

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 48, #4

April 2012

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A Gentlemen's Game

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



Do you know what makes bridge different from other competitive games? In most competitive sports it is okay to boo or make fun of your opponents. Not so in bridge. Bridge is a gentlemen's game – with a zero tolerance policy. What does this mean, and how does it work?

For the most part it works because the majority of the players support it and we don't excuse bad behavior. It's not okay to yell at your partner, belittle the opponents or give unwanted or unsolicited bridge lessons.

If someone has been rude to you or continues to yell at their partner, you should say, "Please stop." If the rudeness continues, please call the director and/or complete a Player Memo. The directors are responsible for enforcing our zero tolerance policy. Player Memos are submitted to our District Recorder who maintains a file of all such complaints and can determine whether or not the offense is one of many or one of a kind.

If the offense is extreme or one of several, the district recorder turns his/her findings over to the charging agent (usually the president of the unit or district). If the Charging Agent believes more action is warranted, he/she turns the matter over to the Conduct and Ethics Committee who will hold a hearing where all involved

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

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## Upcoming Meeting Topics

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



As always with the April report, the due date is the 15th of March and the ACBL Board Meetings start just after the 15th so the report is usually "old" news by the time it is published. With that in mind, I will report as to the topics that will be discussed at our Spring NABC in

Memphis.

As I reported last month, the Strength of Field formula for masterpoint awards in pair games will be discussed. Since that report, the Tournament Directors had a meeting in Horn Lake and one of the topics discussed was SOF. They did not make any recommendation, however, they did ask that they be given a trial period where they could use the formula in conjunction with the current formula and then report back later in the year as to their field experience with SOF. With that in mind, I expect the SOF motion to be deferred to a later date.

The first motion of interest concerns cheating. A discussion will be held that if a person is found guilty of severe conduct violations and or ethical violations in addition to being subject to probation, suspension or expulsion, that the person also lose masterpoints. A second motion dealing with the GNT and NAP seeks to further clarify when a person must seek an exception to play in a district which is not their current district and further clarifies what facts allow for the exception.

Another motion has to do with the Hall of Fame Banquet. Presently it is held as a black tie optional dinner with a price of over \$100 per person. It is being suggested that this now become a "Ceremony" at a reduced cost and therefore available to more of our members. There are many motions concerning juniors most of which have to do with funding of Junior Programs.

Finally, there are two motions dealing with

DIRECTOR *continued on page 15*

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

parties can be heard, and what action or reprimand, if any, should be forthcoming.

Needless to say, the Conduct and Ethics Committee will also handle unethical behavior (cheating) as well as poor behavior. In either case, calling the director or filing a Player Memo is the first step.

On another note, Ellen Anten is working hard on our Pro/Am game scheduled for Monday July 2, 2012 in Pasadena. I hope you all are planning to participate. Read Ellen's article about the game on page 15 of this newspaper.

Send letters to the editor to: [bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)

## Grand National Teams: 2 Down, 2 to Go

*by Howard Einberg*

On March 3-4, the Barrington Bridge Club hosted both the Open Flight and Flight B events of this year's Grand National Teams. This was a chance to win gold points without leaving Los Angeles.

Ten teams tried their luck in the B event. The winning team, captained by new Life Master Ryan Wessels, played its way into the right to represent our district in the national final. The competition was exciting as the Swiss Teams neared the final matches. Most teams still had a chance to finish in the top four places, thereby reaching the Sunday knockout final. Our district will contribute \$1000 per team to help

pay for some of the expenses.

After a close call in the semifinals, the team captained by Roger Lee easily triumphed in its final match to win the Open event and also make its way to Philadelphia.

Both teams have represented us at the national finals in the past and we wish them well in July.

The remaining flights (A and C) will have their competitions on the weekend of April 28-29, also at Barrington. The format is the same as the past with the top four teams in Saturday's Swiss Team event making their way to the finals on Sunday. Flight A is limited to players with under 5,000 masterpoints. Flight C is limited to non life masters with under 500 masterpoints as of last September. Game time is 10:00 each day. The complete conditions of contest can be found on our district website. Questions can be answered by Bill Wickham (310) 234-3238 or Howard Einberg (310) 475-9784.

### Results of the Open Flight

1. Roger Lee, Mitch Dunitz, Jill Meyers, Ed Davis (36 gold)
2. Ed Piken, Ron Feldman, Bill Schreiber, Howard Einberg, Viktor Anikovich (27 gold)

### Results of Flight B

1. Ryan Wessels, Bob Shore, Bruce Altshuler, Kevin Lane (26.00 gold)
2. Joel Schiff, Martin Cooper, Brana Hall, Ed Feldmann (19.50 gold)
3. Nancy Heck, Karen Byrd, Chein-San Han, Kim Wang (14.30 gold)

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# Around the Units in District 23

## Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

With great sadness we report the passing of Glenn Eddy. This real gentleman will be missed by all that knew him. What a really great guy he was. Just another reminder to really embrace the joy of playing this social game we love so much. It is the people you met along the way that brings real joy to playing.

I am so happy to announce that the Valencia and Castaic clubs are doing really well with average table counts **up** and players happy. Again, congratulations to Kathy and Rita for doing such a great job. The results from the Valencia club are as follows... **three** wins for Dave Gasper and his wife Marlene, Wow! Also joining the winners circle were Donna Davidson and Freddie Straus along with Everett Dehn and Betty Pavey and Lamonte Johnson and Markle Vandervort. Roshun Hadullah tallied TWO wins this past month at Valencia, one of them in partnership with Basant Shah and the other with John Langer.

The Castaic Club saw Elma Stark and Fabian Fang tally a win along with the partnerships of Nell Schantz-Everett Dehn, Bill Brodek-Hugh Bartlett and Albert Stock- Marguerite Pinkers.

The Lancaster Club continues to hold games on Tuesday, Friday, and Sunday afternoons with a Wednesday night game as well. Brad Ward chalked up wins with Lola Messhia, Marlene-Warren Gasper and Sylvia Feiman, Lola garnered wins with Marlene Warren-Gasper and Doris Thompson as well as with Brad. Marlene had wins with Lola, Brad, and Doris. The winners circle also welcomed Dorothy Newland partnered with Ron Oest. Ron and his wife Sandi also collected a win. Mary Stauf was not only feeling much better, but also notched three wins, one partnered with George MacDonald, another with Henry Roediger and the third with our 90-year-old treasure, Ms. Onarita Pallanti. Barb Shuping and Russ Buker also returned to the winners circle. Kristi Kubo and Carol Ashbacher

also got a win. Special congratulations must go out to the partnership of Tim Sturtevant and Laurence Levin for winning in a very tough field of 6 tables on a recent Tuesday afternoon in Lancaster.

The Unit Game featured some great food and a win by Marlene Warren-Gasper and her husband Dave.

## Glendale Verdugo By Ron Lifshutz

The results of the March 10 Unit Game are listed below.

		N/S
A1		Martin Hines and Wafik Abdou
A2		Bernardine Mateer and Peter Szecsi
A3		John Villalobos and Carolyn Cohen
A4	B1	Arthur Chacacias and Barbara McKissick
A5		William Dessert and Steve Shanker
	B2	Karen Alpert and Rufus Rhoades
		E/W
A1		Brad Beland and Cathryn Martin
A2	B1	Theodore Maki and Lorraine Adams
A3		Bob Tayrien and Gerry Belcher
A4		Thomas Lolli and Dan Oakes
A5		Hugh Bartlett and William Brodek
	B2	C1 Tracy Boys and Ruth Baker
	B3	Leon Alexander and Adam Barron
		C2 Nancy Lyon and Betsy Josias

The corn beef and cabbage were prepared by Merry Besvold and Pat Abbey. A special thanks goes to Bernardine Mateer for her green dessert. Margaret Malaga supplied the St. Patrick's cake and the green cookies.

Cheryl Ixegami, the granddaughter of Margaret Malaga received the \$1,000 scholarship from ALACBU. Cheryl is a freshman at USC and is a science major. →

Speaking of Margaret, she partnered with Gloria Balfour for a 1st overall in a side game at the recent Marina Del Rey regional.

Glad to see Jack Futrell back after a successful Bypass surgery. His partners sure are glad to see him.

Last but not least, congratulations to Bob Tayrien on attaining the rank of gold life master.

Our next unit game will be held on April 14, 2012. The luncheon menu will include ham, scalloped potatoes and corn bread. Please join us then.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
club website: [www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

**Unit Game:** An unusual month (Feb 16 thru March 15) with no unit game.

**70+% Games** in the club Feb 16 through March 15: In open games: Tuesday evening March 6 Mark Itabashi/Steve Love had 71.67% and Wednesday evening March 14 Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein had 70.50%. In 99er games Feb 18 Jim Werner/Bill Heck had 70.54%, Feb 22 Robert and Richard Bakovic had 76.98% and March 7 (again) Robert and Richard Bakovic had 75%. And in the NLM game Feb 28 Peggi Spring/ Arlene Spatz had 70.54%. Congratulations to you all!

**Big Masterpoint Awards:** Another unusual absence from the club record: from Feb 16 thru March 15, unless I missed something, there was no game that awarded 3mp or more.

**New Members:** all three were transfers into the LBBC from other clubs: Alfreda Dockery, John Petrie, Dustin Stout. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** Again, unless I missed something, no new club masters, regional masters, NABC masters or life masters. A quiet month

**Upcoming Events at the Club:** April 1 April Fools Day unit-rated game. April 4 Inter-Club championship game. April 10 (evening) Inter-Club-Championship game. April 15 through 21 Club championship week. April 22 awards banquet and unit game—lunch at 12 noon followed by awards at 12:30, game at 1pm. All special games—extra points, regular prices

**Condolences** to the family and friends of Doris James who passed away after a tragic accident earlier this month. She was a delightful lady and a great bridge player. She will be sorely missed. I have just learned that her husband Dwayne, also a great bridge player, died just one week after Doris. They will both be missed.

**Get Well Wishes** to Peggy Waite and Bev Shafer.

### News from Leisure World from Gene Yaffee

Richard Norris & Ron Yaffee swept the field coming in 1st in Strat A & Strat B at the Club Championship game on February 24 with a 69.1% game. Second in Strat A were Bud Parish & Sharon Beran, third Bee Kinman & Verna Burns. Second in Strat B were Joyce Newton & Audrey Healy.

In another Club Championship game on March 8 the overall winners in Strat A were Bee Kinman & Eileen Nelson; second were Howard Smith & Bill Linsky. Overall winners in Strat B were Sunny Harper & Sharon Biederman; second were Jean Byer & Sue McHale. →

**TORRANCE – SOUTH BAY SECTIONAL (UNIT #568)**  
**MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 26<sup>TH</sup>, 27<sup>TH</sup> SANCTION NO. S1205114**  
**SOUTH BAY BRIDGE CLUB 24100 NARBONNE AVE. LOMITA, CA90717 (310) 325-7222**



Parking : Behind Bridge Club, on the street, or behind Lomita Public Library across from Bridge Club. No parking in front of the club





Better Lights!  
Better Chairs!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>FRIDAY, MAY 25<sup>TH</sup></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6:30 PM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stratified Open Pairs</li> <li>- Single Session Swiss*</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Stratification</b></p> <p>Pairs: A = 2000+ B = 750 - 2000 C = 0 - 750</p> <p>Swiss Teams: A = 2000+ B = 750 - 2000 C = 0 - 750</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SATURDAY, MAY 26<sup>TH</sup></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10:00 AM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stratified Open Pairs</li> <li>- 299ers Pairs Game*</li> <li>- Round 1&amp;2 Compact KO</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3:00 PM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Stratified Open Pairs</li> <li>-299ers Pairs Game*</li> <li>-Round 3&amp;4 Compact KO</li> <li>-Single Session Swiss*</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small;">All Open Pairs are single session events *Attendance Permitting</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUNDAY, MAY 27<sup>TH</sup></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>10:00 AM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Swiss Team – Session 1</li> <li>- Stratified Open Pairs*</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3:00 PM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Swiss Team – Session 2</li> <li>- Stratified Open Pairs*</li> </ul> <p style="font-size: small;">Tournament Director: Peter Knee Tournament Manager: Morris Lorber 310-328-9592 Partnership Chairperson: Gabby Jackson 310-8318727 Card Fees: ACBL Member - \$12 per session Non Member - \$13 per session 18 and Under - Free</p>
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Bee Kinman & Verna Burns scored a 70% game on March 9 for the biggest game of the month.

Free Mini Lessons are being offered on the third Monday of every month from 11:30 to noon (before the regular game) in Clubhouse # 3 by ACBL accredited teacher & certified director Gene Yaffee. The topic for April 16 is "1430 versus Blackwood." For more information, call Gene at 562/430-7040.

By popular demand, there will be a Swiss Team Game on Monday, May 14, at 12:30 p.m. in

Clubhouse #3— this will replace the regular game on that day. For more information call Ruth Kaller, club manager, at 562/430-0316 or Ted Wieber, president, at 562/596-8661.

Results of all Leisure World games are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)

**Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via Email.** Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is [jjyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jjyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Marie Nimmrich

Unit Game  
Sunday April 1 at 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations to our first Life Master of 2012— T J Wang. Honorable mention goes to Amr Elghamry who recently attained the rank of Silver Life Master (2500+ masterpoints).

### Election Party

Everyone had a good time at our annual Election Party. The afternoon pairs game was won by Sharon Wolf and John Villalobos; second were Diana Borgatti and Cathy Martin followed by Dominique Moore and Amr Elghamry. John and Sharon were first in B with Ruby Davis and LaDonna Shatto second and Mike Marcucci and Roland Pineda third. In flight C it was T J Wang and Mary Downey who led the field followed by Mary Falvey and Nancy Nakanishi, with Don and Margie Garner third. In the swiss teams the winning team was Kathy and Herman Helber, Peter Szecsi and Bernie Mateer. The winning team in flight B was Sandra Franciscus, Mark Hartzell, Susan Jones and Mark Vandervort. And the C flight was won by Edward Hsi, Connie Kang, Mike Marcucci and Roland Pineda. All Election Party results can be viewed on the unit web site.

Awards were plentiful. The John Waken Trophy (most points at our sectional in 2011) was shared by Joe Viola and Gerry Geremia. Shiu-Ming Huang was the leader winning most points in unit games in 2011. →

#### It's time for the 2012 GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS EVENT

Open Flight	March 3-4	0-unlimited MPs
Flight A	April 28-29	0-5000 MPs
Flight B	March 3-4	0-2000 MPs
Flight C	April 28-29	Non LMs < 500 MPs

The district-wide sectional on April 14-15 will raise funds for our teams.



**Do you want to play in a FUN Team Event?**  
**Do you want play in events with large Master Point Awards?**  
**Do you want to win Gold MPs without leaving Los Angeles?**

**Never played in the Grand National Teams before?**  
**Want to know more? Read here!**

- The format is the same as any sectional Swiss Teams and/or Knockout event
- The Master Points Awards are bigger and include Gold Points
- The event is Stratified so you only compete against people with similar MPs
- Feel the prestige and earn the recognition on both the local and national level when you win!

#### All Events:

- Take place at the Barrington Bridge Club, 11500 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles
- Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4,5, or 6 players
- Game Times 10:00am and TBA
- Players can enter more than 1 event (on separate weekends)
- Winning teams can represent District 23 in Philadelphia this summer at the Nationals
- Winning teams receive partial refund of expenses for the trip to the finals
- For complete Conditions of Contest see the ALACBU website at [www.acblistrict23.org](http://www.acblistrict23.org)
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg (310 475-9784) or Bill Wickham (310 234-3238)

And Edward Hsi amassed the most points at our Holiday and Election Parties in 2011.

The unit honored the new life masters in 2011 by giving them recognition and a Life Master pin. These recipients were Peter Jager, Connie Kang, Kim Horn and Mary Falvey.

**New Unit Officers**

The Unit 559 Board of Directors met the evening following the Election Party and welcomed new boardmembers Nancy Nakanishi and Roland Pineda. Also the following unit officers were elected: President

- Peter Szecsi, Vice President - Jan Wickersham, Treasurer - Miriam Harrington and Secretary - Mary Falvey. Our new unit manager will be Roland Pineda. Amr Elghamry and Sandra Franciscus will be in charge of our sectional in 2012. Our new Friendship Chairman will be Bernie Mateer. And our ALACBU representatives will be Peter Szecsi, Bernie Mateer and Mike Marcucci. For a complete list of all officers and committee chairpersons, please see the web site.

**Arcadia Bridge Center**

Each month the Bridge Center

holds a Beat the House night. If you beat the House pair, you win a free play to the Bridge Center. In February the House pair was Dominique Moore and Madhu Sudan and guess what. They had a 68% game, and no one could top that. However, there is also a rule that non-Life Masters who play in this event can win a free play if they have a 50% game or better. The pair that achieved this and thereby won a free play was Sandy Rucker and Ann Raymond. Good for you both!!

The next Beat the House night will be Friday 20 April at 7:30 P.M. The next Winner/Loser Game (which is very popular) will be held on Sunday 22 April at 1:00.

Art Gulbrandsen will be starting a new series of beginning bridge lessons on Wednesday April 11 at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday April 14 at 10:30 a.m. These lessons go for six weeks and are **free**. And when Art says beginning lessons, he means **beginning** lessons. No one has to know how to follow suit to start learning bridge. So tell your friends and neighbors because bridge is a great recreation for everyone.

**San Marino Bridge Club**

A big thank you to Jeanne Dea, Robert Chui, C C Fang, Shiu-Ming Huang, Connie Kang, T J Wang and Edward Hsi for the party they gave to the players at San Marino to celebrate the Chinese New Year. We all enjoyed the game and the food was magnificent. What a generous contribution to our club. Thank you so much.

San Marino held STAC games the week of the 5th of March. We had some players in the overalls on Monday who were Diana Borgatti and Paul Nason tied with Amr →

## Ventura Sectional in Oxnard

### April 20-22, 2012

All Events at:  
Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center (PACC)  
805-385-8147  
800 Hobson Way (H Street) {Corner of 7<sup>th</sup> & Hobson Way}  
Exit 101 Fwy at Oxnard Blvd. From South, turn left; from North, turn right. At 7<sup>th</sup> St, turn right. Pass G St, go left on Hobson.

Stratifications:  
(0-750, 750-2000, 2000+ // Separate 299er games)  
Fees per person per session: \$10 ACBL members // \$11 unpaid & non-members

**Friday, April 20**  
10:30 A.M. & 3:30 P.M.

**M. A. Hill Stratified Open Pairs**  
**Al and Nancy Hall 299er Pairs**  
Single Sessions  
\* 299ers: Win your section & earn a (\$10) FREE PLAY \*  
3:30 P.M.

**Katy Hunt 1-Session Stratified Swiss Teams**

**Sunday, April 22**  
10:00 A.M. & TBA

**Pete Bendorf**  
**Stratified Swiss Teams**  
6 rounds of 8 boards  
\$100/team – includes dinner  
10:00 A.M.

**Bill Lansing 1-Session Fast Pairs**  
Unit 547 Sanction # 1204078

**Saturday, April 21**  
10:30 A.M. & 3:30 P.M.

**Jack Hellner Stratified Open Pairs**  
**Al and Nancy Hall 299er Pairs**  
Single Sessions  
\* 299ers: Win your section & earn a (\$10) FREE PLAY \*  
3:30 P.M.

**Polly Wassell 1-Session Stratified Swiss Teams**

**Host Hotel**  
**Country Inn and Suites**  
805-986-5353  
3.3 miles from site  
Ask for ACBL BRIDGE rate!  
Reference 120420ACBL

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*Director In Charge: Peter Knee*  
*Tournament Chair: Judy Kupperman*  
*(805-983-7178; [yubridge@aol.com](mailto:yubridge@aol.com))*  
*Partnerships: Gwen Wagner 805-642-9721*  
*(and Louise Shaffer)*



**Complimentary Continental Breakfast**  
**FREE coffee and snacks all day**  
Hands for Pairs Events Are Predealt

Events are named for individuals who made significant contributions to Unit 547.  
This tournament is dedicated to the memory of Mary Anita Hill, who organized it so very well for so many years.

Elghamry and Patrick Cardullo; Sadika and Yasin Elewy; and Cheryl Loggins and Charlotte Brackmann. Wednesday evening Jeannette Deverian and Arlene Johnson were in the overalls along with Michael Bazarich and Ken Leech. All silver points, mind you, were given to those who placed.

Nice to see Harold Knowles back playing bridge. And we had a visit from Miriam Collup. Miriam is having her 99th birthday on Sunday 11 March. Wow, 100 years of clean and gracious living. Happy birthday, Miriam. We hope you can get back to the club soon to play.

### Achievements

Roger Lee was on the winning team of the Grand National Team competition in the open flight. Amr Elghamry, Dan Botoaca and Sandy Rucker and T J Wang are going to Memphis as a result of the North American Pairs playoffs. Margie Gould and Paul Gelb with their team mates were tied for 1st/2nd in flight AX at the Palm Springs Sectional.

Mini-McKenney winners: 0 - 5 Eric Tang, 5 - 20 Beverly Sobraske, 20 - 50 Muxin Li, 50 - 100 Steve Shanker, 100-200 Jack Chang, 200 - 300 Nancy Spelke, 300 - 500 Edward Hsi, 500 - 1000 Connie Kang, 1000 - 2500 Roger Lee, 2500 - 5000 Joe Viola, 5000 - 7500 Peter Szecsi, 7500 - 10,000 Jeff Goldsmith.

Ace of Clubs winners: 0 - 5 Eric Tang, 5 - 20 Beverly Sobraske, 20 - 50 Steve Shanker, 50 - 100 Madhu Sudan, 100 - 200 Nancy Spelke, 200 - 300 Richard Gero, 500 - 1000 Amr Elghamry, 1000 - 2500 Jake Frenkel, 2500 - 5000 Herman Helber, 5000 - 7500 Peter Szecsi, 7500 - 10,000 Jeff Goldsmith.

### Sick List

We miss Rita Corwin and Ron Moeckel. Please pray that they will be back with us soon.

Condolences to Gerry Geremia who recently lost his mother, Nancy. When Nancy lived here many years ago, she played bridge. I had the honor of playing with her a few times and she was a wonderful partner. Also many of you may remember Marge Pike who moved to Colorado about six years ago. Marge passed away at the end of January. She was a dear friend.

### Bridge Regulations

Did you know that everyone is NOT responsible for dummy. Only the declaring side is responsible for dummy. Dummy is subject to revoke penalties if there is a card on the floor, there is a card stuck to another card, there is a card hidden behind another card, or there is a card which is not faced. Even if a revoke did not occur, any damage to the defenders from the above situations results in an adjustment. (Thank you again to Larry Harris for his invaluable book Director's Quick Reference Companion.)

There is a lesson to be learned here. Declarer, always count the cards in dummy!

The next unit game will be held Sunday April 1 at 1:00. Come early for food.

Until next time, pax vobiscum

## Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game-Sat. April 21, 11:00 a.m.

In an impressive display of organizational efficiency, the unit managed to pass out the 2011 Ace of Clubs and Mini-Mckinney awards at the March unit game, beating last year's mark by two months. For those who missed the presentation ceremonies and the subsequent tickertape parade, here are the top finishers in each category:

### Ace of Clubs

0-5	Paul Chrisney, Dru Emm, Gayle Ginsburg
5-20	Hanan Mogharbel, Ray Malki, Bob Kakade
20-50	Charlotte Capelle, Norma Appley, Margaret Merritt
50-100	Suzanne Wojcik, Kerry Sartor, Bud Robinson
100-200	Linda Stuart, Margie Hall, Robert Verhoef
200-300	Lynne Parker, Kurt Trieselmann, Joe Unis
300-500	Karen McCarthy, Roger Boyar, Mary Miller
500-1000	Richard Patterson, Ron Purkis, Clint Lew
1000-2500	Vic Sartor, Eric Tan, Mary Ann Wotring
2500-5000	Bill Papa, Larry Bolls, Ann McClelland
7500+	Walt Schafer

**Mini-McKinney**

0-5	Paul Chrisney, Dru Emm, Gayle Ginsburg
5-20	Hanan Mogharbel, Ray Malki, Bob Kakade
20-50	Charlotte Capelle, Norma Appley, Margaret Merritt
50-100	Suzanne Wojcik, Bud Robinson, Jacquelyn Fehrenbach
100-200	Margie Hall, Robert Verhoef, Linda Stuart
200-300	Joe Unis, Kurt Trieselmann, Lynne Parker
300-500	Sandy Jones, Karen McCarthy, Susan Emminger
500-1000	Genise Hasan, Denise Morgan, Clint Lew
1000-2500	Eric Tan, Vic Sartor, Mary Ann Wotring
2500-5000	Bill Papa, Jack Chao, Larry Bolls
7500+	Walter Schaefer, Erik Paulsen

On the medical front, we are all glad to see Roger Boyar back running the LaFetra games. Roger looks none the worse for wear after his car accident. He says he feels about 90% well, and hopes for 100% in a few weeks.

February's unit game was won by Karen McCarthy and Karen Olin, with Hans Hehnke and Vic Sartor first E/W. Dan Botoaca and Amr Elghamry, Richard Patterson and Roger Boyar, Tom Lill and Ann McClelland, and Clint Lew and Pat Radamaker rounded out the overalls. Ray Malki and Albert Lax won the March individual event, followed by Clint Robertson, Luan Schirmer, Georgiana Bierman, Michael Horn, and Wendy Wanderman. Other club winners included Mary Miller, Dave Ruoff, Milt Kalikman, Joe Unis, Gayle Ginsburg, Donald Naf, Hanan Mogharbel, Walt Otto, Bob Kakade, Kathy Helber, Herman Helber, Penny Barbieri, Sandy Jones, Helen Wang, Susan Ruoff, and Herb Stampfl.

Our hand of the month looks like it was constructed for an intermediate bidding lesson, but it was actually dealt at the table. You hold: ♠AKQxxxx ♥QTxx ♦Ax ♣--

Your partner opens 1♥! Unless you missed the lesson on the Grand Slam Force, the auction should have been short and sweet- 1♥ – 5NT – 7♥ (or 7♣, depending on agreements). A surprising number of pairs were apparently unaware of a bid that has been around since the 1930's and settled for a below-average 6♥. Josephine Culbertson would be disappointed. Til next time...

## San Fernando Valley

### by Fran Kern

**Upcoming Events**

Following the March Unit Game, the Board finalized plans for our next major event. The San Fernando Valley Sectional will be held on May 18 thru May 20. All games will be at the 750 Club, located at the Prince of Peace Church, 5700 Rudnick Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91367. This location has ample parking for all players.

On Friday and Saturday there will be two sessions of stratified open and 299er pairs beginning at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The fee for each game is \$10.00 for current ACBL Members and \$11.00 for non-members. Players may provide their own lunch or visit one of the local eateries listed on the website at [www.750bridgeclub.net](http://www.750bridgeclub.net).

On Sunday, there will be one session for Swiss Teams (20VP Scale) with five matches, Play will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the fee is \$50.00 per team. →

As always, reservations are not required but are appreciated and are a helpful planning tool. Please send e-mail reservations to Doug Beagle at [wdbeagle@gmail.com](mailto:wdbeagle@gmail.com) or add your partnership names to signup sheets posted at the Bridge Academy and the 750 Club. We look forward to a large turnout and enjoyable games.

**Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for February 2012**

**750 Bridge Club:** Ron Malkin 13.26, Larry Kussin 9.47, Gloria Malkin 9.05, Jim Lechner 8.38, Paul Endler 7.97, Jim Gardner 7.83, Joan Marks 7.80, Sue Sarture 7.50, Jody Lombardo 6.72, Bunnie Roth 6.72, Linda Silvey 6.13.

**Bridge Academy Under 750 Masterpoints:** Sheila Singer 3.36, Ron Stewart 3.27, Gregory Bozin 3.08, Bernard Davidorf 2.42, John Van Egmond 2.17, Carol Stein 2.10, Sylvia Morstein 2.00, Earl Beer 1.73, Douglas Timer 1.75, Michael Weiner 1.69.

**Bridge Academy Open Masterpoints:** Sheila Bozin 10.72, Tom Wylie 10.43, Gary Frans 9.35, Leda Danzig 8.99, Dick Lum 8.86, Armand Szulc 8.60, Seymour Zemlyn 8.26, Harvey Witt 7.24, Gilbert Stinebaugh 6.14, Joan Rubin 5.87.

**70% Games for February:** Congratulations to Herb Van Brink and Al Smith who were the only pair

to top the February 70% game category with their score of 72.33%.

Paul Green/Jamila Malikyar leading Flight B and Lake Kinney/Ron Smith on top in Flight C.

### Player News

We welcomed back several players to the bridge table this month including Shelley Linnick and Sam Faye, Steve and Judy Wachtel, and Carole Noreen. Get well wishes go to Dave Leonard who is dealing with recent health challenges. Hang in there Dave!

### In Memoriam

Unit members send condolences and comforting wishes to Phil Glasser on the passing of Rita Glasser.

Condolences are also sent to the family of Beverly Rosenberg who was a lovely woman and a world class bridge player.

**Column News:** Make certain that your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at [fkern818@aol.com](mailto:fkern818@aol.com).

## Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568>

SBBC website:

<http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Monday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Wednesday, April 11, 11:30 a.m.

NLM Club Championship: Thurs April 19, 10:30 a.m.

Club Championship: Friday, April 27, 11:30 a.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening

Friday Night games on April 6 and 20

### Club Championships

The Club Championship on February 17 was won by Kim Wang/Rocky Williams in both Flights A and B. The Novice Championship on February 17 was won by Carolyn Woo/Ed Bucklin. The Club Championship on March 13 saw Kim Wang/Chein-San Han Winning both Flights A and B. The NLM this same day was led by Christne Uriu/George Stinson in Flight A with

### Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games at the South Bay Bridge Club.

February 21: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

February 28: Bea and John Brailliar, CVal Gamio, Bruce Horiguchi

March 6 STAC: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

### 2011 TSB Unit Master Point Leaders

Following are the leaders in masterpoints won for each category during 2011 for both the Mini-McKenney and Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs point races. The winner of the Mini McKenney is listed first, followed by the winner for the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs.

**0-5:** Richard Bakovic (both) 32, 28

**5-20:** Linda Dillon (both) 44, 38

**20-50:** Joyce Klossner (both) 33, 33

**50-100:** Jeanette Betts (both) 82, 62

**100-200:** David Lyons (both) 118, 65

**200-300:** Karen McKittrick (both) 148, 74

**300-500:** Steve Ramos - 132, Robert Svensrud - 50

**500-1000:** Neal Kleiner - 318, Hank Sheehan - 87

**1000-2500:** Gerri Carlson - 288, Ted Gibbs - 106

**2500-5000:** Lucy Gellner - 382, Fran Israel - 150

**5000-7500:** Bruce Horiguchi (both) 744, 131

**7500-10000:** John Jones (both) 594, 27

**10000+:** John J. McDermott (both) 736, 188

### District 22/23 STAC TSB Overall Finishers

Following is a compilation of pairs who placed in the overalls of the recent District 22/23 STAC in games played at Torrance South Bay Unit clubs.

		Monday Morning, March 5, SBBC	
2A	1B	Dolores Nawa/Martin Cooper	
3A		Gabriela Jackson/Pat Schenasi	
6A		Dick Cheng/Jeff Strutzel	
	5B	1C Pam Gudish/Pat Berg	
	6/7B	2C Arthur Rue/VatiaAlbright	→

## Monday Evening, March 5, SBBC

- 1A Steve Ramos/Ray Mack  
 6A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott  
 3B Lorna Wallace/Mike Welsh  
 5/6B Mark Raggio/Stanley Greengard  
 5C Terry Hane/Neal Hudson

## Tuesday Morning, March 6, SBBC

- 4/5A Gabriela Jackson/Ray Mack  
 4/5A 3B Carol McCully/Patricia Taylor  
 6C Mahin Khadivi/Jamila Malikyar

## Tuesday Morning, March 6, SBBC, NLM Pairs

- 2A Suzanne Kuuskmae/Fred Swinth

## Wednesday Morning, March 7, SBBC

- 3A Claire Hulett/Dean Kaloudis  
 4A Dick Cheng/Fran Israel  
 4B 2C Karen and Mike McKittrick

## Wednesday Afternoon, March 7, Veterans Park

- 15B Barbara Shortwell/Terry Arnush

## Thursday Morning, March 8, NLM Pairs, SBBC

- 1A 1B George Stinson/Setsuko Miyasaka  
 2A Elaine Bleiweiss/Carolyn Verin  
 3A 2B Jeanette Betts/David Lyons  
 4A 3B Elaine Asch/Terry Arnush  
 5A Anne Andres/Marilyn Morton  
 6A 4B Robert Newsome/Thomas Robinson  
 1C Norma Reynolds/Gerry Ketz  
 2C Tajie Major/Ellen Tarlow  
 3C Marty Stephens/Diane Maye

## Thursday Evening, March 8, SBBC

- 5A Ed Piken/Michael Piken  
 6B 3C Booth Tarkington/Lorraine Hohn

## Friday Morning, March 9, SBBC

- 2A 2B Alan Hamburger/Ron Murray

## Friday Morning, March 9, 99er Pairs, SBBC

- 1A Joyce Field/Joyce Klossner  
 2A Carolyn Woo/Ed Bucklin  
 3A 1B Marjorie Haneline/Hulda Ain slie  
 4/5A Martha Bragg/Elaine Wagner  
 4/5A Gerri Baluch/Susan Cohen  
 2B Gail Davis/Jean Ray

## Friday Afternoon, March 9, Beach Cities BC

- 6A 4B 1C James & Judith Scott

## Friday Evening, March 9, Inglewood Beach BC

- 4A 2B Barbara Shortwell/Henry Crowder  
 4B Freddie Spradlin/Joyce Nakasaki  
 6C Harold & Jean Brunner

**GUV Memorial Award**

In the March issue of the Southern California Bridge News Becky Clough told an amusing anecdote where Fred Hamilton said the Hamilton/Capelletti convention was Hamilton if it worked but Capelletti if it didn't. I have my own anecdote to add to this.

My late wife Jan Nathan was playing against Fred Hamilton in a local Regional about 10 years ago. Jan opened 1NT and Fred's partner bid a Major in pass out seat. Never one to be shy about needling even the best of pro's, Jan inquired of Fred if the bid was Capelletti. He replied, "No it was Hamilton", with a smile. Fred's partner declared the hand and managed to go down in a cold contract.

Fred leaned over and whispered to Jan, "Played that way, it was Capelletti."

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by Robert Shore

**The Spirit of '76**

We start the month with a report from qualifying to represent the District in the Grand National Teams competition this summer in the City of Brotherly Sweat. March saw the competition in the championship flight and Flight B (0-2000). Our Unit was quite well represented among the 5 teams vying in the championship flight and 10 teams that competed in Flight B, with both sets of finalists boasting at least one member of our Unit. Winning top honors in the championship flight was the team including Jill Meyers. The Flight B champions included Bruce Altshuler, the just-departed Ryan Wessels, and your Humble Scribe. Flights A (0-5000) and C (0-500 non-LM) will take place in late April. Don't miss the opportunity to assemble a team. →

## Life's a Beach

The District's first regional of the year took place at the Marina del Rey Hotel, and as usual, there were many winners. Richard Stevenson and Kris Sommer won their bracket in both the Oceanfront Compact Knockout and, teamed with Richard Glikzman and Karen Schwartz, the Admiralty Way Knockout. Also winning their bracket in the Admiralty Way Knockout were Harriet Dana, Garth Greene, and Sherry Starr, while John Ramos won the top bracket of the Oceanfront Compact Knockout. Ellen and Robert Kent picked up a win in the top bracket of the Catamaran Knockout, while Joanne Minken-Levy enjoyed top honors in the top bracket of the Beach Blanket Knockout. Rounding things off, Ifi Baqai's team won the Sea Horse Swiss.

Also, an omission from last month's column. The winning team in the Riverside Stratified Swiss also included Bill Schreiber. Congratulations to all the winners.

### Sadie Hawkins

Leap Year Evening, February 29, saw the Sadie Hawkins Unit Championship game. Candy Scott (who

came up with the idea) provided her usual theme-appropriate decorations, while Beverly Hills hosted and provided the vittles. Running away from the field for the win were Nancy Heck and Danny Kleinman. Earlier that afternoon, Sheri Rivera and Aram Bedros, playing at Barrington, won the two-site Unit Championship. Well done to the winners, and to all participants.

By the time this sees print, the St. Patrick's Day Unit Championship will have been and gone. The Unit's next events will be a free (as in, it won't cost any money to play) Individual championship at 6:30 Sunday evening, April 1, at Beverly Hills, followed by Unit Championships afternoon and evening on Tuesday, April 17, at all three clubs holding their regular sessions.

### Find the Expert

I defended a couple of hands recently. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to identify the hand declared by a local expert.

Hand 1      Dummy: ♠ J98 ♥ 9754 ♦ K987 ♣ Q6  
Declarer: ♠ 42 ♥ AJ1062 ♦ A653 ♣ A4

Declarer played 3♥ after LHO overcalled spades →



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and then rebid them facing a silent partner. The defense started with 3 high spades, RHO discarding an encouraging club as Declarer ruffed in hand. Declarer, short of entries to Dummy, then banged down the trump ace, fetching the queen from LHO, and continued another heart as LHO discarded a spade. RHO won the heart and exited with his last trump. Declarer then played three rounds of diamonds, RHO (who started with J102) winning the third round. Declarer let the club switch run to Dummy's queen, making three for an excellent score.

Hand 2

Dummy: ♠Q97432 ♥A974 ♦A5 ♣7  
Declarer: ♠A6 ♥J ♦KT86 ♣AKQ985

Declarer played 6NT on the following auction: 1♠-2♣, 2♥-3♦, 3♠-4N, 5♠-6N. The opening lead was the spade 8. Declarer played the 9 from Dummy, fetching the 10. Declarer won the trick and led a second spade back. LHO played the jack, and Dummy's queen won. RHO threw a small diamond on the last spade as LHO won the trick with his king, Declarer releasing a small diamond. LHO exited with

the club 10. Declarer tested clubs (throwing hearts from Dummy), finding that LHO had started with 10x, throwing a heart on the third club. Declarer then crossed to board with the diamond ace and finished running spades. If Declarer had pitched a heart to retain both minor suit threats, then the lead of the heart ace would have squeezed RHO, who started life with 4 clubs and 5 diamonds. Fortunately for us, Declarer retained a heart, giving up one of the threats instead, and we beat the hand for a near top.

If you guessed that Mary Louise Shnier successfully executed the strip-and-end play in Hand 1, you're a winner! Well played, Mary Louise.

### STACKing the Deck

The District 23 STaC occurred earlier this month, and our Unit was all over the winner's pages. Gerry Bare and Peter Benjamin won the Monday afternoon event, while Chuck Fonarow and Sam Namer picked up the Tuesday afternoon victory. Evan Krantz and Manny Krupin were winners on Wednesday afternoon, while Brian Richardson and Zalman Perelman picked up a rain-shortened win Wednesday evening. Bill Rogers carried his partner to victory Thursday afternoon. Congratulations on a wonderful set of performances.

### Around the Clubs

Club champions last month at Beverly Hills were Lou Papp and Alan Chapman, while Delia Juul-Dam and Brian Richardson scored a 70% game. Club champions at Barrington were Sally Karbelnig and Danny Kleinman and →

**Los Angeles**  
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Partnerships: Betty Jackson:  
562-594-4420: before 7/2/12  
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Juniors under 25: \$8

Aram Bedros and Art Zail. Scoring 70% at Barrington were Paul Smith, Steve Yaffe, Anna Benatar, Claude LeFeuvre, and Nelly and Colin Gordon. Picking up 70% games at Cyma's Game were Rhoda Weisler, Peter Menotti, Aram Bedrow, and Wayne Karson.

### **Climbing the Ladder**

Joining us in our addiction as newly minted Junior Masters are Sri Nagesh, and Carla Spinner, while Selma Archerd and Nancy Koss advance to Club Master and Titti Steiner becomes a Sectional Master.

Rick Turner joins the ranks of Bronze Life Masters and Ruth Gittelman is now a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

By the way, have you noticed that the ACBL has added colored point requirements to the advanced life master ranks? Basically, for Silver Life Master and higher ranks, the ACBL now wants at least 20% of your points to be pigmented. The new requirements do not apply to anyone who was already a life master by December 31, 1989, but they apply immediately to anyone who was not a life master by December 31, 2011.

For those in between, you will not need to meet the new requirements for your next step up, but you will have to satisfy them for all following advancements. For example, if you became a Life Master in 1995 and you were a Gold Life Master at the end of 2011, then you can advance to Diamond Life Master without worrying about the new requirements. You will need the requisite pigmented points, though, to reach Emerald Life Master or any higher step.

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

## **District 23 Rank Changes February, 2012**

### **Junior Master (5 MPs)**

William Dilks, Barbara Haines  
Larry Kong, Chris Larson  
Dave Larson, Terri Martin

### **Club Master (20 MPs)**

Michael Bazdarich, Ilene Berg  
Richard Halverstadt, Kathleen Johnston  
Barbara Leider, Roselyn Martov  
, Andrea McNichol, Judy Percer  
Ronnie Stabler, Jerry Weissman  
Farryl Weitzman, Toni Whitesell  
Larry Wong

### **Sectional Master (50 MPs)**

Shoshana Blumenfeld, Larry Nathan

### **Regional Master (100 MPs)**

Elaine Bleiweis, Hanan Mogharbel  
Debra Stern

### **NABC Master (200 MPs)**

Seymour Alban, Phyllis Selig-Kerns  
David Solin

### **Life Master (300 MPs)**

Andy Anderson, Carol Boyd  
Thomas Lill  
Doreen Maes  
Marsha Winer

### **Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)**

Charlotte Brackmann  
Karen Horton  
Stephen Massman  
Karen McCarthy

### **Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)**

Amr Elghamry  
Nelly Gordon  
David Joseph  
Barbara Nusbaum  
Trudy Sokol  
Betty Witteried

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

This month's panelists: Nolan Chang, Dan Emmons, Brad Haas, Yehudit Hasin, Lei Jin, Aaron Jones, Roger Lee, Adam Meyerson, Elianna Meyerson, Mike Shuster, Chien-Yao Tseng, Becca Wernis, Ryan Wessels, and Yichi Zhang

*This is the second half of a two-part panel. Please see the March edition for Problems 1 and 2. To promote the First Annual LA Scholastic competition, which occurred on March 31, our panelists this month are the young stars of LA bridge (although some of them no longer live in LA). Our panelists range in age from 15 to about 40. See the end of the column for their biographies.*

# 3

IMPs  
no vul

West	North	East	South
1♦	dbl	pass	2♣
pass	2♥	pass	?

You, South, hold: ♠T72 ♥5 ♦Q42 ♣KJ6543  
What call do you make?

*Some panelists want to make certain they go plus.*

**Aaron: Pass.** I can't imagine bidding on. There's a chance partner will never get to my hand, and while he may have a monster, he can't take 10 tricks on his own.

**Yichi: Pass.** We have 6 HCP opposite 18-20 with no clear entries. 3NT seems unlikely, as does 4♥.

*Some rebid their club suit, knowing they aren't showing much.*

**Mike: 3♣.** I'm a little heavy for this, but notrump will not be playable unless partner fits clubs, and 4♣ goes past 3NT. At least this keeps the ball rolling (versus a pass). Partner could still have significant club length; imagine ♠Ax, ♥AKQ10x, ♦xx, ♣AQxx. He must bid hearts at some point with that hand, and 3♣ will get us to game.

**Chien-Yao: 3♣.** This should imply some values, or I would have passed 2♥.

**Ryan: 3♣.** This should show values. 2♥ is strong but

non-forcing, so I would pass whenever I'm broke, even with a stiff in his suit. If partner's hearts can play opposite a singleton, he'll rebid them. Otherwise, I'll give him a choice between 3NT and 5♣.

**Yehudit: 3♣.** Partner shows 17+ HCP and 5+ hearts, so I am showing what I have. If partner bids 3♦, I will bid 3NT.

**Lei: 3♣.** If partner needs a diamond stopper he can cue bid. I think playing lebensohl or Rubensohl here is a good idea.

**Brad: 3♣.** Nothing exciting, but it would be wrong not to rebid my six-card suit.

**Nolan: 3♣.** I have a minimum hand, but I want to tell partner that another bid is welcomed.

*Some want to show their almost diamond stopper.*

**Elianna: 2NT.** What do you mean Qxx is not a stopper?

**Dan: 2NT.** The important factors here are: a) I →

have a half-stopper in diamonds, b) I have a sixth club, and c) I have just enough that we may have a game. 2NT communicates the stopper situation, the lack of a heart fit, and that I can't force a game yet. It's not impossible for my partner to turn up with honor doubleton in clubs or semi-solid hearts, either of which could allow me to run a suit after just one loser in it. My heart support is bad enough that I want to recommend to partner we not play there, yet good enough that if partner rebids 3♥, I can pass in confidence.

**Becca: 2NT.** We may have the values for 3NT, but we don't have much room to explore. 3♣ is drop dead (what a great term!), and is pretty safe, but I'll try 2NT. I think 2NT should show some values, and I have some sort of a diamond stopper.

**Adam: 2NT.** I don't think bidding 3♣ shows any particular values. Further, bidding 2NT now should imply a real club suit, since with a diamond stopper and a decent hand, both of which 2NT shows, I would've bid 1NT the first time.

**Roger: 2NT.** This is forcing and shows a diamond stop, so it seems normal. 3♣ would be fine if it was forcing, but I think in standard bidding it shows a weak hand with lots of clubs.

*Roger thinks 2NT is forcing and Adam seems to think so, too. Eric Kokish and modern theorists would agree. You rarely want to play exactly 2NT when there is a long suit in either hand. Normally 3♣ or 3♥ will be better than 2NT. Even partner thinks that 2NT isn't completely forcing, I think it's still the best choice.*

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### DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

masterpoints. The first is that masterpoints can only be awarded in games that follow the laws of Duplicate Bridge except for teaching games. This motion would eliminate masterpoint games where every deal there is a 2-club opener or one where there is no bidding but the declarer must play every hand in 1NT doubled. The second motion provides for adjusting masterpoint awards for sectional and regional events based upon the actual number of tables in play at the same time. This motion is an alternative to the SOF motion before the board.

### It's a Different View from Dummy

Looking through the past few months of ACBL Bulletins I noticed that some D23 people were mentioned. It's Your Call top scores for November 2011 included George Wang, Phil Rabichow and Rae Murbach. Rae also was a top scorer for December. And to conclude, I wish to give a very special recognition to Diane Gulbrandsen for recruiting over 200 members for the ACBL in 2011.

## July Pasadena Regional Pro-Am

*by Ellen Anten*

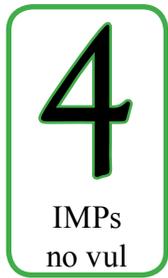
Make your plans early. We are proud to kick off our July Pasadena Regional with a one-session Pro/Am event. It will be held at the Pasadena Hilton at 1:00 on Monday, July 2, 2012. We suggest you arrive early.

All the Pros will be Silver Life Masters or higher. The Ams will pay regular card fees while the Pros play for free. All pairings will be random draw.

What an exciting way to begin a regional – playing with a Pro and getting a lot of expert advice for free. A reception will follow the game to announce the winners.

Please RSVP to Ellen Anten at 818-634-3231 or [ellenanten@aol.com](mailto:ellenanten@aol.com) no later than June 22, 2012.





East	South	West	North
1♦	?		

You, South, hold: ♠AKT96543 ♥AQ84 ♦6 ♣--  
What call do you make?

*Some start slowly with this offensive mountain, trying to show a hand too good to bid 4♠ right away.*

**Yehudit: Double.** What do they call an eight-card suit? Trump! I double and bid 4♠, unless partner bids hearts or shows more than a bare minimum, in which case I will try to get to slam. This hand is too good to bid 4♠ directly.

**Brad: Double.** I'll jump in spades next.

**Chien-Yao: Double.** It is very likely we have a slam on this hand. I don't worry that partner might pass, because either partner or one of the opponents has long clubs. It is almost impossible that 1♦ doubled will be the final contract.

**Ryan: Double.** What's the problem? Yes, I only have 13 HCP, but I have a 3.5 loser hand. I'll double and then jump in spades. If partner bids hearts, I'll still jump in spades. Spades is the master suit, so if the opponents (or partner) bid to five of a minor before I can show my hand, I can still bid spades.

**Lei: Double.** We may find a heart fit. If no surprise happens, I can compete with this super spade suit.

*Some inquiring minds want to know where partner's points are.*

**Dan: Double.** I can construct three-point hands for partner where I can make a slam and 13-point hands where I can't even make a game, so I really, really don't want to blast a large number of spades. My partner has no prayer of being able to evaluate his hand, so I want to get information from him and decide the contract myself. So I think my only choices are 1♠ and double. The big advantage of doubling over bidding is that partner is much more likely to bid. I need to know

where his values are, and if I bid 1♠, then it's really likely for him to note he has very few spades and shut up.

**Elianna: Double.** I realize that I only have 13 HCP, but my playing strength is super-strong. If partner bids hearts twice, I will let him play hearts, but I usually call an eight-card suit "trump." The main problem I see in this is that it gives the opponents room to find a suit with which to compete, and doubling and bidding may overstate my defensive strength to partner, but after I pull his penalty double, I hope that he will get the picture, and I'll leave in a second penalty double. I bet Adam bids 4♠.

*Does Elianna win her bet?*

**Adam: 4♠.** I have found that immediately applying pressure works better in these situations than fishing for a magic slam.

*Take your "Adam bids 4♠" ticket directly to the cashier's window and collect!*

**Yichi: 4♠.** Somebody has a game here, and the opponents need bidding space more than I do. Yes, I know that we might have a slam, but if I try to find out, they'll sacrifice in a minor or bid 5♦ preemptively to stop me from finding out. I will compete to 5♠ if the opponents bid again.

**Mike: 4♠.** I'd actually bid 4♦, a Namyats 4♠ overcall (a mid-chart convention for unknown reasons) in my favorite partnership. Failing that, getting to the four-level immediately has priority over a slam search.

*I think it's very strange that Namyats opening bids are general chart, but Namyats overcalls are mid-*



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

\* natural, non-forcing

You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥AK74 ♦A8 ♣A87654  
What call do you make?

*There are two schools of thought about 3♣ here. One camp believes that 3♣ is non-forcing and just a way to get out of 2NT. The other camp believes that 3♣ is 100% forcing. When I first learned bridge, the experts taught that 3♣ was forcing on this auction. That seemed wrong to me at the time and it still does. The majority of experts now agree that 3♣ isn't forcing. If 3♣ is forcing what do you do with a 4-6 minimum? Your only choices are passing 2NT or bidding 2♣ instead of showing your 4 card heart suit. Both of these are poor ideas.*

**Yehudit: 3♣.** I usually play this is forcing – it shows extras and a six-card suit (or very good five), in case partner holds something like ♠Kxx ♥xx ♦KJxxx ♣KJx and 5♣ is safer than 3NT. (If partner holds the perfect hand, ♠Axx ♥xx ♦Kxxx ♣Kxx, we may get to 6♣, but that's not my goal.) If 3♣ is not forcing, I would just bid 3NT, because it seems to be the most likely game.

**Brad: 3♣.** We are in trouble in spades.

*Some slip a club into their diamonds.*

**Roger: 3♦.** I'd love it if 3♣ showed spade shortness with long clubs, but it doesn't. I'm short a diamond, but the main feature of this hand is spade shortness, so I'll lie a little bit in order to get that across. If partner bids 3NT, no harm is done, and if he doesn't, the continuations might be murky, but it'll be better than playing 3NT.

*I think 3♦ is the best choice. So did the late, great Mike Shuman, with whom I discussed this hand. It's close on distribution and right on values.*

*One panelist likes rebidding the sturdy heart suit.*

**Dan: 3♥.** I want to be in game, but I just don't know which one. 3♥ conveys my shape and shows some extra values, but I'm limited by my failure to bid 2♥ at my second turn. Partner can rethink 3NT based on his spade stopper, he can choose to play hearts in a 4-3 fit [he will think you are 6-5], and even once in a while he will choose 4♣, which I can then raise to game.

*Several panelists like a delicate 3♣. Let's see if they are all on the same page.*

**Ryan: 3♣.** This completely depends on my partnership style and agreements. Would an immediate 2NT by my partner show 10-12 or is it forcing? If an immediate 2NT would show 10-12, does my partner routinely respond 2NT instead of 1♦ with a balanced 10-12 count and four diamonds? Does my 1♥ rebid guarantee distribution (or would I frequently bypass 1♥ to rebid 1NT with a balanced hand)? How would my partner interpret 3♣? Would he take it as showing 3+ spades (and therefore shortness in diamonds) or is it asking for extra help in spades for 3NT? Does 2NT guarantee a spade stopper? I'm assuming that if 2NT is NF, 2♠ would be Fourth Suit Forcing (to game). If partner has a double spade stopper I prefer 3NT to 5♣. If partner has only one stopper, I prefer 5♣. If partner has no spade stoppers, I want to explore for 6♣. I play 3♣ as showing doubt about 3NT because of spades. If partner bids 3NT, I will pass.

**Nolan: 3♣.** This might get us to slam, but if partner has a minimum, I'll settle for game.

**Lei: 3♣.** With 6-4 and great controls, a suit contract might be better than 3NT. 3♣ here should still be "4th suit." Partner is allowed to insist on 3NT.

**Adam: 3♣.** I like to play 3♣ here as showing this →

sort of hand, game-plus values, short spades, wanting partner to reconsider our game/slam choices.

**Chien-Yao: 3♣.** 2NT should show three or fewer spades most of the time, because I usually bypass 1♦ with a four-card major if my hand is not good enough to force to game. *[This is a common approach, known as “Walsh” around here, but it is not uniformly played. In this feature, however, panelists are allowed to assume their favorite methods within reason.]* In this case, we should have at least an eight-card fit in a minor suit. Still, bypassing 3NT cannot be right. It is likely that partner has two or even three spade stoppers, and in this case, we should play 3NT. 3♣ cannot be right either, because it should be non-forcing. 3♠ is the fourth suit, and should be game forcing. 2NT has already shown spade stoppers so the only reason that I can't bid 3NT directly is that I am worried about a second spade stopper. If partner has good spade stoppers, he will bid 3NT. Otherwise, we should try 5♣ or 5♦ depending on which minor he chooses.

**Elianna: 3♠.** Partner should have a spade stopper, but it's still not clear that we should be in 3NT rather than 5♣ or 5♦. If it were MPs, I would bid 3NT and hope for the best. At IMPs, I bid 3♠, looking for more information, because partner should only have three spades. (1♠ is natural, not 4th suit.) If partner is something like 3-3-5-2 with cards in the pointed suits I expect to hear 3NT which I will pass. Otherwise, I expect to hear another descriptive bid from him. Over 4♣, I'll bid 5♣. (I probably should try cue-bidding, but I really don't think that slam is

on, and I am afraid of being passed.) Over 4♦, I bid 4NT. My real problem is what to do over 4♥. I'll pass and hope that I can ruff something in partner's hand, plus have enough strength otherwise to make.

*Some take a stab at the most likely game.*

**Yichi: 3NT.** I'll pray that partner has a spade stopper, because he's probably getting a spade lead. Partner should be able to set up either clubs or diamonds, hopefully before spades run. I'm further

encouraged by the fact that there was no interference in spades. One of the opponents is holding at least five spades and not enough points to compete, suggesting that the opponents are going to have a hard time running spades. *[Good point.]*

**Aaron: 3NT.** This is the hardest problem of the set. If 3♣ were forcing, or if we were playing XYZ and partner's 2NT bid showed club tolerance, I'd be much happier with my predicament. Assuming neither,

*PSP#5 continued on page 19*

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*chart. They are actually general chart in the suit that was opened (in this case diamonds), but not in the other suit. And it's OK to play four of the opponent's minor shows a Namyats bid in either major. I think the ACBL needs to take a better look at what should be general chart in this area.*

*Two panelists temporarily distort their hand, hoping partner will help them with how high to bid.*

**Becca: 2♦.** Slam is definitely in sight, but the opponents are probably going to try to get in the way. I'm expecting some crazy minor suit jump on my left, so I want to describe my hand as much as possible now. It feels weird, but I think I'll bid 2♦. That way partner knows about my hearts and that I'm short in the minors, so he will know how important the ♥K and ♠Q are after hearing 3♦, 4♦ or 5♦ on his right. If it goes X♦ on my left, where X ∈ {3, 4, 5}, (for readers who aren't into math, Becca's nerdy mathematics translates into 3♦, 4♦, or 5♦) then pass, pass to me, I'll bid 4♠ or 5♠.

**Roger: 2♦.** I hate distorting my Michaels bids, but it seems perfect for this hand. We want to find out how partner feels about hearts, and this is the best way to do that. If nothing interesting happens, I'll play spades.

*Jeff Goldsmith likes this idea and believes that 2♦ followed by 4♠ should show 8 – 4 distribution, calling it an Overcall Structure type bid. It's worth discussing this with partner if you like this idea. If 2♦ is normal Michaels though, I am worried that partner would correct to hearts when it's wrong. I've seen this go askew at the table.*

**Nolan: 1♠.** We might have a partscore, a game, or a slam. 1♠ will not end the auction, and I may find out something useful.

*I believe Nolan has it right. Calmly overcall 1♠ and listen carefully. You may get some clues. I don't think you'll ever get passed in 1♠. If partner doesn't bid, at least one opponent is short in spades and will act aggressively.*

What call do you make?  
send letters to the editor to:  
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I close my eyes and bid 3NT.

**Becca: 3NT.** This looks like a misfit hand, but the club suit has a decent chance of running, so I'll bid 3NT.

*Let's finish with a panelist who doesn't want to guess which school of thought his partner is from.*

**Mike: 4♣.** No screw ups. I don't want to post-mortem whether 3♣ was forcing. We better not post-mortem whether this is Gerber, or I need a new partner. [*Gerber, when each partner was willing to play a part score? I certainly hope not, Ollie!*]

*Note each bid from 3♣ through 4♣ was chosen.*

### ~ about our panelists ~

Mike Shuster is a former USA junior team member and has been a long-time regular member of this panel. He lives in Pennsylvania. Elianna Meyerson started bridge clubs at the Claremont Universities and at the University of Nebraska. Adam Meyerson is the former UCLA bridge coach (national college champs in 2008) and the inventor of the Meyerson convention. He is also a regular member of the panel. The Meyersons recently moved to San Jose. Brad Haas was the captain of the 2007 UCLA team and is now a doctor for Kaiser Permanente. Roger Lee was on the 2009 Caltech national collegiate championship team, has moderated this column, and recently won the prestigious Blue Ribbon Pairs. Chien-Yao Tseng was also on the Caltech 2009 college championship team. Aaron Jones is a post-doc at CSULB. Ryan Wessels was previously the star of the Claremont Mudd team. Yichi Zhang, Dan Emmons, and Becca Wernis are on the Caltech team which has qualified for the national collegiate final in Philadelphia this summer. Dan represented the USA in junior competition in Croatia last summer, and Becca was recently named to the USA under-26 women's team for this summer's competition in China. Yehudit Hasin is a post-doc at UCLA and has played for Israel in international competition. Nolan Chang is our youngest star, and is also a high school water polo standout. Lei Jin is a Ph.D. candidate in neuroscience at USC. He is on USA's second under-26 team competing in China this summer.