

Southern California

Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



The Royal STAC

The ACBL has created a special event — the Royal STAC — to encourage a return to face-to-face play and to support clubs. Ours will be held the week after Nationals, March 21 through March 27. Joining us in this endeavor, and helping to boost the table counts, and with them the size of overall awards, are our neighbors in Districts 22 (Southern California) and 21 (Northern California). And we owe those neighbors, and others farther afield, a debt of gratitude for bringing the event to our attention in the first place and then for helping to make it a reality.

How is the Royal STAC different? First, it's only available for face-to-face play. You won't find any on-line sessions for this event. Second, the event awards a veritable rainbow of colored points. The point awards will be divided among gold, red, silver, and black. Still trying to pick up those elusive gold points to become a Life Master? Here's your chance to do it in the comfort of your very own local bridge club. Third, ACBL's intent is for the revenues from this event to directly benefit clubs. Here in District 23, I will strongly urge our Board to honor that intent by rebating our District's share of net revenues back to the clubs, in proportion to their table counts for the event. I am hopeful that the Board will follow that recommendation, and we'll find out for sure at our March 26 Zoom meeting, which will start at 10:00 a.m.

More Updates

Based on news reports, I am hopeful that by the time we hold the Royal STAC, Los Angeles County will have lifted its indoor mask mandate, at least for those who are vaccinated. Judging from what I've seen lately, there's a lot of pent-up demand for in-person play and I think lifting the mandate will open

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Regional Director Report

by David Lodge

Next week I'll be in Reno for the face to face meeting of the national board of directors. I look forward to these meetings because we spend quite a bit of time together informally and this frequently becomes the occasion during which people have the opportunity to participate in frank discussions. In my view there are several standout topics; e.g. dealing with significant Information Technology issues, the effectiveness of the current marketing plans and what's happening vis-à-vis cheating. Another hot topic is how to deal with tournament costs, now that we know that typical f2f tournament attendance appears to be hovering around the 50% of pre-pandemic numbers.

I believe the thorniest issue facing the organization is the integration of f2f and virtual bridge. There is no question that virtual play is here to stay. We know all the reasons and they're all valid. But the impact on f2f is severe. Many clubs that played f2f are gone and won't be reopening. Many more are suffering financially and their viability is in doubt. Many people hold a "free market" mentality that says don't try and control anything, let the market decide who the survivors will be. While I'm someone who tends to be in this camp, I'm aware that the loss of bricks and mortar clubs also means a large decline in the signing up of new members. We now have enough

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the floodgates. As I write this, I have returned from a full weekend at the South Orange County Sectional. In contrast to the Saddleback Sectional held at Laguna Woods two weeks earlier (Super Bowl weekend), this tournament was bursting at the seams, totaling more than 100 tables across the four sessions. I even had the chance to compete against our esteemed editor! (How did you reach that slam we missed at our table? [Editor: *when you are a conservative bidder, choose an aggressing – not to mention fearless – partner!*]) Orange County has already lifted its indoor mask mandate. A few people still wore masks, but I heard a lot of commentary about how much more comfortable people felt playing without them. I'm also told that table counts have been climbing at clubs. I hope the Royal STAC helps that process along.

I'm still discussing with neighboring districts the Grand Slam Cup series. No real progress to report, and I'm now less optimistic than I have been in the past that it will become a reality. The initial reaction of enthusiasm has been tempered more recently by some skepticism. I'm still hoping to find the partners we need to make this event a reality, but we're not there yet and I must report that I'm not confident we will get there in time to launch the series, as I'd hoped, with 2022 Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Regional.

Upcoming Board Meetings

As noted above, our spring board meeting will take place via Zoom, starting at 10:00 a.m. Saturday, March 26. Unit presidents, please note — there will be business to discuss (disposition of our proceeds from the Royal STAC), so it's important we have a quorum. Please make sure our Secretary, Lillian Slater, has a list of your appointees to the Board and their alternates. Our summer meeting will almost certainly be an in-person meeting on the Saturday evening of Bridge Week, which will be July 9.

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

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data to demonstrate that the on-line community is not creating new members at the same rate as happened pre-pandemic.

Cheating, absolutely abhorrent and the very anathema of our game, has been pushed to the forefront over the last 2 years. Some critics of the ACBL say they're not doing enough. Pre-pandemic, "player memos," the document that starts any

investigation, typically didn't exceed 100 per year. Over the last 2 years, that number has soared to over 1,000 per year. The sheer volume is overwhelming. So the league has hired an assistant to the National Recorder. The league has resolved in excess of 30 cases and presently has over 30 more with which they're dealing. While these numbers don't seem particularly high, one must realize that several of these cases take months to resolve and require hundreds, if not thousands, of volunteer hours to review and analyze hands. After a volunteer panel completes this work, if warranted, a charge is filed and to the extent that the charged party disputes the findings of the panel, the matter goes to a hearing. It's then possible that either the ACBL or the charged party can appeal the hearing results to an arbitrator. It is a long, tedious process. If you're further interested, go to the ACBL website and under "More Areas" select "Ethics and Discipline."

I was selected by our new ACBL president, Joann Glasson, to be the chair of the Finance Committee for 2022. This fits in well with my previous experience as a CPA and entrepreneur. In this capacity, I suggested to Joe Jones and Peyton Manning, the ACBL Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer respectively, that I visit headquarters in order to get a more in depth understanding about how the financial reporting for the organization gets created. I spent the better part of a day in Horn Lake, MS, late in February. While the intent of the visit was geared toward the financial end of the business, I took an opportunity to meet with Joe Peyton and Greg Coles, (not sure of his official title but I'll call him the Manager of Operations). Much of our discussion focused on the need to rethink the economics of regional tournaments. Historically, the main tournament director, known as the DIC (Director in Charge) would determine in advance how the tournament is to be staffed. We have or had very seasoned DIC's in our area for decades, many of whom worked the same tournaments year after year. Not unreasonably, they developed a sense of proprietorship over these tournaments and set up the schedules and commensurate staffing to their desires. While this may have been an acceptable method in the past, it no longer is. If that DIC overstaffs there are no consequences to him/her. So when you hear that the table count was not what was projected and therefore, the DIC sent one or more of the tournament directors home, be aware that it is the tournament sponsor, in our case D23, that gets that financial hit. In our conversation, I suggested that local directing talent be

enlisted in lieu of paying for airplanes and hotels and per diems. I think that management is appreciative of the burden that districts find themselves under and is open to a variety of solutions. More to follow.

On the agenda for Reno is an update on both the Marketing Plan and the IT Plan. I look forward to updating you on these issues in my next article.

The next Region 11 regional is in San Diego April 11-17. I hope to see many of you there.

Be safe and stay well.

The Director's Corner *by David White*

"My Aces are worth 5 points and Kings four. Because I play them better than everybody else." (The Hideous Hog)

Legal Bids, A Review of the 2021 Convention Charts



The question of legal opening bids reared its ugly head on BBO last week. Many directors thought the 2021 changes to the conventions charts gave some clarification to the rules. It was a nice thought.

Some of the confusion over what is legal is in the way the chart is organized. Finding the right chart you are playing under is not trivial as the type and rating of the event along with the upper masterpoint limit of the game are used in the determination.

For pair events and non-bracketed team events, with an upper masterpoint limit of 750 or less, the Basic chart is used. If the upper limit is 3000 or less the Basic+ chart is used. The application of Open and Open+ charts is determined by the rating of the event.

For bracketed team events we go by the average of the highest team. The Basic chart is used, if highest team averages less than 750.

Basic+ is used, if the highest team averages less than 1500.

Open+ is for the top bracket and all brackets where the lowest team averages more than 3000. Everybody else uses the Open chart.

Once you know the chart, remember: the Basic and Basic+ charts list what is permitted. The Open and Open+ charts list what is not allowed.

The charts often describe the required strength in word, in addition to numbers. But these words now have definite values and definitions.

Notice many of these definitions say XX HCPs or meets the rule of N. Well, even the 'Rule of N' has a definition. That is: HCPs plus the number of cards in the longest two suits.

Open+ Hand strength:

- a. "Weak": a hand that contains less than Near Average Strength.
- b. "Near Average Strength": a hand that has at least 8 HCP or meets the "Rule of 17."
- c. "Average Strength": a hand that has at least 10 HCP or meets the "Rule of 19."
- d. "Strong": A hand that contains:
 - i. at least 15 HCP; or
 - ii. at least 14 HCP and meets the "Rule of 24."
 - iii. at least 5 Control Points and is within one trick of game assuming suits break evenly among the other hands.
- e. "Very Strong": a hand that contains:
 - i. at least 20 HCP; or
 - ii. at least 14 HCP and is within one trick of game assuming suits break evenly among the other hands.
 - iii. at least 5 Control Points and is within one trick of game assuming suits break evenly among the other hands

The two quirks to the "Rule of N" that get people in trouble are:

1. There are no extra points for shortness or length.
2. 2.Honor singleton or honor doubleton still count.

Example:

♠ Q 5 4 3 2
♥ J 5 4 3 2
♦ Q J
♣ J

This hand still meets the rule of 17 and can be opened at the one level any time a hand of near average strength is required.

You can find the Convention Charts in all their glory at: <https://www.acbl.org/tournament/#charts>

Click on “Charts, Rules and Regulations.”

Don’t Confuse the Rule(s) of Seventeen

The Convention Chart mentions the ‘Rule of 17’ when determining if a hand has “Near Average Strength.”

There is a second “Rule of 17” used in deciding if you should raise partner’s preempt to game. It says: count your HCPs, add the number of cards you hold of partner’s suit. If the total is 17 or higher, bid game.

“Points Schmoints” – Marty Bergen,

The only person known to have gone for –7000.”

It’s Trivia Time Again!

Isaac Newton’s only recorded utterance while he was a member of Parliament was a request to open the window.

In the 1970 census, the U.S. had 2,983 men who were already widowers at the age of fourteen and 289 women who – at that same age, fourteen – already had been widowed or divorced.

Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled “Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden”...and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

It is impossible to lick your elbow.

China owns all the pandas in the world. They rent them out for about \$1M a year.

District 23 Rank Changes January 2022

Junior Master

Dean Dorn
Sharon L. Shemski
John Karubian
Azam Y. Sher
Richard Yaffe

Club Master

Joanne E. Armenia
Herb Glazerooff
Donna L. Grogan
Terry L. Royce

Sectional Master

Allene Buchanan
Bobbie Greenfield
Mark S. Greenfield
Maria Marvosh
Melinda G. Wilson

Regional Master

Harriet Finebaum
Susan Lava

NABC Master

Robert Cook
Deborah Downs

Advanced NABC Master

Sandra J. Schlosser

Life Master

Shoreh Toufanian
Lisa A. Walker

Bronze Life Master

Sharyn J. Miller
Shoreh Toufanian
Lisa A. Walker

Silver Life Master

Roberta J. Brown

Gold Life Master

Morris Jones
Alan P. Olschwang

Sapphire Life Master

Finn Kolesnik
Rand E. Pinsky

Emerald Life Master

Viktor Anikovich

Tournament Highlights

- 6 satellite teams to separate Sunday Swiss
- Knockout teams: Thursday and Thursday
- 4 satellite teams: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
- Open BFE Pairs and Pairs
- Sunday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday
- 100% of the tournament is satellite
- 100% of the tournament is satellite
- 100% of the tournament is satellite
- 100% of the tournament is satellite



Pacific

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL

APRIL 11-17, 2022



San Diego Mission Valley Marriott • 8757 Rio San Diego Dr., San Diego, CA 92108 • 619-692-3800

Tournament Co-Chair: Larry Agard • larry.agard@acbl.com

Bill Grant • bill.grant@acbl.com

Director: Sam Marshall • sam.marshall@acbl.com

Partnership Chair: Kathy Jones • kathy.jones@acbl.com

Side Game Series

Mornings, Tuesday through Saturday	10:30 a.m.
Afternoons, Tuesday through Saturday	3:15 p.m.

Knockout Teams

Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams (4 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Thursday-Friday Knockout Teams (4 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Bracketed Teams

Monday Bracketed Charity Teams (2 sessions)	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday Bracketed Teams (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Friday Bracketed Teams (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Saturday Bracketed Teams (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Sunday Bracketed Teams (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Swiss Teams

Tuesday thru Saturday Swiss Teams (single session)	3:15 p.m.
GNP Teams Friday & Saturday (4 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

GNP Teams information on District 27 website: n22acbl.com

Pairs Games

Monday Charity Pairs & 300 Charity Pairs (single session)	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday thru Saturday Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday Thursday Saturday Open Pairs (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Tuesday thru Saturday 300 Pairs (single session)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Tuesday thru Saturday 300 Pairs (single session)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Friday 11P Open Pairs (2 sessions)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
Sunday Fast Open Pairs (2 sessions)	10:00 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

Intermediate/Newcomer Events

11P Reception Monday	10:30 a.m.
11P Lesson with Viki Gilliam	11:30 a.m.
Monday Charity 11P Pairs (single session)	2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday Mentor/Mentee Side Game	7:30 p.m.
Tuesday-Sat 3:00 Pairs (single session)	10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.

(0.5 MP's ACBL members Play Free on Tuesday)

San Diego Mission Valley Marriott

Bridge Rm: \$139 Reservations: 800 328-9790 or 619 692-3800

Mention ACBL for this special rate • Reserve by March 21

Your credit card will be charged (non-refundable) for one night at Hotel Bridge Rm for reservations cancelled within 77 hours

Parking: \$8 for hotel guests & local attendees

Resort Fee Waived at Check-in • Free Guest Room Wi-Fi

Reserve Hotel Rooms online at www.d22acbl.com/san-diego-regional

Be advised that applicable Safety Protocols will be in place.

Check D22 website for up-to-date information: www.d22acbl.com

Tournament Fees

Card Fees: \$15 per person • Unpaid ACBL Members \$4 Extra
Juniors 25 & under \$7 • Monday Charity Bracketed Swiss Teams \$128/Team



APRIL 11-17, 2022



SOUTHWEST REGIONAL

Monday, April 11

Monday Charity Pairs (single session) 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
 Charity Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
 0-300 Charity Pairs (single session) 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 12

Side Game Series (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Open Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 0-300 Pairs (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Tuck-Wood KO Teams (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) 3:15 p.m.
 Mentor/Mentee Pairs 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13

Side Game Series (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Open Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 0-300 Pairs (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Tuck-Wood KO (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) 3:15 p.m.

Thursday, April 14

Side Game Series (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Open Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Tuck-Wood KO (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 0-300 Pairs (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) 3:15 p.m.

Friday, April 15

Side Game Series (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 IMP Open Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 0-300 Pairs (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Tuck-Wood KO (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 GNT Teams All Flights (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & Playthrough
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) 3:15 p.m.

Saturday, April 16

Side Game Series (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Open Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Gold Rush Pairs (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 0-300 Pairs (single session) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & 3:15 p.m.
 GNT Teams All Flights (1 & 2 of 4 sessions) 10:30 a.m. & Playthrough
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session) 3:15 p.m.

Sunday, April 17

Fast Open Pairs (2 sessions) 10:00 a.m. & Playthrough
 Bracketed Teams (2 sessions) 10:00 a.m. & Playthrough

Strats/Brackets

Open Pairs: 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+ (Strats by average)

Stratified Events: 0-750/750-2000/2000+

Gold Rush Pairs: 0-200/200-400/400-750

Swiss Teams: 0-750/750-2000/2000+

Bracketed Teams by Average MP:

KO Teams will not be handicapped

GNT Teams: 0-500/500-1500/1500-4000/6000+

Mentor/Mentee: Mentor Minimum: 1000

Mentee Maximum: 500, NLM

Website: www.d22acbl.com/san-diego-regional

DISTRICT 23

Grand National Teams Finals

June 11th and 12th 2022

Long Beach Bridge Center

sanction #220633

Swiss Qualifying

Saturday, June 11 @ 10 am
and
Saturday, June 11 @ 3 pm

Knock Out Finals

Sunday, June 12 @ 10 am
and
Sunday, June 12 @ 3 pm

National Finals will be held July 13-July 17 during
Summer Nationals in Providence, Rhode Island

\$17 per team member per session. Teams play
2-4 sessions. If winners do not attend finals, second place finishers
will have the right to attend.

Point Limits and Conventions

Points as of August 6, 2021

Championship: Unlimited, Open + chart

Flight A : 0-6000, Open chart

Flight B : 0-2500, Basic + chart

Flight C : Non-LM < 500, Basic chart

Maximum Masterpoint Awards

May be less, depending on game size

Championship Flight: 48.00 Gold

Flight A : 40.00 Gold

Flight B : 33.50 Gold

Flight C : 20.00, 50% Gold, 50% Red

Event chair

Jeff Grotenhuis • District 23 GNT Coordinator
email: jeffgro@gmail.com • cell: 310-600-4275

Conditions of Contest may be found at:
<http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23>





March 21-27, 2022

Royal STaC

Special Masterpoint Awards:

25% Gold, 25% Red, 25% Silver, 25% Black

Face to Face at Participating Clubs

Sponsoring Districts: 21, 22 and 23

Clubs: Register for your STaC games at
<https://tournaments.acbl.org/club-stac-admin.php?id=46515>

For club registration info, please contact:
Arleen Harvey arleen.harvey@acbl.org

For more information contact:
Cornelia Gould (D21) cornelia.gould@gmail.com
Lamya Agelidis (D22) lamya.agelidis@gmail.com
Ruth Baker (D23) rbaker1234@sbsglobal.net



The Puzzle Page

Bridge Jeopardy

by John Jones

Category: Jumps Over Partner's Opener

And the answer is ...

\$100 – The old fashioned “I’ve got a great hand,” such as jumping to 2♥ after partner’s 1♣ opening. (Later promoted by Paul Soloway, who added some definitions of follow-ups).

\$200 – Played this way, jumps show a 6-card or longer suit, but a poor hand.

\$300 – Promoted by a man with the first name of Marty, these jumps from 1♥ or 1♠ to 3♣ or 3♦ show 4-card support.

\$400 – If partner opens 1♥ or 1♠, a double jump shift to 4♣ or 4♦ shows an opening bid, shortness in the suit bid, and at least 4-card support for partner,

\$500 – Some partnerships play them after the opponents overcall and a jump below game is still possible, for example 1♥ (1♠ – overcall) 3♣, showing five+ cards in the suit bid and 4+ cards in partner's suit.

March Rebus

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



Play or Defend?

by John Jones

North

♠ A 9 8 5
♥ Q J 5 3
♦ Q J 10
♣ K 4

West

♠ K 10 7 2
♥ 8 7 2
♦ A 8
♣ 9 6 5 2

East

♠ Q 3
 ♥ K 10 6 4
 ♦ K 6 5 2
 ♣ 10 7 3

South

♠ J 6 4
♥ A 9
♦ 9 7 4 3
♣ A Q J 8

Contract = 3NT

Opening Lead = $\spadesuit 2$

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

(Solutions to these puzzles are on **page 8**.
No peeking!)



Submitted by John Jones:



If my pard opens three clubs,
is that stronger than two clubs?



Solution to “Play or Defend?”

Answer: defend. If declarer wins trick one with the ♠A in dummy, then East will win the first round of diamonds and cash the ♠Q. The defense will come to three spades and two diamonds. Thus, declarer ducks trick one and East wins the ♠Q. A spade continuation allows the contract to make. A low heart shift at trick allows declarer to win the ♥9, and the defense can only get to one heart trick so declarer can get to nine tricks ahead of the defense getting five. However, a diabolical ♥T shift at trick two will smother the ♥9. Declarer can win the ♥Q in dummy, but the defense prevails with West unblocking a high heart spot twice and East retaining the K6 over dummy's J5. East must win the first round of diamonds and clear hearts on this variation.

This hand comes from Julian Pottage's wonderful book Defend or Declare?

Bridge Jeopardy Questions

\$100 – What are Strong Jump Shifts (or later, Soloway Jump Shifts)?

\$200 – What are Weak Jump Shifts?

\$300 – What are Bergen Raises?

\$400 – What are Splinter Bids?

\$500 – What are Fitted Jumps?

Solution to “Rebus”

“Strong JumpShift”

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

As F2F play ramps up, a reprise of this old gem seems appropriate:

How to Keep Your Director Happy

Slow play is your easiest route to success. This being the case, the following suggestions may help:

1. When you get to the club, socialize with all your friends right up to game time. Only when the game commences is it time to go for that restroom break you've needed since you arrived.
2. Round timers are for decorative purposes only. Never pay any attention to them or any random noises

they may make. It took you only twenty minutes to play the first two boards. Surely you can bid and play the third board after the “two-minute-warning” has sounded.

3. When it's your lead, make sure to write down the contract in your convention card and enter it into the terminal prior to actually making the lead. If you're dummy, do the same before facing your hand on the table.

4. When you are the dummy, get up for a smoke break. The other players love to play your cards for you.

5. Rehash each deal at great length prior to playing the next. While you are at it, speak loudly and clearly, ensuring that as many players as possible will be impressed with your analysis.

6. If you have accidentally passed out a deal and are actually ready to move when the round is called, don't. Discuss the weather or your grandchildren until you are sure you are several minutes behind.

7. When moving for the next round, do so slowly. Stop for water, coffee, snacks, etc. Say hello to other players on the move and engage them in a lengthy chat about the stock market, world peace, politics or religion.

8. If you are sitting N-S and are waiting for your next opponents, do not use the time to go to the restroom or get water, coffee, snacks, etc. You should do these things only after your new opponents have finally arrived at the table. After all, they made you wait.

9. If you are sitting E-W and find yourselves behind a slow pair, you must slow down as well. Feign an excuse to go to the restroom and spend five or ten minutes washing your hands. Two benefits accrue. First, you will now be “in synch” with the pair in front of you, relieving you of the need to stand around waiting for them to finish. Second, you will have very clean hands.

10. If the director is hovering around your table and requesting that you speed up play, be certain to inform him that it isn't your fault that you are behind and then ignore him. Directors love to hover and will be disappointed if you move too quickly.

11. Once you have managed to get suitably behind, make absolutely no effort to catch up. Doing this would only serve to spoil the symmetry of the movement.

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Lillian Slater

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

Sorry, no news from Long Beach this month.



Pomona – Covina by Tom Lill www.acblunit551.org

Individual: March 5, 10:00 a.m., Upland
March, 5, 10:00, Upland
Club Championships: March 8 and 11, La Fetra
STaC: March 22 and 25, La Fetra.
Unit Game: Saturday March 19, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Unit Board Meeting: 10:15 a.m. before the game

Somewhat unhappily, I am suspending the team games at La Fetra. I had high hopes, and the first few games went rather well. But three of the last four games got all *yngvied* up. In one game, I had an odd number of pairs – so we played pairs. Then I had 4¼ teams ... so we played with one five-person team. And then again I had 4½ teams, so we played pairs. What with the signup process confusing some people, and people getting ill or having other emergencies (imagine, one player had to cancel for the poor excuse that his father had passed away), It Just Was Not Working.

Perhaps I'll try again. Now, if someone *else* wants to try organizing team games? No? Ah, I thought so.

Yes, I have signed us up for the STaC in

March, mit der hand records und everything! Because of the much larger sanction fee that is assessed for STaCs, I have to up the entry fee from \$5 to \$6. Still a bargain, and you can earn silver, red and gold points, too.

Winner of the February Individual was Kiran Kumar, at 59%. Clint Lew came in second, Stephen Andersen third, Roger Boyar fourth, Peter Kavounas fifth, and Kathy Malovos sixth to round out the leader board.

In the February Unit game, Amr Elghamry – Lulu Minter tore up the field with a fine 71.35% game. Bill Papa – Vic Sartor were second with “only” 64.06%. Tim and Eileen Finlay placed third, Clint Lew – Stephen Andersen fourth, and Susie Emminger – Yours Truly rounded out the leader board at fifth.

Only one rank advancement this month. Maria Marvosh is now a Sectional Master.

Our condolences go out to Steve Mancini, whose father passed away in February at the age of 101.

The top game at La Fetra in February was an incredible 82.29%, posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter. I guess the rest of us just mailed it in that day. Turnout was a bit light last month, and the only others to finish atop the leader board (in pairs play, that is), were Caryn Mason, Vic Sartor, and Bill Papa. Winners of the February team game: the five-player team of Stephen Andersen, Roger Boyar, Hanan Mogharbel, Clint Lew, and Yours Truly won 2½ of 4 matches to top the field.

Here's an moderately interesting hand that came up this month. You, the dealer, find yourself looking at

♠ 8 ♥ AQ97 ♦ KQ9862 ♣ 75.

Unprepossessing, yes, but definitely worth an opening bid. 1♦ it is!

LHO goes 1♠, partner makes a negative double, and RHO leaps to 4♠! Wowie! Frustrating: is RHO bidding to make, or preempting? Or both, maybe? Well, you don't have much defense against a spade game, at least not to take to the bank, so at favorable vulnerability, you (mentally) bite the bullet

and put the 5♥ card on the table. LHO now goes 5♠. Evidently, this is a pinochle deck ... or maybe yours isn't the only shapely hand? Partner now bids 6♦, and you try not to look dismayed. LHO doubles, and that's that. The opening lead is the ♠A, and partner tables this dummy:

♠ 54 ♥ K1086 ♦ AJ10753 ♣ A.

The opening lead is the ♠A, which holds. You ruff the second spade, and when the hearts prove to be 3-2, you claim +1090. The opponents can make 11 tricks in spades, but not 12. Ah, the power of shape.

Not often do you get six-card trump support!

For my next hand, I thought of that other semi-balanced hand I promised you last month. Then this hand came up (on BBO) that made me wonder ... take a look before I describe what happened. West deals, no one vulnerable.

<u>North</u>		<u>East</u>	
♠ A 7 5 3 2		♠ K Q 9 8	
♥ K J 6		♥ Q 10	
♦ 5 4		♦ Q J 10	
♣ Q 5 2		♣ 7 6 4 3	
<u>West</u>			
♠ 4			
♥ A 9 3 2			
♦ K 9 7 3			
♣ K 10 9 8			
<u>South</u>			
♠ J 10 6			
♥ 8 7 5 4			
♦ A 8 6 2			
♣ A J			

"So what," I hear you cry. Well, after this one was over, E-W (my side, of course) were the ones crying. It was a 13-table game. At 10 tables, the deal was passed out. This isn't surprising, since no one has anything resembling an opening bid. North comes closest, I suppose. At the other three tables: (1) SOUTH opened, E-W played 1NT, and with everything lying well, +120 to E-W; (2) EAST opened, E-W got to 2♦, +90 to E-W; (3) NORTH opened, played 2♠, down 1, +50 to EW. So our disciplined bridge got us a fine 37.5%. Go figure!

Quote for the month: "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not one bit simpler." (Albert Einstein)

Downey – Whittier by Liz Burrell

[Downey's club has been closed all month, so there's no news this month. They plan to reopen in March.]



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 Annual Meeting and Election of board members for 2022 will be held on Monday, March 21st at 11:30 am via Zoom. Nominated board members: Ruth Baker, Thomas Beggane, David Khalieque, Jan Ladd, Roy Ladd, Beth Morrin, Paula Olivares, Rand Pinsky, and Tomoko Stock. Anyone interested in joining the board should contact Ruth Baker (rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net).

Virtual Game Schedule

Monday:	12:15 PM	Open game
Tuesday:	10:15 AM	749er game (cost is \$5)
	6:15 PM	Open game
Wednesday:	10:15 AM	749er game (cost is \$5)
Thursday:	10:15 AM	Open game
Friday:	12:15 PM	Open game
Sunday:	12:15 PM	749er game
	12:30 PM	Open game

Contact our club manager at paula@pacbell.net for reservations. Our games cost \$3 unless it is a special game series.

Special games for March:

Royal STaC face-to-face games will be held the week of March 21-27. They will pay 25% gold, 25% red, 25% silver and 25% black points. Unit 556 will hold a game on Saturday, March 26th at 12:30 PM at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Lancaster. Please RSVP to Beth Morrin (morrin@sbcglobal.net).

Winners in Unit 556+ Open MP games:

Mon. Jan. 24			
N/S	Kristi Kubo – Robot	66.14%	
E/W	Kenneth Peyton – Michael Connell	70.28%	
Tues. Jan. 25			
N/S	Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	62.85%	
E/W	Bill Brodek – Robot	66.32%	
Thurs. Jan. 27			
N/S	Sharon Wolf – Steve Shanker	64.35%	
E/W	Pat Larin – David White	62.50%	
Fri. Jan. 28			
N/S	Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong	75.08%	
E/W	Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach	73.62%	
Sun. Jan. 30			
N/S	Bud Kalafian – Stephen Licker	62.43%	
E/W	Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong	59.83%	
Mon. Jan. 31			
N/S	Anita Walker – Aggi Oschin	66.45%	
E/W	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	63.03%	
Tues. Feb. 1			
N/S	Avice Osmundson – Kiran Kumar	55.49%	
E/W	Pat Larin – David White	63.43%	
Thurs. Feb. 3			
N/S	Stephen Anderson – Robot	64.09%	
E/W	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	64.68%	
Fri. Feb. 4			
N/S	Jan Ladd – Roy Ladd	70.99%	
E/W	Mira Rowe – Ron Oest	57.44%	
Sun. Feb. 6			
N/S	Pat Larin – David White	62.96%	
E/W	Carolyn Cohen – Cathryn Martin	61.42%	
Mon. Feb. 7			
N/S	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	64.52%	
E/W	Gary Zoss – Dwaine Hawley	64.42%	
Tues. Feb. 8			
N/S	Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong	65.97%	
E/W	Thomas Beggane – Robot	64.24%	
Thurs. Feb. 10			
N/S	Ruth Baker – Kathy Flynn	60.80%	
E/W	Joseph Viola – Gerard Geremia	73.46%	
Fri. Feb. 11			
N/S	Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong	71.22%	
E/W	Rae Murbach – Gerard Geremia	64.14%	
Sun. Feb. 13			
N/S	Pat Larin – David White	59.26%	
E/W	Roshen Hadulla – Bill Brodek	58.33%	

Mon. Feb. 14			
N/S	Paula Olivares – Bill Brodek	62.53%	
E/W	Pankajam Sundaresan – Ramani Sundaresan	60.86%	

Tues. Feb. 15			
N/S	May Abagi – Hani Abraham	58.68%	
E/W	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	73.96%	

Thurs. Feb. 17			
N/S	Joseph Viola – Gerard Geremia	66.42%	
E/W	Pat Larin – David White	63.84%	

Fri. Feb. 18			
N/S	Diana Borgatti – Cathryn Martin	66.92%	
E/W	Lulu Minter – Ernest Wong	61.36%	

Sun. Feb. 20			
N/S	Amr Elghamry – Gerard Geremia	71.88%	
E/W	Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd	59.38%	

Winners in Unit 556+ Limited MP games:

Tues. Jan. 25			
	Kenneth Peyton – Michael Connell	60.56%	

Wed. Jan. 26			
	Caryn Musicer – Glen Musicer	63.89%	

Sun. Jan. 30			
N/S	Farryl Weitzman – Jan Archer	54.37%	
E/W	Carol Trenda – Gary Trenda	63.10%	

Tues. Feb. 1			
	Kenneth Peyton – Robot	68.06%	

Wed. Feb. 2			
	Kenneth Peyton – Michael Connell	63.89%	

Sun. Feb. 6			
N/S	Margaret Shifley – Jerome Paul	65.28%	
E/W	Steve Mancini – Michael Connell	70.37%	

Tues. Feb. 8			
	Margaret Shifley – Jerome Paul	61.11%	

Wed. Feb. 9			
	Marilyn Morton – Carol Schamp	65.97%	

Sun. Feb. 13			
N/S	Caryn Musicer – Glen Musicer	65.56%	
E/W	Margaret Shifley – Jerome Paul	63.89%	

Tues. Feb. 15			
	Caryn Musicer – Glen Musicer	61.11%	

Wed. Feb. 16			
	Sofi Kasubhai – Robot	61.11%	

Sun. Jan. 20

N/S Steve Mancini – Michael Connell 61.57%
 E/W Aggi Oschin – David Khalieque 62.04%

Next Board meeting: TBA in April, via Zoom.

Pasadena – San Gabriel by Morris “Mojo” Jones

bridgemojo.com



I have to open with the passing of one of our most beloved and stalwart unit members and a fierce competitor at the bridge table, **Sandra Franciscus**. I don't know the full story of

Sandra's history with our unit, but I know she was a frequent volunteer in its administration. The games here will not be the same without her.

Our Unit Games every other Sunday (or so) continue to be well attended. In our first February game, February 13, we had nine full tables (not bad for Super Bowl Sunday). We had just learned of the passing that morning of Sandra, and you'll notice in the results that the game was named the Sandra Franciscus pairs in her honor. Winners N/S were **Cathryn Martin** and **Diana Borgatti** (69%!) and E/W were **Carolyn Cohen** and **Patrick Cardullo**.

We have another February game scheduled for Sunday, February 27, and with our column deadlines coming up, I don't yet know how that game will turn out. I'll report next month.

For March, our games will be on the same dates, March 13 and 27 at the Arcadia Bridge Center. With limited space, reservations are required! Call Miriam Harrington to save your spot, (626) 232-0558. As always proof of vaccination is required, but if we're lucky, maybe these will be our first games without a mask requirement for vaccinated players (which would be everyone).

Unit Game results are posted on both ACBL Live for Clubs <https://my.acbl.org/club-results/905596> and The Common Game <https://thecommongame.com/ClubWebHost/905596/>. The club name is "Unit 559" which you can use as a search on Live for Clubs.

This month we have two major milestones to announce in rank advancements.

Lisa Walker is now a Life Master and Bronze Life Master. **Morris Jones** is now a Gold Life Master.

I'd like to tell a story about when I first became a Life Master, living in Campbell, near San Jose, CA. A friend who was a tournament director and experienced player, was introducing me to some other friends at a tournament.

He said, "This is Mojo, he's new to Flight B."

It was a humbling thought and a reminder of how much bridge awaited me on the journey. I've spent a lot of that time learning to compete in Flight B.

Now that I'm newly in Flight A, I know that I have to learn to play this game at another level. I wouldn't have it any other way.

And Lisa -- welcome to Flight B!

Southern California Bridge News

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email bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Editor/Designer. Tom Lill

Managing Editor. Bob Shore

Contributing Editor. John Jones

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Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Mark Bartusek, Sid Brownstein, Kitty Cooper, Mitch Dunitz, Ed Davis, Lynne Feldman, Rick Roeder, Mike Shuster, and Jon Wittes are panelists.

Lynne is new to the panel. She is a San Diego area expert and one of my partners (please don't hold that against her). Welcome to the panel Lynne!

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
N-S Vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♥	dbl	pass
???			

You, South, hold: ♠AK10953 ♥K3 ♦10 ♣KQ103

What call do you make?

I apologize because I don't remember who sent me hand #1. I had it sitting in my March folder when I got to forming the problems. I apologize to whoever gave me the problem! Hands #2, 3, and 4 are from an old Eastern bidding panel. Hand #5 was an old Jeff Goldsmith problem.

This is one of those times when we wind up with too much to describe. We have: extra values, an extra spade, a good club side suit, a problematic ♥K and we only get one bid (unless we cuebid to force to game). The panel was significantly influenced by the matchpoint conditions. Let's hear from them.

Many panelists tried 3♠.

Shuster: 3♠. I can play this opposite a stiff. Maybe we belong in 6♣, but it's MPs, so I'm going to aim for 4♠. I would probably bid 4♣ at IMPs.

Wittes: 3♠. My ♥Kx has diminished in value on the auction, but with my good texture in spades, plus the good fit for one of partner's probable suits, I think this hand is worth a 3♠ bid.

Dunitz: 3♠. No perfect bid. The heart king doesn't rate to be a good card, but I'm inclined to bid 3♠ anyway.

Davis: 3♠. A less aggressive bid (2♠ or 3♣) or a different aggressive bid (4♣) is possible. The heart king may not be a trick but its presence may make it difficult for West to defend successfully and the 6-4 distribution is attractive. Since the ten-nine of spades makes spades playable opposite a singleton, I think the hand is worth a 3♠ bid.

Brownstein: 3♠. Aims for the most likely game.

Feldman: 3♠.

The cuebidders are hoping the ♥K retains value in the strain we arrive at, and will bid game.

Cooper: 3♥. I love my hand for clubs or spades after the negative double.

Bartusek: 3♥. The primary issue here is whether to risk wrong-siding a club game in order to search for a spade fit or to risk missing a 6-2 spade fit in order to ensure right-siding our club fit. 3♥ is the only forcing bid to determine whether we have a 6-2 spade fit. The risk of a heart lead if partner bids clubs first makes an immediate 4♣ (or 5♣) bid somewhat attractive. Admittedly there is a slight possibility that partner has only a long diamond suit with about 9-10 HCPs, although one strains to avoid such an action.

Some bid clubs. If we bid clubs, how high should we go?

Roeder: 4♣. It's a big risk to bury six beautiful spades but I'm hopeful that if partner bids on, he can give me a choice holding ♠Qx or ♠Jx. The lack of a heart raise on my right offers a slight inference that partner is looking at three hearts. If so, the probability of spade shortness increases. (That's still not terrible given your great spots). Imagine partner with ♠x ♥xxx ♦Axxx ♣Axxxx. 3♠ is a very close second. *It is reasonable to infer that Rick does not think that 4♣ is 100% forcing.*

2

Matchpoints
N-S Vul

South	West	North	East
1♣	2♦*	pass	pass
???			

* Preemptive

You, South, hold: ♠AQ97 ♥3 ♦6 ♣AKQJ1063

What call do you make?

Don't you hate it when you have a great hand and the obnoxious opponents preempt? Now we can reopen with a double, rebid 3♣ or 4♣, cuebid 3♦ or try some number of spades. The panel is very skeptical about reopening with a double, feeling that the offensive potential of the hand tends to make playing the hand better than defending a low-level contract. The panelists agree on not doubling, but not on what to bid.

Feldman: 3♦. The hand is too powerful for anything else.

Wittes: 3♦. Despite only having 16 high card points, this hand is worth considering opening 2♣ with 8 1/2 tricks in my own hand. Partner might want to penalize 2♦, but with this distribution and at this vulnerability, I'll opt for our very likely vulnerable game. If partner bids 3NT, I'll pass hoping partner has at least a partial heart stopper. If partner bids 3♥, I'll bid 5♣. Over 3♠, I'll bid 4♠.

Davis: 3♦. This shows a long club suit and responder's first obligation is to bid 3NT with a diamond stopper. (If opener instead had a very strong hand with support for the majors, he would double.) The 3♦ bid might miss a good 4♠ or reach a bad 3NT but I think it offers the best chance to reach a winning contract. If partner bids 3♥, I will bid 3♠. If partner bids 3♠ I will bid 4♠, and if partner bids 3NT I will pass. Otherwise, we will stop in 4♣ unless partner bids beyond 4♣.

Cooper: 3♦. Asking for a stopper.

Dunitz: 3♦. If I bid 2♠ and partner raises to 3♠, I won't be thrilled if partner has only three pieces. If I bid 3♦ and partner bids 3NT, we might be off the entire heart suit. I don't want to double and end up defending. So, there is danger on all fronts. I bid 3♦.

If we bid spades, how high do we go?

Shuster: 2♠. Keeps everything in play except 2♦ doubled.

Bartusek: 2♠. I'm a big adherent of making bids to simplify an auction as opposed to making ambiguous doubles or trying for low-level penalty doubles. I don't want to reopen with a double for fear of partner passing or bidding a lot of hearts. Admittedly 2♠ is somewhat of an underbid, but it leaves me well-placed for later bidding if the auction continues. Partner should realize that I'll have 6+ clubs for this action. I don't think that this bid guarantees 5+ spades.

Roeder: 2♠. The underbid of the year.

Brownstein: 3♠.

For most partnerships, this would show five spades.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">3</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints Neither Vul</div>	South	West	North	East
	1♥	2♦	3♣	pass
	???			
You, South, hold: ♠K83 ♥AKQ1093 ♦3 ♣A63 What call do you make?				

The 3♣ free bid should be forcing to game. So, we have a little wiggle room to deal with our nice hand including multiple playable strains.

Roeder: 3♦. This is clear. Your next bid may be murky. The theme of these problems must be: “How much Disrespect for the Minors Can One Have?”

Wittes: 3♦. Slam is very likely. 4♦ tends to set clubs as the trump suit and takes up too much bidding space. Let’s see what partner bids over 3♦ before proceeding.

Dunitz: 3♦. I’m starting with 3♦. If partner can’t bid 3NT I will get very excited. If partner bids 3NT, I will bid 4♥.

Brownstein: 3♦.

Some like splintering directly.

Feldman: 4♦. I would like a fourth trump but this seems most descriptive and most likely to get partner excited if slam is in the picture.

When this problem was used in the Eastern panel, 3♥ was not a popular choice (only 3 out of 14 panelists). But it is my choice and that of several of my panelists.

Cooper: 3♥. Since partner promised another bid, I might as well see what it will be. If it is 4♣ then I’ll bid 4♦ next. However, 3♦ to set a game force and perhaps suggest some sort of club fit might work out better.

Bartusek: 3♥. I don’t think we can afford to overlook a 6-2 heart fit at matchpoints. Admittedly a club raise might make it easier to get to a making club slam. I can always show club support on a later round depending on the auction.

Shuster: 3♥. Not a problem yet. This hand is pretty much a slam drive. It seems best to repeat the hearts before supporting clubs.

Davis: 3♥. I will bid keycard if partner bids 4♥, bid 4♣ if partner bids 3♠ or 3NT and bid 4♦ if partner bids 4♣. If partner bids 3NT over 3♥ and then bids 4NT or 5♣ over my 4♣ bid, I will pass. Otherwise, we will end up in slam (unless partner bids 4♥ and then shows no keycards).

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">4</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints E-W Vul</div>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	1♣	pass	1♥	pass
	2♦	pass	2♥	pass
	3♦	pass	???	
You, South, hold: ♠J863 ♥QJ8632 ♦void ♣Q103 What call do you make?				

Davis: 3♠. This asks opener to bid 3NT if holding something in spades. This caters to partner having something like ♠Qx ♥void ♦AKJxx ♣AKxxxx where nine tricks in notrump is more likely than 11 tricks in clubs. If partner does not bid 3NT, then you will take your chances on making 5♣.

Feldman: 3♠. Partner is 5-6 in the minors and in my partnerships, this does not have to be full reverse values. If partner can bid 3NT, this seems like the most likely game. If not, I will bid 5♣ over anything but 4♥.

Is 4♣ forcing? This turns out to be much more a question of methods than it does a question of hand evaluation.

Cooper: 5♣. I hope she makes it. In my partnerships my partner's auction shows shape and no longer promises great HCP, so 4♣ is NF.

Bartusek: 5♣. 4♣ would be non-forcing, so we must bid game with such excellent club support and diamond ruffing values.

Shuster: 4♣. I'd feel more comfortable about this if 2♥ was NF (my preferred treatment) so there would be no question at all that I'm bidding 4♣ out of weakness, not a desire to reach slam. If 2♥ was forcing, then I would have preferred whatever convention showed the bad hand (usually 2♠) to try to exit in 3♣.

Roeder: 4♣. A great question for serious partnerships: on which auctions are we allowed to rest in 4 of a minor? My own view: 11 tricks is a LOT of tricks.

Wittes: 4♣. With ♣A10x I would bid 5♣.

Dunitz: 4♣.

Brownstein: 4♣.

5

Matchpoints
Neither Vul.

South	West	North	East
1♠	pass	1NT	pass
???			

You, South, hold: ♠A98653 ♥AJ3 ♦AK ♣109

What call do you make?

This is a difficult rebid problem with extra HCP, a very good hand, but no body in the spade suit. Those who play 2♣ as artificial (such as the Gazzilli convention or the Swedish counterpart “The Witch”), have some difficulties on other hands, but all the best of it here.

Some opt for a heavy 2♠ bid.

Dunitz: 2♠. It’s nice to have extras for a change 😊

Davis: 2♠. An awkward hand at matchpoints. The spades are definitely too weak for 3♠ and the hand is not quite good enough for 2NT. At IMPs, I would bid 2♣ because of the possibility of a game if partner can show hearts. I might end up playing 2♣ but that might be a playable contract and partner will often have a singleton spade to pass my 2♣ bid. Also, if I play 2♣, the ten-nine doubleton in clubs looks a lot more formidable than something like the six-two doubleton. At matchpoints, I cannot afford to be +90 in 2♣ if others are +110 in 2♠. And, since the premium at matchpoints is on getting a plus score rather than on reaching game, I am inclined to take the mildly conservative 2♠ bid.

Feldman: 2♠. Not good enough spades or hand for anything else and partner can bid again with a non-minimum.

Roeder: 2♠. A 3♠ bid will sometimes produce the biggest matchpoint sin: turning a plus into a minus.

Shuster: 2♠. Most of my partnerships have moved to sound weak 2’s that go all the way up to 12. With that agreement, a suit rebid shows extra values and a jump

rebid is a near GF. 3♠ would be a big overbid here (and make it very hard to reach hearts.) Perhaps this is a good hand for Gazzilli, although I don’t usually play that method.

Brownstein: 2♠, unless partner plays 2♣ Gazzilli.

Cooper: 2♣. *Kitty had included an initial explanation. I sent follow-up emails and Kitty explained that “2♣ is artificial and can be as few as two clubs. It denies four cards in a red suit and six spades unless there are extras. It denies a 2NT rebid. If partner has hearts or a constructive two-card raise we will find out and can bid game. Similar to Gazzilli, a great method for this hand. I suspect that in future years treatments like Kitty’s 2♣ will become increasingly popular.*

Bartusek: 2NT. Slightly misdescriptive but not really an overbid with the Kaplan-Rubens hand evaluator software (<http://www.rpbridge.net/8j19.htm>) indicating a hand value of 18.05. Remember that aces are undervalued in the 4-3-2-1 point count system. Unfortunately, there is no 3-card minor to temporize with. 3♠ should show a much better suit when we risk playing in a 6-0 or 6-1 fit. 2NT will allow us to find a heart fit or confirm for partner that I have sufficient minor suit support if s/he has a long minor suit.

Straightforwardly evaluating the hand’s shape and high strength despite the mediocre spades was this panelist.

Wittes: 3♠. One of my pet peeves is jump rebidding a suit without good texture, but I see no alternative bid to describe a hand with this strength and distribution.