

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 51, #7

July 2015

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Last Column

by Becky Clough



This is my last column as president of District 23 ALABU. A new president will be elected on Saturday, July 11 at our next ALACBU board meeting. Yahoo! I've enjoyed writing this column and have appreciated the positive feedback I've received.

During my tenure we've managed to hold all our regional tournaments in nice hotels. We've successfully found venues in various parts of the district to accommodate everyone. At least one of our three tournaments is nearby and attendance has risen.

Tournament times continue to be an issue. The 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. schedule avoids most of the traffic issues, but night games are out for many. We hope that the 10:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. schedule will work better. At present the October and February tournaments will be on the 10:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. schedule and the July tournament will remain on the 1:00 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. schedule. A compromise for sure, but we've learned there's no pleasing everyone.

During my presidency, Roger and I have travelled to tournaments all over North America. I've highlighted some of them for you – Penticton, Victoria, New Orleans, and more. I hope I've inspired some of you to attend these out-of-state regionals and enjoy them as much as we have.

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CEO Update Recap

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



I have reviewed the most recent CEO Update and the ACBL continues to prosper. Following are some of the issues discussed.

Financial Update

Through April the increase in Net Assets from Operations total \$87,305 which is \$66,807 higher than the same period last year. Savings from switching insurance carriers contributed to this increase and there are expectations of additional savings by switching to Braintree for credit card processing.

Membership Update

At the end of March, membership was at 167,191. New members are joining at approximately 1,000 per month. The League is focusing on retention of membership as an additional growth factor.

ACBLscore+

The Management Technology Committee has completed their review of the product delivered by Hammond Software. The committee has decided to use an in-house team to finish the ACBLscore+ with code from Hammond Software. Mitch Hodus has been hired as the new CIO of the ACBL and he will be the project manager for ACBLscore+. Mitch's background includes Senior Vice President of Vining Sparks, a local investment brokerage house where he was Senior Vice President of Information Technology and Senior Director of Technology for Harrah's Entertainment. The hiring of Mr. Hodus was unanimously endorsed by the three outside experts sitting on the MTC.

Management Promotions

DIRECTOR *continued on page 12*

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

I want to thank all of the volunteers who have supported me during my time in office. Without their dedication and the generous gift of their time, my job would have been impossible.

Penny Barbieri: Vice President and Hospitality chair. Penny also worked with our 299er committee to supply goodie bags for new players.

Peter Benjamin: Tournament manager and dedicated gofer. Peter has volunteered thousands of hours driving around Los Angeles county seeking new tournament sites, meeting with hotel personnel to arrange our tournaments and most anything else I asked of him.

Ellen Anten: Tournament Chair. Ellen, Peter and I worked tirelessly to make the tournament experience a positive one for ev-

eryone. Ellen has persuaded many players to come to Los Angeles. In addition Ellen spearheaded and organized our annual Pro/Am game.

Roger Clough: Treasurer and husband. He's my main support and sounding board.

Betty Jackson: Partnership Chair extraordinaire.

Jan Wickersham, Jeff Grotenhuis and Geri Carlson: 299er Program leaders. They recruited new players and organized and created curriculum and taught lessons to encourage newcomers to attend and enjoy regional tournaments.

John Jones: Education and Youth Bridge.

Yudit Hasin, Roy Wilson and Peter Benjamin: Tournament flyers.

Mike Marcucci: North American Pairs Coordinator. This program has grown dramatically under his care. Mike has also become the

District 23 Historian and has single handedly collected and compiled the history of our district. He posts his findings at our regionals for all to see.

Howard Einberg: Grand National Team Coordinator

Cecil Cook: STAC Coordinator

Peter Szecsi and Bernie Ma-teer: Scholarship Committee. Thirty-eight scholarships were awarded during my term in office.

Kim Wang: Caddy Master

Geri Carlson: Publicity. I've found that when you want as job done right, you ask Geri.

Mark Raggio: Finance Chair: Mark worked close with me supply ALACBU with accurate and up-to-date financial reports.

Kevin Lane, Leo Bell and Nancy Heck: Webmasters

Joan Rubin: Secretary and Speaker Program.

Rand Pinsky: District Director. Always available for advice and information.

Bill Schreiber: Tax return preparation.

Bob Shore, Yudit Hasin, Candy Scott, and Tom Lill: Daily Bulletins.

Bob Shore: Discipline

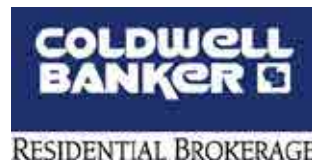
Gene White: Recorder

Lastly I want to thank all the rest of the Board members who attended all our meetings to provide ideas and constructive criticism. They say it takes a village to raise a child. It also takes a village to put on a bridge tournament.

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Southern California Bridge News

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

11033 Barman Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230 Phone: 310-836-1235

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Subscription Rates: \$12.00 per year, private; \$2.00 as portion of District 23 dues; \$3.00 Units outside District 23 if subscribed by entire unit. Copy deadlines: advertising and editorial material by 10th of month; unit columns by 15th of month. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

1964-1972 Southern California Bridge News Copies Needed

If you know of anyone who can help on this matter, please contact Mike Marcucci at 818 903-2471.

District 23 District Director Election

The following are candidate statements from the two members running for District Director in the upcoming election.

Kevin Lane



My name is Kevin Lane, candidate for district director.

I ask for your vote based on common sense. Common sense says that if both ACBL and District 23 problems persist after 9 years of our current leader, then choose a more energetic and qualified alternative.

The district director's primary responsibility is to serve on the national ACBL board that guides the organization. Here, my successful corporate career allows me to contribute to much better national decisions - such as avoiding repeats of the \$2 million ACBLscore writeoff. A secondary responsibility of the district director is to actively contribute to District 23's success. Here, my energy and active commitment to revitalize our district will make the difference.

I am extremely well-qualified for the district director position by virtue of my long-time bridge volunteer work and my successful corporate career. My professional experience is particularly relevant because the ACBL faces several crises, and my expertise can ensure the ACBL avoids a repeat of the \$2 million ACBLscore failure.

The ACBL's current crises prompted a group of 28 high-powered members of the ACBL to jointly express an urgent need for more business-savvy leadership of the ACBL board. The official ACBL response agreed that the ACBL board needs more business expertise.

Please elect me to fulfill the critical need for qualified, business-savvy national leadership and energetic district leadership.

Please 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



The qualifications for District Director require both experience and positive vision for the ACBL. I am the only candidate to possess both of these qualifications. In this column, this month I will discuss my experience and next month my vision for the ACBL.

I have been involved with bridge and bridge administration since the early 1970's. My experience includes:

NATIONAL LEVEL

- District 23 Director 2007 – present
- ACBL Treasurer 2013 – 2015
- Current chair of the Club Committee and Credential Committee
- Major Committees I serve or have served include Finance, Appeals and Charges, Bridge and Governance and Western Representative to the Executive Board
- ACBL Patron Member
- ACBL Educational Foundation Trustee 2007-2012

DISTRICT LEVEL

- ALACBU President 1999-2003 (During the Long Beach NABC)
- Currently sit on the Executive Committee, Regional Committee and Scholarship Committee. Chair of the Nomination Committee.
- Monthly contributor to the Southern California Bridge News
- Past chair of Judiciary Committee, Team Game Sectional Committee, Bylaws

PINSKY STATEMENT *continued on next page*

PINSKY STATEMENT *continued from previous page*

- Helped form and was legal advisor to the Club Owners' Association

UNIT LEVEL

- Active with the San Fernando Valley Unit and last 12 years with Santa Clarita Antelope Valley Unit. Held most positions.

CLUB LEVEL

- ACBL Certified Director
- Operate the Valencia Bridge Studio 1997 to present.
- Better Bridge Certified Instructor

My active, continuing and complete dedication to bridge has made me uniquely qualified for District Director. I have served my District with pride and will continue to do so in the future.

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.

Thanks for your good wishes. I enjoy the camaraderie and challenges the game brings. My mother first introduced me to this game. While waiting for the fourth player, she would ask me to hold the cards and prompt me on what to bid and how to play. Of course, I did not develop a love for the game then. Now that my husband and I are both retired and like to play, it is something we can do together.

*Kiran Kumar
Adv NABC Master*

District 23 Rank Changes June 2015**Junior Master**

Liz Burby
Beverly Friedman
Petra Green
Joel Levine
Thomas Percer
Denise Simon
Robert Turner
Preston Wake

Club Master

Thea Drayer
Robert Glickman
Sorrell Glover
Wesley Hampton
Tom Keese
Steve Mancini
Judy Mathias
Dixie Matte
Deedie McCarthy
Marcia O'Connor
Bruce Walker

Sectional Master

Furrokh Dastur
Jane Davis
Carolyn Gore

Barbara Laier
Michael McGory
Judy Percer
Tony Smalarz
Ann Turner
Norma Varellas
Michael Winston

Regional Master

Chihwen Chen, Laura Gastelum
Sue Hunter, Beverly McLeod
Allan Sher, Stephanie Young

NABC Master

Pamela Cronn, Andrew Rottenbacher

Adv NABC Master

Kiran Kumar

Bronze Life Master

Phillip Calloway

Silver Life Master

Albert Lum, Gloria Malkin

Emerald Life Master

Ellen Kent

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July 6-12, 2015

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- ♥ *299er Games twice a day (Monday-Friday)*
- ♠ *Daylight Schedule Saturday and Sunday*

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Entry Fees: \$14 per session (all events)
\$18 unpaid or non ACBL members
Juniors: \$8

Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin
310 720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com
Director-in-Charge: Brian Russell
Sanction R1507057

Around the Units in District 23

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

There will be no Unit game in July due to our sectional, which will be held July 24-26 at the Scottish Rite Temple in Pasadena. The location and schedule are the same as in years past but without an evening game. This has always been a highly enjoyable tournament in a very comfortable venue. Please make plans to join us.

The club will be closed on several dates throughout the month of July to encourage our members to participate in local tournaments, including:

July 6 through July 12 for Bridge Week
July 25 for the Glendale-Verdugo Sectional
August 1 for the Pasadena-San Gabriel Sectional

Results of our well-attended June Unit game were as follows:

N/S

A1 B1	Richard Halverstadt & Sadika Elewy
A2	Carol Frank & Joseph Viola
A3	Bill Brodek & Paula Olivares
A4 B2	Patrick Cardullo & Mike Doll

E/W

A1	Adam Barron & Bob Gish
A2	Gerry Belcher & Amr Elghamry
A3	Rick Weiss & Martin Blain
A4	Roshen Hadulla & Nell Schanz
B1	Rufus Rhoades & Bud Kalafian
B2	Sharon Wolf & Steve Shanker

We look forward to seeing you at our Sectional.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

May 24 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Jo and John Melis, 2nd Xingping Kang/Greg Tsien, 3rd Rob Preece/Usha Bansal, 4th Louis Shen/Alfred Lee, 5th Hank and Fern Dunbar, 6th Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan. In the B flight overall Judy Jones/Wayne Rapp were 4th, Lynn Danielson/Shirley Knopf 5th, Anita and Jim Bent 6th. In the C flight overall Colleen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez were 2nd. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: May 16 through June 15: May 21 Orhan Gurbuz/John Petrie had a 71.08% game.

Big Masterpoint Awards May 16 through June 15: May 23 Pamela Cole/Steven Alt tied for 1st with John Melis/Susan Hafen each winning 3.94mp. In the unit game May 24 John and Jo Melis won 4.08mp for 1st, Xingping Kang/Greg Tsien 3.06mp for 2nd. May 25 Steve and Charlotte Sturm won 3.21mp for 1st. In the evening game June 5 Cory Hand/Bob Mault won 3.56mp for 1st. June 6 Susan and John Johnson won 4.69mp for 1st, Ruth Ann Alpert/Colleen Cody 3.52mp for 2nd. June 8 Betty McClellan/Jon Yinger won 5.63mp for 1st, Cecil Cook/Al Beebe 4.36mp for 2nd, Dalia Hernandez/Colleen Bilas 3.17mp for 3rd. June 9 Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi won 5.81 for 1st, George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord 4.36mp for 2nd, Louis Shen/Xingping Kang 3.27mp for 3rd. June 10 in the afternoon game Steve Ramos/Sharon Biederman won 4.50 for 1st, Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle 3.38mp for 2nd. And in the evening game Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh won 3.00mp for 1st. June 11 in the afternoon game Marcie Evans/Steve Skinner won 4.31mp for 1st, Steve Rowe/John Crabtree 3.23mp for 2nd. And in the evening game Louis Shen/Chiwen Chen won 3.38mp for 1st. June 12 Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley won 6.75mp for 1st, Steve Sturm/Phil Hiestan 5.06mp for 2nd, Marcus Evans/Fran Every 3.80mp for 3rd. June

13 John Melis/Keith Hafen won 4.88mp for 1st, Steve Mager/Shirley Carroll 3.66mp for 2nd. June 14 John and Jon Melis won 3.56mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!!

Condolences to the family and friends of Bob Weiser.

Get Well Wishes: Gary Paugh

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Barbara Wallace. New Club Master: Tadensz Galaros. New NABC Master: Linda Nye. New Diamond NLM: Jon Yinger. Congratulations to us all!

Upcoming Events at the Club:

June 28 Unit Game. Game 1 p.m. Dessert served during the game.

July 4 unit-rated Independence Day game.

July 13-19 District 22-23 STaC. Silver points. \$1 surcharge per session

July 26 Unit Game. Game 1pm. Dessert served during the game. If you bring a person to one of our unit games who has never played in a Unit 557 unit game, both you and your guest will play for free.

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Game May 16 - Clubhouse #1 Verna Burns/Joan Tschirki 1 in A. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 2 in A, 1 in B. Lois Abramson/Bee Kinman 3 in A. Christine Frumen/Jaye Woodington 4 in A, 2 in B. Marilyn McClintock/Diane Sachs 5 in A. Joyce Basch/Bobbie Vann 6 in A, 3 in B, 1 in C. Linda Nye/Alan Olschwang 4 in B, 2 in C. Audrey Healy/Betty Sichel 5 in B, 3 in C. Jean Byer/Chuck Cutchshawe 4 in C.

Pro-Am Game – May 21 -- Clubhouse #3 North/South 1 Simone Chottin/Joyce Basch, 2 Bee Kinman/Cookie Pham, 3/4 Dixie Albright/ Alan Olschwan tied with Wini Varga/Ted Weiber. East/West 1 Joan Tschirki/Stanz Blitz, 2 Sibyl Slutsky/Bill Power, 3 Marilyn McClintock/John Hagman, 4 Sue Fardette/Julie Cunningham.

Get well wishes to Gary Paugh

Club Championship Games: Clubhouse #3 July 20, Aug 10 Clubhouse #1

Unit Rated Games: Clubhouse #3 - June 18 Clubhouse #1 - June 19

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

Worldwide American Pairs: Friday, June 7: Amr Elghamry-Dan Botoaca, Overall U.S. Ranking - 179. Saturday June 8: John Barrow- Karen Arase, Overall U.S. Ranking - 304

Unit Game June 8: Flight A/ B: Madhu Sudan Robert C.F. Wang. Flight C: Oliver Norsworthy Ramesh Sawhney

70%+ Games: Abby Triback – Mary Brow – Friday, June 12 Arcadia

Upcoming Events

LA Regional July 6-12 and the Westin in Pasadena

559 Unit Game Sunday, June 28, 1:00

San Marino Community Center

1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino

Arcadia Bridge Center

Beat the House Night: Friday, June 19 7:15

Winners and Losers: Sunday, June 21 and 29 at 1:00

Partner, in 1st or 2nd seat, opens 1♠. You hold ♠K10xx ♥x ♦AQ10xx ♣Axx. Your conventions, after a major suit opening by partner, include Jacoby 2NT; Splinters; and 2 over 1 Game Forcing. What to bid? The splinter bid probably gives your partner the most information with one bid... but it's very expensive, using up four levels of bidding. Jacoby 2NT, also game forcing, uses up less bidding space and shows a spade fit with 4 pieces. 2♦, also game force, postpones showing the spade fit until your next bid, and may effectively put you in control of the auction, particularly if partner supports you in diamonds. What to bid? My choice would be 2♦. There are a host of 12-14 point hands that opener could hold that would yield 12 tricks, particularly when he has a diamond fit with you, and now you have lots and lots of bidding room to explore the possibility of slam. For example:

A. ♠AQ9xx ♥xxx ♦KJx ♣Qx 12 pts

B. ♠AQ9xx ♥xx ♦Kxxx ♣Kx 12 pts

C. ♠AJxxxx ♥Kxx ♦Kxx ♣x 11 pts

→

So slow the pace....it's not a race.

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

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

Individual – Saturday, July 4, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

Well, the Longest Day is now behind us. We hope you participated, and that you enjoyed the games. We'll be reporting on the results next month. (Those pesky publishing deadlines again!)

The May Unit Game was won by Amr Elghamry - Joseph Viola, then Pat Radamaker - Clint Lew, Bill Papa - Vic Sartor, Susan and Dave Ruoff, and Kiran and Anand Kumar.

The June Individual was won by Roger Boyar, followed by Steve Mancini, Ann McClelland, Al Lax, and Paul Chrisney.

One promotions this month: Jeddud Cartagena is now a Junior Master.

The top game in open pairs this month was a 71.23% effort by Lulu and Fredy Minter. Other win-

ners: Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Richard Patterson, Mary Miller, Penny Barbieri, John Barrow, Linda Stuart, Evelyn Hubacker, Hanan Mogharbel, Pat Radamaker, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, and Yours Truly. If the leader board looks a little skinny this month, it's because there were quite a few repeat winners.

For our hand-of-the month, we have a little lesson in hand evaluation. Playing Standard, second to speak at unfavorable vulnerability, you find yourself looking at:

♠AKJT98 ♥4 ♦-- ♣ T97432

RHO passes, and it's your turn. Well? Your choices seem to be 1♠, 2♠, 4♠, or (shudder) pass. Made up your mind yet? Read on ...

Please don't tell me you didn't open 1♠. Whatever you do, even (shudder) passing, will get you as far as 4♠. That's not good enough, though. Over 2♠, partner will raise to game. What partner does over 4♠ is probably a matter of partnership style, and which way the wind is blowing. Partner will respond to a 1♠ opening with 2NT (a forcing spade raise, promising 4 trumps by agreement, not to mention being correct). You show your diamond shortness, partner will come back with Blackwood, you show two key cards, and you wind →



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Bridge rate: \$125 incl. Free Wi-Fi (mention ACBL)
Cutoff date: August 16
\$5.00 reduced-fee self-parking
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Monday GOLD POINT Compact KO on Sept. 7 @ 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Evening games Wednesday, Thursday & Friday cost only for paid members! (\$6 for others) \$2.00

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

Free Bridge Boot Camp for players with 0-300 Masterpoints with Maritha Pottenger & Marjorie Michelin

♦ **Gold Rush Pairs** every day Tuesday-Saturday & new **Knockouts every day**, Monday-Saturday

♠ ACBL Club Director Refresher Course Monday Sept. 7 (contact Teri Atkinson 661-664-1678)

♥ D22 North American Pairs (NAP) Final on Saturday Sept. 12




For more info go to: OrangeCountyRegional.com
or contact: Tom Shulman, tomshulman@gmail.com 702-301-5856

Tournament Manager: Tom Shulman
Director -in-Charge: Nancy Boyd

Find partners or teammates at : OrangeCountyRegional.com

up in 6♠. It's nearly a laydown, because partner puts down

♠Q742 ♥AK ♦T7532 ♣AJ.

The opening lead is a diamond, which you ruff. You plan to ruff three clubs in dummy, after drawing only one round of trump (probably using it as an entry to your hand to ruff one of the clubs). One club goes on a heart honor, and you lose one club. When you get around to playing the clubs, they turn out to be 3-2 with the queen doubleton anyway, so no problem. A nicely bid slam on only 22 HCP. Of course, Walter the Walrus counts your hand at 8 points, but with that wild distribution it's more like 12 (for conservatives) or 15. And who is to say you don't actually belong in clubs? After all, if partner has a club suit, it's going to consist mostly of big ones, since you have all the midgets!

Quote for the Month: "I walk slowly, but I never walk backward." (Abraham Lincoln)

Until next month ... see you in Pasadena.

San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Special Congratulations

The 750 Bridge Club hosted a very successful Carol Lang Memorial Game on Friday, June 5. This event featured 25 tables of duplicate bridge and a delicious catered Italian luncheon, generously provided by Bill and Terry Morton. The Overall Winners, whose names will be engraved on the permanent commemorative plaque, were the NS pair of Estelle Baron – Ernie Zeilberger (A1, B1) with a 63.27% game.

Other NS Winners were: Margy Sievers – Anne Hurwitz (A2, B2), Paula Rosenfeld – Gary Baxley (A3, B3), Leona Frisch – Jerry Rose (C1), Marsha Bocan – Barbara Ackerman (C2), and, Diane Schwartzman – Assad Amiri (C3). EW Winners were: Hal Schneider – Dick Bratkovich (A1, B1, C1), Elaine Moore – Thomas Shudic (A2), Ronald Malkin – Gloria Malkin (A3), Herbert Zweig – Joyce Hart (B2), Marge Bernath – Ravnesh Amar (B3, C2), and, Daniel Strauss – Mike Louis (C3).

May Top Ten Masterpoints at the 750 Club were Ray Primus 8.25, Susan Raphael 7.05, Bill Raff 6.90, John Tickner 6.90, Fuad Khouri 5.74, Carol Bell 5.36, Gloria Malkin 4.86, Linda Silvey 4.82, Larry Kussin 4.57, and Phil Calloway 4.47. 70% Games were achieved

by Susan Raphael – Fuad Khouri 73.59%, Mort Light – Bob Soll 72.73%, and (from April) Ellen Carrier and Rochelle Lotto 71.65%.

Current News

The 750 Bridge Club will host North American Pair Qualifying Games* during June, July, and August. Specific dates are listed below in the "Calendar" section.

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be Tuesday, July 21. Dinner is \$18 per person and starts at 6 p.m. and the bridge is \$5 per person and begins at 7 p.m. This is an ACBL sanctioned game and the first place NS and EW winners will receive coupons for Braemar's Wednesday night "Pastabilities" dinner. For reservations/partnerships, contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Calendar

Friday, July 10, the 750 Club will be closed due to church activity in the bridge room.

Monday, July 13 – Friday, July 17, all 750 Club bridge games will be held in the Family Center just north of the Church on Rudnick Ave.

Monday, July 20, *North American Pair Games, 750 Club, at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

Tuesday, July 21, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night. See details above.

Thursday, July 23, *North American Pair Games, 750 Club, at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.

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 Game, 750 Club, catered Italian Lunch at 12noon, Limited MP and Open bridge games at 1 p.m. Fee will be \$12 per person.

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

Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 participated in the Longest Day games to raise awareness and funds for the care, support →

and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. On Sunday, June 21, we played at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale. Continuing on Monday, June 22, the Friendly Bridge Club in Santa Clarita played two games. The 9:00 a.m. game was played in honor of Janice Meyers, dear special friend of Aggi Oschin. Jane is a lover of bridge and currently suffering with Alzheimer's disease. The 1:00 p.m. game was played in honor of Eleanor Icenogle, mother of Carol Ashbacher, who passed away in 1994 after a seven-year struggle with Alzheimer's. In spite of having only an 8th grade education, Eleanor Icenogle raised six children in a home with only cold running water. Twenty-seven of Eleanor's direct descendants are college graduates, many with advanced degrees. Her moral strength and determination guided them.

Carol Ashbacher and Aggi Oschin were ready to play bridge on the Longest Day.

Los Angeles Bridge Week Regional will be held July 6-12 in Pasadena. Unit 556 encourages our players to come out on Monday, July 6 for the Pro-Am Game (single-session) at 1:15 and workshop before the game at 10:15. Participants must pre-register to guarantee a seat at both the workshop and game. To register, contact Gerri Carlson at 310-377-0316 or gsoffa@aol.com.

This month we are highlighting the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale. This is a full-time bridge club. They offer free beginning bridge lessons on Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to noon using Easybridge! lessons and low-cost Saturday Workshops for beginners from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Open games are held on Tuesdays, Wednesday evenings, Fridays, and Sundays of each week. All open games are electronically scored and hand records are available after each game on paper and on the web. A 0-500 limited game is held on Wednesday afternoons. The cost of a game is \$7 and the location is at 1008 West Ave. M-14 in Palmdale. For more information contact club manager Charles Morrin at 661-274-0959 or 661-285-1779 or visit their website: www.joshuatreebc.com.

Unit Game Results

Tuesday, June 9 in Santa Clarita

North/South

- 1 Lamonte Johnson & Markle Vandervort - 72.9%
- 2 Alene Friedman & Margie Pinkers - 62.9%
- 3 Charles Self & Mary Ann Self - 49.9%

East/West

- 1 Kathy Flynn & Robert McBroom - 56%
- 2 Charles Morrin & Beth Morrin - 54.2%
- 3 Ted Maki & George MacDonald - 54.1%
- 4 Nell Shanz & Arif Shah - 54%

June 19 in Palmdale

- 1 Henry Roediger & Sharry Vida - 62.5%
- 2 George Lewis & Charles Morrin - 9.7%
- 3 Russ Buker & George MacDonald - 58.3%
- 4 Bernie Guzenske & Sue Guzenske - 54.2%

Big Games

Tuesday, June 9 in Santa Clarita Lamonte Johnson and Markle Vandervort with 72.86%

Thursday, June 11 in Castaic: Bert Stock and Margie Pinkers with 71.67%

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 and Special Events

Next Unit Game

Monday, July 13 at the Friendly Bridge Club Senior Center in Santa Clarita at 1:00 p.m.

STaC Games in July

Friday, July 17 at 12:30 and Sunday, July 19 at 1 Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

Next Board meeting

Tuesday, July 14 at 5:15
Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Magic Mountain Sectional

October 24 and 25

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, July 1, 11:30

District 22/23 STAC: July 13-18

Club Championship: Monday, July 20, 11:30

NLM NAOPQualifier: Thursday, July 23, 10:30

Club Championship: Saturday, July 25 2:30

NAOP Qualifier: Monday, July 27, 11:30

Friday Night Games on July 3 and July 17

Club Championships

The June 5 Club Championship was won by Hank Sheehan/Bob Bacharach in Flight A with Betsy Amador/Cal Waller on top in Flight B. On June 9 the Club Championship was captured by Arlene Greengard/Geri Carlson in Flight A with Linda Dillon/Robert Stillwell leading both Flights B and C. The Club Championship on June 15 was led by Fran Israel/Bob Rothman in Flight A with Arlene and Stanley Greengard ahead in Flight B and Bruce Merchant/Tom Crisswell winning Flight C.

Team Winners

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

May 26 Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

June 2: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

June 9: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Lucy Gellner, Wayne Otsuki

June 16: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

Agile Bridge Club News

299er Swiss, 3rd Thursday of every month. Game time is 11:30 a.m. Location: 2515 Valley Drive. July 16 is the next one. Starting August 19, the format changes to eight is enough; the teams will be balanced with higher

masterpoint players playing with lower level players. The last two months we have averaged 12 teams.

299er Swiss first Wednesday evening every month. This starts Wednesday evening August 5 at 6:30 p.m. Location is El Segundo Womens Club, 541 Standard Street.

STAC week is July 13-17. Monday 12:15 p.m. 199ers, Tuesday 12:15 p.m. 299ers at Hermosa Beach Kiwanis. Friday 10:00 a.m. 299ers at El Segundo Womens Club

There is a very special day for Intermediate/Newcomer Players on July 6 during the Bridge Week Regional in Pasadena. There will be a 2-hour free workshop at 10:15 a.m., then a free lunch for workshop attendees. At 1:15 p.m. there is a Pro/Am game. Amateurs pay \$14 to play; Pros play free. Non Life Masters (< 500 MPs) may play as an amateur with a Pro. To play with a pro, contact Jeff Grotenhuis: jeffgro@gmail.com or 310-600-4275.

GUV Memorial Award

Well lets take a vote on who's the biggest screwup on this one. A couple maniacal opponents wound up in 6NT after the auction: 1♣ - 1♠ - 1NT - 2♦ - 2NT - 3♠ - 3NT - 6NT. Opening leaders only assets were ♦Qxxx and ♣ATxx. Her partner's only assets were ♠KJ tight and out. It takes a club lead to beat 6NT. The good news is that the opening leader led a club. The bad news is that they led their fourth best club instead of the ace. Her naive partner assumed that no one in their right mind would underlead an ace against 6NT. He decided to do a discovery play by playing the ♣J to see who had the queen. Of course declarer now gave a big smile and proceeded to take 13 tricks.

Articles have been written about the brilliance of underleading an ace against a slam on hands with particular auctions. However this lead definitely will not rank among the brilliant all-time slam opening leads. So, who was the biggest screwup, opening leader or her partner?

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Game: July 21, 12:30 p.m.
Beverly Hills and Barrington
Thanks, Neighbors!

Although a family wedding back East forced me to miss this event for the first time since its inception, reliable reports tell me that this year's ABA-hosted game was, once again, a rousing success. In addition to good bridge and better community, I'm told that the food would have wreaked havoc on my diet. Winning the open section were Susan Furchtenicht and John Lyddon, while Linda Hines-Wilson and Willie Mae Seets won the 299er section. Make your plans now for October 4 at Barrington, when we host the ABA.

Coming Soon

Qualifying has begun for the North American Pairs. Make sure you play (and qualify in) at least one qualifying game between now and the end of August to continue on in this grass roots event. In addition to Flight A for open players, there is a Flight B event limited to 2500 master points and a Flight C event restricted to non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 points. The bottom line is that this is a chance to win a nice healthy check to Reno (site of the 2016 Spring North American Championships) by playing against your peers, so keep hope alive by finding and playing in a qualifying game.

Also on the agenda, Bridge Week returns to its roots in Pasadena. I hope you've made plans to play in the granddaddy of them all (among bridge tournaments, of course). If not, grab a partner or use the wonderful Partnership Desk. The tournament begins with a Pro-Am game July 6 and runs through July 12.

There will be plenty more tournament action available in July. The Summer Great Western STAC begins as soon as Bridge Week ends. This tournament is a great opportunity to pick up silver points at your local club, and a big game (or, as Aram Bedros puts it, a normal day at the office) could result in winning more than 20 points for a single session. Neighboring Units are also hosting sectionals later in the month.

Criss-Cross

I've always had a fondness for the criss-cross squeeze, perhaps because the very first squeeze I ever deliberately ran was of the criss-cross variety. Here's an example in action.

After an unremarkable auction of 1♣-1♠, 1NT, you play the following hand:

Dummy: ♠Q965 ♥64 ♦KQ932 ♣K8
Declarer: ♠A72 ♥J97 ♦A64 ♣AT75

The defense begins with four rounds of hearts, ending on your left, as you pitch spades from each hand. Lefty then shifts to a low club, which goes to the queen and ace. Can you take the rest of the tricks?

With some luck and good card reading, you can. You carefully start the diamonds by leading to the K and back to your A. Your care is rewarded when righty shows up with the stiff J, so you finesse the 9 to pick up the whole diamond suit. You discard another spade and a club on the run of the diamonds, leaving the following end position:

Dummy: ♠Q9 ♥- ♦- ♣K
Declarer: ♠A ♥- ♦- ♣T7

If lefty has both the ♣J and the ♠K, he's got a problem because he can only keep three cards. After squirming a while, he discards a low spade.

What happens next is the key feature of the criss-cross squeeze. You have to cash your winners in the right order or you'll end up stranded in the wrong hand. After a criss-cross squeeze, you have to begin by cashing your winner in the suit the squeeze victim has stripped. In this case, if you believe lefty's table presence, he's bared the spade king, so you lead a spade to the ace, dropping it, criss-cross back to the board with the club king, and cash the now-established spade queen.

Welcome Mat

Please welcome Peter Snyder when you see him. Peter is our Unit's newest addition to the ACBL's ranks. Joining us from other units are Frank Rubin, Sandy Schmitz, Gail Stone, Maureen Sullivan, Preston Wake, and Bernice Warshaw. Thanks to everyone who makes our Unit such a welcoming place for its new mem- →

bers.

Climbing the Ladder

Around the Clubs

Om Chokriwala scored up a pair of 70% games at Barrington last month, playing with Marty Blain and Art Zail. Making it a roundelay, Art picked up a second 70%er with Aram Bedros and Marty scored up a second big game with Ted Glaessner. Adrienne Green and Mim Spertus also hit the mark.

At Beverly Hills, Chuck Farrow and Alan Wollman hit 70%, as did Kevin Lane and Bruce Altshuler.

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

Our Units newest Junior Masters are Harriet Finebaum, Lisa Gauff, Ligun Li, Nancy Polacheck, and Carol Simonoff. Welcome to our addition. Reaching Club Master status are Synne Hansen Miller, Bonnie Okamoto, Howard Rosen, Sue Rosenwasser, Carla Spinner, and Mary Williams. Cheri Bitar and Tate Shafer are now Regional Masters.

Diane Bishop and James Perkins have become Life Masters. Norman Avrech has become a Silver Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

Watch this space next month for exciting news about one of our Unit's favorite directors and players.

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

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

Joe Jones, our current CFO has also been named as interim COO. The departments of Bridge Administration and Meeting Services will be under his supervision. Also, the department of Club & Member Services will be under the direction of Alex Turner who has been named CMO for the League. She will continue to supervise the Marketing, Education and Editorial departments.

Collegiate Bridge Championships

ACBL continues to encourage collage bridge participation. This year at the Summer NABC, the teams from Stanford University, University of Chicago, U.C. Berkeley and Brandeis will compete for the \$20,000 scholarship which is a substantial increase from prior years.

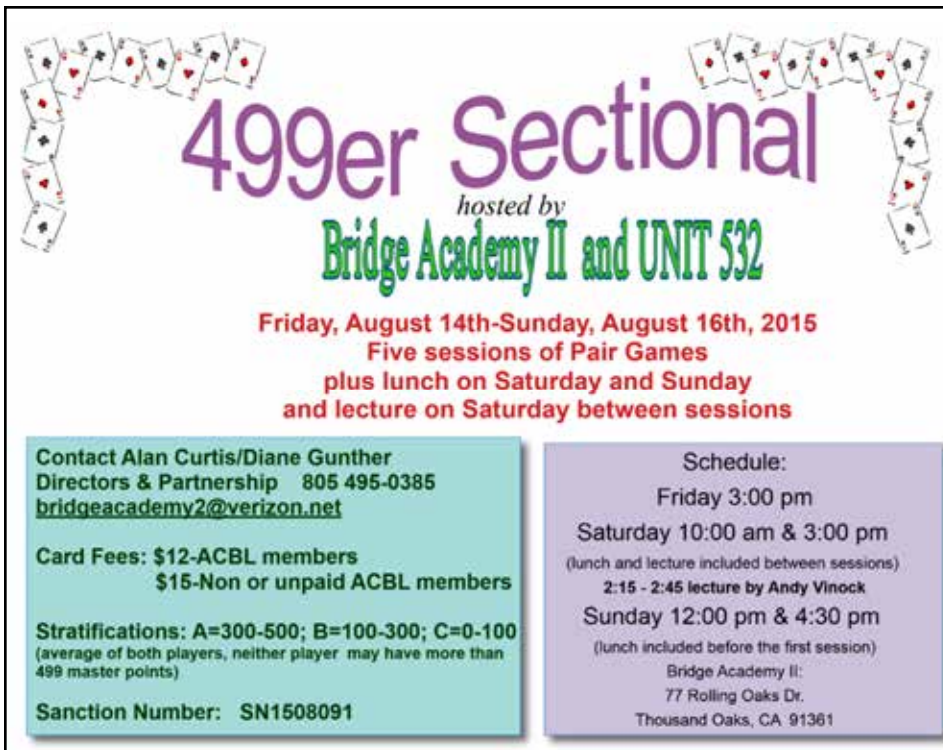
Summer NABC in Chicago

I am advised that hotel reservations are filling up fast. If you are having trouble getting a reservation, let me know and I will see if I can help you. No, guarantees however.

Bridge Week

I hope everyone who attends our Regional in Pasadena (beginning July 6) will have an opportunity to meet Suzi Subeck, our 2015 ACBL President. She is expected to be here for the entire week.

As always, if you have a problem, question, or comment, you can reach me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net



499er Sectional
hosted by
Bridge Academy II and UNIT 532

Friday, August 14th-Sunday, August 16th, 2015
Five sessions of Pair Games
plus lunch on Saturday and Sunday
and lecture on Saturday between sessions

<p>Contact Alan Curtis/Diane Gunther Directors & Partnership 805 495-0385 bridgeacademy2@verizon.net</p> <p>Card Fees: \$12-ACBL members \$15-Non or unpaid ACBL members</p> <p>Stratifications: A=300-500; B=100-300; C=0-100 (average of both players, neither player may have more than 499 master points)</p> <p>Sanction Number: SN1508091</p>	<p>Schedule: Friday 3:00 pm Saturday 10:00 am & 3:00 pm (lunch and lecture included between sessions) 2:15 - 2:45 lecture by Andy Vinock Sunday 12:00 pm & 4:30 pm (lunch included before the first session) Bridge Academy II: 77 Rolling Oaks Dr. Thousand Oaks, CA 91361</p>
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Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerald Bare, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Roger Lee, Mike Shuster, John Swanson, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	1♣	2♥
Pass	Pass	Dbl	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:

♠T3 ♥KT94 ♦Q873 ♣863

What call do you make?

Bare: 2NT. Pass is an option, but partner is likely to have a singleton and a 5 card club suit. With 4-4 in the minors, I open 1♦.

Swanson: 2NT. Partner is confirming an opening bid and showing short hearts with spade tolerance. Sometimes his defense is not up to snuff. But if someone wants to speculate by passing I don't strongly object.

Kantar: 3♣. Not quite enough to pass. Partner is a favorite to have five clubs. With 4-1-4-4 presumably, he would have opened 1♦.

Lee: 3♣, though I prefer to play Lebensohl on this auction.

Wittes: 3♣. It's tempting to pass with my good heart texture, but I have little else to offer, and I hate more than anything else in bridge to bring back a -670 at imps.

Goldsmith: Pass and lead the ♠T. Let's construct some hands for partner:

- a) ♠KQxx ♥x ♦Axx ♣KQJxx
- b) ♠AJxx ♥x ♦KJx ♣AKxxx
- c) ♠KQJx ♥xx ♦Kxx ♣AKQx

[These hands have a little more than the minimum for

reopening with a double at the 2-level.]

Looks like 2♥ rates to go down 1 most of the time, 2 some of the time. It'll make once in a while. Nothing rates to be cold our way. Passing looks pretty clear. I'll lead the ♠T, because partner rates to have spade honors which need leading up to, and that will also generate entries to my hand for later leads through dummy.

Shuster: Pass. Knowing how likely partner would be to open 1♦ with 4-5 in the minors is very relevant to our expected degree of fit. Still, I expect that 9 tricks in a minor is a more difficult goal than six tricks in hearts. I'm aware that -670 is a live possibility, but then again, so is -500 or more at the 3-level.

This hand was played in the Thursday night Caltech team game. My partner, Matt Klimish, bid 3♣. I held a 4=2=2=5 hand with ♥Jx and a little extra, but against a 4-1 break the hand played poorly. I was down two, and might have been defeated three tricks. Yichi Zhang held Matt's hand at the other table and passed the double for +500 and a 12 IMP win. Matt asked me what I would have done, and I told him 3♣, but I've changed my mind and think pass is right. It's close though, on the actual hand partner had honor doubleton and that won't happen often.

2

MPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♣ ?	3♦	3♠	Pass

You South hold:

♠A6 ♥AQ62 ♦Q64 ♣AK76

What call do you make?

This hand is right out of the textbook under "Preempts work!" Several panelists try 4♦. The ♦Q is likely wasted, and we only have two spades, but still the hand is awfully strong to bid only 3NT or 4♠. If we bid 4♦ and pass 4♠, then that is OK. But if we bid on partner will think we have better spade support and a diamond control. It will be difficult to get to either hearts or clubs if we belong there.

Bare: 4♦. I don't like to cue bid with no control and only two spades, but in this crowded auction it seems right. Partner is very likely to be short in diamonds. 3NT seems wrong because it might not make, and I have 3 suits that might be right. Also, we may have a slam.

Lee: 4♦. Uncomfortable, but I don't like going past 4M (4♥ or 4♠), so this seems to be our best way of conveying strength without getting too high, even if it does lie about the spade support.

Shuster: 4♦. Strain and level are both in play here, but what I really think I have is a hand that is too good to bid 4♠.

Swanson: 4♦. Lots of high cards, lots of aces, shortage of tricks. My second choice is a dull raise to 4♠.

Kantar: 4♥. I have no idea where this will lead, but I'm not bidding 3NT or 4♠ with this moose.

Wittes: 4♥. Partner needs so little to make slam on this hand (♠KQJxxx ♥Kxx ♦x ♣Qxx for example) that I want to make a forward going bid.

I think 4♥ is natural. What would opener rebid with ♠x ♥AKQx ♦xxx ♣Qxxxx or ♠x ♥KQxxx ♦x ♣AQxxxx? Why should 4♥ be forcing?

Goldsmith: 5♠. We have the values for slam, and it is unlikely we have a heart fit, because partner might have doubled with 5-4 in the majors. Clubs may be our best strain, but I don't see a good way to find it. I'll just hope partner's spades are good enough and pick level based on his diamond holding. If it's Kx (he bids 5NT), that's great; I'd love to be able to play 6NT. If he passes 5♠, we are probably too high after a trick 3 trump promotion. Second choice is 5NT, but will partner really play me for this shape? He'll pick clubs way too often. The one case he'll get right is when he's 6412 without great spades. He'll bid 6♦, and we'll reach 6♥ vs. ♠KJxxxx ♥KJ10x ♦x ♣Qx. I think finding 6NT after 5♠S and stopping in 5♠ vs. ♠KQJ10xx ♥Kxx ♦xx ♣Qx make 5♠ a little better than 5NT.

5♠ is an awful way to describe that hand. However, if we are always going past game to make a slam try, what's better? At least it puts the focus on the need for a diamond control.

3

IMPs
all vul

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

You, South, hold:
 ♠AK9 ♥J654 ♦87 ♣AT93
 What call do you make?

This is an old problem, but I changed the hand some. When this hand came up almost 30 years ago, the expert panel was not in agreement whether 3♣ was forcing or not. But the original hand had a maximum with good hearts, so much of the panel bid 3♥ because it would be correct regardless. I made the hand a minimum with poor hearts so that punting with 3♥ would not be trivial. These days many pairs play 2NT as an artificial clarifying bid, although systems for answering it differ.

Lee: 3♦. I play that this is a 5-trump game try, opposite which my hand is okay but not great, so I'll just make some return try and be happy if we stop in 3M.

Swanson: 3♥. This is a forcing auction for me (short clubs in some partnerships). 4♣ is possible, but I don't like 3♠, which would show four spades.

Goldsmith: 3♥. 3♣ is natural, forcing, and invitational or better. (Not everyone plays that way, but I think that's the most common treatment.) I have to act as if it is invitational. Is this hand good enough to accept? If I had a fourth spade, definitely. The missing spade is offset by the fact that I have five cards working overtime. It's close enough that I'll make a counter-try and suggest diamond shortness. Maybe that'll make partner's decision easy.

Kantar: 3♠. Every good pair has an agreement on

this sequence as to whether it should be forcing or invitational. My conclusion is that at IMPs it should be forcing and at Matchpoints invitational. Inevitably you will get a hand where you wish you were playing the other way. Since this is IMPs, honesty has compelled me to play it forcing so I would bid 3♠ showing four pieces. I was toying with 3♥, but I didn't have the guts to actually bid it, let alone explain it.

Shuster: 3♠. I play that invitations that care about my spade length go through 2NT. Over that, I would bid 3♣ with a minimum and only three spades, and partner would be able to pass (or bid a non-forcing 3♦.) Given that treatment, 3♣ is forcing and natural, and I have useful fitting honors for play in a black suit. Still, I don't want to mislead partner about my red suit holdings, so I'll emphasize my good spades. There is still time to switch to clubs if this is a slam hand.

Wittes: 3♠. With most of my partners I play that 2NT would be an artificial game try with most probably four spades, therefore 3♣ should guarantee five spades. Although I do have good cards, I have a dead minimum with only 3 trumps.

Bare: 4♣. 3♣ is forcing, and I have nothing to cue bid in the red suits. Partner may be checking for a 4 card fit in spades. If NT was right partner had to bid it.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL PASADENA!

July 6th - 12th 2015

4

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
		1♥	3♣
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠Q9754 ♥A7 ♦A7 ♣AQ53
 What call do you make?

Swanson: Double. I'll start with double and guess what to do later. 3NT isn't far off the mark. I don't like 3♠ with a weak suit and great hand. Pass is not a consideration; I wouldn't pass a reopening double, and the hand would become even more difficult to bid.

Lee: Double. I'm not sure what the alternative is supposed to be.

Roger thinks he can handle all auctions by starting with a negative double. Let's see what the panel thinks the alternatives are.

Wittes: 3♠. I could pass for penalties, and am likely to get at least 800, but there is too good of a chance of missing a slam.

A forcing bid in your longest suit certainly is an alternative.

Shuster: 3NT. An underbid. Maybe a big one...

Bare: 3NT. If partner does not have a spade fit, we have passed up 3 NT. Also, if partner has a distributional hand, he has another bid.

Goldsmith: 3NT. I'm not going past 3NT, and if I don't bid it now, no one will. This is the only easy problem of a pretty nasty set.

Kantar: 3NT. If there is an award for the most cowardly bid of the year, this should put me in the running.

A natural bid in what is likely to be our best strain is an alternative, a good one in my opinion.

Presented by
Pasadena - San Gabriel
Unit 559
www.aeblunit559.com/
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BRIDGE FEES
\$10.00 ACBL Members
\$13.00 Non-ACBL Members

♦ Free parking
♦ Coffee & Snacks
♦ Non-Smoking Tournament

2015 Pasadena - San Gabriel Sectional

The John Waken Duplicate Bridge Tournament

July 31 - August 2, 2015

Friday, July 31, 2015

10:00 A.M.
Frank Jones Stratified Pairs
299er Pairs
Compact KOs I

2:30 P.M.
Stratified Open Pairs
299er Pairs
Compact KOs II
Single Session Swiss

7:30 P.M.
Stratified Open Pairs
(Free Plays to 1st Place in
Flights A, B, & C)

Saturday, August 1, 2015

10:00 A.M.
Frank Grant Stratified Pairs
299er Pairs
Compact KOs I

2:30 P.M.
Rita Corwin Stratified Pairs
299er Pairs
Compact KOs II
Single Session Swiss

Sunday, August 2, 2015

10:00 A.M.
Stratified Swiss Teams
A/X = 0-3000, 3000+
BCD = 0-2000, 1000, 500

Lunch for sale on site

♦ NOTE: KOs are Bracketed & Handicapped.
Pairs and Teams are Averaged.
Pairs are 0-750, 0-2000, 2000+.

♦ NOTE: No parking on
Canfield Road!

LaSalle High School
3880 E. Sierra Madre Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107



South	West	North	East
1♥ ?	4♠	Dbl	Pass

You, South, hold:
 ♠-- ♥AKJT8 ♦J952 ♣Q873
 What call do you make?

Wittes: Pass. Although partner's double is not purely penalty, it could be at that high a level, and partner is unlikely to have much of a heart fit. If I were to bid, it would be 4NT, but there's no guarantee this will get us to a good spot.

Several panelists pull out the 4NT card, bidding Blackwood even though they have a void. OK. OK, it's not Blackwood, and it is so clearly pick a suit that "Blackwood" didn't even get mentioned.

Swanson: 4NT. Partner's double is takeout with some defensive values - but probably not in spades. I'll let partner pick the suit.

Bare: 4NT. Take your pick of the minors.

Goldsmith: 4NT. I'll guess to save. I have very little defense, and if declarer ruffs the first heart, I have nearly none. Partner's double is not penalties, not takeout, just enough cards to believe that it is our hand. Sometimes, he'll have three tricks and the HA cashes. Sometimes not.

Kantar: 4NT. I play this double shows cards, not necessarily spades. If it does, I'm looking for a place to play.

Shuster: 4NT. Whatever partner bids, ought to have play. I'm not forcing slam just because I have a spade void.

Lee: 4NT. I'm not sure what the alternative is supposed to be. *[This time Roger got a near unanimous panel].*

The big issue here is not what 4NT means, but how penalty oriented the double is. 4♠ doubled is not penalty for most expert partnerships.

Next Month's Problem Solvers Panel Problems

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?

2. IMPs all vul

South	West	North	East
1♦ ?	1♥	1♠*	4♥

* shows 5 spades

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

3. IMPs no vul

South	West	North	East
?		2♥	3♣

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

4. IMPs all vul

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

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

5. MP Pairs no vul

South	West	North	East
?	1♠	2NT	4♠

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