

Southern California

Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



Expanding the Tournament Trail for Non-Life Masters

As some of you may know, our District is entitled to sanction as many as four regional tournaments in a year. For the last several years, we've held only one. Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Regional, consistently turns a profit at our Long Beach location. Our other efforts to hold regionals proved unable to attract sufficient local support to cover the costs requested by host hotels, and were running at a substantial loss.

Not one, but two of our Units have stepped up with an idea. They each would like to hold a Non-Life Master Regional, either as a stand-alone event or in conjunction with their local Sectional. Most importantly from my perspective, they are willing to make this attempt at no financial cost to the District. Even if both Units follow through with their plan, this still leaves us with another sanction available for the previously proposed regional shared between District 23 and our Southern California neighbors in District 22.

Both of our local groups are in contact with one another. I have asked them to "fully bake" their plans in time for the Board to vote to approve them at our next meeting, and both groups have advised me that they expect to be able to meet that deadline. So in my May column I hope and expect to be able to announce additional local gold-point opportunities for our Non-Life Masters who are still trying to climb that mountain.

Auf Wiedersehen

The German farewell "auf wiedersehen" literally translates to "until we meet again." I have no idea what that may mean to our readers in their personal lives, but I can now report on what it means

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District Director Report

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



Board of Directors re-organization motion

The Board will meet in Columbus, where we will vote on a motion to reduce the size of the board from 25 to 13. As I've written previously, I'm currently and tentatively planning to vote "yes" in Columbus. The motion itself will, on-balance, hurt ACBL's chances for sustaining long-term prosperity. But if, as I currently believe, passing this re-org motion is necessary to allow the board to focus on issues that do matter, then it will be worth it to pass this re-org motion. For four years, board re-organization discussions have consumed all the energy of the board.

The most positive element of this reorganization is that it retains the current districts and district organizations. Certain neighboring districts are lumped together for purposes of electing a member of the national board of directors. Many districts throughout the ACBL favor retention of the current district model.

Although I'm skeptical of the benefits of this

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in this re-org motion addresses the root cause of that problem, although I submitted a motion last year – but deferred to Columbus – that partially addresses the issue. Other major issues confront the board that are independent of internal governance issues. Any perceived cost savings to the board reduction are mitigated by additional staff headquarters would need to hire.

Revised Bridge Week Schedule

Sound business decisions originate with the question: “what is our goal?” I’m somewhat disheartened that this re-org motion isn’t anchored in any tangible plan. Most notably, the reduction to thirteen board members is arbitrary until there’s some agreement on the role of the board. I’m chairing a task force to move committee work off of the board. Typically, a business would decide the role of the board first and then its size. I’m reminded of a Dilbert cartoon where the boss says: “Dilbert, you start writing the software, while I go find out what the user wants.”

Grand Slam Cup Progress

For the ACBL to be successful, the board needs people who are qualified to carry out their role, assertive enough to tackle serious problems, and humble enough to cede decisions to management, board members, or committee members if an issue is outside the scope of one's role or expertise. Business-savvy board members have noted for decades that this problem is much more critical to ensuring the ACBL's future than mere board size. The re-org plan pushes this issue down the road.

Still, it's an inherent challenge to conduct working sessions with twenty-five people. My hope is that if we can take the chronic "board-size" issue off the table, the board can focus on the issues that will determine the ACBL's future prosperity.

I welcome your input. klaned23@gmail.com

So, you think *you've* had a great game ... or a terrible one? An article in the July, 1993 *ACBL Bulletin* reports that in a 2½ table novice game, one pair scored a perfect 100% game. The last place finisher had 0%.

From the Director's Chair: by Brian Richardson



The PRINCIPLE of FULL DISCLOSURE (Part Two)

Part Two deals with some issues that were not dealt with in Part One, or, perhaps, issues that needed further elaboration.

DOUBLES & REDOUBLES

Most Doubles do NOT require an Alert. Some, those which have an unusual or, probably, unexpected meaning, are required to be Alerted.

Some examples:

- A 3-level pre-emptive bid which is immediately doubled, or is doubled in the pass-out seat, requires an Alert if the system agreement is that it is for penalties, rather than takeout.
- 1♥ - X, or 1♦ - P - 1♠ - X. If either of these Doubles are penalty or are lead-directing Doubles, an Alert is required.
- 1♥ - P - 4♣ (splinter bid) - X. An Alert is required if the double requests a lead of any suit other than the ♣ suit.
- 1♣ - P - 1♥ - X, XX. If the redouble shows 3-card support for partner's ♥ suit an Alert is required.
- 1♦ - P - 1♥ - 2♣, X. If the Double is a Support Double showing 3-card support for partner's ♥, an Alert is required.
- 1NT - 2♣/♦/♥ - X. If the X is a stolen bid double, indicating that the bid made by RHO is the bid the Responder would have made, then the X requires an Alert.

CUE-BIDS

A Cue-bid is defined as a bid of a suit already bid by the opponents, when the original bid was the bid of a natural suit. Under the Laws of bridge, natural is defined as the bid of a minor suit which shows at least 3 cards in the suit, or the bid of a major suit which shows at least 4 cards.

Paying attention to those definitions of natural bids it is clear that after a Precision 1♣ bid an overcall

of 2♣ is not a Cue-bid. If, by partnership agreement, the 2♣ overcall does NOT show a ♣ suit, then it requires an Alert. In a similar fashion a conventional 2♦ bid, not showing a ♦ suit, can be followed by an overcall of 3♦. If that overcall shows a ♦ suit no Alert is required. Any other meaning of the 3♦ requires an Alert.

Most Cue-bids do not require an Alert, however, as with many aspects of bridge, there are some exceptions.

Some examples:

- 1♠ - 2♠. No Alert if it is for Takeout. Alert if it shows the ♠ suit.
- 1♣ (could be short) - 2♣. If Takeout, no Alert. Alert if it shows a ♣ suit.
- 2♦ (Flannery, showing majors) - 2♠. If Takeout, no Alert. Alert if it shows a ♠ suit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Certain bids require an Announcement. On the ACBL Convention Card these bids appear in BLUE.

The common bids that are subject to an Announcement by the partner of the person who has made the bid are:

1NT – this opening bid requires partner to ANNOUNCE the strength of the bid, by saying 15-17, 12-14, or whatever the partnership agreement specifies. *(Some Bridge Clubs, for Club events, have made the decision to not require this Announcement if the 1NT range is 15-17.)*

1NT/2NT – P - 2♦/♥ or 4♦/♥. If these responses to the opening No Trump bid are Transfers, partner must announce “Transfer”. *(If Responder makes a bid that, systemically, is a Transfer to a minor suit, Opener is required to say “Alert”. In other words, a Transfer to a major suit requires an Announcement while a Transfer to a minor suit requires an Alert.)*

However, there's one oddity here. Some pairs use the sequence 1NT - 2♠ to show a long minor – *either* minor. Opener is expected to bid 3♣; if responder has clubs, he passes, or else corrects to 3♦. This is *not* a transfer bid – a transfer shows a known suit. The 2♠ bid is technically a relay (or a puppet, if you prefer), and requires an Alert.

1♥/♠ - P - 1NT. Opener is required to Announce “Forcing” or “Semi-Forcing”, if either of those descriptions apply.

* * * * *

ENJOY OUR WONDERFUL GAME OF
BRIDGE FOLKS AND REMEMBER TO CALL THE
DIRECTOR IF AN INFRACTION OCCURS.

Submitted by John Jones:

North

West

East

South

Contract: 5♣

Opening lead = $\spadesuit A$

OK, will you play or defend?

If you need a hint, turn to page 8.

The solution is on page 14.

Each year, the ACBL publishes lists of the top point winners for each category of the Master Point ladder. Here are the Top 10 in each category for District 23. Note that there are 2 colors to the listing numbers. Orange shows the national ranking (they list the top 500) and black shows the remainder of our top 10.

Mini-McKinney shows total points of all colors, while the Ace of Clubs is black point only totals.

Note also we have 2 National winners this year! Susan Morse-Lebow was tops in the nation in her category of the Mini-Mckinney and Ross Bengal was tops in the nation in his category of the Ace of Clubs. Nice going, folks!! In previous years, those winners got their pictures on the cover of the ACBL magazine. We don't know if they still do that, but hope so.

2019 D23 Mini-McKenney Final

<u>10000+</u>		
23	Ifti Baqai	1434.44
33	Mitch Dunitz	1188.09
79	Alex Kolesnik	884.04
83	Billy Cohen	871.79
100	Ellen Anten	797.36
116	Steve Gross	745.69
276	John Jones	472.64
335	Steve Mager	402.59
375	Aram Bedros	355.61
394	Bruce Horiguchi	338.14

<u>7500-10000</u>		
159	Gil Stinebaugh	347.66
297	Sid Brownstein	230.93
3	Bill Sides	43.84
4	Gene White	36.92
5	Andy Vinock	35.81
6	Rhoda Himmell	29.56
7	Steven Onderwyzer	6.19

<u>5000-7500</u>		
36	John Ramos	572.08
57	Mike Mikyska	520.69
76	Joe Viola	493.59
97	Viktor Anikovich	462.34
129	Paul Markarian	424.62
178	Bill Schreiber	376.08
434	Peter Knee	265.68
8	Mark Tang	230.39
9	Lulu Minter	223.88
10	Joan Rubin	221.22

<u>3500-5000</u>		
22	Bob Shore	566.31
48	Om Chokriwala	473.81
59	John Melis	443.33
69	Robert Perlsweig	427.24
154	Robert Bass	345.12
340	Ed Piken	273.95
443	John Petrie	245.95
499	Kim Wang	234.84
9	Jackie Hess	218.02
10	Rae Murbach	217.22

<u>2500-3500</u>		
193	Kay Tseng	280.71
268	Gerry Geremia	250.12
273	Claude LeFeuvre	248.17
333	Jo Melis	232.99
460	Neal Kleiner	206.35
6	Steve Ramos	197.81
7	Lance Kerr	195.96
8	Bud Bates	194.77
9	Renee Hoffman	184.70
10	Wayne Otsuki	176.14

2019 D23 Ace of Clubs Finals

<u>10000+</u>		
74	Aram Bedros	252.38
135	Ifti Baqai	193.01
137	Steve Gross	192.81
158	Steve Mager	179.89
179	Ellen Anten	168.38
252	Rebecca Clough	131.35
301	Roger Clough	111.74
309	Peter Benjamin	106.81
342	Mitch Dunitz	91.01
354	Pam Wittes	85.35

<u>7500-10000</u>		
170	Gil Stinebaugh	140.10
324	Sid Brownstein	67.46
387	Bill Sides	38.36
419	Andy Vinock	26.44
428	Rhoda Himmell	21.27
6	Gene White	1.50

<u>5000-7500</u>		
241	Peter Knee	172.26
259	Viktor Anikovich	167.91
291	Frances Israel	157.51
299	Joe Viola	155.57
307	Herman Helber	154.75
361	Peter Szecsi	143.28
376	Raymond Mack	140.42
399	Danny Kleinman	137.89
406	Joan Rubin	136.41
10	Lulu Minter	115.77

<u>3500-5000</u>		
7	John Melis	358.03
189	Jackie Hess	181.53
240	Robert Perlsweig	171.75
246	John Petrie	170.89
265	Om Chokriwala	167.04
300	Dominique Moore	158.56
414	Bob Shore	141.33
420	Bill McClean	140.31
9	Sankar Reddy	127.50
10	Kim Wang	118.37

<u>2500-3500</u>		
57	Kay Tseng	219.53
121	Jo Melis	184.93
405	Louis Papp	133.71
4	Steven Rowe	124.85
5	Leslie Swift Rawitt	123.93
6	Renee Hoffman	118.34
7	Claude LeFeuvre	116.92
8	Bud Bates	105.75
9	Richard Wasser	103.29
10	Wayne Otsuki	102.78

<u>1500-2500</u>		
97	Dwight Hunt	344.89
211	Jim Perkins	274.18
298	Rick Turner	246.81
328	Kiyo Nagaishi	238.39
373	Joyce Henderson	229.66
393	Tom Reynolds	226.74
401	Nancy Heck	225.54
491	Stanley Greengard	210.96
9	Basant Shah	205.59
10	David Peim	199.07

<u>1000-1500</u>		
147	Dalia Hernandez	240.22
177	Fredy Minter	225.26
190	Samantha Macdouglass	221.41
269	Paula Nataf	198.18
358	Bert Stock	181.92
6	Roy Ladd	150.10
7	Kiran Kumar	147.50
8	Robert Preece	139.15
9	Martin Jurwitz	134.91
10	Marion Tumen	123.99

<u>500-1000</u>		
32	Alan Olschwang	317.11
124	Jojo Sarkar	222.91
150	Laura Gastelum	214.31
155	Dawn Lee	213.68
313	Richard Bakovic	175.21
332	Katherine Weisberg	171.94
448	Raymond Primus	158.14
8	Elaine Godin	152.42
9	Colleen Gardner	150.73
10	Usha Bansai	149.83

<u>300-500</u>		
20	Emma Kolesnik	264.63
22	Alexander Wiles	258.40
25	Robert Johann	249.06
75	Jill Thesman	195.48
218	John Vacca	148.50
262	Brian Fielding	140.01
278	Virginia Brewer	137.54
279	Jerold Rose	137.49
302	Lynn Edelson	134.78
413	John Hagman	123.54

<u>200-300</u>		
25	Joan Oliver	210.45
282	Shoreh Toufanian	113.92
372	Sharyn Miller	103.13
394	Hanna Zhuang	100.69
490	Bob Weingarten	92.25
6	Katthy Soltwedell	90.40
7	Nancy Toussaint	89.89
8	Loretto Russell	79.34
9	Ramesh Sawhney	73.94
10	Tim Lee	68.48

<u>1500-2500</u>		
252	Susan Raphael	155.77
290	Kiyo Nagaishi	149.16
304	Dwight Hunt	147.34
413	Richard Plumer	136.57
417	Judith Jones	136.27
422	Rick Turner	135.63
7	Basant Shah	132.85
8	Betty Witteried	128.63
9	Vera Mandell	124.42
10	Michael Klemens	123.19

<u>1000-1500</u>		
306	Martin Hurwitz	119.66
323	Fredy Minter	117.15
374	Dalia Hernandez	111.76
4	Robert Preece	100.96
5	Bert Stock	100.58
6	Pamela Cole	87.45
7	Roy Ladd	84.98
8	Alan Golden	82.38
9	Sherry Troeger	77.25
10	Patricia Taylor	76.43

<u>500-1000</u>		
7	Alan Olschwang	209.82
95	Raymond Primus	136.71
178	Katherine Weisberg	119.65
215	Jojo Sarkar	114.80
258	Richard Bakovic	109.98
292	Colleen Gardner	106.67
7	Mori Taylor	90.88
8	Jerry Goodman	86.10
9	Robert Bakovic	84.59
10	Dawn Lee	84.13

<u>300-500</u>		
17	Robert Johann	160.07
62	Jill Thesman	117.31
145	Brian Fielding	96.31
183	Sunny Lee	91.26
262	Ravnesch Amar	84.22
275	John Vacca	83.01
297	Jerold Rose	80.85
325	Douglas Timmer	78.55
9	Bruce Scheldon	65.22
10	Patricia Berg	65.17

<u>200-300</u>		
85	Joan Oliver	91.30
225	Bob Weingarten	69.35
265	Katthy Soltwedell	66.16
414	Nancy Toussaint	57.63
5	Richard Bratkovich	57.07
6	Loretto Russell	55.98
7	Russell Gray	54.40
8	Irving Klasky	52.83
9	Shoreh Toufanian	49.05
10	Monica Fastovsky	47.26

<u>100-200</u>			<u>100-200</u>		
14	Mark Rappaport	214.01	39	Mark Rappaport	105.44
15	Larisa Rappaport	213.55	31	Larisa Rappaport	104.98
76	Lillian Slater	150.35	202	Linda Lin	69.99
236	Aton Arbisser	109.38	203	Lillian Slater	69.96
340	Jack Stewart	98.15	317	Frank Neiman	62.67
374	Linda Lin	95.84	326	E A Ruttenberg	62.25
7	Frank Neiman	82.35	329	Carol Decordova	62.09
8	Larry Feldman	77.92	353	Larry Feldman	60.38
9	Carol Decordova	73.02	440	Michael Connell	55.98
10	E A Ruttenberg	72.52	10	A D Shah	55.33
<u>50-100</u>			<u>50-100</u>		
*1	Susan Morse-Lebow	258.69	*1	Ross Bengel	141.20
3	Ross Bengel	225.96	56	Patricia Sullivan 7	72.67
55	Ardis Laine	123.81	59	Bob Becker	71.42
121	Charles Laine	99.22	104	Charles Laine	61.97
139	Patricia Sullivan	95.95	136	Bette Gordy	57.44
159	Bob Becker	92.35	188	Louis Simmons	52.78
403	Bette Gordy	64.85	259	Ardis Laine	48.91
443	Louis Simmons	62.77	335	Lindsay Gronich	45.15
9	I D Patel	59.35	9	Susan Morse-Lebow	40.63
10	Lindsay Gronich	59.17	10	Sri Nagesh	39.14
<u>20-50</u>			<u>20-50</u>		
107	Sandra Schlosser	80.76	60	Carl Lundgren	62.02
143	Carl Lundgren	73.56	106	James Degner	52.42
167	Di Zheng	70.39	141	Sandra Schlosser	48.92
197	Tomoko Stock	67.36	220	Alan Nueman	42.40
258	James Degner	61.12	363	Nava Grutman	36.67
304	Nava Grutman	55.64	6	Naum Grutman	34.17
342	Naum Grutman	53.14	7	Jim Werner	33.47
420	Karmen Armoudjian	49.86	8	Carolyn Byrnes	31.80
433	Alan Nueman	49.11	9	Tomoko Stock	29.14
480	Shuai Lan	47.44	10	Karmen Armoudjian	28.40
<u>5-20</u>			<u>5-20</u>		
152	Frances Gross	49.56	75	Harkirat Randhawa	42.34
158	Harkirat Randhawa	49.05	108	Frances Gross	37.33
185	Joef Wyrick	46.2	176	Phylly Yarnall	31.29
191	Raymond Boncato	45.52	236	Barry Sinsheimer	28.68
205	Danielle Dina	44.24	244	Danielle Dina	28.30
267	Barry Sinsheimer	39.61	263	Myrna Siltan	27.41
416	Dingan Chen	32.99	288	Teresa Dubernet	26.59
440	Phylly Yarnall	32.04	331	Joef Wyrick	25.27
500	Myrna Siltan	30.35	9	Raymond Boncato	22.78
10	Elaine Bock	29.95	10	John Walker	20.71
<u>0-5</u>			<u>0-5</u>		
295	David Khalieque	30.70	164	Melanie Smothers	26.44
306	Mikie Alpert	30.03	230	Mikie Alpert	23.44
314	Melanie Smothers	29.71	245	David Khalieque	22.71
414	Priscilla Caillouette	25.86	261	Priscilla Caillouette	22.04
472	Angela Chen	24.24	331	Timothy Singer	19.87
488	Jeffrey Silver	23.73	393	Angela Chen	18.34
7	David Dai	22.50	7	Barbara Kaye	15.76
8	Barbara Kaye	22.06	8	Lawrence Mitchell	14.77
9	Timothy Singer	21.41	9	Rosalie Stern	13.80
10	Lawrence Mitchell	19.93	10	CC Pultzer-Lemann	13.67

District 23 Rank Changes January 2020

Junior Master

David Adelstein
Stephanie Campbell
Ames C. Cushing
Herb Glazeroff
Velma M. Matteson
Edward J. Nowacki
Elaine L. Porzucki
Barbara Quinn
Joseph E. Roth
Sally A. Shannon
Dennis R. Welsh
Chia C. Yao

Club Master

Estelle Byrnes
Patricia J. Donley
Linda Lessing
Lawrence Mitchell
Joanne L. Moser
Freda H. Otto
C. C. Pulitzer-Lemann
Andrew D. Smith
Rosalie Stern
John F. Tholen
Glenda Zelichov

Sectional Master

Mikie Alpert
Margaret A. Bass
Bill Kessler
Diana Mitchell
Myrna A. Siltan
Barry Sinsheimer

Regional Master

Jerry D. Reid
Jill Sattinger

NABC Master

Larry Feldman
Ardis K. Laine
Glen Musicer
Janet Treisman
Denise I. Wreede

Advanced NABC Master

Nancy A. Toussaint

Life Master

Joyce Roberts

Bronze Life Master

Linda Nye
Joan C. Oliver
Patricia Shellogg-Seal
Tien P. Zee

Silver Life Master

Laura L. Gastelum
Jodie S. Rachmil

Ruby Life Master

Pamela K. Cole
Kiran Kumar
Brian Reynolds
Jo-Anne T. Waller

Sapphire Life Master

Claude Le Feuvre

Diamond Life Master

Verna M. Baccus
Rae Murbach

Platinum Life Master

Rhoda Himmell

Hint for “Play or Defend?”

I have been known to call the ♣2 Stayman. Jeff Goldsmith calls the ♣2 Roberto, after Roberto Scaramuzzi who drew the card in a tie breaker. Others have different names for deuces, but regardless of what you call it take notice of the ♣2. It is a very important card on the actual hand.

LOS ANGELES PRESENTS THE 86TH ANNUAL

BRIDGE WEEK

The Summer's
Best Regional*
JUNE 29 - JULY 5

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

D23 Youth Day on
Friday July 3rd
Players 26 and under
PLAY FREE ALL DAY

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

Dalia Hernandez
dalia.hernandez@gmail.com
562.221.1398

NEED A PARTNER?

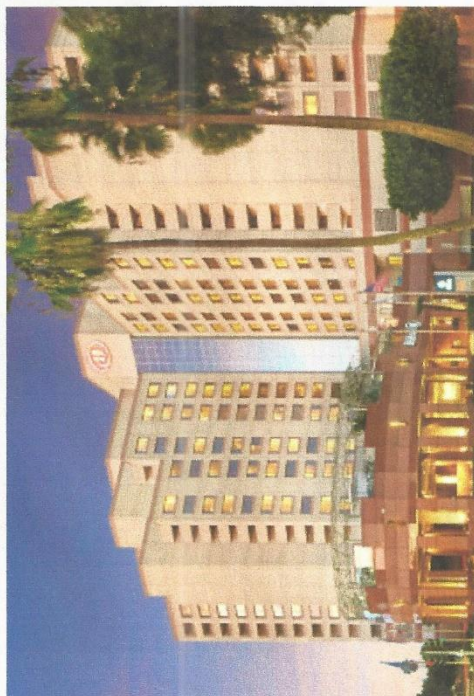
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DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE:

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

tinyurl.com/BridgeWeek2020

562.983.3400 or 562.983.3414

Group code: AB5



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

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
 Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4) ... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Bracketed Round Robin Teams 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 5) 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session) .. 3:00 pm

Friday, July 3, 2020

AM Side Game Series 10:00 am
 Walt Otto 299er Pairs (Single Session) 10:00 am
 0-99er Pairs (Single Session) 10:00 am
 Starburst KO (1 & 2 of 4) 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
 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session) .. 3:00 pm
 Youth Reception 6:30 pm

D23 Youth Day**Saturday, July 4, 2020**

AM Side Game Series (5 of 5) 10:00 am
 299er Pairs (Single Session) 10:00 am
 Starburst KO (3 & 4 of 4) 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Bracketed Round Robin Teams 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Barbara Nussbaum Open ABC Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 (continued on right)

Saturday, July 4, 2020 (Cont.)

GOLD RUSH Pairs 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6) 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 10:00 am & TBA
 Bracketed B Round Robin Teams 10:00 am & TBA

Event Colors:

299ers: Orange Teams: Green Pairs: Blue

299er Games Every AM Bracketed RR Teams
 Side Games Every Day Th-Sat Open
 Open Pairs Every Day Sun. 0-2500
 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 Round Robin Teams: 0-2500

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

January 26 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A Dominique and Arthur Moore, 2nd Kauy Tseng/Wayne Rapp, 3rd Mary Kiechle/Steve Sturm, 4th Verna Baccus/Jeanette Estill, 5th Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi, 6th Jackie Hess/John Melis. In the B flight overalls Lillian Slater/Bonnie Shok were 2nd, Milton Kalikman/Nancy Nakanis 3rd, Sherry Troeger/Gayle Grubb 4th, Margie Lee/Don Garner 5th, Hanefi Erton/Oliver Yildiz 6th. In the C flight overalls Mark Singer/Paul Chen were 3rd, Rosemary Ford/Lynn Johnson 4th, Rosalie Storc/Penny O'Toole 5th, John Tholen/Lynn Danielson 6th. And in the NLM game Jennifer Wellman/Gordon Hull were 1st, Dale Whitney/Porteneuve Aido tied with Larry Wisinski/Edward Von Leffern for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

70% GAMES Jan 16 through Feb 15: In open games: Monday evening Jan 27 Sherry Troeger/Ilan Rothstein had 70.82%, in the evening game Jan 29 Mary Singer/George Derevjanik had 70.82%, in the afternoon game Jan 28 Alan Flower/Loren Hilf had 70%, Feb 2 Akiko Murakami/Alfred Lee had 70.50%. In NLM games Jan 17 Melanie Smothers/Ted Dowe had 70%, Jan 30 Sylvia Kaprelyn/Henry Lee had 73.75%. And in beginner games Jan 28 Herb Glazerooff/Carol Poto had 82%, Feb 10 Gerri Landes/Leayn Johnson had 87.50%. Congratulations to all eight pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS Jan 16 through Feb 15: In the team game Jan 19 the team of Peggy Waite/Betty McClellan/Steve Rowe/John Crabtree came in 1st each winning 1.30mp. In the team game Feb 9 the team of Kay Tseng/Colleen Gardner/John Melis/Jane Reid came in 1st each winning 1.98mp. In the Unit Game Jan 26 Dominique

and Arthur Moore won 5.40mp for 1st, Kay Tseng/Wayne Rapp 4.05mp for 2nd, Mary Kiechle/Steve Sturm 3.04mp for 3rd. In other open games Jan 17 Jo and John Melis won 4.67mp for 1st, Toni Morford/John Crabtree 3.50mp for 2nd. Feb 3 Jackie Hess/Alan Flower won 3.79mp for 1st. Feb 4 John Backovic/Ralph Beazley won 4.23mp for 1st, Jackie Hess/Jon Yinger 3.17mp for 2nd. Feb 5 Bill Mclean/John Bakovic won 3.65mp for 1st. Feb 6 Gayle Grubb/Linda Renkus won 3.35mp for 1st. Feb 7 Bruce Horiguchi/Maya Ayala won 3.21mp for 1st. Feb 10 Thad Mikols/Ralph Beazley. Feb 11 Mark Tang/Bruce Horiguchi won 4.67mp for 1st, Gayle Grubb/Baum Harris won 3.65mp for 2nd. Feb 12 Kiyo Nagaishi/Wayne Rapp won 3.79mp for 1st. Feb 13 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger won 3.50mp for 1st. Feb 14 Joyce Henderson/Larry Slutsky won 4.38mp for 1st, Alan Flower/Verna Baccus won 3.29mp for 2nd. And Feb 15 John Jones/Jim Nicola won 3.35mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

NEW MEMBERS: Nancy Sheley, Peter Connor. Welcome to you both!

STATUS CHANGES: New Club Master: Rick Gonser. New Bronze Life Master: Judith Lorber. New Silver Life Master: William Smith. New Ruby Life Master: Sherry Troeger. Congratulations to you all!

CONDOLENCES to family and friends of Marcie Evans. She was a dear person and a great bridge player. She will be sorely missed.

GET WELL: Phyllis Parker

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

Mar 2-8 District 23 STaC sectional tournament Extra points, \$11 card fee

Mar 9 9:30-11:30 am Pro-Am game Ams \$5, Pros free

Mar 15 Swiss Teams

Mar 22 Unit Game 12:30pm 0-199pts \$2, others \$8 dessert served

Mar 31 ACBL-Wide International Fund Game Extra points \$13 card fee

**NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD
BRIDGE CLUBS
Judy Carter-Johnson**

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Clubhouse #1—January 25. Ellen Kice/Al Appel 1 in A. Sue Boswell/Ted Cooper 2 in A, 1 in B. Linda Nye/Joan Tschirki 3 in A. Sharon Beran/Bud Parish 4 in A, 2 in B.

CONGRATS TO: Howard Smith who attained rank of Silver Life Master. And to Sylvia Kaprelyan and Russ Gray who earned some points at the Costa Mesa Regional.

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 March 21,
11:00 a.m., Glendora
Individual: Saturday, March 7, Chino
STaC Games: March 3, 5, 6, 7

That's right, both La Fetra and Bridge41 have signed up for the silver-point STaC games this month. Entry fee will be boosted to \$8 at La Fetra, and \$4 at Bridge41. Those STaC sanction fees are simply ruinous, don't you know?

Even better: after a *l-o-o-o-n-g* hiatus, Unit 551 is returning to the Sectional scene. It will be a joint effort with Unit 516. The dates are May 29-30-31; the location, the Upland Women's Club in ... well, I don't have to spell it out, do I? The tournament flyer is available on the ACBL web site. Physical copies will be available soon at La Fetra, Bridge41, and the Knights of Columbus.

We will be presenting the annual Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards before the March Unit game. As in last year, we won't be mailing out awards (except in special circumstances), so if you can't make it to the game, you can pick up your award later at a club game. Or something.

In the sad news department, Clara Satterfield is leaving southern California at the end of this month, to be with her daughter in Louisiana. Please come join us at the game on Friday, March 20, to say "farewell" and scarf some cake-and-ice-cream.

Roger Boyar led the rest in the February Individual, with a score of 66.77%. Al Lax was second, Art Weinstein third, and Yours Truly was fourth.

The February Unit game was won in a cakewalk by Amr Elghamry – Gerard Geremia, with a score of 69.05%. They were more than 3 tops above the second place finishers, Steve Mancini and Your Correspondent. (To be fair, we *did* get some nice gifts, otherwise, meh, we'd have been down in the depths. After Amr and Gerard, the rest of the field was bunched up real closely.) Third place was taken by Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, and fourth by Claudia Cochran – Hanan Mogharbel.

February being a bit short, only 34 players won points, the total being 57.39. And to top it off, there was a great disturbance in the Force. Double-check though I might, the top club point gatherer last month was ... Your Correspondent, with a whopping 6.72. (To be fair, a lot of the heavy hitters didn't play much in February; an humble thing, but mine own.) Second was Amr Elghamry (4.01); then Clint Lew (3.88); Hanan Mogharbel (2.99); and Steve Mancini (2.72).

The top game in February was a 67.84% game by Bill Papa – Vic Sartor. Bill and Vic also scored 67.13%, with Kurt Triselmann – Yours Truly also topping 65% at 67.00%. There were two other scores over the magic 65% mark, both in Individual games: 74.43%, and 70.43%, both by ... well, modesty forbids. (Ah, the old bromide: "*If only I could partner myself ...*" Ahem.)

Other winners: Hanan Mogharbel, Linda Stuart, Clint Lew, Joe Unis, Marjorie Preston, Clara Satterfield, David Ochroch, Fredy Minter, and Lulu Minter.

No promotions to report this month.

This time, we have a wild one for you in the Hand-of-the-Month department. I'll give it to you from South's perspective, for maximum impact. Partner (North) deals, and opens 1♠. The opponents are silent (more on this, later). You are holding this collection:

♠ 4 ♥ KQJ10 ♦ K ♣ K875432.

Whether playing Standard or 2/1, 2♣ seems indicated, no? Partner's rebid is 3♥! Hmmm, must be some shape over there. You make the obvious 4NT call, and partner responds 5♠, showing 2 key cards and the trump Queen (or extra length, of course). What? Partner jump-shifted and has only two Aces? Well, you are committed now (or perhaps one of both of you should be), so 6♥ it is. The opening lead is the ♦A, and partner quickly proceeds to wrap up all 13 tricks. Partner's hand? Take a gander:

♠ AKQ9875 ♥ A98543 ♦ none ♣ none.

That's right, a 7-6 monster. Partner's bidding seems reasonable; so does yours; but how do you get to the cold grand? It would be easier playing 2/1, but we were playing Standard. The hand also makes 7♠, as the missing spades are 3-2. Yoiks! Note that with North void in both minors, this grand comes home on the lofty total of 19 working HCP. The power of shape ...

One puzzling thing: East held *eight* diamonds to the AQJ, yet failed to enter the auction. East was no palooka, either. No comprendo!

Quote for the month: "If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything." (Mark Twain)



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

This year's Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on October 3rd and 4th at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. For more information, contact tournament chair, Ruth Baker (rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net)

Unit 556 will honor the winners of the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney contests at our annual Unit Game and Awards Ceremony on Sunday, March 22nd at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Lancaster. The luncheon will start at 11:30 AM and game at 12:30 PM.

Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Awards:

0-5
5-20
20-50
50-100
100-200
200-300
300-500
500-1000
1000-1500
1500-2500
2500-3500
5000-7500

David Khalieque
Harkirat Randhawa
Alan Nueman
May Ho
Carol Reukauf
Paul Reukauf
Carol Provost
Ruth Baker
Albert Stock
Basant Shah
Bill Brodek
Paul Markarian

Congratulations to the winners of the 2019 Mini-McKenney Awards:

0-5
5-20
20-50
50-100
100-200
200-300
300-500
500-1000
1000-1500
1500-2500
2500-3500
5000-7500

David Khalieque
Harkirat Randhawa
Tomoko Stock
Gay Gipson
Carol Reukauf
Paul Reukauf
Carol Provost
Ruth Baker
Albert Stock
Basant Shah
Lance Kerr
Paul Markarian

Upcoming Events:

District 22-23 STaC Games:

Tuesday, Mar. 3rd at 5:00 pm at the Sports Complex in Castaic

Thursday, Mar. 5th at 10:00 AM in at the Sports Complex in Castaic

Friday, Mar. 6th at 12:30 at Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Lancaster

Sunday, Mar. 8th at 12:30 at Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Lancaster

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs Game: Monday, Mar. 2nd at 12:30 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita. Please RSVP to Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net).

World-Wide Bridge Contest: Friday, June 5th at 12:30 at Joshua Tree Bridge Club, 2747 W. Ave L, Lancaster.

Longest Day Games: Monday, June 15th at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita and Friday, June 19th at Joshua Tree in Lancaster.

Next Board meeting: TBA



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

[Editor's note: with great sadness, we bid farewell to Linda, who has given us the news from Unit 561 for the past five years. Linda has retired from her Unit board, and a replacement column-writer has not yet been located.]

Sigh. Our District has 9 units, and of these nine, only five (sometimes four) are letting us know the latest news. We'd love to hear from the rest of the Units. Heck, most of us have friends in other Units, so we're not just interested in our own local news.

Anyone interested? The job doesn't pay very well (it's a volunteer job), but it's not all that burdensome. You can put in as much, or as little, effort as you please. So if you are interested, just talk to a member of your Unit's Board of Directors. It's easy, it can be fun.]

Downey – Whittier by Linda Eagan and Liz Burrell

We hope you will join us on WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020, at the Downey Bridge Club to help us celebrate the life of our late, great director for many years, Marcelita Landry-Evans. Marcie had many, many friends throughout the bridge world and elsewhere and we wish to honor her memory with a Charity Game and catered lunch.

The lunch will be hosted by Mary Kiechle, Marcie's long-time good friend and member of the Downey Bridge Club at 9813 Paramount Blvd, Downey, CA 90240. Reservations are a must since we can only accommodate a maximum of 11, 12 or maybe 13 tables so be sure to call, text or email Liz Burrell (562-972-2913; lizburrell7@gmail.com) as soon as possible to make your reservation. We also need a count for the caterer.

We start our game at 10:00 a.m. but please arrive no later than 9:45 to register and pay your game fees (\$11). If anyone would like to share "Marcie Stories" that day, we would be happy to have you say a few words during our lunch. We look forward to

hearing from you soon and to a special day remembering Marcie.

**Since Dec 2019 these are our 60% or better games-
Congrats to them!**

Ernest Wong - Larry Boles	69.19%
01/29/20	
Ernest Wong - Mark Tang	68.23%
02/05/20	
Gabrielle Sill - Kim Wang	66%
01/08/20	
Gabrielle Sill - Connie Kang	63.64%
01/29/20	
Linda Krause - Bob Krause	61.81%
01/22/20	
Mary Kiechle - Barbara Horn	61.48%
02/12/20	
Joyce Roberts -Tim Cole	60.71%
12/04/19	
Mary Kiechle - Barbara Horn	60.37%
12/18/20	
Gabrielle Sill - Larry Bolls	60.12%
12/04/19	



West Los Angeles by Elizabeth Ryan eryan311@gmail.com

This column is really a way to celebrate our members, new and old. If you have some news to share please email it to me so we can all celebrate with you.

Now to the West LA news.

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

New members: Jonathon Eastman, David G. Gidlow, Michael C. Gordon, Meir Hasbani, Lauren Z. Hurwitz, Susan M. Miller and Feresheth Mobasher.

Transfer from another unit: Loretta Kohn and Ray Kosarin.

There are some exciting level changes as well:

New Junior Masters: Raymond L Coen and Thomas E. Unterman

New Club Masters: Polly Bell, Charles L. Guinness and Denny's Purcell

New NABC Master: Tam Lachoff and Gabe Rosenberg

New LIFE Master: Barbara Wellisch

New BRONZE Life Master: Lidia Epelbaum

New RUBY Life Master: Colin D. Gordon

Congratulations to our Unit's Mini-McKenney winners for 2019 (masterpoints).

0-5 MP: Angela Chen (22.24)

5-20 MP: Danielle Dina (44.24)

20-50 MP: Di Zheng (70.39)

50-100 MP: Susan Morse-Lebow (258.40)

100-200 MP: Mark Rappaport (214.01) Larisa Rappaport had 213.56!

200-300 MP: Joan Oliver (210.45)

300-500 MP: Alexander Wiles (258.40)

500-1000 MP: Dawn Lee (213.68)

1000-1500MP: Paula Nataf (198.18)

1500-2500 MP: James Perkins (274.18)

2500-3500 MP: Nelly Gordon (167.82)

3500-5000 MP: Robert Shore (566.31)

5000-7500 MP: John Ramos (572.08)

7500-10000 MP: Sidney Brownstein (230.93)

Over 10000 MP: Iftikhar Baqai (1434.44)

Club news and 70% Games

Barrington Bridge Club:

1/24 Bryan Conley & Basant Shah 71.11%

1/27 Sheri Rivera & Aram Bedros 70.91%

2/19 Sally Aminoff & Robert Levy 72.39%

STAC week pair game on March 5th Thursday evening at 7 pm, Silver points! The Barrington bridge offers a team game on the first and third Thursday of each month, game time 7:00. There are no games this March but will start up again in April.

A celebration of Roger Clough's 80th birthday was held at the Barrington Bridge Club, bridge and dinner were served. A fun time was had by all. The winners were Pam Wittes & Harvey Katz (N/S), Mike Mikyka & Junko Hemus (E/W).

Beverly Hills Bridge Club:

1/23 Victor Anikovich & Alan Schneider 74.54%

1/30 Steve Mager & Pete Benjamin 74.76%

There are stratified open **night games** at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club. Monday and Wednesday and a novice game on Thursday night, game time 7:15.

Beverly Hills Bridge Club began its "Learn Bridge in a Day" program 5 years ago and are experiencing lots positive outcomes from its participants. Check out their website for more information.

CC Lehman-Pulitzer, a newer player, has been playing in the Open Games and has this experience to share about it: "We few baby guppies who have the nerve/courage to swim into the big shark-filled bridge room learn a lot and as long as we don't take too long, we can swim off with only a few-if any shark nibbles! 😊"

Fun History Fact from West LA

Aram Bedros had a 70% as he did last month. As we will see in this month's fun fact, he has been scoring such games for at least 30 years!

The July 1989 ACBL Bulletin reported that Earl Ziskin racked up FIVE 70% plus games in a six week period during April and May while playing at the Culver-Marina Bridge Club. Astonishingly, each was with a different partner! The partners were Aram Bedros (74.5%), Leon Saizow (73.4%), Lyle Peake (71.5%), Art Peterson (70.0%) and Bill Gavin(71.8%).

Solution to "Play or Defend?"

Answer: Choose to play. This is an Eddie Kantar hand. It can be found on Roy Wilson's double dummy problems on his website. Here is Eddie's analysis:

Ruff the diamond with the ♠A.

Lead the ♠6 to the dummy and ruff a diamond with the ♠K.

Continue by leading the ♣7 as an entry to dummy.

Ruff a third diamond with the ♠Q.

Play the ♥A and ♥K, pitching a small spade.

Ruff the ♥T with dummy's last trump.

Ruff a fourth diamond with your ♠J.

Now your hand has the ♠2 and three small spades, while dummy has K74 of spades and a high diamond. East has the high trump, which is the 3, and the AQT of spades.

If you lead your ♠2, East is endplayed and must give you the ♠K and the last diamond. Pulling four rounds of trumps works similarly.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Mark Bartusek, Jeff Goldsmith, Roger Lee, Rick Roeder, John Swanson, and Jon Wittes.

1

Matchpoints
N-S Vul

West	North	East	South
	1♥	pass	2♦
pass	4♥	pass	???

You, South, hold: ♠Q3 ♥4 ♦AK865432 ♣A6

What call do you make?

[The variety of hands that partner could have for opening 1♥ and then jumping to 4♥ over the game forcing 2/1 is troublesome for the panelists. Is his suit solid? Must he have an 8 bagger? Does he promise an outside ace? Is he warning he has short diamonds? What's his maximum number of diamonds? Are we playing Namyats? Is partner a disciplined bidder? Once we get past trying to figure out what partner has, we get to an age old question. Can I disregard the old adage of never putting an eight-card suit in the dummy?]

Wittes: Pass. If partner has a doubleton diamond, slam becomes a possibility. If partner has a stiff diamond, still a remote possibility. If partner has a void diamond *[fairly likely if he thinks he is warning us against bidding a slam]*, 4♥ may very well be the limit. Give partner the worst possible hand ♠Kxx ♥KQJxxx ♦void ♣Jxx, and game will probably rest on trumps behaving. I don't expect partner to jump to 4♥ with a very good suit and a good control outside the suit and even a minimum diamond fit.

Bartusek: 5♥. Very tough! Let's give partner a choice in the matter since 4H encompasses such a large range. Of interest, would 5NT be pick a slam or clearly Josephine? *[Josephine was the original name for Grand Slam Force. It was invented by Josephine Culbertson. I generally play the rule that if 5NT could be pick a slam then then pick a slam it is.]*

Roeder: Pass. I bet many partnerships have not discussed this sequence if playing 2 over 1 as I am assuming *[2/1 GF is always assumed for this column]*. Logically, his hand is slam negative. 2=7=2=2 with solid hearts is possible. *[That hand has got too much slam potential to bid that way if 4♥ is intended as doubtful for slam.]* So is 3=7=0=3. Is my hand good enough to override? No. You did not mention how trustworthy partner is. If I have pegged his hand right, I am going to teach him Namyats.

Swanson: 6♦. The 4♥ rebid says that partner has no interest in my suit. However, I retain some interest. The downside of 5♣ is that it is a cue bid for hearts, not diamonds. Partner can 'correct' diamonds to hearts with solid hearts. The spade situation will just have to adjust to the auction.

[Look at the discrepancy in calls between the last two panelists.]

Lee: Pass, even thinking is an overbid.

Goldsmith: 7♥. N/S probably don't have an agreement about what 4♥ shows, but in the old days of 2/1, it showed solid hearts and exactly one outside ace. Versus ♠Axx ♥AKQJxxx ♦x ♣xx, there's a pretty good chance to make seven, so if I think partner knows what he's supposed to have, I'll try 7♥. *[You'll need diamonds to break 2 -2 if they lead a club.]* Keycard won't work to find out if he's void in diamonds, because he shouldn't show that void.

If partner can have any random hand with a lot of hearts to bid this way, get a new partner.

2

IMPs
Both Vul

West	North	East	South
		pass	???

You, South, hold: ♠8 ♥A1054 ♦AJ7642 ♣J5

What call do you make?

[Last hand was much more a guessing game as to what partner might have than it was an evaluation problem. Here we have a problem that relies on style and evaluation. The six panelists form three groups. Two panelists pass and think it is close. Two panelists open and think it is close. Two panelists open and think it obvious. Notice that the only mention of a weak two bid is an admonition not to]

Roeder: Pass. Reverse my majors and I would open 1♦. Power of the spade suit again speaks!

Bartusek: Pass. It's very close between Pass and 1♦, but also system dependent. It's obviously a clear-cut opening bid playing a strong club system, but in standard 2/1 the spade shortness seems like the deciding factor to me (remember the various uses of the Pearson count / Rule of 15 / Cassino count / which utilizes your spade length in the calculation). *[Those rules are generally used for deciding to open in fourth chair.]* Admittedly you won't have any rebid problems, but an auction like 1♦ – 1♠ – 2♦ might lose your heart fit if the partnership lacks game-going values. It's interesting that two common hand evaluators that people cite give the following results:

Kaplan & Rubens (K&R) = 13.25, Danny Kleinman (DK) = 10.0. Surprising initially, but upon further examination DK doesn't measure shape, only HCPs. *[Jeff also mentions the K & R hand evaluator. Both the K & R evaluator and the DK evaluator are available on Jeff's website (jeff-goldsmith.org) What earthly good would an evaluation program that only counted HCP be? Danny is conservative bridge player. But he is an intelligent, astute player and theorist. He would never invent a hand evaluator that only counted HCP! The DK program has clearly whiffed on this problem! But it won't miss on every problem. The K&R evaluator, which likes aces in long suits (who doesn't?), is about right.]*

[Two panelists open 1♦, but think it is close.]

Swanson: 1♦. Pass is fine, but this hand is much too good in support of hearts for a weak two bid.

Wittes: 1♦. I would open 1♦ with 2 bullets and that distribution, but wouldn't fault a pass.

[I am emphatically in agreement with the last two panelists that think this is a clear opening bid.]

Goldsmith: 1♦. K&R says 13.25. It thinks this is a sound opening without the ♣J (13.05) *[I Agree!]*

Lee: 1♦, no matter how conservative you are, this is a clear opening bid in any playable expert style.

[This hand comes from a BBO practice session. My partner passed this hand. Third chair stole the pot with an aggressive 3♠ preempt. We missed a good 4♥ game when I passed with a 5-3-3-2 12 HCP with 12 HCP. After he answered the original question, I told Roger the result. He doesn't like the initial pass, but he also disagrees with the final pass. Here is what he wrote:

I will also say that even if you wanted to pass on hand 2 as an opening bidder, passing in the balancing seat again is beyond bad, it is possibly the worst call I have seen in a year. To be clear I would call reopening double as an unpassed hand to be completely obvious, failing to double as a passed hand is criminal. It is rare for me to see a competitive bidding decision cost an average of about 5 IMPs per hand in the long run, but if you deal out 20 or 30 hands in a simulator I'm pretty sure you will see that's how absolutely terrible it is to fail to reopen with a double.

3

IMPs
None Vul

West	North	East	South
------	-------	------	-------

pass	1♠	pass	1♥
pass	3♣	pass	2♥
pass	4♣	pass	3♥
			???

You, South, hold: ♠72 ♥KQJ732 ♦Q3 ♣A42

What call do you make?

Goldsmith: 4♦. Partner is yet again trying to be a pain in the neck. He either doesn't have a diamond stopper or he has substantial extras. The over/under on his heart length is 0.5. He could have ♠KQJxx ♥x ♦xx ♣KQJxx, in which case, we are already too high. He could have ♠AKJxxx ♥void ♦x ♣KQJxxx, and 6♣ is excellent. If he has ♠AKxxxx ♥x ♦x ♣KQxxx, we want to be in 4♠. The only bid I have that can elicit some sort of input from him is 4♦, though I suspect the main effect it will have is to give me a problem on the next round. My plan is to pass if he bids a game, and if he bids 5♦, to bid 6♣.

Lee: 4♥, though 5♣ could be right, my honors look wrong for that. Good advertisement for playing 2♠ over 2♥ as an artificial game force.

Roeder: 4♠. We might have same three losers in 5♣. If diamonds are led at the first three tricks, I can take the tap in hand with short spades if partner is 5=0=2=6, 5=1=2=5 or 5=0=3=5.

Swanson: 4♠. This seems clear-cut to me.

Wittes: 4♠. Likely to be right if partner is 6-5. Could even be right if partner is 5-5 and ten tricks is the limit of the hand.

Bartusek: 4♠. Partner is very likely to be 6-5 on this auction. If only 5-5 then partner would have found another bid over 3♥ (unless 4♠ is very playable with my hand opposite a strong 5-card suit).

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">4</div> <div>Matchpoints Neither Vul</div>	West	North	East	South
			3♦	pass
	pass	dbl	pass	???
	You, South, hold: ♠Q104 ♥J84 ♦107 ♣AK753 What call do you make?			

[This problem elicited five different answers. Pass, 3♠, 3NT, 4♣, 4♦. Not bad variety with only six panelists.]

Bartusek: 3♠. Partner can be very light in balancing seat (especially NV), so let's just try to find the safest spot at the lowest level. My initial evaluation was an easy 4♣ bid. Upon further reflection, West's pass implies that partner doesn't have diamond shortness! Thus, partner could easily be 5=4=2=2 or 4=5=2=2. In addition, if I end up playing a Moysian fit at the 3 or 4 level then I probably want to play in the stronger trump suit. Obviously, this will be a disaster if partner has a minimum with 3=4=2=4 (but doesn't everyone need more practice playing those 3-3 fits at the 3-level?). Note that a 3♠ bid also allows us to play 3NT if partner is so inclined.

Goldsmith: 3NT. Someone has to bid it, *[Why does someone have to bid 3NT? It looks as though we may not even have a stopper.]* and if not me, then who? If not now, then when? I'm glad it is matchpoints.

Lee: 4♦. It's ugly but has to be done. 4♣ could be right, but 5♣ is just an overbid.

Roeder: 4♦. I could easily be convinced that Pass is the winner as suggested by "The Law." 4♣ could be right but I would hate for the gossip circle to say I was this wimpy. A Moysian could play well.

Swanson: Pass. I'm invoking the Law of Total Tricks for assistance on this one. If they have nine trumps and we have eight someone is not making at the three-level. I hope it is they.

Wittes: 4♣. Yes, I have a good hand on this auction, but other than having five clubs, my distribution couldn't be much worse. After all, partner is just balancing. Give partner an opening bid with 4=4=2=3 distribution, and 4♣ is probably the limit of the hand at best. *[4♣ looks much better as an answer when you look at all the other possibilities. It's wimpier than Popeye's friend who "Will gladly pay you Tuesday for a hamburger today," but it rates to be the most likely plus score.]*

<div style="font-size: 4em; text-align: center;">5</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints Both Vul.</div>	West	North	East	South
			1♣	dbl
	3♣	3♥	pass	4♦
	pass	4♥	pass	???
You, South, hold: ♠A1032 ♥AQ ♦AKQ9763 ♣void				
What call do you make?				

Bartusek: 6♦. A choice between 6♦ and 5NT, but 6♦ seems much safer. Partner rates to be something like 3=5=1=4 or 3=6=1=3 (hopefully not 3=6=0=4). I'm fearful that 5NT will get us to hearts when partner's hearts aren't good enough to withstand the dummy being tapped at trick 1 (e.g. J86542, or even K86542 without enough quick pitches). This would have been easier if we were non-vul since partner's failure to open 2♥ in 2nd seat would eliminate the possibility of slam-ready hearts. I'm fairly certain that partner won't have seven reasonable hearts since a 2♥ opening bid would have been acceptable.

Goldsmith: Pass. Why didn't partner open a weak 2♥? Probably his hearts are not good enough; maybe he has ♠Kxx ♥J10xxxx ♦x ♣Qxx. Opposite that hand, 6♥ is touch and go. I could try for slam, but I don't see partner's being able to make a good decision, so I'll just pass. How's he supposed to know that the H9/8 are big cards? If he has one fewer club and one more diamond, slam isn't so good, and he'll like that hand more. Pass.

Lee: 6♦. 5♣ seems overly scientific on an auction where partner is staring at no keycards for diamonds.

Roeder: 5♣. Partner did not open a weak 2♥ so I might be less than thrilled to have to trump trick one with a high heart honor. Shades of Problem #1! If 5♦ and 4♥ hearts both make, matchpoint considerations will tilt me to hearts. Partner has not guaranteed a 6-bagger with this sequence. Yikes! Too tough! I simultaneously "punt" and cue bid with 5♣. 1965's "Help!" is ringing in my ears. Partner could have hands like ♠KQ ♥J1098xx ♦xx ♣xxx, in which case I

could make six of either red suit. Other hands exist where the limit is 6♦, 5♦ or 5♥. Once partner freely bids 3 hearts, the five level will be safe most of the time if you are smart enough to figure out where. Since there is guesswork, passing is not unreasonable in hopes of either +620 or +650 versus +600 in a making 5♦ or getting too high. Last, the strength of the 1♣ opener is always a touch suspect when the opener is in 3rd seat – that possibility augurs for optimism and is the deciding factor in ascending to the lofty heights of the 5 level.

Swanson: 5♣. Who knows what to do here? 4♦ was forcing; partner could hold a mediocre five-card heart suit. If he retreats to 5♥, I'll pass. If he finds a 5♦ bid I'll venture 6♦.

Wittes: 5♣. Best problem of this set. With KJ10xxx of hearts and an outside Q or K I would expect partner to open 2♥, even vulnerable. However, to bid 3♥ freely over 3♣ and then 4♥ over 4♦, I would not expect partner to bid 4♥ without ♥KJ10xxx or maybe even ♥KJxxxxx and out. If partner has one of those hands, will he bid a slam over my 5♣ bid? I don't know, but I think my hand is worth one more try.

[This difficult but interesting hand was sent to me by my friend Charles Steinhardt, who is teaching at the University of Copenhagen. It is great to know your partner's weak two style. My preference here is to bid 5NT, pick a slam. Partner's actual hand was ♠Jxx ♥KJT8xx ♦xxx ♣x, so 7♥ makes on the actual hand. Many of the panelists would open 2♥ on that hand, but the partnership style in Charles' partnership was to be disciplined vulnerable.]