacks

1

MPs
EW vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠A9 ♥7653 ♦Q4 ♣QT852
What call do you make?

The Bridge World magazine has a Master Solver's Club column which is similar in structure to this column. A major difference is that the Master Solver's Club imposes the Bridge World Standard bidding system (a collective expert system voted on by their readership) on their panelists. This column, under my editor/moderator tenure (and I believe all of those who have preceded me), has allowed panelists to interpret auctions as they would in their own partnerships. Panelists are encouraged to use conventions and understandings they find logical and effective. This problem delves into to agreements about the direct cuebid, 2♥ over 1♥, and why a cuebid wasn't used. A direct cuebid is Michaels in all of my partnerships except one in which we play Top and Bottom cuebids, and a few in which we play Overcall Structure. However, Michaels enthusiasts are divided in their treatment. Some players require that Michaels be bid only with weak or strong hands; with intermediate (roughly minimum opening bid) strength hands they overcall instead. Other Michaels players allow Michaels with any hand strong enough to act, not excluding the intermediate range hands. I am firmly in the camp that believes the superior treatment is to use the unlimited or continuous range version, not the split range version. This problem, and what version of Michaels each panelist prefers, creates different interpretations of why partner didn't use Michaels and what he or she has instead.

One panelist objects because he is unsure of which Michaels treatment is being used.

what 1♥ - 2♥ is. If it is, as I play it, Michaels with either a bad hand or a very good hand, then partner has the middle strength hand or good hand but with flawed high card placement. If I were playing with myself [what an X-rated thought], I would know there is no game likely and either pass or bid 4♣. Without any particular agreement, I would bid 3♥ as a strong club raise.

Our newest panelist, Orange County expert Phil Clayton, adopts the theory of previous moderator Marshall Miles, who believed in overcalling canapé style when his major was shorter than his minor.

Clayton: 4♣. Partner must be 4-6 here; otherwise Michaels. Furthermore, he shouldn't have a great hand nor good clubs but nice spades because he would overcall 2♣ initially. ♠KQJx ♥Qx ♦x ♣Kxxxxx seems to fit. LHO didn't reopen with a double because he has very short clubs, something like 3=6=3=1 or so. Our opponents can make a lot of hearts or diamonds because of their double fit, so I need to raise the pot. 4♣ seems just right.

Lolli: 5♣. I thought about 4♣ for a while, but I think I have to get to game. I'm not sure partner would bid with ♠Kxxxx ♥x ♦Kx ♣AKxxx. [That would come into the intermediate range for some split range Michaels advocates.] A negative when I bid 5♣ is passing by 4♠ when it is right. If partner has ♠KQJTx ♥x ♦xx ♣AKxxx, then 4♠ makes with the magic ♠Ax, but I've scuttled that with my 5♣ call.

Sacks: 3♥. I want to abstain because we should know

PSP#1 continued on page 16

2

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1♦	Pass
2NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
?		3♠	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠AQ84 ♥QJ7 ♦J753 ♣J2
What call do you make?

The partnership has had a scientific auction, and North has shown extras. How much extra is not clear because South showed extras by bidding 2NT. North might have as little as a 3=1=5=4 14 HCP hand (just enough to be out of the minimum opening bid range), or as much as 18 HCP not quite worthy of a jump shift. 3♠ is clearly forcing because if North didn't have extras he or she would have either raised spades on the second bid, or passed 2NT. 3NT, 4♦, 4♠ and 5♦ could all be best depending on the actual cards partner holds.

Clayton: 5♦. 3♠ is obviously forcing and minimum 3=1=5=4 hands raise spades in my partnerships, so I expect 15-17 and 3=0=5=4 plus one [non-spade] card. ♠Kxx ♥x ♦AKxxx ♣KQxx looks like the baseline and he could be better. Here, 5♦ and 3NT need the same thing, but 5♦ has slightly less downside risk. Could 6♦ be on? Sure: ♠Kxx ♥void ♦AKxxxx ♣Axxx and I think he should boost to 6♦.

Itabashi: 5♦. I don't like 3NT although it would be 2nd choice. Odds are partner may lose the lead once and go down on a heart lead.

Meyers: 5♦. I think I am making 5♦ and not sure about 4♠.

Davis 4♦. Partner's minimum hand is something like ♠Kxx ♥x ♦Axxxx ♣AKxx. If he has an extra card that will make game a favorite, he can bid on.

Roeder: 4♦. Partner's advertised heart shortness does not bode well for 3NT as you will need 8 fast tricks after a heart lead. Bidding 4♠ is 90% as your 4 card suit has 2 top honors.

Lolli: 3NT. If partner has a typical hand for this auction, it should be the right spot. I'm thinking ♠Kxx ♥x ♦AKQxx ♣Axxx. 5♦ could fail if partner tables ♠KJx ♥x ♦AKQxx ♣QTxx.

Sacks: 4♠. Guessing as so much depends on what the prior sequence is agreed to mean.

I like 4♠. This was an actual table hand, although I never got the North hand. I do know that the auction had proceeded this way at both tables. Both South experts chose 4♠ at this point. The good news is that it was the best contract. The bad news is that spades and diamonds were both breaking terribly and the doubling began (I believe that one pair ran to 5♦ which was also doubled, while the other pair sat it out in 4♠, but both pairs were down 2 on the horrid layout).

District 23 is Set for NAP Finals

by Mike Marcucci

The South Bay will be hosting our North American Pairs Finals this year. See the flyer for details. All the qualifiers are on our website, so check for your name if not sure. With only 5 tables in Flight A, 7 tables in Flight B, and 3 tables in Flight C, the fields are small and the chance of winning those spots to Reno are the best in several years.

Note that the Finals are split this year - the first time that has happened. Since the Flight C players have their own sectional in Torrance on January 16-17 and folks can't be in two places at once, their NAP Final is on January 10. Flights A & B should note that their date is a Saturday this year - again a departure from all previous tradition!

For those lucky players who are going to the Hawaii Regional the following week, we wanted to allow you that travel day on Sunday.

Hope to see all qualifiers on their respective game dates with cards reviewed and ready for cookies.

3

IMPs
EW vul

South

West

North

East

?

1♠

Dbl

2NT*

* limit raise or better for spades

You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥K73 ♦Q986543 ♣83

What call do you make?

3♦, 4♦, 5♦? How high should we bid?

Sacks: 4♦. The value bid.**Meyers: 4♦.** The way I play, my partner does not promise length in diamonds when he or she doubles, and in any event I see no reason to save. 4♦ should be long diamonds and this kind of hand.**Lolli: 5♦.** 4♦ or 5♦? I'm a 5♦ bidder, trying to apply the most pressure. I feel we have a cheap sacrifice (make?), so let's make them guess.**Itabashi: 5♦.** Bid now and be done with it; partner will get the message that you are long and weak.**Clayton: 5♦.** It's 50:1 against the opponents' stopping in 3♠. While it's possible 4♠ and 5♦ are both down, its aiming for a narrow target, and 5♦ only needs either

game to make. The key decision is probably 6 over 5, but I don't know how to tell partner I have a defensive trick.

Davis: 5♦. The opponents have 10 plus spades between them. They are a big favorite to bid and make 4♠. My 5♦ bid will make it tougher for them to make the best five-level decision (as I don't even know what it is).**Roeder: 5♦.** If you give as many 5 level guesses as possible to the bad guys, you will profit in the long run.*I am a firm believer in taking advance sacrifices if the opponents are likely to make game. Don't wait, save before they bid it. It's losing bridge to be the last guesser. Let the opponents have the last guess. I made this problem up and believe 5♦ is best.*


North American Pairs

Flt C Finals	Flt A & B Finals
Sun. 10 Jan 2016, 11:00 AM	Sat. 16 Jan 2016, 11:00 AM
South Bay Bridge Club	South Bay Bridge Club
24100 Narbonne Ave, Lomita	24100 Narbonne Ave, Lomita

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks • Sodas • Coffee • Gold/Red Points

Mike Marcucci - 818 903-2471

PSP #1 *continued from page 14*

Several panelists cuebid, which keeps spades in the picture. Matchpoint scoring makes it important to play the higher strain, and partner may well have 6 spades. They don't all agree on how high to bid, though. Some will pass 4♣ if partner bids it, but others allow for possibly bidding a slam.

Davis: 3♥. Too much to settle for a partscore. I will bid 4♠ over 3♠, 5♣ over 3NT and 6♣ over 4♦ or 4♥. Partner shouldn't get too excited about my exuberant bidding over 3♣

as I am unlikely to have two aces since I passed his 1♠ bid.

Roeder: 3♥. If partner can re-bid spades, great. I will pass a 4♣ rebid. 10 tricks may be the limit in any denomination.

Meyers: 3♥, and then probably will bid 4♠. At matchpoints going for the major suit game, I am cue bidding in case partner has a good enough hand to cue bid back or jump to 5♣, in which case I will raise.

Itabashi: 3♥. Great cards for partner and too good for just 4♣.

4

IMPs
all vul

South

West

North

East

1♠
?

2♦

1♥
Dbl*Pass
Pass

* three-card support for spades

You, South, hold: ♠KJ65 ♥K9 ♦QJ65 ♣T32
What call do you make?

Here we have several possibilities. Pass, 2♥, 2♠, and trying for game with 2NT all have merit. This is another problem I made up. I like pass. Renowned expert John Mohan has been trying to convince players that they need to be passing part scores more often at IMPs.

Clayton: Pass, and prepare apologies in advance. Every action (pass/2H/2N) might be wrong. This is the toughest problem of the set.

Itabashi: Pass. No guarantee we have a game and risk reward says you have a lot more upside potential.

Sacks: 2♠. Semi trapping. *[If I weren't going to pass, this would be my choice. It avoids overbidding, and if the opponents (who are not warned like 2NT would do) make the mistake of trying 3♦, Mr. Courageous can come to the party with a penalty double.]*

Meyers: 2NT. My diamond spots are not good enough to sit for 2♦ doubled.

Davis: 2NT. Without a singleton in partner's suit and with my vulnerable opponent probably having more than five diamonds, I am not interested in passing for penalty. 2NT may be too aggressive. I'd be happier if my diamonds were QJ9x, and the limit of the hand might be 2♠. We are vulnerable at IMPs with a big bonus for making game. Partner is unlikely to bid again over my 2♠ bid with a number of minimum range hands with something extra, where I want to be in 3NT (e.g., ♠Qxx ♥AQJxx ♦x ♣AJ9x).

Lolli: 2NT. Show a useful hand with a diamond stopper. Pass is tempting, but I'm inclined to save that for matchpoints. For IMPs, I'd rather have better diamond spots.

Roeder: 2NT. Despite my possible double stopper, I cannot offer up 3NT with "slow" cards.

Los Angeles Regional at LAX
Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016

5

MPs
all vul

S	W	N	E
			3♣
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠A ♥J863 ♦AKT9873 ♣A
 What call do you make?

Roeder: Double. Then bid diamonds over a spade response. This is not fool-proof. If it goes 5♣ by lefty, then 5♠ by partner, I will throw up. *[Attendant! Bring this man a barf bag. He made need it!]*

Clayton 3NT. Requires very little from partner, and if I'm guessing I might as well get paid off when I'm right. Partner knows this is a wide-ranging action.

Davis: 3NT. Hope we will be entering +600 on our scorecard rather than -600. *[No, Ed, you wouldn't misplay it. If diamonds didn't run, you could cash the ♠A and get out for only -500.]*

Itabashi: 3NT. Out there, but I like other choices less. 4♦ would show a two-suiter here the way I play, so 5♦ would be second choice. Pray partner has some sort of diamond fit!

4♦ is about right if the partnership plays it as natural. Many expert partnerships play it as two-suited with diamonds and a major. A superior version, written by Jeff Goldsmith and published in Bridge World, plays 4♦ as both red suits and 4♣ spades and either red suit. Either treatment negates the ability to make an immediate strong 4♦ bid, but some partnerships don't use the two-suited treatment.

Lolli: 4♦. Obviously shows a powerful hand, and that's what I have. I grant you it slows down partner from bidding a major, but that's what I want him to think. If one thinks he or she can find a heart contract, it might not be the correct spot anyway.

Sacks: 3♦. Simple bid for a complex problem

Meyers: 3♦, what I have.

I'd bid 3♦ too, but without much conviction.

Next Month's Problems

1. MPs NS vul

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

You hold: ♠J54 ♥2 ♦AK543 ♣KQT2
 What call do you make?

2. MPs all vul

South	West	North	East
		Pass	Pass
Pass	1♠	Dbl	2♠
?			

You hold: ♠Q ♥7654 ♦Q765 ♣A654
 What call do you make?

3. IMPs all vul

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

You hold: ♠KT9732 ♥7654 ♦AQ ♣Q
 What call do you make?

4. IMPs NS vul

South	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	1♣
?			

You hold: ♠AKJ ♥4 ♦AQJ3 ♣KJ654
 What call do you make?

5. MPs no vul

South	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	1♠
?			

You hold: ♠A43 ♥AQ ♦KQ3 ♣AT976
 What call do you make?