

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gear Up For July

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



I usually miss a lot of the spring-time in LA because of travel. This is a good thing. Taking advantage of retirement, I get to visit the family back East and learn about the color green once more. It's a whole new color from what we see in LA. Seeing small rivers run through your location and open space with lots of trees is also enjoyable. Lots of that up in any northern part of the US. I recommend New England for those LA folks who have never visited. You'll come back to LA more relaxed.

As we head into the summer, our bridge event of the year is fast approaching us-- the LA Regional at the Long Beach Hilton. Hope everyone is filling up a 4th of July dance card and will be joining us for ocean breezes and fireworks. This will be our 83rd rendition of the July LA Regional. It was 10 days long at one time. Back when the Ambassador Hotel was in full swing and the Coconut Grove night club was so very popular and entertaining, we took things over for more than a week of bridge and parties. I've been wondering if we could ever do that again.

Now there are just an avalanche of problems involved with that concept. The location for such a gala would probably be a top concern. Financing the activities would be a strong and related second. There are two locations in LA that, in an ideal world and with deep pockets, we could pull off the creation and production part. In our D23 history research, we followed up on the status of our first two locations for Bridge Week -- from 1935 to 1945. They were the LA Elk's Club and the Biltmore Hotel downtown. The Elk's Club lived for many years, then was turned into the Park Plaza. Now closed, but the building remains in marvelous condition with the main ballroom still broadcasting the aura of

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Elections, Ed Foundation

by Kevin Lane, District Director



*Bridge is a game
and should be fun*

District 23 Officer Elections Upcoming

Are you interested in running for contributing to the district? If you want to run for an officer position, please contact either me or District President Mike Marcucci.

District officer elections occur this July. I chair the nominations committee. The District 23 president traditionally serves two terms. Mike is finishing his first term, so this election is akin to a "mid-term" election. But the district always needs volunteers, so if you would like to contribute please contact me or Mike and we can discuss the best way for you to advance bridge in Los Angeles county.

Kansas City board meeting

This month I continue to report on the Kansas City board meeting.

Update on the Education Foundation: At Kansas City, the Education Foundation announced their new board of trustees and a new President.

The new board of trustees includes Mitch Dunitz from District 23 along with five other new trustees and three trustees carried over from the previous board. Page 24 of the May Bridge Bulletin includes bios of the Ed Foundation board of trustees.

Jay Whipple is the new Education Foundation

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chandeliers and old wood facades. It is available for gala Hollywood type parties and extravaganzas for a small fee.

The Biltmore is now called the Millennium Biltmore and boasts 90 years of operation and history. Try out their website and get set for looking at what luxury means these

days. In 1960, John F Kennedy accepted his party’s presidential nomination in the lobby – then fashioned as the “music room.” Also probably available to us for a small fee.

The only foreseeable way our District hosts a Regional at either of these locations is for Bill and Warren to underwrite the whole shebang. That would take care of the production but I wonder what

the attendance would be. The air-conditioning would have to be in super working order and we might need a Caesar’s Palace type people-mover from the nearest huge parking garage to handle some of the “convenience” items for our throngs of players. When you are dressed in coat and tie or cocktail dress, escalators are the only way to go.

For our smaller scale production at the Hilton, we won’t expect party attire but it is still true that looking good makes one feel good, and, starting off hand 1 while feeling good can’t hurt. A coffee in hand might also help. As an aside, I bought a “French vanilla” flavored coffee today for \$1 that was as good as any Starbucks mocha I’ve ever had. Where am I, you ask? I’ll answer that when you run into me in Long Beach.

The Pro-Am starts off the week on 3 July. Gerri Carlson and her team are all set to sign up everybody and do the matching. Always fun to see who your partner is for the match and scurry through a convention card. I am going to propose something to the Pro-Am team this year and that is to request that the “Pro’s” dress on the upscale side like the old days of bridge. What can it hurt for one afternoon? Coat and tie for men – dresses for ladies. We’ll then take a picture of the crowd and send it to Bill G to see if he’s interested in getting the Biltmore for us!

Practice up and we’ll see you in Long Beach.



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LOS ANGELES LONG BEACH REGIONAL

JULY 3-9, 2017

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

DAYLIGHT SCHEDULE! 299ER GAMES EVERY DAY!
PILE UP YOUR GOLD POINTS IN OUR GOLD RUSH PAIRS!
STAR SPEAKERS EVERY DAY! SATURDAY SPECIAL SHOW!
MASTER SOLVER LIVE WITH JOHN JONES AND LEO BELL!

Need a Partner?

Diane Sachs
 dianesachs@yahoo.com
 562-981-4884

Tournament Manager:

Peter Benjamin
 ahoneydo@aol.com
 310-720-6050

Director-in-Charge:

Ken Horwedel

Tournament Chair: Stan Holzberg
District 23 President: Mike Marcucci

Monday July 3rd.

Free 2-hour Bridge Workshop
 10:30 - 12:30 am
 Followed by lunch

Gerri Soffa-Carlson
 Gold Life Master

Pro Am Game at 1 pm
 Card fee for Ams: \$14

Please pre register before 6/25
 gsoffa@aol.com
 310-377-0316



Hilton Long Beach

701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Room rate: \$134 (Free Wifi)

(please refer to ALACBU)

Reservation must be made by Friday, June 9.

800-445-8667 or 562-983-3400

Card fees: \$14 for ACBL Members

\$18 for non-ACBL Members

Self parking: \$6

Tournament Sanction: R1707013
Flyer Designer: Liang Fan.

Monday, July 3, 2017

299er Free Workshop/Lunch (Reserv. Rqd).....10:30 am
AM Side Game Series (single session)..... 1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (1 of 6)..... 1:00 pm
Stratified Charity Pairs (single session)..... 7:00 pm
Starburst KO (1 of 4)..... 7:00 pm

Tuesday, July 4, 2017

Starburst KO (2, 3 & 4 of 4).... 10:30 am, 3:00 & 7:30 pm
Pro-Am Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am
299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am
Mark Schreiber Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Guest Lecture ----- 2:30 pm
Aft Side Game Series (2 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

Wednesday, July 5, 2017

AM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 10:30 am
299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am
Bernie Mateer Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Guest Lecture ----- 2:30 pm
Aft Side Game Series (3 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 7:30 pm
Dodger Turbo Swiss (1 of 2)..... 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 6, 2017

AM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 10:30 am
299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am
Pat Banks Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Pasadena Unit 559 Stratified Swiss Teams (1 & 2 of 2)10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Guest Lecture ----- 2:30 pm
Aft Side Game Series (4 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 7:30 pm
Dodger Turbo Swiss (2 of 2)..... 7:30 pm

Friday, July 7, 2017

AM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 10:30 am
299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am
0-99 Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Anand Kumar Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs ... (1 & 2 of 2)10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Liberty Bell KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Guest Lecture ----- 2:30 pm
Aft Side Game Series (5 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 8, 2017

AM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 10:30 am
299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am
Charlotte Sturm Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm

Saturday, July 8, 2017

Liberty Bell KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Old Glory Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Master Solvers Live ----- 2:30 pm
Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

Sunday, July 9, 2017

Ft Henry Stratified Fast Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & TBA
WLA Player of the Year ... Mike Savage ... Flight A/X Swiss Teams10:30 am & TBA
Bracketed Swiss Flight B/C/D10:30 am & TBA

Event Colors:
299ers: Orange
Teams: Green
Pairs: Blue

KOs may be handicapped.
Games will be stratified
by average masterpoints.

Stratified Games: 0-1500 / 1500-3000 / 3000+
Stratiflighted Games:
0-3000 / 3000-5000 / 5000+

Gold Rush: 0-100 / 100-300 / 300-750

Flight A/X: 0-5000 / 5000+

Bracketed Flight B/C/D:

Bracketed by average points of team.

No player over 3000 MPs

Turbo Swiss Teams: 3 x 8 boards

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

April 23 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Robert Shore/John Jones, 2nd Marcie Evans/Mary Kiechle, 3rd Xiaoxue Walker/Joseph Chaikin, 4th Larry Slutsky/Carol Murakoshi, 5th John and Jo Melis, 6th Steve Skinner/Jackie Hess. In the B flight overalls: 2nd Dahlia Hernandez/Robert Bakovic, 3rd George Welsh/Martin Lipman, 4th Judith Jones/Wayne Rapp, 5th Rosalie Storc/Sylvia Kaprelyan, 6th Rob Preece/Usha Bansal. In the C flight overalls Jean Matz/Marjorie Holmes tied with John and Joan Berg for 4/5. In the 199er section overalls Ana Winn/Bonnie Shock were 1st, Louse Seifert/Stan Johnson were 2nd, Bill Cray/Allene Buchanan were 3rd. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: April 16 through May 15: In the evening game April 21 Dominique and Arthur Moore had 79.58%. In the open game April 24 John Petrie/George Thompson had 73.72%. And in the 199ers game April 25 Jim Warner/Bill Heck had 72%. Congratulations to all three pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards: April 16 through May 15: April 17 Diane Starbuck/Ronald Pennington won 3.50mp for 1st. April 18 Mike Welsh/Lorna Wallace won 4.81mp for 1st, Steve Sturm/Wei Pei 3.61 for 2nd. April 21 Ted Gibbs/Mike Welsh won 4.38mp for 1st, John Petrie/Cecil Cook 3.29mp for 2nd. In the unit game April 23 John Jones/Robert Shore won 4.81mp for 1st, Marcie Evans/Mary Kiechle 3.61mp for 2nd. April 27 Brandon Sheumaker/Linda Renkus won 3.75 for 1st. In the unit team game May 14 the winning team was John Melis, Kay Tseng, Liang Fan and Kim Wang—

each winning 2.55mp. Congratulations to all!

New Club Members: Daniel Frank, Sue Lewis, Charlotte Roush, Katharine Seibert, William Slater, Jamie Davis and Marc Gould. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Masters: Allene Buchanan, Juliane Deluccio, Jenny Ernest. New Regional Master: Carol Lopresti. New NABC Master: Joyce Roberts. New Life Master: Linda Nye. New Ruby Life Master: Suzanne Hand. Congratulations to you all!

Condolences to the family and friends of Eileen Nelson who passed away earlier this month. She will be missed.

Get Well Wishes to Verna Baccus, Earl VanDerVord, Mary Thomas and Debra Skinner.

Upcoming Events at the Club

June 1-2: World Wide Bridge Contest. Extra points \$2 surcharge.

June 5-11: Club Championship Week. Extra points, regular prices.

June 12-18: North American Pairs qualifying games. Extra points. \$1 surcharge.

June 21: Longest Day games: 9am, 12:30pm, 4:15pm, 7pm. Extra points, regular prices.

June 25: Unit Game. Card fees \$8. Dessert served during the game.

June 29: InterClub Championship Game. Extra points, regular prices.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship—April 20--clubhouse #3: Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 1 in A, 1 in B. Marilyn McClintock/Sibyl Smith 2 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Gene Yaffee 3 in A, 2 in B. Monica Gettis/Cookie Pham 4 in A, 3 in B. Bill Brooks/Tom Felice 5 in A, 4 in B. Cooie Dampman/George Alemshah 6 in A, 5 in B. Midge Dunagan/Harshad Vora 1 in C. Barbara Wallace/Bill Dilks 2 in C. Miriam Kelley/Judy Mathias →

3 in C. Russell Gray/Sten Blitz 4 in C.

Pro-Am Game May 8—clubhouse #3: Overall winners: top five pairs: Marilyn McClintock/Cooie Pham; Joan Tschirki/Harshad Vora; Carmen Gross/Bea Aron; Gary Paugh/Verna Becker; Simone Chottin/Mark Singer.

70% Game : May 1 Fern Dunbar/Rob Preece had a 71.47% game.

Get Well: Chuck Cutchshaw



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, June 3, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, June 17, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

The Longest Day – Wed, June 21, 9:00 a.m., 1:15 p.m.

Two Unit games to report. In April, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor rolled home by a goodly margin. Fredy and Lulu Minter were second, Steve Mancini – Margie Hall third, with Claudia Cochran - Hanan Mogharbel and Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson tying for fourth. In the May game, the Vic & Bill show took the top spot. Second were Gino Barbieri & Your Truly, followed by Richard Patterson – Roger Boyar and Clint Lew – Bob Kakade.

In the May Individual, Penny Barbieri took top honors, giving herself a birthday present. (Well, it was actually the day before. Close enough.) Linda Tessier was second, Steve Mancini third, Paul Chrisney fourth, and tying for fifth were Clint Lew and Yours Truly.

The top score this month was 76%, posted by Joe Unis and Herb Stampfl. With another score over 70% this month, they are becoming a threat to be reckoned with on Thursdays. Other winners: Fredy and Lulu Minter, Linda Stuart, Hanan Mogharbel, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Claudia Cochran, Gayle Ginsburg, Daniel Sonner, Jake Williams, Richard Patterson, Genise Hasan, Margie Hall, Linda Ananea, Karen Olin, and Mary Miller.

Ah, back on track from last month. Two promotions to report this month. Rita Stachniak is now a Club Master, and Randy Howard has reached the exalted ranks of the Gold Life Masters.

Don't forget about The Longest Day, coming up this month. If you wish to donate, you can do so most easily by visiting <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>. Games will be held at the Knights of Columbus in Glendora. All monies collected go to the Alzheimer's Association. Even the Director will be working for nothing. Well, he's worth it ...

Still a month away, but don't forget about the Bridge Week Regional next month, in Long Beach. Yeah, it's a hike for most of us, but get in touch with your Board of Directors and we should be able to arrange some car-pooling.

"There's no such thing as luck, but we all know that it exists." So says the Hideous Hog. You think you have bad luck? Here are a couple of hands that came up recently.

This one was dealt in our May Individual. It would make even Karapet Djoulukyan blanch. You deal, and find yourself looking at: ♠AK42 ♥5 ♦AKT73 ♣82

Nice enough. You open 1♦, LHO passes, partner calls 1NT, and somewhat unexpectedly, RHO bids 2♥. You pass, and the opponents eventually bid to 4♥. Well? Over to you.

Hmmmmmm. There's obviously some shape to this deal. Still ... You appear to have 3 or 4 sure tricks, and partner must surely have something. No one bid spades, so you figure your ♠AK will cash. Trumps aren't breaking, either. So you venture a double, and lead the ♠A.

Shock #1: dummy faces: ♠-- ♥AJ4 ♦QJ962 ♣KQ763.

Arrgh! Where are all the spades? Declarer ruffs and plays the ♥A, then a small diamond. Shock #2: declarer is void! Even though partner contributes the ♣A to the defense, 10 tricks come rolling home when declarer ruffs two spades in dummy. By the way, for reasons best known to himself, partner had spades but didn't bid them. For the best maybe, since the 5-0 split would cause you some grief.

Hand number two came up in an ordinary pairs game ... but the Witch of Ararat was still having her fun. Again you deal, and find yourself looking at ♠-- ♥AQJ62 ♦QJT42 ♣AKQ

A very nice 3-loser hand! You open 1♥, partner raises to 2♥ (the opponents are silent, for a change), and you make a 3♦ "game try." Why, since you are going to bid game anyway? Well, if the Bridge Gods smile, you can foresee 12 tricks. If partner has help in diamonds, you need only one of five things to happen: (1) partner has the ♥K; (2) the ♥K is on side; (3) partner has the →

♦AK; (4) partner's diamond help is a singleton (you also need possibility 1 or 2 along with this one); or (5) partner's help is the ♦A with the ♦K on side. Partner duly calls 4♥, so you shoot the slam. The opening lead is a spade.

Bad luck, Karapet. Not one of those five possibilities come home. Partner has: ♠ QJ43 ♥ T98 ♦ A6 ♣ JT65 Partner had her 4♥ bid, but the black suit honors are wasted, and both red kings are off side. Down one. Nice try. You gotta laugh, or you'll cry. Now, if the Rueful Rabbit had been declarer ...

Quote for the Month: "Gentleman ... one who never hurts anyone's feelings unintentionally." (Oliver Herford)

Until next month ...



**Santa Clarita-
Antelope Valley
by Beth Morrin**

This year's Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 22-23 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. For more information, contact tournament chair, Bill Brodek, (bbrodek@yahoo.com).

Western Conference Spring Fling STaC Results (May 8th to May 14th):

Congratulations to Bill Brodek and Robert McBroom who placed third overall on Monday afternoon (out of 547 tables) with 70.63%. They received 13.52 Silver points. Bill had a great week – he placed first in all four of the games in our unit.

Monday Afternoon at Friendly Bridge Club:

- 1 Bill Brodek – Robert McBroom, 70.63%
- 2 Mira Rowe – Anita Walker, 61.46%
- 3 Roy Ladd – Bert Stock, 56.67%
- 4 Russ Buker – Carol Provost, 54.58%

Tuesday Evening at Valencia Bridge Studio:

- 1 Bill Brodek – Paula Olivares, 62.20%
- 2 Margie Pinkers – Bert Stock, 60.42%
- 3 Lamonte Johnson – Markle Vondervort, 58.33%
- 4 Charles and Mary Ann Self, 54.58%

Thursday Morning at Castaic:

- 1 Bill Brodek – Roy Ladd, 58.80%
- 2 Ruth Baker – Anita Walker, 56.02%
- 3 Arif Shah - Bert Stock, 52.56%
- 4 Barbara and Tom Jones, 50.93%

Friday Afternoon at Joshua Tree Bridge Club:

- 1 Bill Brodek – Paula Olivares, 57.30%
- 2 Onorita Pallanti - Les Spitzza, 56.48%
- 3 Mary Ellen Downs – Beth Morrin, 55.73%
- 4 Roshen Hadulla – Bert Stock, 53.70%

Upcoming Events

Next Board Meeting: Sunday, July 16 after the STaC game at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palm-dale.

Worldwide Bridge Contest: Saturday, June 3 →

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at 12:30, Joshua Tree Bridge Club.

8 is enough Team Game: Monday, June 12 at 12:30, Friendly Bridge Club

The Longest Day: Wednesday, June 21 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club at 12:30 and 6:30 in Palmdale. Signup with Paula (paula@pacbell.net) or Beth (morrin@sbcglobal.net)



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Unit 561 Awards Luncheon/Game Report

A very successful Awards Luncheon and Game were held on Saturday, April 29, at The 750 Club in Woodland Hills. Awards and free lunches/games were given to the 2016 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs Winners from Unit 561. This was followed by an afternoon game with twenty-eight tables of bridge, ably directed by Terry Morton.

Winners in the open game were as follows: NS – William Morton – Betty Andelson (A1), Gilbert Stinebaugh – Donald Crum (A2), Constance Fishbach – Joan Rubin (A3), Martin Hurwitz – R. Gasway (B1), Gloria Feerst – Carol Levin (B2), Phyllis Hall – Maria Glasgow (B3, C1), Jerry Athans – Frank Pinkus (C2), and Marcia Broderick – Joe Bregman (C3); EW – Martin Blain – Rick Weiss (A1), Om Chokriwala – Jill Thesman (A2), Philip Berk – A. D. Shaw (A3, B1), Shoshana Blumenfeld – Daniel Strauss (B2), Ron Stewart – Sheila Singer (B3), Joanne Meyer – Marjorie Barg (C1), Jill Terrell – Carole Eglash (C2), and Deedy Nordyke – Frank Nordyke (C3).

June 21: “Longest Day” Games

“Longest Day” Games supported cooperatively by Unit 561 and The 750 Club will be held at The 750 Club on Wednesday, June 21. These games will be at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., and both games will be Open, Stratified Games. Card fees will be \$10/person/game. All of the proceeds including card fees and directors’ fees will be donated to Alzheimer’s research. Additional donations will be appreciated and accepted in the form of cash or checks made payable to the “Alzheimer’s Association.”

The ACBL and many different nation-wide sports organizations hold events each year on the Summer Solstice Day to raise money to support Alzheimer’s research. And yes, Bridge is definitely a brain-exercising sport!

June 9: Annual “Carol Lang” Game

On Friday, June 9, the Annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held at The 750 Club in honor of the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike, who started the club in 2006. Names of the winners will be engraved on the memorial plaque and certificates will be awarded. Game time is 11 a.m. and a catered Italian lunch will be provided at about 12noon. Reservations are required for this event. Please contact Terry Morton at thmorton@att.net or (818) 815-8826.

Special Congratulations

Recent “New Life Master Achievements” by Unit 561 players were: Debra Stern (Life Master); Michael Abeles and Debra Stern (Bronze); and, Tracy Boys and Elaine Moore (Silver – 1,000).

April Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ray Primus 12.87, Susan Raphael 11.49, Ronald Malkin 9.85, William Raff 9.72, Philip Berk 8.29, Linda Silvey 8.25, Larry Kussin 7.99, Phillip Calloway 7.61, Alan Golden 7.53, and A.D. Shaw 7.15. The following achieved 70% games in April: Rochelle Lotto – Ellen Carrier 73.05%, Ronald Malkin – Irv Klasky 72.92%, Doug Beagle – Alan Golden 70.83%, and Helen Malzer – Mike Louis 70.42%.

Calendar

Friday, June 9, Annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Wednesday, June 21, “Longest Day” Games will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Tuesday, July 4, Regular 11 a.m. game at The 750 Club.

Wednesday, July 12, Unit 561 Board Meeting at The 750 Club at 2:45 p.m.

Tuesday, July 18, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations or partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Saturday, August 5, Unit 561 “Sizzling Summer” Luncheon and Game held at The 750 Club. Lunch will be at 12noon and an Open, Stratified Game at 1 p.m. Please save the date! →



Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568

SBBC: www.southbaybridgeclub.com

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Saturday, June 3, 2:00

NAOP Qualifying: Monday, June 5, 11:30

NAOP Qualifying: Wednesday, June 21, 11:30

Club Championship: Friday, June 23, 11:30

Friday Night games on June 2 and 16

Club Championships

The Non Life Master Club Championship on May 4 was led by Madge Weinstein/Myron Mitzenmacher in Flight A and Loretto Russell/Mary Gillett in Flight B. On May 9 the Club Championship was won by Gaye Herrington/Lucy Gellner in Flight A and Ed Ruttenberg/Mary Gillett in Flight B. The Club Championship on May 17 saw Fran Israel/Mark Raggio on top in Flight A and Lina Asher/Norman Futami leading Flight B.

Team Winners

April 25: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

May 2: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, CVal Gamio, John Jones

May 9: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronnek Felczer

May 16: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Wayne Otsuki, John Brailliar

Grand National Team Heroes

Ed Piken was on the winning team in two brackets of the District 23 Grand National Teams. He first was on the team which won the Flight A Bracket. Then he was on the team that won the top flighted Championship Bracket. Also on the team winning the top Bracket was the rarely seen TSB Unit member Ron Feldman. Fortunately for Bracket B and C teams Ed had too many

points to compete there.

TSB Unit Results From Great Western STAC

Our unit had a some pairs who made the overalls in the gigantic Great Western STAC May 8-14.

Monday Morning, May 8, Open Pairs, SBBC

10/14A 5B Booth Tarkington/Jim Jensen

42A Ted Gibbs/Steve Ramos

48A Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott

Monday Afternoon, May 8, 199er Pairs, Agile BC

1A Robert Hall/Loretto Russell

6A 3B 2C Dominick and Johanna Cardella

5B 4C Allan Baraz/Nancy Hamada

6C Nancy Karnes/Judi Brown

Monday Evening, Open Pairs, SBBC

16A 8B Arlene Greengard/Ernie Frank

Tuesday Morning, May 9, Open Pairs, SBBC

6A Gaye Herrington/Lucy Gellner

24A 8B Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan

30B Judy Tomic/Margaret Yeh

Tuesday Afternoon, May 9, 499er Pairs, Agile BC

7A 6B Madge Weinstein/Myron Mitzenmacher

Wednesday Evening, May 10, Aux Pairs, SBBC

1A 1B 1C Joan Chrishal/Chris Freeland

5A Fran Israel/Terry Hane

Thursday Morning, May 11, 749er Pairs, SBBC

1A 1B Jeannette Betts/Ellen Davidson

2A 2B Suzanne Kuuskmae/ShameemRahimtoola

3A 3B 1C Jack Stewaert/Ken Brewer

4A Madge Weinstein/Tom Barna

5A 4B 2C Neal Hudson/Greg Gallagher

Friday Morning, May 12, Aux Pairs, SBBC

3A Harry Wessells/Hank Sheehan
 5C Janice Scholler/Harold Avent

Saturday Afternoon, May 13, Open Pairs SBBC

38A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott

GUV Award

Well I dug up a hand from the past since everybody was so good this month.

In a Swiss match I wound up in 5 Spades following a Michaels bid by pard. Pard laid down a dummy with 6 Spades, 6 Hearts and two minor suit singletons...that's right 14 cards. Pard hadn't noticed but with undue modesty I will take credit for noting that the dummy had a card too many.

So, of course, the director was called and he went back to check what the hand really was at the other table. He came back to tell us that the board was played that way at the other table. Since Lucy Gellner was a teammate this came as no surprise. The board was thrown out which at first made me happy because we had 3 losers with the 14 card dummy. However it cost us 2 IMPs because our partners had doubled 5 Spades for a 1 trick set so maybe I should have kept my mouth shut after seeing the 14 card dummy.

Na Zdrowie



West LA
by Robert Shore

Grass Roots Roundup

June is when qualifying begins for this year's round of the North American Pairs championship. The event has three flights: A (unlimited), B (0-2500), and C (0-500 non-Life Masters). The national finals will be held at the Spring North American Championships in Philadelphia. The qualifying process starts at the club level. Just score above average in a club qualifying game held in June, July, or August. As an extra incen-

tive, the club qualifying games award red points on the sectional scale. Our district has historically held two Unit Finals, usually in October and November, leading up to the District Final (usually in January) where the three (in Flight A) or four (in Flights B and C) pairs to represent our District will be selected. District winners and runners-up get a nice check from the ACBL to help defray their expenses. Last year, as you may recall, a pair from our District won the national Flight B event. This year, it could be you.

ACBL's other big grass roots event is the Grand National Teams competition. This year's qualifying stage has concluded. Winning the right to represent our District in the Championship Flight was a team including unit members Viktor Anikovich, Rama Linz, and Bob and Ellen Kent. We wish them luck in Toronto.

Closer to Home

Peter Benjamin jumped out to an early lead in the race for the Jill Meyers Trophy by tying for the most points won at our Spring Sectional. Contributing to Peter's lead was his win in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs event. Connie Fishbach and Maria Pendergast led their team to victory in the Compact Knockout Teams event. Mary Chiu added to our Unit's tally by winning the Saturday 299er Pair event. Ifti Baqai contributed a win in the Sunday Stratified Pairs, while Alan Schneider, Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten, Jim Perkins, and Viktor Anikovich finished off the tournament by winning the Sunday Swiss.

Our sectional wasn't the only tournament to occur in the last month. Down in Oceanside, Ronald Bloom took the win in the Saturday morning non-Life Master Pairs. Hans Kraepelien and Michael Nash crushed the competition in the Thursday afternoon event of the Great Western STAC.

If tales of all of these victories have whetted your appetite for the tournament trail, fear not! Your next local opportunity to shine is coming soon. Make your plans now for the Long Beach Regional, which will run from July 3 through July 9.

The Extra Chance

After a pushy auction, I ended up playing 5♣ with the following hands:

Dummy: ♠KJT43 ♥72 ♦KT ♣AJ98 →

Declarer: ♠7 ♥KJ ♦A76542 ♣K543

Around the Clubs

The defense started with a spade and dummy's J forced the Ace. RHO continued with a heart, and another major suit jack forced another ace. LHO then tried the ♦J, won on dummy with the king. I took the successful club hook and drew trump, ending on dummy. My main chance for the contract, of course, was diamonds breaking 3-2, but I had the opportunity to take a free look at a second chance. While on dummy I cashed the ♠K and used my last trump to ruff a spade. If that hadn't worked, I'd have cashed the ♦A and ruffed a diamond, with the ♥K available to get back to my hand. But when the ♠Q fell, the spade suit was good and I no longer needed the diamond break. This chance paid off in a major way because diamonds were 4-1 and would not have run.

Welcome Mat

Joining the ACBL this month are new members Katharine Dreyfuss, Mary Hagerth, Edith Levy, Laura Soloff-Geller, and Letitia Wims. Adding to our ranks from other units are J.E. Goerz, Garry Koralek, Frances Leach, Janet Sanders, and John Saxton. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Beverly Hills club champions last month were Gerri Soffa Carlson and Steve Mager. Hitting 70% were your Humble Scribe and Myrna Blaufarb, Aram Bedros and Rob Perlsweig, Phyllis Kantar and Delia Juul-Dam, and Pete Benjamin and Peter Knee.

At Barrington, Aram Bedros and Art Zail posted a 70% game, as did Hans Kraepelien and Michael Nash. No club championships last month at Barrington.

Climbing the Ladder

We welcome to the ranks of Junior Masters Steve Auer, Susan Graber, Adair Paul, and Marion Solomon. Reaching Club Master status were Judi Brown, Won-Young McDevitt, Monica McKenna, and Wendy Wilson. Judith Eber and Phillip Rohlin are now Sectional Masters while Joan Oliver has reached Regional Master. Stuart Hemple has become an Advanced NABC Master.

Suzanne Borenstein and Debra Stern have become Bronze Life Masters. Robert Johnson and Donna Massman are now Silver Life Masters. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

District 23 Rank Changes April 2017

Junior Master

Judy Blits
Paulette Burkitt
William Cray
Esme Douglas
Bill Kessler
Jill Sattinger
Carol Welsh
Susie Zeegen

Club Master

Patricia Balzano
Edna Broman
Karen Krull
Robert Mallano
Kurt Schneider
Ann Shaw
Jay Swerdlow

Sectional Master

Dominick Cardella
Johanna Cardella
Robert Culbert
Frances DeRuyter
Jan Drayer
Thea Drayer
Dianne Edson

Regional Master

Peggy Diller, Terry Hane
Glen Musicer, Angela Peters
Ellen Travis, John Vacca

NABC Master

Sadika Elewy, Ira Thierer

Life Master

Margot Hartman, Dawn Lee
Rae Yan

Bronze Life Master

Nancy Klemens

Silver Life Master

Hank Dunbar, Kris Sommer

Ruby Life Master

Nourit Chowaiki
Sandra Franciscus, William Morton
Betty Witteried

Sapphire Life Master

John Petrie

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Leo Bell, Ross Grabel, Roger Lee, Tim Lolli, and Mike Shuster

1
 IMPs
 NS vul

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

You, South, hold:
 ♠K54 ♥6543 ♦AT43 ♣A7
 What call do you make?

Grabel: 3NT. I won't know what's right until I see the dummy. *[Wouldn't bidding be easier if we got to look at partner's hand before the auction ended?!]*

Lolli: 3NT. I'm hoping for something like ♠AQxx ♥xx ♦KQJxx ♣xx. This makes an odds-on 3NT. I'm hoping for no more than four hearts in an opponent's hand or a lucky day where they won't lead it. *[Yes, a surprise heart attack might beat 3NT. However, I'm far more concerned that a club lead will beat 3NT by knocking out our only stopper before our nine tricks are ready to run.]*

Lee: 3NT. 4♠ could be better than 3NT, but 3NT is often much better than 4♠, and both pass and 4♦ are a

little anemic.

Shuster: 3NT. It is IMPs, so I must bid a game. Bidding NT is a dirty job sometimes, but it isn't like a 4-3 spade fit comes with any guarantees (and 5♦ is not on the radar due to my last call). 3NT could easily have nine runners and partner is not barred here. I strongly object to the negative double. 3♣ would have much better described my hand last round, putting the proper focus on NT and diamonds.

Bell: 5♦. My first thought was to cuebid 4♣ and correct 4♠ to 5♦ as I love my controls. I think that might be overly encouraging to partner holding ♠AJxx ♥Axx ♦KQJxxx ♣-- or something similar.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

President. Jay has made great contributions to the ACBL – most notably providing – at no benefit to Jay - a fantastic system used by District 23 for enabling regional players to quickly see their results. A major argument made in Orlando for changing the Education Foundation structure was to separate the Education

Foundation from the ACBL board. Jay is also on the ACBL board of directors and as chair of the strategic committee of the ACBL presented plans in Kansas City for a strategic partnership with the Ed Foundation.

Several groups in District 23 have noted a delay in review of Education Foundation grant requests. Now that the new Education Foundation organization is in place I feel

certain that grant request backlogs will be addressed. A couple district members asked me about the \$50 million dollars that were projected to be raised by the new organization. I have no update on how much progress has been made toward the \$50 million goal.

I can be reached at: klaned23@gmail.com

<http://bridgewebs.com/acbl23/>

2

IMPs
no vul

S	W	N	E
1♣	1♥	1♠	4♥
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠K4 ♥K ♦AJ65 ♣AKJ654
 What call do you make?

Lolli: Dbl. Partner did bid, so he should have a little something to help out. The only other call is pass, but I think that is too chicken.

Grabel: Dbl. Shows values, plus it's the most flexible call.

Bell: Dbl. This just shows extra values with no clear direction. Another possible action is to bid 4NT showing 6-4 in the minors. That eliminates letting

the opponents play 4♥X or partner bidding 4♠ with a hand such as ♠AJTxxx ♥xxx ♦Kxx ♣x

Lee: Dbl. Seems like a non-problem.

If double after three suits have been bid is clearly value showing, then, yes, this isn't much of a problem. Will partner think we have more defense and less offense than we actually have? Last word goes to Mike.

Shuster: 4♠. Our most likely game. There is still room to arrive in six of an alternative strain. Double should be business here, with three suits having already been named and partner having shown extra length in spades. But even for die-hard convertible values players, it isn't like double shows 4-6 in the minors. Partner will still need to guess well, and all the double will accomplish will be to shift the blame across the table.

3

IMPs
NS vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠J4 ♥KT94 ♦T8765 ♣Q2
 What call do you make?

Lolli: Pass. I know it's much easier to pass on paper than at the table, but I have nowhere to go. Partner is also at the table, but what is he doing if he has a lousy hand? So I pass.

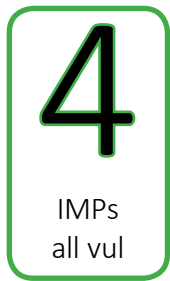
Lee: Pass. If nobody is doing anything too strange, then it sounds like RHO is 4-5-3-1 and LHO is 3-2-3-5. Thus, this hand shouldn't play too well for them, and we can't make anything anyway.

Shuster: Pass. Partner's most likely shape is 4-2-2-5, and I think we have a better shot at 6 tricks with hearts trump than even 7 tricks in a minor fit. RHO is probably 4-5-3-1 or 4-5-4-0, so clubs are coming under a wicked bad break. A 4-2 spade fit might escape the axe though. I'm somewhat thankful you didn't ask about what I'd lead (low from a black suit). Also, shoot partner *[aren't you glad guns are barred at bridge*

tournaments?] for lurking and balancing in a non-fit auction at IMPs. That is not on my list of recommended strategies. *[I'll echo that sentiment! The last time my partner made a strange double like that I thought it was penalties after the opponents had bid three suits without finding a fit. I left the double in and declarer was cold for 9 tricks. We had a good spot to play. All I had to do to get our side to our best spot was to remove the double to my shortest suit!]*

Grabel: Pass. Defensive prospects are reasonable and offensive prospects are dreary.

Bell: 2♠. Partner should have five spades and probably 4-5 clubs. *[Partner might have only four spades if they don't play Flannery.]* I'll opt for the sure 7-card fit. I wouldn't remotely consider converting the double for penalty at IMPs.



South	West	North	East
?	1♣	Pass	3♣*

* weak

You, South, hold:
 ♠A ♥KQJ4 ♦AJT763 ♣KQ
 What call do you make?

Lee: Dbl. I'm correcting 3♠ to 4♦ to show suitability for hearts. This is a great hand but the auction suggests game is unlikely unless partner has four hearts. If partner corrects 4♦ to 4♠, we're going to go minus, but that's a risk we have to accept.

Shuster: 4♥. In honor of Marshall, as this call is pretty much indefensible. *[I missed an opportunity here. I should have made the problem MPs to see if I could attract heart bidders. The late Marshall Miles often overcalled four card major suits with a longer minor suit in reserve. He wrote a book about the advantages of four card overcalls. It was often entertaining to watch from the dummy as defenders struggled to ascertain Marshall's distribution. Invariably when defenders scrunched up their faces because their inferential counts on the hand didn't work, it was because Marshall had overcalled a four card suit. He frequently survived situations that he shouldn't have.]*

Three panelists selected 4♦ as their call. That's great, except there are three different intended meanings, all of which make sense depending on partnership understandings. Tim intends his 4♦ call in an old-fashioned standard sense, showing a very good hand with diamonds. Virtually everyone would have played this way up until a few years ago. The invention of Leaping Michaels and corollary conventions made

jumps in situations like this become two-suited. Ross intends his 4♦ bid to be diamonds and a major. This is currently a common agreement among experts. Leo intends his 4♦ call as diamonds and hearts (a 4♣ bid would be spades and a red suit). This is the treatment I prefer. It is a corollary of Jeff Goldsmith's treatment over 3♣ opening bids, which was published in the June 2007 Bridge World.

Lolli: 4♦. Although it's a big bid, it still feels inadequate. I'm hoping for a miracle in the next bid if I get a chance.

Grabel: 4♦. I don't know whether I would throw this at partner at the table, but it seems that it should be diamonds and a major. We know partner has at least five spades. With four-plus hearts he can afford to bid 4♥ as a pass or correct. *[Why wouldn't partner bid 4♥ with three of them, hoping that the other suit is at least five cards in length?]* With diamond support and less than four hearts, he can bid four spades as pass or correct.

Bell: 4♦. In my methods, this shows diamonds and hearts, usually at least 5-5. With controls in the other suits, we might survive a 4-3 heart fit. In my opinion, bidding 3♦ is wimpy and my hand isn't suitable for a takeout double.

Looking for a Club?

Check out <https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

All clubs in Los Angeles are listed. You can look up all the game times, locations, and contact info.

5

IMPs
all vul

S	W	N	E
	1♠	2♦	2♠
P	3♦	3♥	P
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠KT74 ♥2 ♦K ♣J976532
 What call do you make?

Lolli: Pass. I'm not doubled yet, so I go peacefully. If they double, I'll retreat to 3NT. Nightmare hand! *[One of the things I like about Tim as a panelist is his common sense, down-to-earth approach to bidding. Here, I think that leaving partner in a likely four-one fit is asking for trouble. Playing 3♥ undoubled looks like a disaster.]*

Grabel: 4♦. Partner will be 6-4 or 7-4. With 6-5 he would have started with a Michaels 2♠. and with 6-4 he might have doubled at either or both turns. It all points to a more distributional hand.

Bell: 4♦. I don't think we're going to play it there, and I want partner to lead a diamond, so I can either give partner a club ruff or lead a heart through.

Lee: 4♣. It's sort of a guess whether 4♣ or 4♦ is better, but partner will go back to diamonds sometimes when that is better. 3NT is not a bid to me. *[If Bob Hamman's partner wants no part of 3NT, how good can it be?]*

Shuster: 3NT. I have spades and clubs stopped and a diamond pusher. This should be an overwhelming favorite to make. *[3NT looks very optimistic to me. Partner will need ♦AQJxxxx and the ♥A or the ♣A to make 3NT a favorite.]*

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org

Next Month's Problems

What call do you, South, make?

1. IMPs, no vul

S	W	N	E
	Pass	1♣	Pass
1♠	Pass	2♣	2♥
?			

You, South, hold: ♠AQ42 ♥Q43 ♦A42 ♣654

2. IMPs, no vul

S	W	N	E
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dbl	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	3♥	Pass	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠AKJ2 ♥AJ2 ♦-- ♣AKQJT4

3. IMPs, no vul

S	W	N	E
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠AK ♥43 ♦AQ9832 ♣AJ9

4. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
	1♠	Pass	3♠*
?			

*limit raise

You, South, hold: ♠-- ♥K43 ♦AJ64 ♣KQ9876

5. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
2♣	Pass	2♦*	2♠
?			

* Waiting. Does not show values, denies a five card suit with 2 of the top 3 honors

You, South, hold: ♠K4 ♥AQ97 ♦AKT95 ♣AQ