

Southern California

Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



All Quiet on the Western Front

Another light month on the news front at the District level. We're making progress on setting up the Grand Slam Cup series in cooperation with other Districts, but there's still work left to do. This should be an event that players can and will get excited about. I'm hoping to schedule our next Board meeting in conjunction with the March Pasadena Unit Game, but that's something I need to clear with our erstwhile hosts, who haven't yet heard about my plan (because I haven't told them yet).

As I reported last month, to avoid conflict-of-interest issues, I deferred to our Vice President and Treasurer, Jan Wickersham and Stan Holzberg, to make the final decision on the law firm we'll use to protect District marks such as Bridge Week. They are entrusting the work to the firm where I'm a partner. I will use my access to hold down the expenses and billable hours to the bare minimum necessary to get the job done right.

One final issue has just come to my attention. Due to an unfortunate typographical error in a crucial e-mail address, it's going to be necessary to reprint our flyers for Bridge Week. (Local bridge clubs: please take note.) While we're at it, I'm going to discuss with our Tournament Committee whether it makes sense to revise our schedule. Our neighbors in District 22 have been demonstrating that the Bracketed Swiss format is enormously popular among the players who attend their tournaments. Perhaps we should revise our schedule to include some of those events ourselves.

Something you want me to know? Contact me at Bob78164@yahoo.com.

District Director Report

January 2020

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



Slimming down the board's work – the Transition Task Force

Last month I mentioned a San Francisco motion that was passed to move substantial segments of board responsibilities to groups such as ACBL management or committees composed of regular ACBL members/volunteers. The idea is to slim down the board by focusing board work on essential board duties.

Well, I have been placed on that committee – the Transition Task Force – and in fact, I am chairman. We will review of committees that are oriented to making bridge decisions – such as debating details of tournaments and events – rather than running a business, and we'll recommend a better way for those committees to operate.

It turns out I started this process a couple years ago with my successful motion to move the Masterpoint committee onto non-board volunteers. So,

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while I fully support efforts to streamline the board I emphasize that the future of bridge requires a savvy review of the ACBL's business model/strategy – not just a tweaking of how the board operates.

New spring NABC event

My only San Francisco motion passed creating a new event at the spring NABC just prior to the North American Pair finals. Several of us on the board want to see a greater focus on new players. NABC tablecounts are drifting downward, and it's not clear how much the card fee increases are responsible, but events for players that are not professionals seem to be thriving, and I hope to continue that trend.

The only disappointment in creating a new event is that I would like the ACBL to be creating more modern events, especially when they cater to newer players. I notice that chess tournaments are adapting their events to make them more time-efficient. The technology is available to make bridge events – notably Swiss events – much more dynamic, time-efficient and fun. Folks who've played bridge in Europe or Australia know that the ACBL lags in this area. And anyone who's waited around endlessly between Swiss rounds understands there's an opportunity.

The ACBL seems to be making some progress on the Swiss technology, but I would like to see a more modern outside-the-box approach to some chronic problems in running bridge clubs and bridge tournaments. Some old constraints from technology are breaking down and we should seize the opportunity.

Feel free to contact me at
klaned23@gmail.com

From the Director's Chair: *by Brian Richardson*



Bridge is NOT a game of secret messages between you and your partner. The opponents are entitled to know the meaning of ALL calls that

your partnership has made. There are several ways in which opponents can learn the meaning of a particular bid your partner has made, or the meaning of a series of bids your partnership has made. There are Alerts and Announcements which are mandatory requirements. Over and above those mandatory requirements, ethical bridge players adhere to the Principle of Full Disclosure. These players will often, if they are the declaring side, volunteer information about a bid, or bids, after the auction is finished, when they believe the meanings may not be known to the defenders.:

ALERTS

There are three types of Alerts which are mandatory.

Pre-Alert. This is required to be given before the commencement of the auction in the first board of the round, IF the partnership is using some unusual bidding or carding methods of which the opponents may be unaware. Some examples of instances which require a Pre-Alert are:

- Bidding systems that change with the vulnerability.
- Use of very light openings.
- Unusual carding methods, such as leading low from a doubleton.

Alert. This occurs during the bidding, and MUST be done by the partner of the player who has made the bid which requires an Alert. The ACBL Convention Card is a good source for deciding on which bids require an Alert. With very few exceptions, bids in RED on the Convention Card require an immediate Alert by the partner of the bidder.

The following bids, some of which are NOT in red on the convention card, require an Alert.

- Natural bids which have an unusual meaning must be alerted:
e.g. 1♠ - Pass - 2♣

If the 2♣ is both natural and forcing, promising at least a 3-card suit, NO Alert is required. However, if that bid is NOT forcing, or does not show a minimum of 3 cards in the suit, then an Alert is required.

- Bids that initially do NOT require an Alert, but do require an Alert as the bidding continues.
e.g. 1NT – P - 2♣ - P, 2♦/♥/♠ - P – 2NT

If the bidding sequence indicates that the 2♣ call may NOT have shown a 4-card major, an Alert is required AFTER the 2NT bid.

- Weak jump shifts when the opponents are not bidding

e.g. 1♣ - Pass - 2♥

If the 2♥ is strong and forcing to game NO Alert is required. If, however, the bid is weak, or invitational then an Alert is required.

- The first bid by Responder, which is conventional and beyond 3NT, needs to be Alerted, if it has a meaning which may be unknown to the opponents.

e.g. 1♥ - P - 4♦.

If 4♦ is a Splinter bid or some other conventional bid it requires an immediate Alert.

e.g. 1♣ - P - 4♣.

If the 4♣ bid shows anything other than a ♣ suit it requires an immediate Alert.

Delayed Alert. Once the Opener has had the chance to make a second bid, conventional calls above the level of 3NT do NOT require an immediate Alert. However, such calls MUST be alerted by the declaring partnership BEFORE the opening lead is selected.

e.g. 1♣ - P - 1♦ - P, 1♠ - P - 4♥

If the 4♥ bid is a Splinter, or some other conventional bid it does NOT require an immediate Alert but DOES require a Delayed Alert, after the auction is completed and BEFORE the opening lead is selected.

e.g. 1♣ - P - 1♥ - P, 2♥ - P - 4♣/♦/♠

If any of the above 4-level bids have a conventional meaning they require a delayed Alert.

How to Alert. If the game is using Bidding Boxes, the normal method is to touch the Alert card in a manner that can be seen by the opponents, and to say "Alert". If the game is using written bidding the correct method of indicating that your partner has made a bid which must be Alerted is to circle the written bid. If the game is using spoken bidding then YOU say "Alert" when your partner makes a bid which may require an explanation.

N.B. If you have alerted a call it is YOUR responsibility to make sure that the opponents have become aware that an Alert call had been made.

Which Bids Require an Alert. In relation to the Alert procedure, bids which are considered "natural" do NOT require an Alert. The following length requirements for an opening bid are considered "natural"

- Three or more cards in a minor suit.
- Four or more cards in a major suit.
- Four or more cards for an overcall at the one level and five or more for higher level overcalls.
- Five or more cards for a weak two-bid.
- Six or more cards for a weak three bid.

Most conventions require an Alert. However, because they are commonly used, the following conventions do NOT require an Alert:

- Stayman
- Strong, artificial 2♣ opening bids and ANY 2♦ response.
- Blackwood and Gerber and normal responses.
- Most cue-bids.
- Most doubles and redoubles.
- Most unusual 2NT overcalls.
- Conventional 2NT response to opening suit bids at the two-level.

There are a number of bids which appear in red on the Convention Card, which are often NOT alerted, when, indeed they require an Alert.

* 2♦/♥/♠. These opening bids do not require an Alert if they are weak, but if they are stronger than 11 High Card Points, in 1st, 2nd or 3rd seat they require an Alert

* 2♦ - P - 2♥. If the 2♥ is NOT forcing Opener must Alert.

* 1♠ - P - 3♠. If the 3♠ is weak, opener must Alert. This can occur if the partnership is playing Bergen.

* 1♦ - P - 1♥ - P, 1NT - P - 2♣. If the 2♣ is natural no Alert is required. However, if the bid is not natural, e.g. it is, say, a New Minor Forcing bid it must be alerted.

* P - P - 1♠ - P, 2♣/♦. If Opener's rebid shows a suit no Alert is required. However, if it is some form of Drury, or some other convention, it requires an Alert.

I did have one snarky objection though. My friend Jo “The Evil T-Shirt” Melis handed me a copy of the Play or Defend. She had written on the page, “I chose to defend, I lead a trump.” Yes, that defeats the contract; well analyzed. The problem with her answer is that the opening lead was given as part of the problem. (OK, she understood that, but given a chance to be contrarian and snarky, she took full advantage of it!)

The solution is on page 11.

...AND DO YOU PROMISE TO WATCH HER SIGNALS, TO RETURN HER OPENING LEAD, AND NOT OPEN 10 POINT HANDS?

Do not be overly impressed by the player who boasts he has been playing for 25 years. After all, 25 years' experience may be no more than one year's experience repeated 24 times. (Ron Klinger)

District 23 Rank Changes December 2019

Junior Master

Stephen E. Andersen
Raymond L. Coen
James R. Heltsley
Thomas E. Unterman

Club Master

Polly Bell
Rick Gonser
Charles L. Guinn
Evelyn Handler
Deneys Purcell

Sectional Master

Marsha J. Carey

Regional Master

Steven L. Anderson
Howard Rosen
Ellen Tarlow

NABC Master

Susan S. Koenig
Tam Lachoff
Carol A. Reuffoff
Gabe Rosenberg

Advanced NABC Master

J. Ross Bengel
Eddi Samandar

Life Master

Terry M. Binns
Judith P. Lorber
Linda C. Stuart
Barbara Wellisch

Bronze Life Master

Terry M. Binns
Hsuehching Chang
Ron Copley
Lidia Epelbaum
Judith P. Lorber
Nancy Raiche
Linda C. Stuart
John Vacca

Silver Life Master

William H. Smith
Carol Stein

Ruby Life Master

Colin D. Gordon
Sherry D. Troeger

Gold Life Master

Joyce E. Nakasaki

Hint for "Play or Defend?"

All other games go down without a chance, but 4♥ is touch and go. The defenders will begin with three rounds of trump and declarer must ruff. While this is occurring East must make two pitches. Does it matter what East pitches? Declarer must be careful not play two rounds of clubs before drawing West's trumps. Is there an endplay against East?

District 23 "Top 30"

By Mike Marcucci

Each year in November, the ACBL publishes the Top 100 MP (lifetime) holders - sometimes 300, sometimes 500. We took that list and extended it to show the Top 30 MP holders for our District. This is shown below for 2019. Note that the standings toward the top show ACBL rankings. The remainder are for D23. (#1 only for reference)

1	Jeff Meckstroth	89,441
48	Steve Gross	29,121
82	Ellen Anten	24,536
87	Mitch Dunitz	23868

123	Jill Meyers	20,940
173	Rebecca Clough	18,486
188	Steve Mager	18,019
7	Roger Clough	16,691
8	Billy Cohen	15,546
9	Ed Davis	15,447
10	Gerry Bare	15,332
11	Pam Wittes	13,522
12	John Jones	11,603
13	Bruce Horiguchi	11,446
14	Alex Kolesnik	11,405
15	Ifti Baqai	11,340
16	Peter Benjamin	11,329
17	John Swanson	11,326
18	Jeff Goldsmith	11,318
19	Mike Savage	11,071
20	Aram Bedros	10,935
21	Eddie Kantar	10,892
22	Gil Stinebaugh	10,214
23	Rhoda Himmell	9,944
24	Steve Onderwyzer	8,970
25	Gene White	8,892
26	Dr Sid Brownstein	8,563
27	Jordan Chodorow	8,552
28	Bill Sides	8,235
29	George Wang	7,998
30	Lulu Minter	7,983

LOS ANGELES PRESENTS THE 86TH ANNUAL BRIDGE WEEK

The Summer's Best Regional*

JUNE 29-JULY 5

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!

MONDAY JUNE 29TH
**** Free 2-hour Bridge Workshop**
 10:30 am - 12:30 pm
 Followed by Lunch

Marjorie Michelin
Grand Life Master

**** Pro Am Game at 1:00 pm**
 Card fee for Am's: \$15

Please register before June 22
daliahernandez@gmail.com
 562.221.1398

NEED A PARTNER?
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DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE:
Ken Horwedel

District 23 Director: Kevin Lane
District 23 President: Bob Shore



HILTON LONG BEACH
701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Room Rate: \$149 (Free Wifi) Please Refer to ALACBU
Reservation must be made by Monday, June 15
562.983.3400

Card Fees: \$15 (Members) \$19 (expired Members)
Notice: Non-members will be required to either join ACBL on an annual basis or on a new temporary one month membership for \$7.99.

Self Parking: \$12

Lunch: \$5 for Sunday Lunch
* First leg of the Grand Slam Cup

Background Photo Credit: Long Beach Convention & Visitor's Bureau

Sanction Number: R2007106



Monday, June 29, 2020
 299er Free Workshop/Lunch (Reserv. Rqd.)..... 10:30 am
 Pro-Am Pairs (Reserv. Rqd.)..... 1:00 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (1 of 6)..... 1:00 pm
 Stratified Charity Pairs..... 7:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (1 of 2 Sessions)..... 7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 30, 2020
 AM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Bernie Mateer Open ABC Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 GOLD RUSH Pairs..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture..... 2:15 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (2 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)..... 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (2 of 2 Sessions)..... 7:00 pm

Wednesday, July 1, 2020
 AM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Richard Patterson Open Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Mark Schreiber GOLD RUSH Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture..... 2:15 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (3 of 6) 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)..... 3:00 pm

Thursday, July 2, 2020
 AM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 Starburst KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Open ABC Pairs..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Pat Banks GOLD RUSH Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture..... 2:15 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (4 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)..... 3:00 pm

Friday, July 3, 2019 **D23 Youth Day**
 AM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 Walt Otto 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 0-99er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 Starburst KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Cecil Cook Open ABC Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 GOLD RUSH Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture..... 2:15 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (5 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
 Youth Reception 6:30 pm

Saturday, July 4, 2020
 AM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 Queen Mary Compact KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am
 Barbara Nussbaum Open ABC Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Saturday, July 4, 2020
 GOLD RUSH Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
 Queen Mary Compact KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)..... 3:00 pm

Sunday, July 5, 2020
 Liberty Bell Stratified Fast Pairs..... 10:00 am & TBA
 Flight A/X/Y Swiss Teams (7 x 7)..... 10:00 am & TBA
 Bracketed B Swiss Teams (7 x 7)..... 10:00 am & TBA

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

299er Games Every AM Compact KO on Sat
Side Games Every Day Swiss Teams Every PM
Open Pairs Every Day (4 x 6 Boards)
Gold Rush Pairs Tu - Sa Sunday Swiss Teams
Done by 6 PM

Stratified Pairs: 0 - 750 / 750 - 3000 / 3000+
Open ABC Pairs:
0 - 2500 / 2500 - 5000 / 5000+

GOLD RUSH Pairs:
0 - 100 / 100 - 300 / 300 - 750

A/X/Y Swiss Teams:
0 - 3000 / 3000 - 5000 / 5000+

Bracketed B Swiss Teams:
0 - 2500
8 Teams/Bracket: Top 3/Bracket Win Gold

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

January 10 District 23 Junior Fund

Game: Overall results: 1st in A Baum Harris/Larry Slutsky, 2nd John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 3rd Ardis Laine/Sandra Schlosser, 4th Jackie Hess/Wayne Otsuki, 5th John and Richard Bakovic, 6th Gayle Grubb/Bob Lavery. In the B flight overalls Sharon Biederman/Susan Bibby were 3rd, Christine Frumen/John Gallagher 4th, Jerome and Melanie Smith 5th. In the C flight overalls Mike and Karen McKittrick were 2nd, Charles Laine/Dahila Hernandez 4th. And in the NLM game Tom and Jim Keese were 1st, Julie Osborne/Donna Agnew 2nd, Ted Dowe/Melanie Smothers 3rd. Congratulations to all!

70% GAMES Dec 16 through Jan 15: In open games: Jan 4 Sankar Reddy/John Petrie had 70.83%, Jan 9 Sankar Reddy/John Petrie had 71.53%, and in the evening game Jan 13 Renee Hoffman/Melanie Smothers had 72.50%. In beginner games Dec 27 Ted Dowe/Rosemary Ford had 72.71% and Dec 30 Carolyn Byrnes/John Jones had 71.88%. Congratulations to all four pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS Dec 16 through Jan 15: In the team game Dec 22 the team of Gayle Grubb/Bill McClean/Arne Lier/Ray Mack came in 1st each winning .80mp. In other open games Dec 16 Alan Olschwang/Ken Miller won 4.14mp for 1st, John and Suzie Hand 3.10mp for 2nd. Jan 8 Rich Wasser/Kay Tseng won 3.50mp for 1st. Jan 9 John Petrie/Sankar Reddy won 3.65mp for 1st. And Jan 10 Baum Harris/Larry Slutsky won 5.44mp for 1st, John Petrie/Sankar Reddy won 4.08mp for 2nd, Ardis Laine/Sandra Schlosser won 3.06mp for 3rd. Congratulations to all!

NEW MEMBERS: Cari Blitzer, Lynda Montgomery. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Jr. Master: Joanne Armenia. New Sectional Master: Frances Gross. New Regional Masters: Russell Gray, Jucy Percer, Sandra Schlosser. New Bronze Life Master: John Berg. New Diamond Life Master: John Melis. Congratulations to you all!

GET WELL: Phyllis Parker, Marcie Evans

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

Jan 25 Chinese New Year
Jan 26 Unit Game 12:30pm \$8 card fee dessert
Jan 27-Feb 2 Costa Mesa Regional
Feb 1 ACBL-Wide International Fund Game Extra points, \$13 card fee
Feb 2 Superbowl Sunday game 11am
Feb 3-9 Club Championship Week. Regular fee, extra points.
Feb 8 Laguna Woods Sectional
Feb 10-16 Educational Foundation Week. \$11 card fee, extra points
Feb 16 Swiss Teams
Feb 13 Unit Game 12:30pm. \$8 car fee; dessert

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD

BRIDGE CLUBS

Judy Carter-Johnson

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Clubhouse #3—
December 23: Mark Singer/Larry Slutsky 1 in A. Joyce Basch/Linda Nye 2 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Betty Jackson/Bill Linskey 3 in A. Lynn Danielson/Chie Wickham 4 in A, 2 in B. Judy Carter-Johnson/Rob Preece 5 in A. Jeanette Estill/Sibyl Smith 6 in A. Ellen Kice/Cookie Pham 3 in B, 2 in C. Dorothy Favre/Jane Gibbons 4 in B. Paul Chen/Chia Yao 5 in B.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Clubhouse #3—
January 9: Al Appel/Judith Jones 1 in A. Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 2 in A. Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 3 in A. Priscilla Caillouette/Larry Topper 4 in A, 1 in B. Verna Baccus/Larry Slutsky 5 in A. Jeanette Estill/Diane Schmitz 6 in A. Barbara Wallace/William Dिल्s 2 in B, 1 in C. Nancy Lichter/Julie Mills 3 in B, 2 in C. Martin Lipman/William Power 4 in B, 3 in C. Joan and Ted Wieber 5 in A. Elaine ovgard/Cookie Pham

CONGRATS TO: Russell Gray who attained rank of Regional Master

SORRY TO hear that Audrey Healy's husband Joe passed away. They were married 67 years!! Condolences to Audrey and the family.

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



Pomona –
Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Unit Game: Saturday February 15,
11:00 a.m., Glendora
Individual: Saturday, February 1, Claremont

The January Individual was a romp by Clint Lew, at 72.92%. Linda Stuart was second, Roger Boyar third, and Yours Truly was fourth. Sofi Kasubhai and Gino Barbieri were 1-2 in flight C.

The January Unit game was won by Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, with a 69.84% game. Next up were Tim and Eileen Finlay, followed by Lulu Minter – Robert Gish, Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry, and Avice Osmundson – Kiran Kumar.

Now that the year-end festivities are over, attendance has picked up a bit. 48 players won 137.37 points in January – nearly double December's total. Ahead of the rest we find Clint Lew with 12.96 points. Linda Tessier was second with 11.82. Vic Sartor and Bill Papa tied for third, with 10.21. Next up was, 6.16; and rounding out the top five is Lulu Minter, with 7.86.

The top game in January was a killer 77.5% game by Kurt Triselmann – Paul Chrisney. In that *same game*, second place was 67.5%, by Linda Stuart – Yours Truly. I suppose it would cheapen things if I told you that was a 2½ table game, so I won't. Others above the 65% mark, were Bill Papa – Vic Sartor (68.75%); Herb Stampfl – Ho Ming Yim (70.0%); Hanan Mogharbel – Linda Stuart (68.06%); Fredy and

Lulu Minter, who did it twice: 67.66%, and 65.63%; and finally, Amr Elghamry - Dominique Moore, sneaking over the bar with 65.14%.

Other winners: Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Claudia Cochran, Joe Unis, Tim and Eileen Finlay, and Yours Truly.

One promotion this month. Stephen Andersen is now a Junior Master. (Really, the ACBL ought to rethink some of these rank titles, don't you think? Not that Stephen is ancient or anything ... but he's been out of grade school a long time ... as have most of us!)

There haven't been that many really interesting hands the past month. Well, there were two boards a couple of days ago where West first picked up a 5-4-3-1 19-count, saw partner open the bidding (!), and drove to 6NT, making 7 when the opponents ducked the ♠A. Well, it was perhaps a reasonable play, given ♠KJ109xx were visible in dummy, and declarer playing the ♠Q. On the very next hand, West picked up a balanced 21-count (feast or famine that day!), opened the usual 2NT, and partner went straight to 6NT. Unfortunately, there were only 15 top tricks available. But the play of both hands was routine, essentially a claim at trick 3 on the first hand, and trick 1 on the second.

Anyway, for our ***real*** Hand-of-the-Month, I will resurrect a somewhat interesting hand, from memory, as I failed to record this beauty at the time. As dealer, playing matchpoints, you find yourself looking at

♠ xx ♥ x ♦ AKQJ10xxx ♣ xx.

Neither side is vulnerable. What's your opening bid?

Those who took the mainstream approach of bidding 3♦ or perhaps 4♦ were doomed to disappointment. Partner's hand turns out to be pretty useless to you, and you take eight diamond tricks and no more. So sad. Too bad!

I, however, being something of an iconoclast (or perhaps too dumb to know any better?) decided to open 1♦, then keep bidding diamonds until the cows came home. The auction proceeded 1♥ on my left, double (negative) from partner, 2♥ from RHO ... and 3♥ from me! Well, I was prepared to go 4♦ if partner didn't have a heart stopper. He did, he bid 3NT, and wrapped up 9 tricks on the expected heart lead. (He had ♥Kxx, as it turns out.) I shudder to think what the score might have been had (a) partner not had even one

diamond (he did), OR (b) the opponent had not led a heart. Better lucky than good!

Quote for the month: "A heretic is a fellow who disagrees with you regarding something neither of you knows anything about." (William Cowper Brann)



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 held its annual meeting on January 19th and elected a new board for 2020. Paula Olivares will continue as president and the board members will be Ruth Baker, Gay Gipson, May Ho, Roy Ladd, Jan Ladd, Bob McBroom, Beth Morrin and Rand Pinsky. The Unit plans to continue our focus on sponsoring events for our beginning and intermediate players, subsidizing STaC games, and holding our sectional in September/October.

The results are in for the ACBL-wide Senior Pairs II game held on October 4th 2019. Roshen Hadulla and Paula Olivares had a great game with 64.06% and were third in District 23. Tying for 5th and 6th in the district were Charles Morrin & David White and George MacDonald & Carol Provost with 59.90%.

Unit Game Results:

Sunday January 19th at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Lancaster

1 st	Ruth Baker – Paula Olivares	61.57%
2 nd	Carol Provost – George MacDonald	58.33%
3 rd	Bert Stock – Roy Ladd	55.56%
4 th	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	54.63%

Upcoming STaC Games:

Tuesday, Mar. 3rd at 5:00 PM at the Sports Complex in Castaic
 Thursday, Mar. 5th at 10:00 AM in Castaic
 Friday, Mar. 6th at 12:30 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Lancaster
 Sunday, Mar. 10th at 12:30 in Lancaster

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs game will be held Monday, March 2nd at 12:30 PM at the Friendly Bridge Club (Santa Clarita Senior Center on Golden Valley).

ACBL-wide Charity Game will be held Tuesday, March 31st at 12:30 PM, 2747 West Ave L, Lancaster.

Next Board meeting: TBA



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Mar 21: Unit 561 Awards Luncheon/Game

A Unit 561 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 21, at The 750 Club. The buffet lunch will be served at 12noon, followed by the presentation of awards at 12:45 p.m., and then an Open, Stratified game at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$13 and reservations are required. A sign-up sheet will be available at The 750 Club in March or email Marcia Broderick at marciabroderick@gmail.com (by March 17) for reservations/partnerships.

2020 Unit 561 Officers and Board of Directors

Unit 561 is pleased to announce the 2020 Officers and Board of Directors as follows: Marcia Broderick – President, Karyn Shatzkin – Vice President, Ilene Feinstein – Secretary, Ann Dupont – Treasurer, Frona DeCovnick – Membership Chair, and Jojo Sarkar – Tournament Coordinator. Additional Board Members are Sara Ziman Goldberg, Mark Gould, Carol Levin, and Jerry Shapiro.

Special Congratulations

Congratulations to Jack Weingarten, a regular Tuesday player at The 750 Bridge Club, who turned 101 on December 25, 2019. A special celebration was held on January 7, 2020, at the Club. It is truly an honor to see Jack and Carla, his wife of 79 years, every Tuesday!

Recent rank advancements by U561 members were: Alex Geczy, Mark Maltzman, and Melinda Raine (Junior Master); Joe Kraus and Jennifer Lerner (Club Master); Elaine Robinson (Regional Master); and Alan Cohen (NABC Master).

Recent Life Master Accomplishments by Unit 561 players were: Cheri Bitar and William Miles (Life Master); John Van Egmond (Silver – 1,000); Thomas Lesser (Gold – 2,500); and Marel “Bud” Bates (Sapphire – 3,500).

December Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Bridge Club were Alan Golden 11.13, Jerry Goodman 9.83, Dwight Hunt 7.41, Jerry Rose 7.23, Leila Greenfield 6.89, Susan Raphael 6.05, Phillip Berk 5.34, Sharyn Miller 5.28, A.D. Shah 5.18, and Mike Klemens 4.89. Doug Beagle and Alan Golden achieved a 70.43% game.

February Events at The 750 Bridge Club

During Monday-Friday, February 10-14, Club Championship week will be held at the Club. Extra black points will be awarded for no additional card fees.

Also during Monday-Friday, February 10-14, the Club will be celebrating being on ACBL's list of “Top 50 Clubs in North America”. This is based on the total number of tables played in 2019. Treats will be provided each day as follows: Monday – Pizza (a.m.) and Root Beer Floats (p.m.); Tuesday – Subway Sandwiches; Wednesday – Bagels/Coffee Cakes; Thursday – Pizza (a.m.) and Cakes and Pies (p.m.); and Friday – Valentine's Sweets.

March 17: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, March 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.

Calendar

Monday—Friday, February 10-14, Club Championship Week at The 750 Bridge Club.

Monday-Friday, February 10-14, “Top 50” Celebration at The 750 Bridge Club with special treats provided each day.

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

Saturday, March 21, Unit 561 Awards Luncheon/Game. See details above.

Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2, San Fernando Valley (Unit 561) Sectional, The 750 Bridge Club, Woodland Hills, CA.

Saturday, August 15, “Sizzling Summer” Unit 561 Luncheon and Game, 12noon, at The 750 Bridge Club.

Friday, December 18, Unit 561 Holiday Game and Dinner Party, 2 p.m., at The 750 Bridge Club.

Downey – Whittier by Linda Eagan and Liz Burrell

[Editor's Note: no news from Unit 564 this month. Stay tuned!]



West Los Angeles
by Elizabeth Ryan
eryan311@gmail.com

Welcome to the news from West LA, let me introduce myself. I played bridge many years ago with my parents, Dr. Thomas and Elizabeth Lebherz. I met my husband, Paul, playing bridge in Culver City over 35 years ago. We have returned to bridge and are privileged to see many of our bridge friends again. We regularly play with the Clough's and it is such a treat for both Paul and me. I would be remiss not to mention Peter Benjamin as the one that asked me to do this column, he has known me since I was a caddy in San Diego back in the sixties! My mom was the president of that unit back in those days.

Now to the West LA news.

Unit 562's John Ramos, the current manager and head instructor of the Beverly Hills Bridge Club, had a career-best Nationals in San Francisco, placing fourth in the Nail Life Master Pairs and following that up with a third-place finish in the Kaplan Blue Ribbon Pairs, long regarded as the premier pairs event in the United States. The 210 points he earned at the Nationals put him on the Barry Crane Top 500 list for the first time. Also, the Blue Ribbons finish was made historic by the fact that his partner, Finn Kolesnik, is a

mere 15 years old. Although Finn is technically a District 22 resident, he's a fixture at Los Angeles bridge events, and his father, Alex Kolesnik, is a West LA resident and the new D23 Educational Chair. Look for Finn's name as he represents the United States in the World Youth Championships in Italy in August, U21 division. Finn's sister Emma will also be representing the US in the junior women's division!

In Mini-McKenney news, Susan Morse-Lebow of Brentwood won the national 50-100 race, holding off her closest competition with a strong showing at the Palm Springs regional, winning 30.22 points at the tournament and 258.69 for the year. Congratulations to Susan!

There are new and transferring members to welcome to our district:

New members: Alex Koss and Charlene Spero.

Transfer from another unit: Doris Levinson.

There are some exciting level changes as well:

New NABC Master: Aton Arbisser

New LIFE Masters: Cheri Bitar, Larisa Rappaport, and Mark Rappaport

New SILVER Life Master: Jacqueline Stultz

New GOLD Life Master: Sherie Schneider

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Club news and 70% Games

Barrington Bridge Club:

1/7 Aram Bedros & Art Zail 70.34%

1/15 Susan Somogyi & Basajt Shah 70.51%

Club championship: Les Rawitt-Bob

Weingarten, Aram Bedros-Art Zail

Beverly Hills Bridge Club:

1/12 Peter Benjamin & Peter Knee 70.85%

12/20 Karen Schwartz & Michael Abeles 71%

Club championship: Maria Pendergast-Rick

Turner

Beverly Hills Bridge Club started a 0-99er game on Saturday afternoons, there were 7.5 tables the first week!

Fun History Fact from West LA

Given Roger Clough's upcoming birthday the following seems appropriate to mention. The September 1975 ACBL Bulletin noted that Paul's Bridge Club in Culver City issued a challenge to any other bridge Club. Paul's Club had a softball team consisting of 10/11 Life Masters! Our team members were: Mike and Bill Schreiber, George Siegel, Steve

Evans, Perry Van Hook, Ira Cohen, Marv Dauer, Jon Wittes, Roger Clough, Bob Goodfader, and Elliott Ostrow. It is not known if any other Club accepted the challenge. As an aside, Roger had 420 Master points at the time. Happy 80th Birthday and pleasant memories, Roger.

Solution to "Play or Defend?"

This is a real hand played in Europe. One defender, Bob Rowlands from England, found the winning defense at the table. He discarded his lowest two diamonds at tricks two and three. Bob followed to three rounds of trumps. When declarer played on clubs, Bob ducked twice before winning the ace of clubs. Bob was down to the K108 of diamonds and a trump. Only one card would defeat the contract. Again, he found the killing play; he played the ♦10 (smothering declarer's ♦9). Yes, he got endplayed, but he kept declarer out of his hand, covered the ♦Q and scored a trump to beat the hand. If declarer only pulls two rounds of trumps, the double duck in clubs followed by the ♦10 still beats the contract. Pulling four rounds of trumps works similarly.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Sid Brownstein, & Jill Meyers, Kitty & Steve Cooper, Ellis Feigenbaum & Margie Michelin, and Daniel Korbel & Sylvia Shi.

This column is dedicated to the memory of Marcie Evans, who passed away on January 31. She was loved by almost everyone who she had contact with. An excellent player, she was the driving force behind the Downey-Whittier Unit for many years. She directed the Downey-Whittier weekly Wednesday game for several decades. RIP Marcie!

This is February, the Valentines month. Appropriately, our panelists this month are not only bridge experts, but couples. They have answered the questions separately. Sometimes they agree, but occasionally they bid quite differently.

I'll include one of the greatest comments in the history of this column. When Jill got the request for the "Valentines column," she replied to all "If we don't agree on the best answer is March going to be the divorce panel 😊."

Let's meet the panel.

Sid is a retired dentist, a previous panelist in this column, the winner of over 50 regional events and has several top national finishes to his credit. Jill is a rotating panelist for this column, multi-time world champion and one of the strongest players in the world.

Kitty is a world champion, was a quarter-finalist in the prestigious Rosenblum Cup, has written a manual for teaching bridge, and worked extensively

helping and coaching young bridge players. Steve is a multi-time national champion. Kitty and Steve co-edit the D17 ScoreCard (similar to this D23 magazine).

Ellis has plenty of foreign bridge experience. He is well known in the Southern California area for owning a bridge club and being the director's expert in BridgeMates. Calling Ellis fun and creative would both be understatements. Margie is a GLM who is a very popular teacher in the Southern California area with her lectures and Intermediate/Novice Boot Camp. She helps speakers out in a multitude of ways and helps arrange partnerships. Ifti Baqui calls her the "Mother Hen". Before answering, Margie commented "I can say right now that my students are going to cancel my upcoming classes and cruises when they see my responses so I blame John for purposely making us look bad, so I'll have to punish him by making him play with me."

Sylvia not only graced the cover of the January 2020 Bridge Bulletin, but is a Grand LM, despite having played bridge less than 10 years. She has already won several nationals. Daniel lives in the US (Vegas), but is Canadian by birth. He may well be Canada's best player ever. He is a rotating panelist for this column. They both are coaching youth teams in the upcoming world championships.

Their first names are unique, but their last names aren't. I will refer to panelists using their first names.

1

Matchpoints
E-W Vul

West	North	East	South
			1♥
pass	1♠	pass	2♦
pass	4♣*	pass	???

* splinter for diamonds, club shortness

You, South, hold: ♠void ♥AKJ92 ♦QJ972 ♣J52

What call do you make?

Sid: 5♦. No way to find out if partner has two of three key cards for slam. Partner can raise with two *[top diamonds]*. *[I was originally taught to play that jumping to 5♦ in auctions like this showed minimums with good trumps. I think it is more common today that jumping to 5♦ shows a minimum with wastage in the splinter suit.]*

Jill: 4♦. I know we need three key cards for a slam but my fifth diamond totally makes slam worth investigating. If partner has slam interest over this he or she should take over (like bid Keycard).

Ellis: 4♠. Partner is probably 5=2=5=1. We need the right diamonds in partners hand to make a slam, best way to find that out is to bid 4♠ and hear what partner bids over that. Do not want to risk partner passing 4♥ thinking I am six-four.

Margie: 4♠. We are in a game force here and partner seems to be thinking slam. I like his shortness in clubs, I have an extra diamond and controls in the other suits. I fear if I bid 4♥, my partner might take me for six hearts and not making my first cue bid. I am cue bidding 4♠. He should NOT play me for wanting to play in spades. If I was fearful, I'd bid 4♦ which would be forcing and better than bidding 5♦ to clarify where I am headed. His shape is probably something like 5=2=5=1. A good partner will have great diamonds and a good hand for a Valentines Day slam, (even if not in not hearts). I like diamonds better than chocolate hearts any day of the week.

Kitty: 6♦, I would just bid a practical 6♦. 5♠ exclusion is way too dangerous and might be misinterpreted ... although I would risk it in the finals of a national pair event.

Steve: 5♠. The only way we can even hope to get to a grand is by bidding 5♠, Exclusion. Nothing else works in our methods: 4♦ just shows interest, 4♥ is Kickback, 4♠ is an offer, and 4NT is a cuebid in ♥. If partner has a stiff club and only the ♦A I hope he has the ♦10 and that the hook is onside!

Daniel: 4♥. I don't think I can afford 5♠ exclusion, because partner could easily have a lot of hands where we are off two keycards (e.g. ♠AKxxxx ♥x ♦Kxxxx ♣x). I hope to make an intelligent decision on the next round.

Sylvia: 4♦. We must be in a game force so this should be more encouraging than 5♦. I have a complicated hand and we could belong anywhere from 5♦ to 7♦ depending on partner's values. If partner cuebids 4♠, I will assume he has the ace when I keycard with 4NT. If partner cuebids 5♣, I will cuebid 5♥ and partner will probably bid grand with ♦AK.

[I like 4♦ here. It retains slam chances while letting partner make a descriptive bid.]

[Just because we can do it, let's be Gene Rayburn and play the match game (I actually encouraged them to answer differently though).]

Match game scores: Sid & Jill = 0, Ellis & Margie = 1, Steve & Kitty = 0, Daniel & Sylvia = 0.]

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">2</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs N-S Vul</div>	West	North	East	South
			pass	1♥
	2♠	pass	pass	???
	You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥KJ10962 ♦92 ♣AQJ9 What call do you make?			

Sid: Double. If Partner bids 3♣ I pass, if 3♦ I correct to 3♥. My alternative is 3♥ which gives up a possible penalty if she was intending to pass.

Jill: 3♥. I have a distributional offensive hand and we are vul. at IMPs – all I need is for partner to have a trump honor and an ace for game to be a good proposition. Also, there is a reasonable chance that the opponents have eight spades between them so to me, this is not the kind of hand I would reopen with a double. Even if they go down the vulnerability isn't to our advantage.

Ellis: 3♣. My hand is not good enough to double and rebid hearts over 3♦ and it certainly does not have enough trick taking ability when partner passes with five bad spades.

Margie: Double: Again, John is aiming at making me look foolish. In IMPs, pass may be our last plus score. I know my partner is drooling for me to reopen with a double. However, if he isn't, my continuations will seem like I have a better hand if he chooses 3♦ and I then bid 3♥ or 4♣ rather than bidding 3♥ directly. But I am going to choose double and if my partner bids 3♦

I will bid 3♥ and hope that he knows this was a courtesy reopening for him, and that he caters to my having six hearts and a minimum. With my luck, 3♦ is exactly the right spot! *[If you have to get to exactly 3♦, this hand is just too tough.]*

Kitty: Double.

Steve: Double. What else? Our rule is that Partner never passes with a game force, so I'm not too worried about what happens next.

Daniel: Dbl. Partner is probably sitting over there, salivating. Sylvia's rule is that when partner is begging for a double, you should try to oblige them. You know what they say-- happy wife, happy life.

Sylvia Dbl. It's unusual that partner is trying to trap pass at this vulnerability but it sounds like that is what's going on. We have no guarantee of making a game, so I'll oblige partner and reopen. I plan to correct diamonds to hearts.

[When I played with the late Mike Pudlin, he asked me to reopen with a double on hands like this. I started do that and found the results were generally quite good.]

[Match game scores: Sid & Jill = 0, Ellis & Margie = 1, Steve & Kitty = 1, Daniel & Sylvia = 1].

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">3</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints Both Vul</div>	West	North	East	South
				1♠
	pass	2♦	pass	2♥
	pass	2NT	pass	3♦
	pass	3NT	pass	???
<p>You, South, hold: ♠AKJ975 ♥AK82 ♦Q103 ♣void</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

Sid: 4♣. I will force a slam but a grand is very possible. I will start with 4♣ and bid clubs again. This should show this monster.

Jill: 5♣, exclusion for diamonds (I have already shown shortness in clubs). If exclusion is not part of the system I would just bid 5NT forcing partner to pick a slam.

Ellis 4♣. Although in general we play same suit keycard over 3NT, I don't believe partner can expect this to be anything other than a cue in support of diamonds.

Margie: 4♣. I am cue bidding 4♣. My partner should take this as a void. I have either 5=4=4=0 shape or 6=4=3=0 shape. I know he must have good clubs for 3NT, but I want to make one slam try. I don't want to invite with 4NT because that does not describe my hand. 5♣ would have been exclusion, but I want partner to be able to get out in 4NT. If I bid 4♠ here it just implies shape not strength.

Kitty: 4♠. I'm patterning out with slam interest and 4♠ is likely a better spot anyway.

Steve: 5NT. Tough one, but I'm not passing. I have nice extras, but the club void worries me. I think 5NT is a tad safer than 4NT, since it forces partner to show a five card diamond suit.

Daniel: 5♠. This will show this exact shape and strength. I will pass anything except 6♣ (including 5NT).

[Pass 5NT!?!? Passing 5NT at the table is pretty rare. I do remember that in the 2004 World Senior Teams Marshall Miles was partnering Leo Bell. Leo bid 5NT pick a slam. Marshall thought it out well and passed 5NT. He had it right on both on percentages and the actual layout. No slam was making, but Leo brought 11 tricks home for a pickup for the USA team who eventually brought home the gold. Did Marshall's deep pass get accolades? Not much, teammate Jimmy Robison and NPC team captain Gene Freed were shocked and thought Marshall had lost his marbles. They benched Marshall for a few matches. The Butler rankings at the end showed that Marshall and Leo were in the top five overall. Maybe passing 5NT isn't so crazy!]

Sylvia: I would rebid 2♠ then 3♥, then 4♦. Having bid this way now, I will try 4♣, which is surely a club void since I've bid the other suits naturally.

[Margie and Ellis are the only match on problem 3. This brings our Match game scores to: Sid & Jill = 0, Ellis & Margie = 2, Steve & Kitty = 1, Daniel & Sylvia = 1].

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">4</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs Both Vul</div>	West	North	East	South
		pass	pass	1♦
	1♥	1♠	3♥*	pass
	pass	dbl	pass	???
You, South, hold: ♠KQ ♥54 ♦A10432 ♣KQ104				
* preemptive				
What call do you make?				

Sid: 3♠ is my choice, but 4♣ is reasonable.

Jill: 3♠. I would prefer to have three spades to make this bid but the ♠KQ is such a great holding - we might be able to make 4♠; plus I don't want to bypass 3NT.

Ellis: 3♠. I did not want to bid over 3♥, if partner has a 10 count with six spades *[not terribly likely given that she is a passed hand]* and bids game, I am happy; but I certainly do not want to do anything to encourage a passed partner to don the rose tints.

Margie: 3♠.

Kitty: 4♣. It is tempting to bid 3♠ with such a strong doubleton, but I hate to lie about my shape that much and I can bid 4♣ next.

Steve: Pass. I can't really picture what partner, a passed hand, is doing, but whatever it is I'm not bidding 4♣. I have a good shot at three tricks in hand and Partner needs to have something more than just the ♠A for his double.

Daniel: 4♠. Tough hand. We could easily be cold for a few different game contracts or belong in a minor suit partial. For most of the hands I construct, 4♠ is playable or excellent, so I'm going to be that weird

solo panelist who does something out of the ordinary and bids 4♠. Initially, my thought was to cuebid 4♥, but my spades are so strong that we can belong in the suit even if partner wouldn't choose spades (e.g. ♠Axxxx ♥xx ♦Kxx ♣Axx).

[I wrote down this problem from an East Coast panel I read previously. My first thought was to bid 4♠. Only one of the East Coast panelists bid 4♠ and the director poo-pooed the bid. Daniel's layout shows that 4♠ could certainly be making. However, I now think that 3♠ is probably better overall. Partner might have a little less than hoped for and spades might break badly. Anyone for using Bruce Walker's rules and allowing a 3.5♠ bid?]

Sylvia: 4♣. I can't pass since partner often has a singleton here to reopen as passed hand. I don't like supporting on two spades much even though they are nice.

[Sid & Jill and Margie & Ellis both match on this problem. This brings our Match game scores to: Sid & Jill = 1, Ellis & Margie = 3, Steve & Kitty = 1, Daniel & Sylvia = 1.]

5

IMPs
N-S Vul.

West	North	East	South
	1♣	1♥	???

You, South, hold: ♠105 ♥AKJ54 ♦Q875 ♣Q4

What call do you make?

[This problem creates two decisions: 1) declare or defend, 2) if we declare do we invite or force to game. Both decisions are close?]

Sid: 2NT. At this vulnerability I will invite game and not try to penalize 1♥.

Jill: Pass, expecting partner to reopen with double. I don't generally like low level penalty doubles when we are vul. and they are not, but my hand is so loaded in hearts that we may not even be able to make a game, so I'm going for what looks like a sure plus. Of course, if the bidding goes other than reopening double I can adjust my bidding.

Ellis: 3NT. We end up on a true coin toss, and this one might depend on whom I am playing with. My gut says 3NT, bid the game that is most likely to make. If it is wrong I need to have an understanding partner. We need to hold 1♥ to three tricks *[to win IMPs yes, but if they get four tricks in 1♥ doubled versus 3NT making exactly you have lost only 3 IMPs and it isn't a disaster.]* to make up for the missed vulnerable game.

Margie: Pass. I've had this type of hand and lost team games because I didn't choose correctly. *[You think none of the rest of us has lost a match because we didn't guess correctly?]* I want to pass and go

plus. I will likely lose 12 IMPs missing 3NT. If partner reopens with the expected double, I will pass. If he bids another suit then I am saved and able to bid 3NT. My fear of bidding 3NT to start is where is my source of tricks? It will be my luck that my partner will have no hearts and my hand is now worth only two or three tricks. I am a wimpette *[look that up in your Funk and Wagnells]* and pass initially.

Kitty: Pass, planning to take the penalty.

Steve: 2♦. As I said for Problem 2, we don't pass a GF, especially at this vulnerability. That leaves me bidding 2♦ and hoping that LHO shows his three (or four) card heart support. *[that might make for a very nice Valentine!]*

Daniel: 2NT. They're getting off the hook this time.

Sylvia: Pass. We have no guarantee of game, so I'll start with this and see where we end up. It might be 3NT still, but I don't want to do anything committal. *[Passing may only be delaying the inevitable decision.]*

[No matches on this problem (think bridge is an easy game? Our final Match game scores are: Sid & Jill = 1, Ellis & Margie = 3, Steve & Kitty = 1, Daniel & Sylvia = 1. Don't ask me what they win. Maybe more problems to make Margie look bad : 😊]