

Southern California

Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



Bridge Week, Past and Future

We now have clarity regarding Bridge Week, both for 2021 and beyond. As you may know, ACBL has now cancelled all tournament sanctions through the end of July 2021 and it has also cancelled the 2021 Summer Nationals. Accordingly, I have informed the Long Beach Hilton that we will not be holding our tournament in 2021.

The Hilton has allowed us to cancel the event *without penalty*. I want to emphasize this. The Hilton probably didn't have to do that at all, and it certainly didn't have to allow this as easily as it did. Its willingness to do so is a credit to the strong relationship between the venue and the District, and in particular to the strong relationship our Tournament Manager, Peter Benjamin, has built with the site through the years. I'd like to make an ask that will allow us to show our gratitude to the Hilton in a tangible way. When travel becomes feasible again (which I think will happen in a matter of months), please seriously consider using a Hilton property for your hotel stay.

Looking ahead to the future, ACBL has restored a green light for signing contracts for future tournaments. We've approved our contract for the 2023 edition of Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Regional, and I've asked Peter also to start the process for obtaining and then signing a 2024 contract. Bridge is coming back, and we'll be ready when it does.

Personnel Changes

As President, I appoint two "at large" representatives to the Board's Executive Committee. One of those representatives was Patrick Cardullo of the Glendale/Verdugo Unit. Patrick recently informed me that he'd like to step down from that position. I'd

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District Director Report

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



The German ball bearing factory

When I was young my father would share a (probably apocryphal) story about a German ball bearing company during World War 2. This ball bearing company had a factory 100 miles from its headquarters where reports and paperwork were generated. The allies bombed the headquarters into rubble and output at the ball bearing factory increased 10%.

During my time on the ACBL board of directors I have very actively discouraged the board from exerting itself on those non-productive activities mirroring that of the isolated ball bearing headquarters. The board should instead focus on the few core issues needed to ensure a prosperous ACBL future.: what can we do to help ACBL management produce more ball bearings?

As I see it, the most important proactive work the board can do is to ensure the ACBL has a functional marketing plan to grow membership and participation. The board must also work with ACBL management to develop an online strategy that protects

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like to acknowledge and thank Patrick for his service to the District over the last two years.

For the time being, I am appointing John Jones to fill the vacancy on the ExComm. As you'll see elsewhere, Kevin intends to resign his position as District Director. When he does, John, who is now First Alternate, will fill the role until the term expires at the end of the year. Since our District Director is *ex officio* a member of the ExComm, that will again create a vacancy. When that happens, I will appoint Kevin to the open slot.

Our neighboring Districts have undergone some transition. District 22 (the rest of Southern California) is now being led by Lamya Angelides as President. District 21 (Northern California) has selected Tracey Bauer as its new President. Fortunately, I know both Lamya and Tracey and I hope and expect to have a strong working relationship with both of them. Tracey has organized a monthly Zoom "summit" of local District Presidents (including Chris Cookson, the President of District 19 — Washington, Alaska, and British Columbia), where we hope to find ways to work together to improve and grow West Coast Bridge.

ACBL's Plans

ACBL has informed us that the League plans to start sanctioning tournaments again starting in August (depending on developments relating to the pandemic, of course). It will start with sectionals, so Units with sectionals scheduled for August or later may want to start making plans. ACBL's current plan is to resume holding regionals beginning in October. That's too late for us, of course, but we can probably count on a couple of regionals within driving distance before the year is out.

Grand National Teams

We haven't forgotten about Grand National Teams for 2021. Our Coordinator, Jeff Grotenhuis, has been working to set up our District qualifying event for this year. As of this writing I don't yet know how the recent cancellation of the 2021 Summer Nationals will change things, but Jeff will report to the Board at our next meeting, so I expect to have much more information for you in my April column.

Next Meeting

Our next Board meeting will take place via Zoom on Saturday, March 20, at 2:00 p.m. Unit

Presidents, old and new, if you haven't already done so, please let our Secretary, Tom Lill, know who your Board Representatives will be this year. As noted before, this will be the last meeting of my current term. I do plan to run for reelection and I hope the rest of the officers will also continue their service.

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

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

the ACBL's future and accounts for the critical importance of face-to-face bridge clubs.

Transitioning to a smaller board of directors

Last month I announced I would not be running for election this year. In early February I gave notice to District President Bob Shore and national board leadership that I will be resigning my District Director position when I can coordinate the transition to my successor.

During the past several years, ACBL management has transitioned into a highly qualified team capable of creating and executing a sound business plan. Last year, I chaired a task force whose purpose was to shift work from the board of directors to ACBL management. We succeeded.

The board is being reduced in size to 13 board members; that's a good thing. I remain concerned that the board understands its role of oversight without micromanaging. But only when the board has reduced in size can its new dynamics be assessed and adjusted.

My email address is: district23director@acbl.org

The Director's Corner

by David White

I like the way your medication thinks.



New Alerts and Procedures – Part 2

Old stuff:

1. The four types of alerts in a face to face game are;
 - a. Pre-alert: What you tell the opponents before play starts.

b. Announcements: What you tell the opponents as the call is made.

c. Alerts: Warnings given at the time of the call, that something is unexpected.

d. Delayed Alerts: Warnings and information given at the end of the auction so not to break tempo and flow.

2. In an online game, all Announcements, Alerts, and delayed Alerts are give immediately, as if they were Announcements.

Stuff I haven't mentioned before:

1. The requirement to protect your self is strangely missing for the new procedure. So the need for asking about unalerted calls is lessened. When the opponents open 2♦, and it isn't alerted, you can assume it is weak; not Flannery, not Roman, not Mexican, and continue without asking what it is.

If it is one of these other conventions and it was not alerted, you will be protected.

It will take a while for players to get used to this, and longer for directors to put the onus on bidders to alert. If implemented correctly players will spend less of their limited time asking and answering what should be unnecessary questions.

2. Some of the reasoning behind the new alerts assumes you, the player, will put two and two together.

Example: The opponents open 1♣ and announce "Could be as short as 2." If they did not pre-alert, then they are not playing Precision and opening a short club and will have 4432 distribution.

3. Some things that were not alerted before, but are now, if you have the agreement.

a. Overcalling 1NT with a small singleton.

b. Overcalling 1NT with less than 14 HCP.

c. A 1NT response that bypasses a four card major.

d Opening 2NT with a small singleton.

e. Opening 2♣ by trick count rather than HCP. A 2♣ opener is supposed to be a Very Strong hand (20+ HCP). A hand maybe opened 2♣ if it is Strong (16+ HCP), has 8.5 tricks, and the partnership agrees.

f. A direct (immediate) cuebid, that does not show a Micheals-like hand. (Note: All cue bids are now delayed alerts).

g. Sandwich NT is now an alert regardless of whether the NT bidder is a passed hand or not.

h. A jump overcall that shows 14+ HCP.

As always the opponents are entitled to your agreements, not what you actually hold in your hand. But if you break an agreement more than once a year, you have effectively created a new agreement.

My IQ test results just came in and I'm really relieved. It's negative.

BBO Shortcuts Revisited *by Your Intrepid Editor*

Well, we did as David suggested, and experimented. In spite of David suggesting there were "lots of them," we found only two more using just the keyboard. Semicolon – right parentheses [;)] gives you a smirking, winking smiley face; and colon – dollar sign [:\$] gives you an embarrassed face.

Those of you using more advanced platforms than our Grandpa Box may have better luck finding more of these things.

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District 23 Rank Changes January 2020

Junior Master

Beverly B. Graber
Maida B. Hastings
Karoline Snakenborg
Rita B. Wright

Club Master

Benjamin W. Bascom
Gail H. Cohen
Sharon M. Coryell
Joey Duree
Sudha Govindarajan
Nancy J. Imbery
Jane Houston Jones
Pablo M. Parker
Susan Teal
Wendy Wax

Sectional Master

Thomas P. Beggane
Yuriko N. Bonds
Priscilla C. Caillouette
Carlos J. Carcia
Charles L. Guinn
Susan Jameson
Sylvia G. Jones
Priscilla L. Casschau
Carole La Caze
Amnon. M. Lurie
Simonetta May
John S. Meek
Marilyn S. Pecsok

Sectional Master

Rollin Ransom
David L. Rosenberg
Carol J. Schamp
Peter E. Schwab
William D. Snyder
Susan Talty
John F. Tholen
Farryl M. Weitzman

Regional Master

Pauletter L. Burkitt
Michael J. Connell
Robert Cook
Helen Cooksey
Thomas J. Cox
Sarah Deschenes
Ted J. Dowe
Carolyn Gore
Carol R. Herzlinger
David E. Hoyt
Barbara A. Kaye
Edward J. Nowacki
Peter R. O Keefe
Kenneth J. Peyton
C. C. Pulitzer-Lemann
Michael Rodrigues
Peggy Y. Shapiro
Jill E. Smith
Karen Sterling
Beverly S. Sugimoto
Deepa Upasani
Michael M. Zelichov

NABC Master

Kim Ebner
Sofi J. Kasubhai
S. T. Peterson

Life Master

Marsha Kerns
Lawrence M. Newman
Marianne S. Newman

Silver Life Master

Virginia S. Brewer
Sheryl R. Kohlhoff
Barry M. Speyer

Ruby Life Master

Joseph Hooker
Martin G. Hurwitz
Donna Massman

Gold Life Master

Diane E. Audeon
Charles Jurgens
Mark L. Raggio
Hank Sheehan

Sapphire Life Master

Harvey Katz

Diamond Life Master

Jackie E. Hess

The Puzzle Page

Play or Defend? *by John Jones*

North

♠ A Q 8
♥ Q 10 4
♦ A Q J 10
♣ 8 3 2

West

♠ J
♥ J 9 7 3 2
♦ 9 7 5 2
♣ A 9 4

East

♠ 6 5 2
♥ K 8 6 5
♦ K 6 4
♣ Q J 10

South

♠ K 10 9 7 4 3
♥ A
♦ 8 3
♣ K 7 6 5

Opening Lead = ♥2

Contract = 4♠

All players can see all the cards. Do you play or defend?

Bridge Jeopardy *by John Jones*

The topic is "Bidding after NT Openings."

And the answer is ...

\$100: This jump to 4♣ over 1NT asks for aces.

\$200: A four-level jump which shares its name with a Southwestern US state.

\$300: This convention for bidding over the opponents' opening NT bid sounds like being told not to do something.

\$400: This 2♣ bid asking for a 4-card major was invented by George Rapee, not the person whose name is on the convention.

\$500: This convention helps deal with opponents two-level interference over 1NT by using 2NT as a puppet to 3♣, and is normally not capitalized by the Bridge World magazine.

March Rebus

Well, can *you* figure out what this says?



Solutions to these puzzles are on the page following. No peeking!

Solution to “Play or Defend?”

Play

Win the ♥A at trick one. Lead a trump to dummy's ace. Lead the ♥T off the dummy. East can't afford to cover. If East follows low, pitch the ♦3 and let West win. Win the return and play a diamond to the ace with a high spade still in the dummy. Take a ruffing finesse in diamonds. After pulling the last trump there will be two good diamonds in the dummy to pitch two of declarer's clubs. Declarer scores six spades, one heart and three diamonds while never letting East gain the lead to attack clubs.

Solution to “Rebus”

Roman Key Card

Have a good bridge rebus? Send it to johndjones44@yahoo.com

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

\$100 – What is Gerber?

\$200 – What is Texas?

\$300 – What is DONT?

\$400 – What is Stayman? (He was Rapee's partner.)

\$500 – What is lebensohl?

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Trivia Time!

Theodor Geisel – better known as Dr. Seuss – wrote “Green Eggs and Ham” on a challenge from his publisher, that Geisel should write a book using 50 words or less. Geisel obviously won the \$50 bet.

Every day more money is printed for Monopoly than for the U.S. Treasury

The San Francisco cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.

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Submitted by John Jones:



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Bridge Wisdom

Generally speaking, leading trumps is a bit overrated, working well when called for, but otherwise like starting a campfire with high octane gasoline. (Eddie Kantar)

It's my opinion that any stupe can learn to play contract bridge. As a matter of fact, many do. (Milton Ozaki)

A technician is a man who knows exactly what to do the moment he has done something else. (Peregrine the Penguin ... from Victor Mollo's “Menagerie”)

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D23 2020 Masterpoint Award Winners

by Mike Marcucci

Each year, ACBL calculates the top finishers for the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs Races in February for the previous year. There are ACBL winners, District winners, and Unit winners. The top ACBL spots are listed on their web site under "Races". We would like to list the top 5 players in each of the D23 categories herein. We attempted to get pictures for 1st place folks and are showing MP totals to the nearest 10th. Remember that Mini-McKenney points are all colors taken together and Ace of Clubs is only black points from Club games. (However, colorless "online points" are not counted.) In this very difficult year, with so little face-to-face allowed, we congratulate all our players for their determination and devotion to our game in capturing most of those hard-won points on line.

HELEN SHANBROM ACE OF CLUBS MASTERPOINT RACE

Category: 0 – 5 points



Paul Poareo
Manhattan Beach
113.4 points

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------|
| 2. Edward Nowacki | Palos Verdes | 67.4 |
| 3. Susan Talty | Pacific Palisades | 66.5 |
| 4. Lynda Gordon | Los Angeles | 62.0 |
| 5. Jullianne O'Connor | Los Angeles | 60.7 |

Category: 20-50 points



Debbie Hamilton
Santa Monica
122.0 points

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| 2. Melanie Smothers | Long Beach | 106.2 |
| 3. Barbara Kaye | Beverly Hills | 91.6 |
| 4. Michael Zelichov | Santa Monica | 89.3 |
| 5. David Khalieque | Valencia | 79.9 |

Category: 5-20 points



Kim Ebner
Pasadena
140.4 points

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 2. Rosalie Stern | Los Angeles | 130.2 |
| 3. Beverly Sugimoto | Pacific Palisades | 105.7 |
| 4. Thomas Cox | Torrance | 93.1 |
| 5. Linda Lane | Long Beach | 84.6 |

Category: 50-100 points



Marci Valner
Los Angeles
159.7 points

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 2. Jill Sattinger | Los Angeles | 135.2 |
| 3. Ted Dowe | Long Beach | 100.3 |
| 4. Joef Wyrick | La Canada | 98.8 |
| 5. Jennifer Wellman | Manhattan Beach | 79.1 |

Category: 100-200 points**Lindsay Gronich**

Los Angeles

205.6 points

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-------|
| 2. Julie Moelis | Beverly Hills | 183.9 |
| 3. Patricia Sullivan | Redondo Bch | 138.9 |
| 4. Sheila Bub | Los Angeles | 135.3 |
| 5. Ronald Bloom | Los Angeles | 123.8 |

Category: 300-500 points**Mark Rappaport**

Beverly Hills

230.6 points

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| 2. Larisa Rappaport | Beverly Hills | 228.6 |
| 3. Joan Oliver | Los Angeles | 194.1 |
| 4. Bob Weingarten | Los Angeles | 142.7 |
| 5. James Rozzell | Burbank | 116.6 |

Category: 1000-1500 points**Martin Hurwitz**

Woodland Hills

130.3 points

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-------|
| 2. Roy Ladd | Valencia | 116.2 |
| 3. Alan Golden | Calabasas | 103.8 |
| 4. Kiran Kumar | Walnut | 83.6 |
| 5. Phillip Calloway | Canoga Park | 79.8 |

Category: 200-300 points**Ed Ruttenberg**

Rancho Palos Verdes

160.0

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-------|
| 2. Lillian Slater | Long Beach | 157.5 |
| 3. Carol Decordova | El Segundo | 152.6 |
| 4. Susan Koenig | Tarzana | 122.9 |
| 5. Bob Becker | Marina del Rey | 112.9 |

Category: 500-1000 points**Dawn Lee**

Los Angeles

260.3 points

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| 2. Robert Johann | Redondo Beach | 187.7 |
| 3. Lee Hausner | Los Angeles | 180.5 |
| 4. Brian Fielding | Encino | 179.0 |
| 5. John Vacca | Northridge | 141.9 |

Category: 1500-2500 points**Rick Turner**

Los Angeles

244.2 points

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|
| 2. Jim Lopes | Culver City | 181.9 |
| 3. Jim Perkins | Los Angeles | 178.2 |
| 4. Colin Gordon | Los Angeles | 167.3 |
| 5. Jojo Sarkar | West Hills | 156.4 |

Category: 2500-3500 points

No
Photo
Available

Nelly Gordon

Los Angeles

197.3 points

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------|
| 2. Wayne Otsuki | Rancho Palos Verdes | 166.5 |
| 3. Dave White | Rancho Mirage | 158.2 |
| 4. Rand Pinsky | Valencia | 138.1 |
| 5. Michael Klemens | Tarzana | 137.0 |

Category: 3500-5000 points**Jackie Hess**

Rancho Palos Verde

210.0 points

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 2. Bud Bates | Winnetka | 175.3 |
| 3. Maria Pendergast | West Hollywood | 159.9 |
| 4. Rae Murbach | Altadena | 151.5 |
| 5. Gerri Carlson | Rancho Palos Verde | 139.2 |

Category: 5000-7500 points**Peter Knee**

Canyon Country

359.1 points

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 2. John Ramos | Los Angeles | 331.2 |
| 3. Om Chokriwala | Sherman Oaks | 330.0 |
| 4. Joan Rubin | Encino | 264.0 |
| 5. Frances Israel | Palos Verde Peninsula | 174.6 |

Category: 7500-10,000 points**Viktor Anikovich**

Los Angeles

330.3 points

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------|-------|
| 2. Lulu Minter | Glendora | 146.3 |
| 3. Jordan Chodorow | West Hollywood | 143.0 |
| 4. Dr Sid Brownstein | Santa Monica | 27.6 |
| 5. George Wang | El Monte | 2.1 |

Category: 10,000+ points**Alex Kolesnik**

Los Angeles

312.8 points

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|-------|
| 2. Steve Mager | Hermosa Beach | 251.4 |
| 3. Gil Stinebaugh | Van Nuys | 234.3 |
| 4. Ifti Baqai | Irvine | 196.1 |
| 5. Steve Gross | Camarillo | 180.2 |

MINI-McKENNEY MASTERPOINT RACECategory: 0 – 5 points

Paul Poareo
Manhattan Beach
118.8 points

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------|
| 2. Edward Nowacki | Palos Verdes | 77.9 |
| 3. Susan Talty | Pacific Palisades | 67.0 |
| 4. Lynda Gordon | Los Angeles | 62.4 |
| 5. Jullianne O'Connor | Los Angeles | 61.2 |

Category: 20-50 points

Debbie Hamilton
Santa Monica
133.2 points

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| 2. Melanie Smothers | Long Beach | 130.9 |
| 3. Barbara Kaye | Beverly Hills | 101.9 |
| 4. Michael Zelichov | Santa Monica | 100.5 |
| 5. Arthur Vatz | Los Angeles | 94.9 |

Category: 100-200 points

Lindsay Gronich
Los Angeles
220.6 points

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|-------|
| 2. Julie Moelis | Beverly Hills | 195.1 |
| 3. Patricia Sullivan | Redondo Bch | 153.8 |
| 4. Ardis Laine | Long Beach | 143.3 |
| 5. Sheila Bub | Los Angeles | 136.1 |

Category: 5-20 points

Kim Ebner
Pasadena
162.5 points

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------|
| 2. Rosalie Stern | Los Angeles | 130.2 |
| 3. Thomas Cox | Torrance | 114.4 |
| 4. Beverly Sugimoto | Pacific Palisades | 111.4 |
| 5. Linda Lane | Long Beach | 103.0 |

Category: 50-100 points

Marci Valner
Los Angeles
170.9 points

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|
| 2. Jill Sattinger | Los Angeles | 147.7 |
| 3. Ted Dowe | Long Beach | 103.0 |
| 4. Joef Wyrick | La Canada | 102.2 |
| 5. Jennifer Wellman | Manhattan Bch | 91.8 |

Category: 200-300 points

Carol Decordova
El Segundo
184.1 points

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------|
| 2. Lillian Slater | Long Beach | 178.9 |
| 3. Ed Ruttenberg | Rancho Palos Verde | 169.2 |
| 4. Susan Koenig | Tarzana | 134.7 |
| 5. Bob Becker | Marina del Rey | 132.7 |

Category: 300-500 points**Mark Rappaport**

Beverly Hills

473.4 points

2	Larisa Rappaport	Beverly Hills	471.4
3	Joan Oliver	Los Angeles	211.6
4	Susan Morse-Lebow	Los Angeles	181.9
5	Bob Weingarten	Los Angeles	162.8

Category: 1000-1500 points**Martin Hurwitz**

Woodland Hills

153.1 points

2.	Roy Ladd	Valencia	126.2
3.	Alan Golden	Calabasas	108.6
4.	Kiran Kumar	Walnut	100.9
5.	Jacqueline Stultz	Marina del Rey	96.7

Category: 2500-3500 points

No
Photo
Available

Nelly Gordon

Los Angeles

211.6 points

2.	Wayne Otsuki	Rancho Palos Verde	195.1
3.	Dave White	Rancho Mirage	182.4
4.	Dwight Hunt	Granada Hills	146.2
5.	Michael Klemens	Tarzana	145.5

Category: 500-1000 points**Dawn Lee**

Los Angeles

272.4 points

2.	Robert Johann	Redondo Bch	230.6
3.	Lee Hausner	Los Angeles	214.2
4.	Brian Fielding	Encino	194.1
5.	Richard Bakovic	San Pedro	151.2

Category: 1500-2500 points**Rick Turner**

Los Angeles

298.2 points

2.	Jim Perkins	Los Angeles	205.6
3.	Jojo Sarkar	West Hills	194.9
4.	Ernie Wong	Arcadia	193.4
5.	Jim Lopes	Culver City	189.7

Category: 3500-5000 points**Jackie Hess**

Rancho Palos Verde

217.5 points

2.	Bud Bates	Winnetka	185.2
3.	Maria Pendergast	West Hollywood	185.2
4.	Rae Murbach	Altadena	163.0
5.	Dominique Moore	Arcadia	153.7

Category: 7500-10,000 points



524.6 points



410.4 points

2.	Jordan Chodorow	West Hollywood	211.0
3.	Lulu Minter	Glendora	202.5
4.	Dr Sid Brownstein	Santa Monica	46.2
5.	Rhoda Himmell	Beverly Hills	4.7

[illegible]

616.1 points

I would not like it red or white.
I would not like it day or night.
I do not like to play in slam.
I do not like it, Slam-I-am.



Would you like it in a room?
Would you like it over Zoom?

I do not like it in a room.
I do not like it over Zoom.
I would not like it red or white.
I would not like it day or night.
I do not like to play in slam.
I do not like it, Slam-I-am.



Would you bid it with a cue?
Would you make it with a coup?



Not with a cue. Not with a coup.
Not in a room. Not over Zoom.
I would not play it red or white.
I would not play it day or night.
I do not like to play in slam.
I do not like it, Slam-I-am.



Would you? Could you? As a save?
Bid it! Bid it! Just be brave!



by Lucy Zhang

A horizontal row of small black diamonds used as a section separator.

I am Slam. I am Slam. Slam-I-am.
That Slam-I-am! That Slam-I-am! I do not like that
Slam-I-am!
Would you like to play in slam?



I would not like to, Slam-I-am.
I do not like to play in slam.
Would you like it red or white?



(continued next column)

[illegible]

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Lillian Slater

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com



Jon Yinger is an “institution” at Long Beach Bridge. Playing seven days a week and twice on Fridays, he cheerfully welcomes players to Table 11. And, yes, Jon even came to play bridge after his wedding. During face-to-face bridge, Jon also writes the Unit 557 column in this district newsletter.

Jon started playing bridge in college during a semester abroad in Denmark with a college professor and his wife. Not only did Ben Burnett introduce Jon to bridge, he was an inspiring teacher who developed Jon’s interest in Political Science and mentored him into graduate school at Claremont. Jon then became a young, 26-year-old Political Science professor at California State University, Fullerton, where he taught for over 40 years. Jon commented, “I cannot imagine a better job. I liked studying people and how power affects the little and big decisions made— in a family and in the world.”

After college Jon played bridge socially with his best friend Donald and Donald’s parents in the Villa Park home that Jon sold to them. Then, in 1983, one of his bridge partners brought him to Long Beach

Bridge and introduced him to duplicate. Jon was hooked! Bridge was fun to play in the beginning and, over time, he came to realize how complex it really is. Until the coronavirus closure, Jon was driving daily from Brea to the club, and he looks forward to doing that again.

Over time Jon kept getting seated at Table 11 so it eventually became “his” table. He likes this location because he can look through the glass and see the rest of the club. Also, if he makes a comment about a hand, it can’t be heard by the tables on the other side.

Jon is a Reissuance man. Not only has he amassed over 6,000 Masterpoints, he owns and nurtures an avocado orchard of 60 trees. His other avocation is the 22 antique cars that he “buys but never sells,” restoring them to their original condition. His newest acquisition is a 1942 Cadillac Fleetwood that he found in Northridge through a Craigslist ad. Having just driven it the day of this interview, he raved about how well it ran. Jon names all of his antique cars so Blue Girl joins its ten Cadillac “siblings”: four 1942’s, four 1949’s, a 1952, and a 1958 Cadillac Eldorado Brougham. Models from 1942 are his favorites because that was the year cars had a complete style change, moving from the 1930’s and into the 1940’s. He also owns four Chrysler Imperials—three 1956 hardtops and one 1951 convertible— as well as four 1942 DeSotos.

Jon inherited the District Newsletter from Christine Frumen when she recruited him to take it over more than 15 years ago. He enjoys recapping the results of the month.

Jon’s favorite convention is the Support Double. His advice to new players is “Be patient. Enjoy the cards. Enjoy the people.” He added that new players should not go into bridge expecting to become expert in a year. “You’re always learning something— if not bidding then defense which is half of the game.” Even lately he’s returned to his mom’s advice, “Don’t compete at the 5 level,” which he finds works 90% of the time.

Thanks, Jon, for your dedication to Long Beach Bridge. It’s a long commute from Brea but

we're so glad you're here! We look forward to seeing you back at Table 11 in the near future!



Pomona –
Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

I'm afraid there isn't much news this month, and what there is, is rather depressing. In spite of vaccinations being well underway, the League has put the kibosh on our Bridge Week regional again. Sigh. No word on when our Unit Game site will reopen. Ditto the La Fetra center ... although, I believe I heard (or read) that Senior Centers are going to be among the *last* things to reopen. Keep your BB\$ account filled a while longer, friends.

The League did send out an email – in theory to all members, but maybe you have your personal settings set to “no” for receiving these, so I'll reiterate here. The tentative schedule for restarting tournaments calls for sectionals to restart in August, so perhaps our joint sectional can happen after all. I'll work on this and keep you posted. Face-to-face club play is of course up to each individual club. But with our playing site closed, not much we can do until it reopens. Since our Individual playing site is fluid, I'm hopeful we'll restart this in April.

Once again, we have one rank change to report: Sofi Kashubhai has reached the status of NABC Master. Keep up the good work, Sofi.

No doubt, some of you were impressed by Ho Ming's 3NT hand last month. Especially noteworthy is that not only do both North and West hold the ♥A, but North holds 17 cards. Well, last month my co-editors were Charlie the Chimp and the Rueful Rabbit. While this hand was being recorded, R.R. was wondering where he had parked his car (or, had he come up by taxi perhaps?), while C.C. was of course concentrating on the previous hand. Sorry! Here's the REAL hand. I think! (see next column)

Although I've played a fair amount of bridge this past month, I don't recall any really good hands to share with you. Of course, there's the one where not only did my trumps break 5-0 offside (mathematicians

North
♠ J 10 4 3 2
♥ Q 8 6 2
♦ J 6
♣ 7 3

West
♠ none
♥ A K 7 5 4
♦ 9
♣ K Q 10 8 6 5 2

East
♠ A K Q 9 8 7
♥ 10 9 3
♦ 7 2
♣ J 9

South
♠ 6 5
♥ J
♦ A K Q 10 8 5 4 3
♣ A 4

be damned, that's about 30% when I'm declaring), but my key side suit *also* broke 5-0 ... offside. Nah, let's try this one. It was once again submitted by Ho Ming Yim, along with commentary:

♠ Q 9 6 5
♥ A Q 10 9 6 3 2
♦ none
♣ 3 2

♠ K	♠ 8
♥ J 8 5 4	♥ K 7
♦ A J 3	♦ K Q 10 9 7 6 2
♣ K Q 10 6 5	♣ A 9 7
♠ A J 10 7 4 3 2	
♥ none	
♦ 8 5 4	
♣ J 8 4	

“This hand showed up today whilst playing on BBO. East opened a diamond and I was sitting North and bid 6♠ over 6♦.

“On a ♦A lead, with double-dummy declarer play, South can ruff the first diamond, cash ♥A to pitch a club, ruff the ♥K on the second round of hearts, play the ♠A dropping the ♠K, then cross-ruff hearts and diamonds to set up two more heart pitches for the clubs, making 13 tricks. Conversely, although East is missing two aces, South has transportation issues to get to North's ♥A, so East would also make 6♦.

“Although it's not a true small slam swing (6♦ is cold whereas 6♠ makes on anything but a club lead), it's still close enough for me to call it a small slam swing in practice. I don't recall the last time I held a hand this distributional where both directions can make a small slam. I thought I'd share this fascinating hand with you to cheer you up.

7♠ makes on a spade lead as well. Ruff a heart two times and the entire heart suit sets up, and you still have three diamond ruff entries to the board. The bidding at my table was 1♦-3♠-5♦-5♠-6♦-P-P-6♠-X-P-P-P. The bidding almost guarantees a void in diamonds in one of the hands. So a club lead is the winning opening lead. The opponents misread the auction and lead the top diamond. I wish I could tell you my partner declared 6♠ correctly but the result was 6♠x-3. This was a team game and the other table also misplayed it and was 5♠x-1. I really wanted to see a double small slam swing on both boards. 6♠x+1 for +1310 and 6D= +1370, that's +2680 on one board for a 21 IMP swing. I would pay good money to see that happen...

"With 11-card fit, go for the drop. The mnemonic I use is "11-9-7, drop the K-Q-J respectively. 10-8-6, finesse the K-Q-J respectively."

Finally, every time you think you've run into every conceivable situation at the bridge table – and some you couldn't conceive of in your worst nightmares – a new one comes along. This isn't a biggie, and no doubt those of you who play in the top KO brackets will say "big deal, what's the problem," it's the first time it's happened to me. Here's my hand:

♠ K2 ♥ QJ9 ♦ 1083 ♣ J8432.

Ho hum, right? Partner opens the bidding 1♥, your RHO calls 2♦, and you raise to 2♥. Partner now makes a help suit game try with 3♣. Well? In all the books I've read, you accept such a try with a maximum hand, or with either shortness or high honors in the help suit. But nobody says what to do with a mess like ♣ J8432 and a mediocre 7-count. I reckoned, we must have most of the club suit, so if important biggies are missing, they should drop. So 4♥ it was for me.

Fortunately, partners clubs were KQ96 and the game rolled home. What if his suit had been Q965? Or even Q96? Ugh. Hate to think about that!

Quote for the month: "In my many years I have come to a conclusion that one useless man is a shame, two is a law firm, and three or more is a congress." (John Adams)

Downey – Whittier by Linda Eagan and Liz Burrell

[Nothing from Downey-Whittier this month.]



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

It's almost time to select our board for 2021. All ACBL members of Unit 556 will vote for this year's board members by email this year (ballots will be sent out by March 1st). Please complete and return the ballot by March 10th. Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, March 14th, via Zoom at 2:45. This year we plan to continue the virtual club, support online bridge classes, and hold the Magic Mountain sectional on September 25-26. A new change to our virtual games has been added: you can rent a robot for \$0.25 as a partner.

Winners in Unit 556+ Open MP games:

Mon. Jan. 25

N/S	James Rozzell – Steve Shanker	67.83%
E/W	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	70.56%

Tues. Jan. 26

N/S	Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	63.54%
E/W	Pat Larin – David White	61.81%

Thurs. Jan. 28

N/S	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	59.20%
E/W	Pat Larin – David White	65.71%

Fri. Jan. 29

N/S	James Rozzell – Steve Shanker	67.52%
E/W	Ramesh Sawhney – Temo Arjani	68.16%

Mon. Feb. 1

N/S	Diana Borgatti – Cathryn Martin	59.97%
E/W	Sharon Wolf – James Rozzell	63.93%

Tues. Feb. 2

N/S	Saul Teukolsky - Roselyn Teukolsky	61.11%
E/W	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	66.27%

Thurs. Feb. 4

N/S	Susan Smith – Aggi Oschin	62.12%
E/W	Amr Elghamry – Rae Murbach	61.11%

Fri. Feb. 5

N/S	Gary Zoss – Dwaine Hawley	62.80%
E/W	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	70.80%

Mon. Feb. 8

N/S	Ramesh Sawhney – Temo Arjani	68.94%
E/W	Carol Tenda – Gary Tenda	62.12%

Tues. Feb. 9

N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	61.51%
E/W	Saul Teukolsky - Roselyn Teukolsky	57.94%

Thurs. Feb. 11

N/S	Diana Borgatti – Cathryn Martin	64.28%
E/W	Bill Broek – Temo Arjani	61.07%

Fri. Feb. 12

N/S	Stephen Licker – Bud Kalafian	69.87%
E/W	Ruth Baker – Kathy Flynn	60.90%

Mon. Feb. 15

N/S	Rae Murbach – Gerard Geremia	69.68%
E/W	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	65.28%

Tues. Feb. 16

N/S	Carol Ashbacher – Kristi Kubo	53.57%
E/W	Saul Teukolsky - Roselyn Teukolsky	59.92%

Thurs. Feb. 18

N/S	Carol Trenda – Gary Trenda	64.37%
E/W	Bud Kalafian – Gerry Belcher	65.74%

Fri. Feb 19

N/S	Adam Barron – Sharon Wolf	62.12%
E/W	Pat Larin – Bob McBroom	62.64%

Winners of Unit 556+ Sunday Afternoon IMP Pairs**Game at 3:25:**

Sunday Jan. 31	Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom
Sunday, Feb. 14	Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd
Sunday, Feb. 21	Debra Pride – Pat Larin

One of our long-time members, Russ Buker, passed away on February 9th, of Covid at home. He was a career Air Force pilot, flew 50 missions in the Korean War and was subsequently a test pilot. After receiving his master's degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Florida in 1959, he moved to the Antelope Valley where he was stationed at Edwards Air Force Base. After retiring from the Air Force he worked for the CIA for 10 years (which he never talked about).

Russ started playing bridge and other card games at an early age. He thinks he was probably introduced to bridge filling in when needed in family social bridge games. He learned Culbertson's bidding methods but never had any formal lessons. He more or less stumbled into duplicate bridge with his wife playing at club games while in the air force. He ran a duplicate game at Edwards for four years and also played at other games in the area. Like a lot of us, he let bridge go for many years while he was raising a

family and working. One of his favorite memories was always going to the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles for Bridge Week. When he decided to learn more about bridge, he studied on his own from one of Max Hardy's books. He was introduced to Linda Young by the partnership desk at the Las Vegas Regional. That began a bridge partnership and romance. They were "together" over ten years. They went to many tournaments together in Southern Calif and Nevada and played at the Joshua Tree Club, Friendly Bridge Club and Valencia Bridge Studio. Russ (russellsb) and Linda (limda) played three times a week with the Unit 556+ Virtual Club since it began thru his 94th birthday January 21st.

The District 23 Club

by David White



*[Nothing from D23 Club
for this month.]*

Pasadena – San Gabriel

by Morris "Mojo" Jones

bridgemojo.com



January was our biggest online month, and February (with fewer days) looks to be almost the same! Players are enjoying meeting their friends from the bridge club and getting into some good bridge games. Turnout was great for the Valentine's weekend special, and a lot of masterpoints were won during Educational Foundation week at the end of the month.

The Unit 559 board met this month to talk over future plans. No concrete plans were made, though we considered the possibility of holding our first 2021 Unit Game sometime in the next few months. Everyone is happy and relieved that Roy Wilson was

able to revive the Unit web site <http://www.acblunit559.com/> after an ulcer-inducing week of struggling with his internet service provider.

Interestingly it's almost election time for the Unit Board. Our by-laws explicitly disallow mail-in voting for unit board members, so hopefully we'll be able to meet in person eventually! We'd like to thank Rosemary Schroeder for helping out on the board -- she'll be leaving the area most of the year to spend time with grand kids. (It's so nice to have that becoming a possibility now!)

Long time board member and beloved bridge player Peter Szecsi will be retiring from the Unit Board this year as well. The board moved to honor Peter's long service to bridge with the title Board Member Emeritus. Peter is irreplaceable, and will be missed!

The San Marino club building is in the midst of planning for a major renovation/remodeling this year. We don't know the timing for demolition and construction, or even what the exact plans are for the renovated building. After so many years in the somewhat exhausted facility, it will certainly be nice to have it renovated! It's still to be determined how and when bridge games might resume there.

The Bridge Center in Arcadia has been successfully holding games outdoors this month. If the weather holds mild and spring-like, that may be an option for a while!

I held an open forum on Zoom for online players from the Pasadena Pomona Downey VBC (virtual bridge club). While it was a somewhat self-selected audience, they were unanimous in hoping to continue being able to play club bridge games online for the foreseeable future. We know there will always be online bridge, but it's hard to predict how its structure may change over the course of this year!

Meanwhile, players are playing and moving up the ranks!

Congratulations to new Club Masters: **Benjamin Bascom** and **Jane Houston Jones** (I know her!).

New Sectional Masters: **Yuriko Bonds**, **Simonetta May**, **William Snyder**, and **Farryl Weitzman**.

Many new Regional Masters: **Paulette Burkitt**, **Michael Connell**, **Sarah Deschenes**, **Ken Peyton**, **Michael Rodrigues**, and **Deepa Upasani**.

One new NABC Master: **Kim Ebner**.

And a gracious congratulations and welcome to brand new Life Masters **Mike and Marianne Newman**, who have been great friends of Unit 559 for many years. They always bring a smile when they're in the game, and I miss getting to see them in person. Well done, you two!

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Mark Bartusek, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Jeff Goldsmith, Danny Korbel, Roger Lee, Mike Shuster, John Swanson and Jon Wittes

As always, panelists are playing 5-card majors, 15 - 17 NT, and 2/1 GF. Beyond that, except where indicated, panelists may use any reasonable methods.

1

Matchpoints
Both Vul

South	West	North	East
		1♥	pass
1♠	pass	2♣	pass
3NT	pass	4♥	pass
???			

You, South, hold: ♠J1083 ♥K10 ♦KJ84 ♣AK5

What call do you make?

We'll start off with a problem that has a critical question at its core: Does partner's sequence of hearts, clubs, hearts show extra values? Old fashion standard as I was taught it, played this sequence showed extras. But as a practical matter, rebidding 2♣ on hands with six hearts and four clubs so often uncovers a superior strain that I believe it is better to play this auction doesn't show extras.

We'll start with those who believe partner has shown extras and move.

Bartusek: 6♥. Partner must have extras for this auction (and be presumably 6-4). If he had a minimum he would just rebid 2♥. I believe he has a hand that would have raised a 2♥ preference to 3♥. (e.g. ♠Qx ♥AQJ9xx ♦A ♣QJxx). Since I have three great key honors, slam is probably a good bet (especially with a non-spade lead likely).

Dunitz: 4NT (*Mitch actually answered "Blackwood". His answer caters to partnerships that play that 4♠ Kickback would be the Blackwood bid for their partnership in this sequence*). Partner has shown a good hand w/ six hearts and four clubs.

Lee: 5♥. But I would've started with 2♦ and avoided this problem. But I think in old fashioned bridge, partner should have some mild extras (or a void), especially given that he is missing the KT of hearts.

The rest of the panel isn't certain of extras for partner on this auction.

Davis: 5♥. Both ♠x ♥AQJxxx ♦x ♣QJxxx and ♠void ♥AQJxxx ♦Ax ♣QJxxx are reasonable hands for partner to hold on this auction. Since we are likely to take 11 tricks on the first hand and 13 tricks on the second hand, it seems right to invite partner to bid a slam by bidding 5♥. As I could have bid 4♠ or 5♦ over 4♥ as a slam try with the ace of that suit, partner will probably realize that my interest in slam is based on good cards in his suits. He is likely to make the right decision.

Swanson: 5♣. Makes Jacoby 2NT appear to be a poor convention. Partner doesn't have to hold extra values, so bidding on carries quite a risk.

Wittes: Pass. Sure, it's possible partner could have a perfecta like ♠x ♥AQJxxx ♦Ax ♣QJxx, but even with that hand, I don't think they would risk a non-forcing 2♣ bid. I think they would probably bid 3♥. There are a lot of lesser hands that beyond the 4-level might be too high. How about ♠Kx ♥AQJxxx ♦x ♣QJxx?

Goldsmith: Pass. Does partner have ♠x ♥AQJxxx ♦AQ ♣Qxxx or ♠Qx ♥AJxxxx ♦A ♣Jxxx? Since the 5-level is not safe, I won't risk bidding.

Some play Hearts-Clubs-Hearts promises extras. Sometimes, they get to play 2♥ in their 6-0 fit instead

of some number of clubs in their 4-6 fit. This time, they can try for slam.

Korbel: Pass. I believe that this sequence does not guarantee significant extras. This is how I would bid a minimum 6 5.

Shuster: Pass. Yes, we have three covers, but that isn't enough, we rate to be off two aces. Extra credit: what would 4♦ by partner have shown? *Extras with 0=5=3=5 or something pretty close would be my guess.*

There was a real hand on this one. Partner held ♠A ♥AQJxxx ♦x ♣Q9xxx and 6♥ or 6♣ made. Maybe inviting with 5♥ is best (especially if you don't know if partner plays this sequence shows extras).

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">2</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs Both Vul</div>		South	West	North	East
			1♣	2♠	pass
		???			
		You, South, hold: ♠KJ3 ♥Q876 ♦AKQJ87 ♣void What call do you make?			

Partner has made a vulnerable preemptive jump. He doesn't have as great a suit as he might have had at red versus white, but it shouldn't be ratty at all red. Some hands partner could have are easy slam makes. But the opening lead may be crucial. A scientific way to make a slam try is to splinter. But that decreases the chance that a club would be led. Another possibility is to try 2NT whatever meaning (Ogust, Feature, Singleton ask) the partnership plays. Maybe we should bash it and see if they can straighten out the lead.

We'll start with panelists that make a sneaky 4NT bid. Didn't anyone ever tell you not to bid Blackwood holding a void? Oh, you want to deceive the opening leader!

Shuster: 4NT. It is probably worth taking a stab at slam that depends on a favorable lead or favorable catch. No reason to not bid keycard along the way (we can stop opposite zero) and it doesn't spill the beans about the void.

Bartusek: 4NT. My first thought was 6♠, but a RKC 4NT seems very valuable here. If partner doesn't have the ♠A (e.g. Q10987xx vulnerable), then we can stop in 5♠. I will risk the slight chance that partner has the club ace but not the spade ace. 4NT will probably induce a club lead instead of the dangerous heart lead that I fear. Anyone thinking of bidding 7♠ will just convince the opening leader not to lead a club.

Davis: 4NT. I expect partner to show one keycard (the spade ace) and, since partner is vulnerable, he is a favorite to also have the spade queen or a seventh spade since I have both the king and jack. If partner shows one keycard, I will bid 6♠ and expect to make it unless they lead a heart. Of course, I am bidding 4NT not because I need to find out about keycards but because I do not want to create suspicion that I am void in clubs and deter a club lead. This is not the way

control (where a singleton would be his most likely control). However, if partner shows one keycard over 4NT, I expect to take all 13 tricks if they do not lead a heart. Even if LHO doubles 6♠ with the ace-king of hearts to suggest a non-club lead, we still make it if they don't guess to lead heart or if partner has a singleton heart.

Swanson: 4NT. This insures that we avoid slam off two aces and has good deceptive value. Ed's idea, and a good one. Now they are tagging teaming me. 😊

One panelist bashed the slam giving the opponents no further chance to communicate.

Wittes: 6♠. Vulnerable at IMPs, I would expect partner to have at the least a very good suit, especially when I'm looking at KJx. It would be nice to know the state of the match before making this bid, but they will almost surely need a heart lead to beat this contract, and even then partner might have a stiff heart or even ♥Kx. A 4♣ bid would be more descriptive, but would alert the defense.

Now we'll hear from the splinter bidders.

Dunitz: 4♣. I want to hear partner cue bid a second-round heart control. PLEASE!

Goldsmith: 4♣. This is a toss-up. Bash to make it harder for them to compete, or try for slam? Slam might be cold vs. the right minimum, so I'll try with 4♣. I'll regret it if it goes (double)-4♣-(5♣). A Real Man (tm) just ups and bids the grand and dares them to find a heart lead.

Korbel: 4♠. If I was down in the match, I would just jump to 6♠ but it might have no play, and efforts to investigate via 4♣ might even lead to 4♠ going down. Imagine partner with ♠QT9xxx ♥xxx ♦x ♣Axx, after a 4♣ splinter they will very often lead a heart, and oops.

Lee: 4♣. If partner cuebids 4♥ we're off to the races.

3

Matchpoints
None Vul

South	West	North	East
pass	pass	1♦	pass
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
???			

You, South, hold: ♠Q86 ♥AKJ62 ♦J2 ♣964

What call do you make?

We have an invitational hand (some would have opened the bidding), with no semblance of a stopper in the fourth suit, and a suit not long enough to make rebidding it easy. Fourth suit forcing is possible if you play it on by a passed hand. However, Bridge World Standard and many partnerships play fourth suit as natural by a passed hand. If you are playing XYZ where after three bids and still at the one level 2♣ puppets to 2♦ with the next bid then being natural and invitational then 2♣ is a possibility. But choosing between 2♥ and 2♠ on the bid thereafter is still difficult.

We'll start with panelists that assume we don't have special methods available (yes they do play them, they chose not to use methods many readers don't have available).

Shuster: 2NT. It would be good to have some clarity about methods here. I don't know if 2♣ is natural, but if it isn't, that would make it clear. Does 1♠ promise an unbalanced hand? If so, that makes 2♠ more attractive than 2NT. I don't think it is helpful for panelists to say "This isn't a problem for me, because my pet method solves this hand." How does that help our readership?

Swanson: 2NT. One assumes this is a promotion for XYZ.

Wittes: 1NT. An unsolvable problem. In modern bidding methods with such a good heart suit, I would have opened 1♥ in first seat to eliminate this problem. 1NT is an underbid, and I have no club stopper, but it probably is the best solution at this point. A Moysian 2♠ bid would probably be my second choice.

Eddie Kantar is not on this panel, but I'd bet on Eddie being in the 1NT or 2NT camp. He believes in bidding your shape on difficult rebids like this. We'll hear from the 2♥ and 2♠ bidders next.

Bartusek: 2♥ (it's Monday). Somewhat of a toss-up between 2♥ and 2♠ (and I bid 2♥ on Mon/Wed/Fri/Sun and 2♠ on Tu/Th/Sat). Either choice could work out poorly, but at least the heart quality adds some safety. I definitely do not like 1NT with the lead going through dummy.

Goldsmith: 2♠. An old chestnut to which there is no answer. I'll guess 2♠.

Korbel: 2♠. Alright, alright. You found a hand where I'll intentionally bid like a weirdo.

Finally we'll hear from those that play an artificial 2♣ is available.

Dunitz: 2♣. 2♣ if we play FourthSuitForcing by a passed hand. If not, I'm getting a headache. Hmmm. Otherwise 3♠ (holding my nose).

Lee: 2♣. I like to play this is a little something extra — I'll bid 2♥ next. I also would have opened 1♥ at this vul/position/scoring and considered it rather obvious.

Ed's answer tries to explain XYZ. XYZ is the invention of Orange County's great Joe Kivel. I like XYZ. If XYZ is available I'd bid 2♣ followed by 2♥ hoping partner uses the inference that I couldn't bid open 1♥ the first round to guess that my hearts must be either five good or six bad and I have other strains in mind.

Davis: 2♣. Five hearts, three spades, no stopper in the unbid suit and invitational values with no good invitational bid — a not infrequent type of hand and one clearly in need of some help. Wait, what is that I see off in the distance? Yes, it is XYZ riding in on his trusty white steed to rescue the fair maiden in distress (or, in this case, to solve the bidding problem). Many are familiar with XYZ. One of the elements of XYZ is an artificial 2♣ bid after the auction of 1X – 1Y – 1Z (such as 1♣ 1♥ 1♠) where 2♣ forces 2♦ (opener bids 2♦ unless too strong or too shapely). The sequence is used to sign off in 2♦ or to show some kind of

invitational hand. The XYZ treatment exchanges the non-XYZ meaning of 2♣ (artificial GF if partner opened 1♦ OR natural and non-forcing if partner opened 1♣) for the ability to signoff in 2D or show one of a few different types of invitational hands. (A 2♦ bid directly over 1Z is an artificial GF when playing XYZ.) Over the expected 2♦ bid by opener, I play that 2♠ by responder shows this type of hand — a three-card spade raise with invitational values and no better description of the hand. Responder usually will also hold five hearts (although I would also bid this way holding ♠Kxx ♥AQxx ♦Qxx ♣xxx). Some that play XYZ use this sequence instead to show a raise to 2♠ with four spades and invitational values (the same as what a raise to 3♠ would mean if not playing XYZ) thus gaining when the hand only makes 2♠. But the main point is that XYZ can be used to handle an otherwise quite awkward hand.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">4</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs N-S Vul</div>	South	West	North	East
	1♦	1♠	2♥	4♠
	???			
	You, South, hold: ♠A4 ♥K ♦AQJ832 ♣QJ104 What call do you make?			

The biggest question in this situation is if the 2/1 (in competition) created a forcing situation. Does the vulnerability matter? The panel is not in agreement whether pass would be forcing or not. I like the 2/1 to create a force if the opponents jam us, but the expert world is not at all in agreement on this issue. A secondary issue here is what would 4NT mean. The possibilities include RKC for hearts or takeout for the minors. Let's hear from the panel.

Davis: Pass or 6♦ (depending on the partnership agreements or lack thereof). There are a couple of issues relevant to this auction where there may not be common agreement even among experts. One is whether or not pass by the opening bidder is forcing over 4♠ and the other is whether 4NT by the opening bidder over 4♠ is Keycard Blackwood for hearts (or just regular Blackwood if that is the version of Blackwood that you play) or whether it is takeout of spades (most likely with 1=3=6=3, 1=3=7=2 or 1=2=6=4 distribution). For me, the answers are that pass is forcing and that 4NT is takeout but I think that many players would play differently. If I knew that my partner played the same way as I do, I would pass 4♠ and ensure that we reached slam if partner did not double 4♠; if partner doubled 4♠, I would pull the double to 4NT (takeout) and then settle for playing 5♦ if partner bid 5♦ or bid 5♣ (since partner could have bid 2♥ over 1♠ on six hearts to the AQ and a minor suit king). If I was playing with a partner where these issues had not been discussed, rather than risk a bidding misunderstanding, I would jump to 6♦ over 4♠.

Wittes: 4NT. Another tough problem. Should show a good hand with six diamonds and four clubs, and possibly heart tolerance if partner has a very good suit. We could surely make a slam opposite the right hand. Almost good enough for a 5♠ bid.

Dunitz: Pass. I play this forcing at these colors. If partner doubles, I will bid 5♦ showing slam interest. If partner bids 5♣, I will bid 5♠; if partner bids 5♦, I will boost. If partner bids 5♥, I will pass.

Swanson: Pass. Forcing according to my definition.

Korbel: Pass. For practicality my partnerships all play this as a forcing auction. Sometimes they make a shapely 4Sx but this allows us to sort all the other hands out. 4NT is RKC for hearts.

Goldsmith: 5♦. Sadly, (1) I don't play that 2/1s in competition produce a force, and (2) I do play 4NT as key card for hearts. I'll guess 5♦. How bad can it be to bid my long suit?

Bartusek: Double. Seems clear (especially at IMPs when there isn't much difference between +500 and +600). We are in a non-forcing auction so I must double to show extra values with no clear bid. Double just asks partner to do something intelligent. The alternative 4NT showing 6-4 in the minors could easily be misinterpreted by partner as RKC for hearts (not to mention 5m not being assured opposite 2=6=2=3 or hands where partner lacks three of the five crucial honors I need).

Shuster: Double. We aren't in a force, so I must act. We have no known fit and no 5-level safety. That leaves only double.

Lee: Double. I'm a big fan of playing this double as showing extras with no clear direction; seems great here.

So the panel doesn't agree whether we are in a force, they don't agree on what 4NT means and they don't agree on the meaning of double. And these guys are all strong theoreticians. Isn't bridge an easy game?

<div style="font-size: 4em; text-align: center;">5</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints None Vul.</div>	South	West	North	East
	1NT	2♣	1♠	dbl
	???		2♠	3♣
<p style="text-align: center;">You, South, hold: ♠Q5 ♥J82 ♦J963 ♣AJ96</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What call do you make?</p>				

We finish we a straight forward matchpoint problem. Double, pass and 3♣ are all possible.

We'll here from the bidders first.

Bartusek: 3♣. If the opponents were vulnerable I would double to presumably collect the magic +200. Unfortunately, +100 won't cut it at matchpoints against our expected +140. Besides, ♠K10xx or ♣QTxx could easily be behind me so I can't even guarantee two defensive trumps tricks (although likely). In addition, partner might have a club void and not know to pull if I double.

Davis: 3♠. If everybody has their bid, it is likely that my LHO has five clubs (he will rarely bid 2♣ over my 1NT bid on a four-card suit) and that RHO has four clubs and probably a stiff spade (he will not usually compete to 3♣ with only three clubs). I am probably about 80% to score two club tricks since I can overruff if declarer plays to ruff multiple spades in dummy. But we would need three tricks outside of clubs in addition to partner's ace of spades to score more than +100 in 3♣ doubled. Since I expect partner to be void in clubs, he may well be 6=3=4=0. If, for example, he has AKJxxx xxx KT9x -, we may make 3♠ and not beat 3♣. Regardless, if the opponents are less aggressive at the other tables, the other pairs our direction may play 2♠ for at least +110 and the best way for us not to lose matchpoints to them is to bid 3♠ and make it.

Next we'll listen to the passers.

Korbel: Pass. No way am I doubling. Perhaps I should bid 3♠. Maybe the panel will enlighten me.

Lee: Pass. It doesn't feel like I should double in front of partner with this hand, even though I have decent defense.

Wittes: Pass. Another very tough problem. 3♣ may very well go down because of my 9 of clubs, but a double would tend to make them more careful in the play. 3♠ rates to go down 1 or 2, which might be a decent board if not doubled down two, provided they can make 3♣.

Swanson: Pass. Maybe a plus score will be good enough. I expect to win an extra trick by not disclosing the trump situation with a double. From my book, "How to Lose at Duplicate Bridge." *Hmmm. I have an extensive bridge library and I seem to be missing that book. Maybe you can send me a copy.*

Finally the doublers.

Dunitz: Double. The Club nine is a sexy spot card!

Goldsmith: Double. There rate to be 16 total trumps, and since I have some minor stuff in clubs, probably 15 or 16 total tricks.

Shuster: Double. We rate to be able to take 8 tricks in spades, so a hungry MP double. I've been -470 before, but I think we are a favorite to beat it on spade forces.

One hand proves nothing, but this hand comes from an actual hand so I will give the result. It is from an ACBL Instant matchpoint game from about 20 years ago. San Diego's Lynne Feldman held this hand and bid 3♠ in tempo. BINGO. Partner held ♠JTxxxxx ♥AKx ♦Qxx ♣void. 3♠ went down one for minus 50, but 3♣ was making doubled or not. I'll confess, I'm in the doubling camp anyway. I'll argue that if they never make a doubled contract against you then you aren't doubling enough.