

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Losing the Battle by Mike Marcucci



Folks love to discuss things when getting together. A great difference in people is whether the discussions are leading anywhere or whether they are just meant to entertain. A book could be written on such differences. When bridge players get together, the conversation gravitates to hands they've played, bids that haven't worked out, favorite restaurants, director incidents, and, once in a while, why the crowds aren't as large as the "old days". They then may even move on to personal solutions for getting those crowds back.

Who does not have an opinion on this? Between ACBL trying to figure this out and every bridge player who has ever had his favorite beverage in hand also trying to figure things out, we have no shortage of opinions! But what good are such conversations? They entertain us for certain. Laughing is involved and toasts are made to our favorite bridge gods to improve our cards, but are there any positive results or actions to solve those problems? Some outstanding examples are around of special efforts by special people but mostly not. They are left to other folks to solve. But what if a person really wanted to be part of the solution?

FYI, ACBL membership rose from 10K (thousand) in 1945 to a peak of about 200K in 1976. It crept down to 170K by 1995 and has stayed within about 5K of that total since then. We have had roughly the same number of ACBL members for more than 20 years. Our District in LA roughly followed the same curve, peaking out at 10K in 1975 and now remaining around 3500 for the same 20 years.

What to do – what to do? It may depend on
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District Director Report June 2018

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



Clubs are the lifeblood of the ACBL.

Three years ago when I was elected District Director I phoned a wide variety of well-informed bridge administrators, volunteers, and former ACBL employees. The strong consensus of these experts was that: "clubs are the lifeblood of the ACBL" and that "our first three priorities should be clubs, clubs, clubs." Others noted the importance of teachers in promoting bridge.

ACBL headquarters has made clubs a higher priority in the past year. But headquarters is limited in what they can do for clubs by the resources and attention the board of directors places on clubs. Tournaments serve an important segment of the bridge population, but the strategic goal of member growth necessarily relies on clubs.

The ACBL needs healthy clubs. The ACBL needs growing clubs. The ACBL needs owning a bridge club to be a good deal.

Unfortunately, the ACBL is not organized in a way that places a priority on the health of clubs. Clubs
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motivation. Do you WANT to do anything or is it all just idle conversation? Let's suppose that you desire to make an effort at trying to help. Lots of folks think they can't make a difference so why try?

I recently had a chance to visit Budapest. Yes – the one which is really 2 cities and whose pronunciation is actually “Pesht” for that side of the river. I have many pics of the river if anyone is interested next week in Long Beach. Why is this relevant to a bridge discussion? Many folks will tell you that Budapest is a very special city on anyone's travel list. The reasons are varied and many and may depend on personal experiences, but one thing is undeniable. The buildings of the city are, far and away, more like downtown Washington, DC than most other cities in the surrounding countryside. Lots of granite and marble all around. And the restoration of these buildings from WWII damage and general aging continues steadily. From listening to many local discussions (no trouble at all getting around in English), I got the distinct impression that the city's attitude toward building things was to make them last 1000 years. The multitude of bridges over the Danube and most of the buildings in town looked exactly like that purpose was being accomplished! When the Hungarians build something, they want it to last generations. I like that a lot. On the other hand, despite what you may have heard, the Danube is not blue.

If we can revert our thoughts back from wonderful vacations to the issue at hand! It comes down to the issue of “short term” vs “long term” for our hobby to grow out of the numbers doldrum. There is something that every one of us can do!

There are 100+ reasons why ACBL is not growing. One of them seems to be newer players not sticking with the game. Lots of folks start the game. My Unit had 10 new members this month! Where do they go? We cannot help those folks who decide they don't like the game itself. We can help our issue with those players who we drive away ourselves!

I believe our 299r's & 499r's are still hesitant about playing in anything but Gold Rush events. They seem to head right for Gold Rush Pairs and are oblivious to our other team games, which are so much fun. They are especially afraid of those “open” games. Why? From my discussions with newer players who are thinking of moving on to other hobbies, most of them get very discouraged by the attitudes of senior

players during play. Sometimes downright rudeness, dismissiveness, insults, comments on “errors” of play, loud director calls, intimidation, etc., etc. I'm not saying this is prevalent, only that it sometimes takes only a single instance for a sensitive person to be appalled to the point of not coming back. Right there, we have lost the battle, folks.

What can YOU do to help solve this life-changing encounter & change it to a positive? Help stamp out that kind of behavior at the table. If you see it in a partner, try to talk about behavior along with those playing errors that seem more important. We need to think “long-term” and take positive steps so that NO beginning player experiences an “event” at your table. We do not want the topic of post-game conversation to be anything negative → bad for them, bad for us, bad for ACBL, bad for our game! If we want our wonderful game to grow, it comes from good experiences at the table against YOU. We cannot do much about all those high-level issues that require studies and action items and money, but we can do something at our daily-life level. Be a Hungarian – think Pesht! What can YOU do about it?

How about saying Hi to your opponents when arriving and thanking them when leaving the table? How about carefully and politely shifting that BridgeMate around so that your opponent can see the result and approve it, and not throwing it at him. How about complimenting the opponent after a “fix” and smiling at the irony rather than complaining to your partner about such luck? Need I go on? If we use our imaginations, we can think of all sorts of ways to be nice!

Coincidentally, there is an opportunity to do some good right at our front door. Our Long Beach Regional starts 2 July (just as you are reading this column, hopefully), and we will be sitting down with many sets of lovely opponents just itching to double your contracts. Let's try to separate ourselves from the results and pay attention to making this a fantastic social experience for all players by doing those little things that we CAN control at and away from the tables. We will all benefit in the long term. If I start throwing Hungarian terms at you this week, you'll know what I mean! ☺ See you there.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

are not a formal part of the ACBL “organizational structure.” Instead, bridge clubs – like units and districts - are an independent collection of organizations that work with the ACBL. In business terms, clubs are “stakeholders.” Clubs do not directly elect any members of the board of directors.

When I joined the board our activities were narrowly focused on headquarters needs. Several of us on the board made a successful push for a broader view of our duties as “the welfare of bridge as a whole” rather than the health of the ACBL organization. We want the ACBL to improve the bridge “ecosystem” - units, districts, clubs and casual bridge players who have no affiliation at all with the ACBL.

We’ve made progress on raising the visibility of clubs, but it’s a continuing challenge, especially as the board searches for a new leader for our organization. Last year I chaired the club task force, but committees and task forces are formed by the leader of the board of directors, and this year that leader chose not to form a club committee.

One of the central challenges the board faces is to develop programs that are mutually beneficial to both clubs and the ACBL as a whole. The cooperative advertising program (CAP) is a good example.

Agile Bridge Club in Hermosa Beach and others in our district used the CAP program to grow members.

Three years ago, the board voted to reduce the reimbursement for CAP to 50%. The ACBL wants to figure out how to support the clubs that were successfully using CAP to grow membership while at the same time managing costs so that the CAP program isn’t purely a giveaway to other clubs that aren’t as successful with their CAP expenditures.

It’s a real challenge not just for CAP but for all programs aiming to reward clubs for growing ACBL membership. We’re working on it though because growth will come from clubs not from headquarters.

Feel free to contact me at klane23@gmail.com

Looking for a Club?

Check out

<http://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

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

Too Much Time On His Hands!

Well, folks, there’s some white space to fill here, so here goes. While driving to a recent club game, the thought occurred to me, “how many meanings can a call of “diamonds” have? I came up with the following. In no particular order:

1. I have diamonds.
2. I have 0-1 diamond. (splinter, response to Jacoby 2NT, control cue bid)
3. Tell me more. (4th suit forcing)
4. Waiting response to 2♣ opening bid
5. I have diamonds and hearts. (Brozel)
6. I have diamonds and a major. (DONT)
7. I have either hearts, or spades and clubs (Suction)
8. I have long hearts. (Jacoby / Texas transfer)
9. I have long spades. (Namyats)
10. I have one ace. (ordinary Blackwood)
11. I have no aces. (Gerber)
12. Tell me how many key cards you have, not counting the ♦A. (Exclusion Blackwood)
13. I have the ♦A.
14. I have one king. (ordinary Blackwood)
15. I have no kings. (Gerber)
16. I have the ♦K and the queen of trumps. (RKC Blackwood)
17. I don’t have a four card major. (ordinary Stayman)
18. I don’t have a five card major, but I have at least one four card major. (puppet Stayman).
19. I have five cards in my major, and maybe four in the other. (new minor forcing)
20. I have four spades and five hearts. (Flannery).
21. I have 19-21 HCP, balanced. (Mexican 2♦)
22. I have 0-3 HCP. (step response to 2♣)
23. I have 0-8 HCP. (negative response to a strong 1♣)
24. I have 0-1 controls. (control-showing response to 2♣ opening)
25. I have 4-4-4-1 (or 4-4-5-0) shape. (mini-Roman 2♦)
26. I have an opening bid, but neither 6 clubs nor 5 clubs + 4 card major. (Precision 1♦)
27. I have a limit raise (or better) for your suit. (unassuming cue bid)
28. I have hearts and spades. (Hamilton)
29. I have 4 trumps and limit raise values. (two-way Drury)
30. I have 4 trumps and 7-9 (or 10-12) support points. (Bergen raises)
31. I have some lousy diamonds. – can you help? (long suit game try)
32. Do you have the trump queen? (5♦ bid after 5♣ response to RKCB)
33. I have an enormous hand, and my RHO opened 1♦. (OK, OK, no one plays this way any more ... but they used to, long ago!)

I’m sure there are others, especially for more advanced / adventurous players. 33 seems quite enough, though!

District 23 Rank Changes May 2018

Junior Master

Carroll H. Anawalt
 Pauline Annakin
 Karmen Armoudjian
 John F. Cliby
 Marjorie Fierstadt
 Evelyn Handler
 David Harris
 Diane Harris
 John Isaacs
 Joanne L. Moser
 Stephen Richards
 Sherry C. Warmuth

Club Master

Ray Fisher
 Bette S. Gordy
 Ruth J. Lerner
 Clark Lukens
 Robert McMahon
 Sandra J. Schlosser
 June Siegel

Club Master

Jack Tabbush
 Lynne Weiss
 Yueqiang Xue

Sectional Master

Assad Amiri
 Burzin Engineer
 Robin C. Hill
 Linda Lin
 Nancy L. Rosser

Regional Master

Ginger Boykin
 Herb Garfinkel
 Marilyn M. Henschel
 Brigitte A. Prince

NABC Master

John P. Janus
 Lucy Zhang

Life Master

Joerg Rottenbacher
 Judith C. Tomic

Bronze Life Master

David M. Jones
 Karen K. Olin
 Joerg Rottenbacher

Silver Life Master

Robert J. Adam
 Julio Cervantes
 Barbara J. Horn

Ruby Life Master

Torrence D. McGough

Gold Life Master

Constance J. Fishbach
 Tammy L. Purkin

Diamond Life Master

Joan H. Rubin

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Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

May 27 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Pat and Bob Adam, 2nd Arthur and Dominique Moore, 3rd Liang Fan/Dalia Hernandez, 4th Anne Croul/Arne Lier, 5th Renee Hoffman/Jean Matz. In the B flight overalls Betty Witteried/Christine Frumen were 3rd, Rob Preece/Usha Bansal 4th, Kay Tseng/Fred Willbanks 5th. In the C flight overalls Jerry Reid/Rosalie Storc were 1st. And in the 199er game Katharine Seibert/Lillian Slater were 1st, Judy Cook/Ted Dowe 2nd, Allene Buchanan/News Fake 3rd. Congratulations to all!

70+% GAMES May 16 through June 15: In open games: May 16 Colleen Gardner/John Melis had 72.92%, May 27 Bob and Pat Adam had 71.11%, May 31 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger had 72.45%, and June 5 Kay Tseng/John Melis had 72.44%. In the Pro-Am game June 4 Russ Gray/Judith Hirsch had 73.17% and John Hagman/Lyn Kraatz had 71.67%. Congratulations to all six pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS May 16 through June 15: In the unit game May 27 Pat and Bob Adam won 3.65mp for 1st. In other open games: June 5 John Melis/Kay Tseng won 4.67mp for 1st, Ted Gibbs/Steve Mager 3.50mp for 2nd. June 8 Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi won 4.52mp for 1st, Jo and John Melis 3.39mp for 2nd. June 9 Usha Bansal/Kiyo Nagaishi won 3.21mp for 1st. June 11 Baum Harris/Loren Hilf won 3.79mp for 1st. June 12 John Melis/Kay Tseng tied with Hank Dunbar/Rob Preece for 1st over-all, each winning 4.09mp. June 13 James Nicola/Phil Feldman won 3.50mp for 1st. And June 14 Cory Hand/George Welsh won 3.21mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: Linda Hanley, Charles Theole, Richard Hull. Collins. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Sectional Master: Lillian Slater. New Bronze Life Master: Usha Bansal. Congratulations to you both!

GET WELL WISHES TO Bob Bakovic, Pamela Cole and John Bralliar.

CONDOLENCES to the families and friends of Bev Shafer who passed away last month.

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

June 17: Swiss Team Game: 12:30pm. Extra points, regular card fees.
June 24: Unit Game: 12:30pm. \$8 card fees; dessert served (no lunch)
June 26-30: North American Pairs. Extra points, \$11 card fees
July 2-8 District 23 Regional Tournament at Long Beach Hilton. Most regularly cheduled LBBC games will still take place, except for Weds eve game July 4.
July 9: 9:30am: New class session begins.
July 9: 12:30--Instant Matchpoint game
July 22: Unit Game: 12:30pm. \$8 card fees; dessert served (no lunch)

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD BRIDGE CLUBS- Judy Carter-Johnson

June 15, 2018

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME:

Clubhouse #1—May 18: Larry Slutsky/Bill Linskey 1 in A. Ellen Kice/Russell Gray 2 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Joan Tschirki/Fred Reker 3 in A. Jeanette Estill/Marilyn McClintock 4 in A. Jane and Jerry Reid 5 in A, 2 in B, 2 in C. Sharon Beran/Sibyl Smith 6 in A. Barbara Harris/Jean Kato 3 in B. Joyce Basch/Dorothy Favre 4 in B. Sue Fardette/Linda Stein 5 in B. Louise Seifert Stan Johnson 3 in C. Marlene McIlroy/Ted Cooper 4 in C.

UNIT RATED GAME: Clubhouse #3---June 14: Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 1 in A. Sue Fardette/Larry Slutsky 2 in A. Joyce Henderson/Rob Preece 3 in A. Carol Murakoshi/Diane Sachs 4 in A. Hanefi Erten/Oliver Yildiz 5 in A. Judith Jones/Al Appel 6 in A. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 1 in C.

Cooie Dampman/Dorothy Favre 1 in B. George Alemshah/Martin Lipman 2 in B. Joan/Wieber 3 in B, 2 in C. Carolyn Byrnes/Larry Topper 4 in B. Melanie and Jerry Smith 5 in B. Barbara Wallace/Bill Dilks 6 in B, 3 in C. Winnie Warga/John Hagman 4 in C.

REMINDER: ACBL classifies Leisure World bridge games as “invitational” meaning non-resident guests must secure an advance reservation. Games are held on Monday/Thursday at clubhouse #3 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Monday—Midge Dunagan (562) 594-9686. Thursday—Cookie Pham (562) 431-6453. Phone number for clubhouse #3--Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner--After 12:00 noon: (562) 481-7368. Games are also held on Friday/Saturday at clubhouse #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday— We are taking applications for a Reservation Person for THURSDAY!! Cookie is resigning as of July 9. Saturday—Judith Jones (714) 840-2300— (between 9am and 9pm only!) or mikrojones@aol.com. Any news for next month's column, please e-mail me at jcj90740@gmail.com Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pomona –
Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Unit Game: Saturday, July 21, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Individual: Saturday, July 14, 9:30 a.m., Claremont

Yes, that's right, the monthly Individual game has been postponed one week. There's some other event going on which interferes with our usual date .. you may have noticed. It's our District's Bridge Week Regional, of course.

The top finisher in the June Individual was Clint Lew, with a whopping 70.8% game. Looking up at him in the standings were Richard Patterson and Roger Boyar, tying for second, Steve Mancini, and Linda Tessier.

Speaking of the Individual, Roger Boyar wishes it noted that his score in the April game was a whopping 72.1%.

The June Unit game was captured by Penny Barbieri – Rosalie Roberts, at 63.6%. Behind them we find Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry, and a tie between Chuck Lohr – David Ochroch and Fredy and Lulu Minter.

We were able to hold three games on the longest day, raising \$895 for the Alzheimer's Association. Avice Osmundson – Kiran Kumar took the morning game; Clint Lew – Vic Sartor won in the afternoon, and Fredy and Lulu Minter took the evening game. All the results are posted on both the ACBL web site, and our Unit web site.

The top game this past month was 70.1%, by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Others topping the 60% mark this month included Vic Sartor, Joe Unis, Clint Lew, Gino Barbieri, Margie Hall, Penny Barbieri, Steve Mancini, Herb Stampfl, Roger Boyar, and Yours Truly. Others atop the leader board were Chuck Lohr, David Ochroch, Karen Olin, Mary Miller, Kurt Trieselmann, and Ken Bloomfield.

We are back in the promotion doldrums. I'm sure this will change after Bridge Week.

The theme of our Hand of the Month is once again one of those “what now?” deals. No one vulnerable, you pick up:

♠ AKJ982 ♥ 7 ♦ Q ♣ AQ1054

Dealer, at your right, opens 1♣. You say 1♠, LHO calls 2♦, partner passes (as usual). Opener rebids 3♣. And you?

Double would be takeout, and you surely do not want to play in a 4-1 or even 5-1 heart fit. 3♠ would be unilateral. So you must pass, n'est pas?

3♣ buys the hand. You lead ♠A, and dummy comes down with

♠ Q1074 ♥ A10 ♦ KJ965 ♣ 6

Partner discards a nondescript diamond on your ♠A! Yay! You lead the ♠2, partner ruffs, and (as requested), partner returns a diamond. Only ... it's the ♦A! Your ♦Q prompts partner to play another one. Unfortunately, declarer pitches his 3rd spade while you ruff. You lead your heart, won in dummy. Declarer leads another heart, intending to win the ♥K and then ruff a heart ... but you ruff! When the dust settles, it is down 4, +200 to you and a top score. Most other pairs

were in 3 or 4 spades, down some number. Yes, yes, the temptation to bid again with this monster is almost overwhelming. Be whelmed. If partner had something, she would have said something. Other than all the missing diamonds (6 of them, if you counted), she has nothing for you. IF you can stop in 2♠, it can make. Hard to get there over 3♣, though.

Quote for the month: “There are only so many shapes into which you can carve a block of marble; once the sculptors have made the best ones, their successors face a choice between dull imitation and puerile experiment. The same applies to all the arts, the sciences, and the permutations of human relationships. (from *The Long Way Home*, by Poul Anderson)



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

This year’s Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 22nd and 23rd at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. For more information, contact tournament chair, Gay Gipson (gegipson@gmail.com).

Congratulations to our top 2 winners in the World Wide Bridge Contest on Friday, June 1st:

Kathy Swaine and Rand Pinsky were top in our club with 70.37% and 47th in the world with 66.48%

Kathy Flynn and Bob McBroom with 2nd in our club with 67.78% and 41st in the world with 66.87%.

Worldwide Bridge Contest, Friday June 1:

1 st	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	70.37%
2 nd	Kathy Flynn – Robert McBroom	67.78%
3 rd	Hal Underwood – Beth Morrin	55.93%
4 th	Bill Brodek – Paula Olivares	54.07%
5 th	Phoebe Evans – Les Spitz	53.33%

Unit 556 participated in the week-long Longest Day Event by holding 4 games during the week of June 18th to June 22nd and raised approximately \$450 in donations. Kathy Swaine and Rand Pinsky held a raffle on Monday for a \$50 gift certificate to the Bonefish Grill in Valencia that was

won by Ron Oest and contributed \$175 to the Alzheimer’s Association.



Ron Oest and Kathy Swaine

The Longest Day Results:

Monday Morning game at the Friendly Bridge Club (Santa Clarita):

1 st for N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	68.88%
1 st for E/W	Bill Brodek – Paula Olivares	63.14%

Monday Afternoon game at the Friendly Bridge Club:

1 st for N/S	Ted Maki – Lamonte Johnson	58.59%
1 st for E/W	Roy Ladd – Bert Stock	63.14%

Tuesday Evening game at the Valencia Bridge Studio (Santa Clarita):

1 st for N/S	Ted Maki – Lamonte Johnson	61%
1 st for E/W	Elaine Moore – Tom Shudic	59.5%

Friday Afternoon game at Joshua Tree Bridge Club (Palmdale):

Tied for 1 st /2 nd	RobertMcBroom – David White	56.94%
	Carol Underwood – Hal Underwood	56.94%
3 rd	Paula Olivares – Aggi Oschin	56.25%

Upcoming Events:

Instant Matchpoint Game, Monday, July 9th, 12:30 PM at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

Next Board meeting:

Tuesday, July 17th at 5:30 PM at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

August 18: Unit 561 Luncheon/Game

Unit 561 will host a Luncheon and Game on Saturday, August 18, at the 750 Club, 5700 Rudnick Ave, Woodland Hills. Catered deli-sandwiches will be served buffet style at 12noon, followed by an Open, Stratified game at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$13 and reservations are requested. A sign-up sheet will be available at the 750 Club or email Marcia Broderick at mm16227@aol.com for reservations/partnerships.

Results of the Carol Lang Memorial Game

The annual Carol Lang Memorial Game was held on Friday, June 8, at The 750 Club. This was in celebration of the 12th Anniversary of The 750 Club that was established in 2006 by the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike. Current Club owners, Bill and Terry Morton, provided a delicious catered Italian lunch. Unit 561 Board Members provided the desserts. There were twenty-six tables of bridge, ably directed by Terry Morton and assisted by Herb Zweig and MJ Jubelirer.

The overall winners were the EW pair of Sheila Singer – Jerry Shapiro with a 64.37% game. Their names will be engraved on the Carol Lange Memorial plaque and they each will receive a certificate of achievement. Other winners were: NS -- Norman Bloomfield – James Gardner 63.25%, Jeffrey Hartmann – Beverly McLeod 61.71%, Carol Bell – Laura Weingart 59.38%, Melvin Kovnat – Jacqueline Kovnat 55.68%, and Gloria Feerst – Dennis Hill 55.46%; EW -- Michael Wiener – Ron Stewart 58.58%, John Tickner – William Raff 57.33%, Yoshie Bell – Phillip Calloway 56.95%, and Alan Golden – Jerry Rose 56.09%.

Special Congratulations

May Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Dwight Hunt 11.56, Susan Raphael 11.02, Mike Klemens 10.82, Ray Primus 8.33, Gary Baxley 7.00, Jerry Goodman 6.93, Phil Jones 6.39, Alan Golden 6.08, Ravnesh Amar 5.72, and Helen Malzer 5.56. The following achieved 70% games in May: Rich Ruby –

Joanne Meyer 73.29%, Jerry Goodman – Dwight Hunt 72.51%, and Mike Klemens – Dwight Hunt 71.53%.

July 17: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, July 17. Dinner is \$20 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 "Taste of Tuscany" dinner. For reservations and/or partnerships contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

July Events at The 750 Club

During the weeks of July 2 – 13, all The 750 Club games will be held in the Family Center since the Church will be using the usual bridge room for their Vacation Bible School. The Family Center is the A-frame building on Rudnick Ave., just north of the Church. The 750 Club will be open on Wednesday, July 4 (Independence Day) for the 11 a.m. game. Expect fireworks at the bridge table! STaC games will be held during the week of July 16 – 20. Silver points will be awarded to the winners and all STaC games are \$1 extra/person.

Calendar

Monday, July 2 – Friday, July 13, all The 750 Club Games will be held in the Family Center on Rudnick Ave.

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

Monday, July 16 – Friday, July 20, STaC games at The 750 Club. See details above.

Tuesday, July 17, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Saturday, August 18, 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

Unit Game: Friday, July 13, 11:30 AM
District 22,23 STAC: Monday July 16 thru Saturday July 21

Club Championships

On June 1 the Club Championship was won by Maurice Suhre/John Janus in Flights A and B with Sandy Rathbun/Jack Stewart capturing Flight C. The World Wide Bridge game on June 2 was led by Gaye Herrington/Lucy Gellner in Flight A with Sheryl Kohlhoff/Mark Raggio taking Flight B and Manzoor Ursani/Jack Stewart ahead in Flight C.

Team Winners

June 5: CVal Gamio, John Jones, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

June 12: Tie: Kim Wang, Bruce Horiguchi, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

Gerri Carlson, Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

June 19: 3 Way Tie:

CVal Gamio, John Jones, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

Carole Mason, Kim Wang, Luis Gamio, Mike Savage

Gerri Carlson, Mary Ann Coyle, Ray Mack, John J. McDermott

In Memorium

We are very sad to report that two unit members Juanita Smith and my offtime partner in the past Dean Kaloudis passed away in the past month. Our condolences to their relatives

TSB Sectional

The Torrance South Bay Unit Sectional drew 124 Tables. Following is a list of Unit members (plus others) who won events at this tournament.

Saturday AM Junior Pairs: Bracket F Sue Reese / Wendy Meek

Saturday Afternoon Junior Pairs: Brackets DEF Jack Stewart / Norman Futami

Sunday AM Open Pairs: Flight A: Chiye and Bruce Horiguchi

Flight B: Sheryl Kohlhoff / Mark Raggio

Sunday AM Junior Pairs: Terry Hane / Ramani Ravikandan

Sunday Afternoon Open Pairs: 1B, 1C: Henry Crowder / Hank Sheehan

Sunday Afternoon Junior Pairs: 1D: Myron Mitzenmacher / Madge Weinstein

1E: Burzin and Zirak Engineer

Monday Open Swiss: Mike Savage, John J.

McDermott, Robert Shore, Kent Hartman

Monday Junior Swiss: Marlene Felix, Kathleen Shinkle, James Deflon, Joyce Field

GUV AWARD

The craziest hand I picked up this year was in a game at the Long Beach Bridge center a few months ago. It was the first board of the day and in fourth seat I held ♠Void, ♥AQJT987653, ♦Axx, ♣Void. The bidding proceeded 1♠ on my left, 3♣ by partner, 4♠ on my right. Well you and me and the world would bid 5♥. This is followed by 2 passes and 5♠ on my right.

My mother once told me if you have an 8 card suit you declare the hand. I can imagine what she would have said if you had a 10 card suit. So I bid 6♥. Two passes back to RHO who bid 6♠. I knew the ♥A wasn't cashing but figured my ♦A and a Club trick from pard would get us a set. So I doubled out of frustration. And I was right we got a Diamond and a Club for down 1. Partner has the ♣A and the 42 of Hearts. The ♥4 provided an entry for a Diamond pitch on the ♣A so 6♥ makes. I was surprised when we actually got 10 matchpoints on this hand.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

Farewell, Cecil

By now, many of you have probably heard that Cecil Cook passed away in late May. Cecil had a remarkable career, both within bridge and in the real world. Not long after Cecil graduated from Iowa State with his degree in civil

engineering and married Beverly (his first and only wife, who survives him), Cecil joined the Navy where he served on active duty. After receiving his discharge, Cecil had a long career in the aerospace industry until he retired in 1989.

Cecil became a Life Master in 1964. He served as our District's representative on the National Board of Directors and in 1995 as President of the ACBL. Cecil also served on the Executive Council of the World Bridge Federation and spent many years as a member of the ACBL Hall of Fame Committee. Cecil was a member of our Unit Board until his passing.

No services were planned for Cecil, at his request. I understand, though, that his family intends a celebration of his life at his home from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 28. Details for the requested RSVP are posted at the Long Beach Bridge Club. Donations in Cecil's memory may be sent to the scholarship fund of Footlighters at MTW, 4350 E. 7th Street, Long Beach, California 90804 or to the ACBL Education Department, 6575 Windchase Boulevard, Horn Lake, Mississippi 38637.

The Big Event

Our District is now down to one regional per year. Bridge Week will take place at Long Beach, and will last from July 2 through July 8. As usual, it will start with a free lecture and a pro-am game with game time at 1:00 p.m. Monday. This is a great opportunity to play with an experienced partner, so please take advantage of it. And don't miss this one and only opportunity to collect a boatload of gold points without having to leave the County.

East Side, West Side, Uptown and Down

Quite a few tournament results to report this month. We'll start at the Denver Regional, where Saul Priefer brought home victories in both the Thursday Gold Rush Pairs and the Sunday Gold Rush Pairs. Not to be outdone, Mike Mikyska also scored a win in the Crestone Peak Open Pairs. Up at the Sacramento Regional, Judy Hyde was a winner in the Tuesday Open Pairs.

Mike Savage scored a hat trick at the South Bay Sectional, winning the Saturday morning and Saturday afternoon Open Pairs events, and dragging your Humble Scribe with him to victory in the Monday Open Swiss Teams. Marlene Felix contributed a win in the Monday Junior Swiss. Mike also teamed with Alex Kolesnik at the Glendale-Verdugo Sectional for a win in the Sunday A/X Swiss. Finally, Ifti Baqai won the Friday morning Open Pairs event at the Balboa Sectional, helping him tie as the top master point winner at that tournament.

California Dreamin'

Our July Regional in Long Beach, the only regional our District will hold this year, is approaching. As reported earlier in this space, the District was unable to continue holding the Glendale Regional because we simply incurred too big a loss. In your Humble Scribe's capacity as District Vice President (and with the approval of the District's Executive Committee), we have begun exploring with District 22 the possibility of teaming with them to add another local tournament. The bottom line, however, is that no one will want to sponsor a tournament that loses money, so robust attendance is key to our efforts to re-establish our tournament schedule. Show up at Long Beach to prove that this District has enthusiasm for regional bridge.

There are a few tournament results to report. Alex Kolesnik won the Friday morning Open Pairs event at the Camarillo Sectional. At Woodland Hills, James Hawkins won the Saturday morning Open Pairs event, and Pam Wittes won the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs. Mike Savage took home a win from the Saturday morning Open Pairs event at the Oceanside Sectional.

Around the Clubs

The clubs made up for lost time this month. We'll start at Barrington, where the Summer Bridge League will wrap up in time for the August report. I understand that a Fall League is planned for Beverly Hills. Keep an eye out for details. Scoring 70% games at Barrington were Les Rawitt and Bob Weingarten, Bill Schreiber

and Bella Feniger, Bill Schreiber and Pete Knee, Basant Shah and Jim Perkins, and Aram Bedros and George Wagner. Club champions last month at Barrington were Sheri Rivera and Aram Bedros, Pete Knee and Rob Perlsweig, Wayne Karson and Art Zail, Bill Schreiber and Pete Benjamin, Aram Bedros and Art Zail, and Rob Perlsweig and Pete Benjamin.

At Beverly Hills, the club champions were Rhoda and Lew Himmell (twice), Emma and Finn Kolesnik, Maria Pendergast and Rick Turner, Roman Sydorak and Neil Sherman, Valerie Aron and David Segal, Danny Kleinman and John Lu, Bob and Sandy Carroll, Zalman Perelman and Keith Miller, Farideh Sigari and Bill McClean, and Phyllis Kantar and Herb Ehrmann. Hitting the 70% mark were Jan Wickersham and Joel Schiff, Rob Perlsweig and Aram Bedros, Danny Kleinman and Sally Karbelnig, Walter Bodlander and Frank Neiman, and Brian Richardson and Delia Juul-Dam.

I'm still working on achieving consistent receipt of ACBL's new member and promotion reports. I continue to hope I'll be able to resume regular Welcome Wagon and Climbing the Ladder sections in this space. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are Gerry Bare, Jeff Goldsmith, Roger Lee, Jill Meyers,
Rick Roeder, Jon Wittes.

1

Matchpoints
N-S Vul

South West North East

3♦

???

You, South, hold: ♠KQ6 ♥KQ76 ♦A97 ♣J76

What call do you make?

This problem was given to me by Phil Feldman. Phil thought that pass, double and 3NT were all possible. He selected double, which worked well on the actual deal. I remember playing on a professional team in the San Diego Regional a couple of years ago and my partner Jacqui (Miss Iceland) McGreal faced a similar problem. She passed with 15 HCP. She defended perfectly, and the preemptor was down four. We lost IMPs on the board because the player with her cards elected to try 3NT. He caught a decent dummy and 3NT made. Chris Compton was one of our teammates and he was very emphatic on the hand: "Fifteen bids, fourteen passes"! My panel got five votes for double and one passer. Did they consider 3NT? Yes, all five of the panelists voting for double mentioned 3NT (the ♦9 makes 3NT more attractive, but the 4333 distribution reeks).

Goldsmith: Double. This is a violation of Hamman's Rule, but the hand just doesn't seem good enough for 3NT.

Lee: Double. There is too much downside in 3NT at this form of scoring. Pass is not a real consideration.

Meyers: Double. This is not a bidding problem to me. I don't have enough diamonds (or a source of tricks or enough HCP) to bid 3NT and I am not passing. If partner has a major it seems a better shot than 3NT.

If we belong in 3NT, should it be from our side?

Bare: Double. Minimum for 3NT and could wrong side 3NT.

Wittes: Double. My lack of distribution is tempered by slight extras and very good cards in both majors. I don't like 3NT. If it's bid, it should be from partner's side.

Our lone dissenting panelist quotes Eric Hilliard Nelson, who flunked his Typing class while at Los Angeles High School.

Roeder: Pass. We are very unlikely to miss game if partner cannot balance. What are the odds of partner having 12-14 HCP, 3 diamonds and a making game? Quite small. For those who want to bid, I implore a listen to Ricky Nelson's 1963 crooning, "Fools Rush In where wise men fear to go."

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints None vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	???	3♣	3♥	pass
	You, South, hold: ♠AK102 ♥void ♦AK10865 ♣J74			
	What call do you make?			

This problem was given to me by Jim Nicola. Several panelists think that 4♦ (100% forcing) is easy.

Meyers: 4♦. What do you want me to bid? *You've won several world championships. You tell us what the best bid is!*

Roeder: 4♦. No problem yet. However, if partner rebids 4♥, *"The Big Hurt"* begins as we near the 60th anniversary of Miss Toni Fisher's classic. *A great song. It was the first song to use phasing or flanging. The effect was created accidentally when two tape recorders weren't in synch.*

Lee: 4♦. Someone must bid diamonds. 3♠ has some appeal since this hand may play (and score) well in a 4-3 and keeps 3NT in play, but I just think there is too much potential in diamonds, and partner may raise 3♠ with a doubleton on some problem hands.

Wittes: 4♦. Even with a heart void, I'm far too good not to make this bid. Occasionally partner has a diamond fit, and we're cold for a slam. If partner bids 4♥, I'll reluctantly pass.

Bare: 4♦. This will be followed by a guess over 4♥. My guess will be to pass if partner bids 4♥.

Goldsmith: 3NT. Partner pretty much must have something in clubs; if not, his hearts will be so good that he'll pull to 4♥. Unless he's Marshall, who calls a solid 8-card suit a fine dummy for 3NT. *Winner, winner chicken dinner! 3NT is the matchpoint winner on the actual hand.*

Jim courageously raised 3♥ to 4♥ with his void. He thinks 4♦ is just sidestepping the issue of whether to play 4♥ or not. On the actual hand it went pass, pass double (by a hand holding ♥AQ10xx) and Jim ran to 5♦, which made despite the defense negotiating a club ruff. Partner's 3♥ was not a thing of beauty holding: ♠Jx ♥KJ98xx ♦Qx ♣KQx. That hand is too soft and has way too much in clubs to entice me to bid 3♥. Note that a pass instead of 3♥ leads to an easy 3NT contract on the actual hand.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">3</h1> <p>Matchpoints N-S vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♠	pass	2♥	pass
	3♦	pass	3NT	pass
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠AK754 ♥Q10 ♦AQ754 ♣2</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

We have a nice hand, and 3♦ (a high-level reverse) has already shown extras. Do we pass or continue? If we continue is 4♣, 4♦ or 4♥ best?

Lee: Pass. This would not be a problem if you reversed the minors since partner would have the ability to show doubt with 3♦, but here partner was under a lot of pressure to bid 3NT. I defer to the form of scoring since it's easy to construct hands where we take the same (or more) tricks in NT, but 4♥ would be right if we just had a little more — I like it with ♥K10 and the same hand.

Does 4♥ now show two hearts or three hearts. Jeff argues for three hearts, but Rick says three hearts must raise immediately. I'm with Rick.

Goldsmith: Pass. Those hearts are very tasty, and entries might be a serious issue in 3NT (imagine ♠xx ♥KJ9xx ♦xxx ♣AKJ on a club lead), but I don't know partner has been dealt good heart texture. Some will claim that 4♥ here shows honor doubleton, but I think it promises a good 5-3-4-1.

Roeder: 4♥. I have enough extra that 4NT will offer reasonable play if partner chooses to flip it

back to 4NT. In matchpoints, 4NT by partner is to play in this auction once 3NT has been offered up as a resting spot. Passing 3NT is unreasonable for multiple reasons. Your chunky doubleton means slam is far from out of the question facing numerous minimum 2♥ bids. (♠xx ♥KJxxx ♦Kxx ♣AQx is a very minimum 2♥ bid with potential club wastage). Further, it is possible partner has only one club stopper. One reason I prefer 4♥ to 4♦ is that this unambiguously pinpoints that I have at most one club. Another reason 4♥ is descriptive is because that I have denied three card heart support by not supporting hearts on the previous round.

Wittes: 4♥. Should show honor doubleton in hearts and a very good hand. Even the ten of hearts is a very good card.

Meyers: 4♥. That pretty much tells my story.

4♣ keeps diamonds, hearts and spades in the picture.

Bare: 4♣. This gives partner three choices at the four level.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">4</h1> <p>IMPs N-S vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	???	1♠	pass	3♠*
	* weak raise			
	You, South, hold: ♠973 ♥KQJ9742 ♦2 ♣K5			
What call do you make?				

This problem first appeared in an East Coast publication over a decade ago. The leading vote getter was 4NT. Some of the 4NT bidders thought that 4NT (normally two places to play) followed by 5♥ was a single suit slam try. Most of their 4NT bidders thought their 4NT was RKC. Fortunately, my panel was more alert. 4NT here is not Blackwood, but two places to play (normally both minors).

Some of my panelists reluctantly bid only 4♥, making certain the auction doesn't get away from them.

Lee: 4♥. This feels bad, but I don't have any convenient way to show this hand, and I'm very concerned partner will accept a heart slam try without three aces. 4♠ would be a great bid if it specifically showed hearts (since it allows partner to bid keycard), but I only play that way over hearts, not spades.

Goldsmith: 4♥. Without useful methods here, I'm going to guess partner doesn't have three aces and bid a practical 4♥. I could try 5♥, but in real life, partner might interpret this as demanding a slam with a spade control. I could try 4♠ followed by 5♥, but torturing partner like that is dangerous.

Even if he's on the same wavelength, he might accept with ♠x ♥A10xx ♦KQJx ♣AQJx. If I have the agreement that double followed by 4♥ is a slam try, I might try that, but with this North, I probably don't have that agreement, and with 1-3-(4-5), he might judge that we belong in a minor. As far as methods go, transfers would be nice (starting with double), or a Lebensohl-ish double would allow a slam try below 4NT.

Most of the panel try for slam, but there is disagreement which slam try is best.

Bare: 5♥. Partner should look to bid more with aces or a spade void. I would consider 6♥ except I think partner's choice should be pretty clear.

Roeder 5♥. Quel dommage! 4NT is not Blackwood here so this is the best I can do.

Meyers: 4♠. Over whatever partner does I will bid 5♥, if partner has three aces she had better raise me.

Wittes: 4♠. I'll follow with 5♥. Three bare aces for partner and we have a slam. Something like ♠x ♥Axx ♦KQxx ♣QJxxx, and the five level is too high.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>Matchpoints E-W vul.</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	???			1♥
	You, South, hold: ♠Q852 ♥875 ♦AQ ♣AKQJ			
	What call do you make?			

The same East Coast panel faced this hand. On the East Coast panel there were suggestions of double, pass, 1NT and 2♣. In this column last month Ifti Baqui suggested overcalling a four-card suit at the three-level on one hand. He would have been right on the actual hand. I commented that "I don't ever recall an expert overcalling a four-card suit at the three-level". However, Mark Bartusek reminded me that Marshall Miles loved to overcall four-card suits and would do so at high levels. Marshall would likely be a 2♣ bidder here, but my panel unanimously selected double, thinking that double was easy.

Bare: Double. Seems clear.

Lee: Double. This is not a bidding problem to me.

Roeder: Double. The inclusion of this problem can only mean one thing: Our esteemed moderator was being nostalgic for AI "What's the Problem?" Roth

Goldsmith: Double. What else? Make the ♣J the ♦J and this wouldn't be a problem.

This would have been a better problem if I had asked what their follow-up would be if partner responded 2♦ over their double. Two panelists dealt with the follow-up.

Wittes: Double. The only question is what do I do over 2♦? I would bid 2♥ and hope it doesn't get us in trouble.

Meyers: Double. I am not bidding 1NT. If partner bids 2♦, I pass.