

# Southern California Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### The Amazing Fern Seizer

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



District 23 has some amazing people. They aren't all top bridge players. One such amazing lady is Fern Seizer, who along with her husband Bob and three other couples raised nearly \$150,000 to support Multiple Sclerosis research.

Fern and Bob's daughter, Susan, was diagnosed with MS at age 32. She was a dancer and choreographer in New York City when her body began to let her down. After taking interest in dance from India, Susan decided to change her life course and earn a PhD in anthropology. While researching for her PhD, Susan spent three years in India studying dance and theater. During this time she began to have eye problems. Upon returning to the United States, she was diagnosed with optical neuritis, a common symptom of Multiple Sclerosis which was confirmed with a MRI.

Fern and Bob knew nothing about Multiple Sclerosis, but after much reading and studying, Fern joined the board of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Board members are expected to contribute and fundraise. Fern's resume included two terms on St. John's Hospital board and 12 years as director of the Venice Family Clinic where she was instrumental in turning a small facility into the largest and most successful free clinic in the United States. The Multiple Sclerosis board is responsible for setting priorities and determining the programs offered by the MS Society. Today the vision puts its emphasis on research leading

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### Final Report from Philadelphia

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Last month I reported about the Board of Director's strategic planning session. I asked for volunteers who would like to meet with our ACBL president, Sharon Anderson when she visits us in October for her "listening sessions." To date I have not had

any volunteers. I am aiming to get a group together consisting of players of all levels, club owners, unit representatives, and ALACBU delegates.

Besides from this strategic planning session, the board did pass some motions that I wish to report on.

One of the first motions was to award the rank of Life Master to a person with 1,000 Platinum masterpoints and an NABC+ event win. This motion was defeated. I agreed with its defeat. The proponents argued that many of our professional foreign players are insulted that they cannot have the title of life master. I argued that life master is unique to the ACBL and that our players must meet certain requirements to earn the title. If our professional foreign players will play in our club games, unit sectionals and district regionals, they too can earn the title of life master.

Another interesting motion was the establishment of the Grass Roots Fund. December has been designated as Grass Roots Fund Month. The purpose is to develop a source of additional funding for districts to help supplement the costs of their Grand National Teams and the North American Pairs. Clubs may hold special games under the same rules and regulations applicable to the other special fund months (currently benefitting the Junior and International Funds and the ACBL Charity Foundation.) and the money raised in the district will belong to that district, and shall be used by the district to help fund Grass Roots Events. The ACBL shall not charge the districts any fee for the cost of collecting and

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to new medications, new treatments and ultimately a cure.

Nine years later, the Seizers were at dinner with Jackie and Sid Bogin, Shirley and Norman Davidson and Myrna and Art Weiner. They were discussing Susan and her Multiple Sclerosis and what they might do to help. It was suggested that since they all played bridge, maybe they could establish a fundraising bridge game. They didn't know if anyone would come, but there would be at least the eight of them.

Fern approached Alan LeBendig and E'Anne Conaway who owned the Barrington Bridge Club about donating the club one Sunday. Both Alan and E'Anne supported the idea

and when Adrienne and Rodger took over the Barrington Bridge Club they continued to sponsor the event. The facility has been donated one Sunday each summer for the last 11 years and the directors donate their time. In addition, Eddie Kantar has volunteered to teach a lesson as a part of the program each of the 11 years.

The four couples have remained steadfast over the years and they work tirelessly to solicit donations for the silent auction, desserts for the dessert table, and low cost box lunches. Fern is the manager who organizes the event and monitors the money. This year the event was filled up a month before with a sizeable waiting list. The ACBL Charity Foundation Corporation

has made several sizeable donations over the years and one year Wallis Annenberg matched dollar for dollar all funds raised that year.

During the 21 years Susan has suffered from MS, her condition has moved from remitting and relapsing MS to progressive MS. She has been in a wheelchair for the last five years but continues to swim every day. Susan earned her PhD in Anthropology and teaches Culture and Communication at Indiana University in Bloomington Indiana. She and her partner adopted two boys from birth, ages 5 and 8 today.

Fern and Bob look forward to the day when the research they've invested in gets people up and out of their chairs and walking again.

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you  
think?

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

# Around the Units in District 23

## Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

Last month I mentioned that there would appear this month a suggestion for a fresh view of performance at the bridge table. This reference was actually a veiled test of whether or not anyone actually reads this column. Inasmuch as I received no curious inquiries, I have my answer. I think that the following material presented will offer another tool to use in tracking your performance.

Baseball is a great American sport and is dominated by statistical references (or, "stats", as they are referred to) regarding both teams and players, past as well as present. Really zealous baseball fans keep track of an amazing array of data generated by those teams/players. Most other folks that enjoy the game of baseball become familiar with only a few "stats." The number of home runs hit and their batting average is the most common "stat" folks are aware of regarding individual players that are not pitchers. My contention is that the batting average is a more valuable "stat" than often acknowledged. The home runs get the ink, but to assess player value, I contend that batting average is even a more valuable tool. When one plays bridge, a **win** in a club contest can be equated to a homerun in baseball. Your final **percentage** can be equated to batting average in baseball. One can postulate that the overall accumulated percentage is a more true assessment of ability than is the number of homeruns. Keeping track of your own accumulated percentage is, I believe, a more accurate assessment of how you are progressing in your bridge game week-by-week than the number of homeruns (#1 finishes) you have hit. When you factor in the number of different partners one plays with, your accumulated percentage "stat" is even more compelling. Should one choose to keep track of this accumulated percentage as a method for evaluation, use the following formula: Add the three-digit game percentages you scored each week and divide by the number of games you played in. The resultant number

is your **batting average** for the measured period of time. Any batting average over 52.5% is really good (especially if you play with several different partners). My research into our Unit 556 players for the first six months of the year yielded a clear champion— Mr. Hugh Bartlett. Hugh was followed closely by many of the usual suspects, but emerged as **number one** for the first six months! Congratulations.

The Valencia club continues to do very, very, well and the whole unit is proud of their performance. Congratulations to Rand and Kathy for maintaining such a good game. The rest of the club owners have felt the continued sting of tough economic times combined with the usual summer issues. Some clubs have struggled more than others, but all hope to rebound as Fall approaches.

Congratulations to Hugh Bartlett and Melanie Moran on their recent marriage and extended honeymoon. All of us that know Ms. Mary Stauff are relieved to see her finally home from the hospital. Well wishes flow to her from Lancaster and beyond.

The masters of the month at the Santa Clarita club were Markle Vandervort and Lamonte Johnson. A special "great going" goes out to new winners Robert McBroom and Kathy Flynn, a good job to notch a win in that tough Santa Clarita game. Masters of the month in Castaic were Basan Shah and Lamonte Johnson. A special "great going" goes out to Rosemary Franklin for her consistently good performances. The master of the month in Lancaster was Ms. Gloria Robinson, partnered with several players and still pounding everybody. Good job.

Please, please mark your calendars for our annual Christmas party/dinner/unit election and bridge contest. Saturday, December 1 at 5 p.m. sharp at the Lancaster Bridge Club.



## Glendale Verdugo

### By Sharon Wolf

#### Saturday, September 8

11 a.m. Board of Directors meeting  
12:15 Buffet Lunch  
1:00 p.m. Unit Game

Thanks to Merry Besvold and her merry band of helpers, especially Karen Alpert, Pat Abbey, Gloria Balfour, Betsy Josias, Nancy Lyon, and Margaret Mataga, for a most successful sectional. Many thanks also to non-members Karen Arase and Peter Szecsi for bringing treats to share. As in the past, the Scottish Rite Temple proved to be a most hospitable venue for the tournament. Lots of unit members scored silver. Congrats to all.

## Long Beach

### by Jon Yinger

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

**August 1 Inter-club championship game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Sibyl Slutsky/Diane Schmitz, 2nd Phyllis Parker/John Petrie, 3rd Al Beebe/Tom Moore, 4th Jean Matz/Martha Shuster, 5th Brandon Sheumaker/Sue Boswell, 6th Joy and John Ready. B flight overalls: 2nd Phyllis Greenstein/Dorren Maes, 3rd Suzy and John Hand. And 1st over-all in the C flight were Vivian Kiley/Noreen Brown. Congratulations to all!

**August 10 biggest club game of the month:** Overall results: 1st in A: Charlotte and Steve Sturm, 2nd Bob Goldstein/Larry Topper, 3rd Brandon Sheumaker/Gary King, 4th Joel and Judy Sandberg, 5th Betty McClellan/Verna Baccus, 6th Phyllis Greenstein/Doreen Maes. B flight overalls: 4th Dick Sands/Steve Licker, 5th Judith Jones/John Petrie, 6th Fern Dunbar/Diane Sachs. C flight overalls: 3rd Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid, 4th Richard/Robert Bakovic. Congratulations to all!

**70+% games** in the club July 16 through August 15: In open games: Aug 2 Aaron Jones/Sankar Reddy had 70.17% and on Aug 7 Aaron Jones/Steve Mager had 71.30%. In the NLM game July 31 Bonny Walsh/Karen Watson had 70.24%. And in 99er games July 25

Kathy Keller/George DeVall had 70.37% and Aug 15 Sally Gordy/Bernie Dow had 71.88%. Congratulations to you all!

**Big masterpoint awards:** Big point awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th in open pairs games July 16 through August 15: July 23 Rich Wasser/Steve Skinner were 1st winning 3.47mp. July 24 Pamel Kirkner/John Melis were 1st winning 3.17mp and Larry Slutsky/Phil Shuster were 2nd winning 3.17mp. July 25 Marcus Evans/Ralph Beazley were 1st winning 3.90mp. July 27 Betty McClellan/Verna Baccus were 1st winning 3.79mp. Aug 5 Carol Murakoshi/Fern Dunbar were 1st winning 3.67mp. Aug 6 Mitch Dunitz/Ed Davis were 1st winning 4.50mp and Phil Shuster/Sibyl Slutsky were 2nd winning 3.38mp. Aug 6 in the afternoon game Steve Mager/Aaron Jones were 1st winning 4.67mp and Larry Slutsky/Phil Shuster were 2nd winning 3.50mp. In the evening game Steve Sturm/WeiPei were 1st winning 3.67mp. Aug 8 Brandon Sheumaker/Sue Boswell were 1st winning 5.17mp and there was a 2/3 tie between Aaron Jones/George Welsh and Phil Shuster/Jon Yinger, each winning 3.40mp. Aug 9 Hanefi Erten/Marcus Evans were 1st winning 4.83mp and Sankar Reddy/Bruce Horiguchi were 2nd winning 3.62mp. In the big game Aug 10 Steve and Charlotte Sturm were 1st winning 7.33mp, Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein were 2nd winning 5.50mp, Brandon Sheumaker/Gary King were 3rd winning 4.12mp, and Joe and Judy Sandberg were 4th winning 3.09mp. Aug 11 Bea and John Bralliar were 1st winning 4.50mp, Sean Lui/Earl VanDerVord were 2nd winning 3.38mp. And in the evening game Stephen Licker/Dick Sands were 1st winning 3.83mp. Congratulations to all!

**New members:** Mariann Ssatin, Janice Deenean and Mark Novisof. Welcome to the club!

**Status changes:** Junior Master: William Heck; Club Masters: Lynn Danielson and Richard Schaeffer; Sectional Master: Pamela Cronn; Regional Master: Doris Drew; and new Gold Life Master: John Melis. Congratulations to you all!!

**Get well wishes to John Killian** who was hit by a car while riding his bicycle to the club earlier this month.

**Upcoming events at the club:** Wednesday Sept 12 Inter-Club Championship game: hand records and overall awards. Sept 16 through 22 International Fund Week. And Sunday, Sept 23 Unit Game: lunch at 12:30, game at 1pm. August 20 thru 26 Great Western Holiday STaC week: Hand Records, overall awards. →

IFW games: hand records, extra points, \$11 fee. Other special games—extra points, regular prices.

### Leisure World News

by Joan Tschirki

Leisure World Bridge is a happening place!

Thanks to the unit our wanna bees and the entire hive were excited about the "8" is enough team game held in Long Beach. Thanks to our own Larry Slutsky and the many others who worked so long and hard to make this happen!! Personally in our own team Bee Kinman and myself were blitzed the first round because of the play of Al and Sharon Appel! They made lemonade out of the lemons! We had alot of " 'splaining to do ' as Lucy would say to Ricky" ; to our teammates Chie Wickman and Sally Fenton..... Repeating this format and other team games would be well received.

Speaking of Larry ,he and his partner Ron Gaffee had the only 70% + game in July! Three others have reached this plateau so far this month. Check them out!

Bette Wilner is looking good after recent health issues. She's back to playing bridge. Joyce Newton was out of commission for a couple weeks. She had a serious "bout" with a "bug." She's back giving "free" hugs!

Sue Ayers has moved to Texas to be closer to family. I'm told her children built her her own "casa" adjoining their property. She will be missed. She introduced me to the Long Beach Symphony and for that I am grateful.

New residents to Leisure World and our bridge club are: Pauline Fitzsimons, Dick Stammerjohn,

George Koehm and Phil Friedman. Welcome to you all!

Happy to see Gayle and Miriam, and Mary and Bill back to our game.

Someone once said when a couple is first married everything 'is hearts and diamonds' and a few years down the road 'it's clubs and spades.' **Who knew?!?**

For more information on club events 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 e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is [jyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Marie Nimmrich

### Unit Game Sunday 2 September 1:00 P.M.

Welcome to our new members: Victoria Livingstone and Niki Rader, who has joined our unit at last!

Congratulations Cathy Martin, who just became an official certified club director. I know she will make a good one.

Unit Game: Our next regular unit game will take place on Sunday 2 September at 1:00 p.m. Please come early and enjoy a full lunch (compliments of the unit).

John Waken Sectional: Our John Waken Sectional was successful due to the efforts of Amr Elghamry, who was the chief planner and organizer. He was aided by our illustrious Board members. And let us say a few words about the John Waken Trophy, given to the unit member winning the most points at the John Waken Sectional. In the past, the winner was kept a deep secret and the name(s) was not to be revealed until our Election Party in March. Somehow in the last few years this policy has been revoked and all the suspense has evaporated. Anyway, the winners for 2012 (yes, a tie) were John Jones and Jeff Goldsmith. They will be given the prestigious trophy at the Election Party. The trophy is large and has all the past winners' names engraved thereon. They will have to decide who will keep it during the year. Each will be given a smaller trophy which is theirs forever. Congratulations to you both.

Those unit members winning events at the sectional were: Brad Beland and Dennis Semain; Marianne and Lawrence Newman; Connie Kang and Edward Hsi; Amr Elghamry and Madhu Sudan; Bob Novell and Bob Verhoef; and of course Jeff Goldsmith and John Jones.

San Marino Bridge Club: We are starting a new Friday game beginning on 24 August at 11:00 a.m. Cathy Martin will be the director. It will be an open game and all are invited to come.

Arcadia Bridge Center: The Bridge Center recently held some STAC games and our unit members did well. Those in the district overalls were: Thursday A.M. - Cathy Martin and Barbara Baeskens (2nd overall), Bob Malouf and Ollie Norsworthy (5th overall), Richard Gero and Fay Hsu (1st overall in Flight C). Also in the overalls on Thursday were Madhu Sudan and Frank Grant, Jerry Paul and Sue Rottner. Friday evening →

- Jeanne Dea and Bernie Mateer were 1st overall with a 69% game. Also in the overalls were Amr Elghamry and Eric Tan, Carole Collins and Anna Williamson. On Saturday, Art Gulbrandsen and Birgir Holmquist were 1st overall with a 72.45% game.

What would we do without bridge? And how could we replenish the supply of players when attendance diminishes? The Bridge Center answers these questions by offering **free** beginning bridge lessons and these lessons serve two purposes: First, Art Gulbrandsen, who has been teaching bridge for more than 40 years, introduces this wonderful game to people who have never counted an ace before and has them actually playing bridge the first day they arrive for the class. Second, these lessons bring new players into the club and into the intriguing game of bridge. A new series of free beginning lessons will start Thursday September 13 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday September 15 at 10:30 a.m. Tell your friends, neighbors and acquaintances to come to the Bridge Center and join the fun and meet new friends and learn a new experience which will be mentally challenging. The first four lessons are free; before you know it, you will be playing the game. No experience is necessary.

The next Beat the House night will be Friday 21 September at 7:30 p.m. The House is usually Diane and Art Gulbrandsen. Beat their score and win a free play. Rookies, have a 50% game and win a free play.

The Winner/Loser game will be held on Sunday 23 September at 1:00 p.m. All those players in the month of August who either won or were last can play for \$5.00. It is a popular event.

**Stories by Chuck Cordaro:**

About two years ago I bid a vulnerable 7♦ at one of Marie Nimmrichi's Monday afternoon games in San Marino. Vern Berkompas doubled, and I redoubled because my hand looked like this:

- ♠ AKQ
- ♥
- ♦ AKQJT9
- ♣ AKQJ

Vern, snake-in-the-grass that he is, led a heart with a hand that looked like this:

- ♠
- ♥ AKQJT9
- ♦ 8765432
- ♣

My spades and clubs were useless, and by trumping Verni's heart lead, I started with two fewer diamonds than him. As I remember (something I try not to do) I went down 3,000 points. I never heard of anyone going down that much and I was really embarrassed.

The last time I was this embarrassed, I was only 12 years old. I was bringing my cat Figaro back from the vets on the bus one summer when he had a bad reaction to the antibiotic. The result was an effluvium that coated the cage and him.

As the smell wafted toward the front of the bus, the glares I got persuaded me to get off. I went to the men's room of a gas station to try to clean things up; however, as soon as I opened the clamshell lid of the cage, Figaro rocketed up and out, and ran under the partition to the far wall where the toilet was located.

Bad luck for the guy who was sitting in there. When he recovered I saw the flash of a hand and the cat came skidding back to me on the tiled floor. Figaro, afraid of the cage, ran back under the partition, only to be rejected again. I didn't know what to do as I watched the ebb and flow of this struggle fought in quiet desperation.

Finally, I got some paper towels, grabbed the cat on one of his return trips, and stuffed him back in his cage. "I'm sorry," I said, but got no reply. I called my grandmother and insisted she come pick me up. While I waited for her, I kept a wary eye on the restroom door, but it never opened.

I am sorry to report that Mae passed away recently. She often played with Bill Farmer and Peggy Brain. I remember she would look at you with almost teary eyes and say, "Don't be too tough on us now," and then administer the equivalent of a brisk spanking. We will miss her, but not the spankings

General News: Dennis Semain is currently (as I write) roaming the Galapagos Islands. (Had to look for the spelling of that one.) Dennis and his wife have been all over the world. One of their next jaunts will be to India.

Jeff Goldsmith won the most points at the Glendale Sectional— over 20.

Shirley Betz and Bill Suter recently returned from an amazing trip to South Africa. They were showing pictures and had a glowing report of the scenery and the animals. Shirley said it was the best trip of her life.

Until next month, pax vobiscum

## Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game Sat. Sept. 15, 11:00 A.M.

Ah, September. The climax of the baseball pennant races. The start of the college football season at schools like Stanford, Cal, and UCLA. The start of the professional football season at USC. Great song titles like “September Song” and “September Morn.” The start of autumn in places that actually have seasons. What’s not to like?

But the greatest thing about September is that we’re finally rid of August. Whether it’s Colorado wildfires, Midwestern drought, or delightful 110 degree days that make it hazardous even to risk being charbroiled out by the swimming pool, August is definitely Exhibit One for that supposedly mythical global warming we’ve all heard about. Apparently our local bridge players feel the same way, because the attendance at our local games has been decidedly modest. Let’s hope some sub-100 degree days will encourage a few more players to creep out of their air-conditioned places of hibernation and rejoin us at the tables this month.

Putting aside my obviously unbiased opinion of the positive qualities of our eighth month, I do have some results to report for the last 30 days.

The unit game was won by Erik Tan and Amr Elgamry, with a modest little 72% effort. First in opposite direction were Dave and Susan Ruoff.

Also placing in the overalls were Hans Hehnke, Vic Sartor, Lary Alba, Cordell Goode, Roger Boyar, and Richard Patterson. The monthly individual was won by Margie Hall, followed by Larry Clark, Luan Schermer, Caroline Moyers, Linda Tessier, and Tom Lill. Top club game at LaFetra last month was a 70% posted by Bill Papa and Vic Sartor.

Recently, it has been subtly suggested to me that my usual listing of all the month’s club game winners was getting pretty dull. Initially I took umbrage at this, but the fact that three unit members had to be treated for narcolepsy after reading last month’s column finally convinced me. Therefore, this month I’m unveiling a semi-exciting new feature—a list of the top club game masterpoint winners for the month. Pulitzer nominating committee, please note.

Top club masterpoint winner for the past month was Richard Patterson, with 5.99 mp. He was followed

by your acerbic unit scribe with 5.3, our inestimable unit prexy, Clint Lew, with 5.18, Lary Alba (4.56), Kurt Trieselmann (4.4), Pat Radamaker (3.65), and Charlotte Capelle (3.6).

This month’s hand of the month is a three-horse parlay. The first two were not so extraordinary, except that they showed up within a few hands of each other in the same session. It was kind of fun to be dealt:

♠AQT ♥A ♦Axx ♣AKJxxx  
opposite  
♠KJ9xxx ♥xx ♦x ♣T9xx

...and then almost immediately thereafter pick up

♠AKxx ♥KQxxxxx ♦xx  
opposite  
♠x ♥AJx ♦AKQx ♣AQ98x

There were no bad splits, and both grand slams rolled.

The piece d’ resistance was when you picked up the following beauty a couple of days later: ♠A ♥AKQJxx ♦AKQJT ♣x and saw your partner, in first seat, open 1♣! How many times have you held a one-loser hand and had your partner open the bidding? With that start, reaching 7NT was not exactly an unsurmountable challenge. Til next time, may you always get cards like these...

## San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Unit News: This issue of the Unit’s news is dedicated to the memory of Carol Lang. Carol’s son Paul informed us on August 9th that Carol had passed away. Throughout her life she had battled health challenges, from polio to cancer, with determination and always with a sense of humor.

Carol had a passion for bridge and for instructing new and junior players. Even after she became a life master, and was already involved in her eight year battle with breast cancer, Carol’s enthusiasm to win was obvious. When playing a bridge hand, her facial expression always revealed a fierce competitor’s concentration.

In recent years, Carol founded the 750 Bridge Club where players were attracted to the friendly and comfortable environment. When her health no →

longer allowed her to manage the fledgling Club, Carol made certain to place it in the hands of people who shared a similar vision for "her" Bridge Club. To that end, Bill and Terry Morton's management of the 750 Club has been a notable tribute to Carol. Today, the 750 Club continues to grow and flourish with a congenial flock of bridge players. Carol's vision has become a reality, thanks to her initial fortitude, planning, and enthusiasm.

Carol Lang played the cards that she was dealt in both life and in bridge. She played hard and she played well in both instances. Undoubtedly, she will be lovingly remembered as a mom, a teacher, and a good friend.

### The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for July 2012

**750 Bridge Club:** Ron Malkin 8.32, Linda Silvey 6.73, Gloria Malkin 5.61, Helen Malzer 5.43, Dan Strauss 4.95, Paul Fuson 4.81, Norm Bloomfield 4.31, Dick Wiggins 4.31, Susan Raphael 4.10, Marty Hurwitz 4.06.

**Bridge Academy Under 750 Masterpoints:** Ron Stewart 6.68, Carol Stein 5.26, John Langer 4.21, Om Chokriwala 4.21, Sheila Singer 3.83, Martin Hurwitz 3.56, Estelle Baron 3.24, Jerry Goodman 2.98, Anne Hurwitz 2.75, Charles Warner III 2.22

**Bridge Academy Open Masterpoints:** Sheila Bozin 15.45, Tom Wylie 11.64, Gary Franz 11.47, Seymour Zemlyn 10.64, Armand Szulc 9.08, Sara Wilson 8.12, Robert Rice 8.09, Gilbert Stinebaugh 7.75, Leda Danzig 7.51, Tammy Purkin 7.06

**70% Games for July:** Gloria Malkin & Ron Malkin 72.10, Mimi Baker & Tony D'Angelo 71.46, Marty Hurwitz & Bob Gasway 70.56

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: [www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568](http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568)  
SBBC: [www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc](http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc)

### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Monday, Sept 10, 7:00 p.m.  
Club Championship: Tuesday, Sept 18, 11:30 AM  
Club Championship: Friday, Sept 21, 7:00 PM  
Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening  
Friday Night games on September 7 and 21

### Club Championships

The Unit Swiss Team Championship on July 15 saw the quartet of Carol Hansen, Diane Maye, Loretta Russell and Joan Lawver win all three Flights A,B,C. On July 25 the North American Pairs Qualifier was led by Gaye Herrington/John Farr in Flight A, with Andy Anderson/Masae Kato winning Flight B and Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson on top in Flight C. The NLM Club Championship on July 26 was won by Nancy Collinge/Betsy Miller in Flight A and Lynn Evans/Elizabeth Biggins in Flight B. The North American Pairs Qualifier on July 30 was won by Bea and John Brailliar in Flight A with Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio ahead in Flight B and Krystyna and Dennis Hollingworth on top in Flight C. The club championship on August 13 was led by Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder in Flight A, with Steven Dage/Hank Sheehan winning Flight B and Jeanette Betts/Mary Overby taking Flight C.

The North American Pairs Qualifier at Veterans Park on August 6 was won by Gaye Herrington/Bruce Horiguchi in Flight A and Neal Kleiner/David Peim in Flight B. On August 10 the North American pairs at Anderson Park resulted in a tie for Flight A honors between David Cheshire/Joyce Nakasaki and Bruce Horiguchi/Gaye Herrington with Violet Young/Katherine West winning Flight B.

### Team Winners

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

July 17: Karen and Mike McKittrick, Linda →

- and Bill Lama
- July 24: Jeff Strutzel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
- July 31: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema John J. McDermott
- August 7: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
- August 14: Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Charles LaFranchi, Marty Cooper

(310) 600-4275 and jeffgro@gmail.com.

**District 22/23 STAC**

Following are pairs who finished in the overalls of the district 22/23 STaC in games played at clubs in the Torrance South Bay unit.

**Congrats**

A special congratulations to Ed Piken who was a member of the team that won the Grand National Teams Flight A event at the Philadelphia NABC.

Monday Morning, July 16, SBBC

- 2A 1B Claire Hulett/Lutrell Long
- 4A Fran Israel/Bob Rothman
- 6A 4B Shinko Mauritz/ Iyoko Kawamura
- 1C Yokuyo Sheehy/George Norman
- 6/7C Sumi Tofukuji/Edith Watanabe
- 6/7C Carol King/Nanci Shultz

**Agile Bridge Club**

There is now a bridge club in the unit dedicated to introducing new players to the game. The Agile Bridge Club actually has three locations, in El Segundo, Manhattan Beach and Hermosa Beach. The following is a note I received from the club director, Jeff Grotenhuis.

In only its first full year the Agile Bridge Club made waves this month. The club became only the third in California to sign up 25 new ACBL members in 2012. Headquartered in Hermosa Beach, the Agile Bridge Club has focused from the start on teaching duplicate bridge to new and returning players. Recently the Beach Cities surpassed decades long leader Palos Verdes; 6 of the top 10 rookies (0-5 MPs) now reside in Hermosa Beach, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach or El Segundo. At the end of 2011, 7 of the top 10 rookies lived in Palos Verdes.

Classes and games are spiced up with occasional pot luck parties, road trips to other games, ice cream socials and championship level guest speakers.

New classes begin Monday, September 17 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club., September 18 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Manhattan Beach Joslyn Center and Friday, September 14 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the El Segundo Womens Club. The first four Monday and Friday classes through October 5 are free. Additionally ongoing games occur Tuesday afternoons (49ers) and Friday mornings (0-20). Visit [www.agilebridgeclub.com](http://www.agilebridgeclub.com) and click on "Classes and Games." ACBL Teacher and Director Jeff Grotenhuis can be reached at

Monday Evening, July 16, SBBC and Veterans Park

- 2A Lucy Gellner/Wayne Otsuki
- 3A 2B 1C Krystyna and Dennis Hollingworth
- 4/5A 3/4B Neal Kleiner/David Peim
- 4/5A 3/4B Barbara Shortwell/Betsy Miller
- 5C Clara Trummer/Paula Hall

Tuesday Morning, July 17, SBBC

- 2/3A Dick Jones/Ray Mack
- 6A 4B Lorraine Hohn/Morris Lorber
- 5B Kim Wang/Chein-San Han
- 1C David Peim/Neal Kleiner

Wednesday Morning, July 18, SBBC

- 1A 1B Lutrell Long/Kim Wang
- 3A Mary Ann Coyle/Gaye Herrington
- 4B 2C Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson
- 5C Charlotte Lewin/Mahin Khadivi
- 6C Pat Berg/Pam Gudish

Wednesday Afternoon, July 18, Veterans Park

- 15A 4B 1C James Hieatt/Jeff Grotenhuis
- 8B 3C Jeanette and Jack Christie
- 10B 4C Elaine Godin/Richard De Santis
- 6C Jeanette Betts/Anne Andres
- 7C Sheila and John Bray

Thursday Morning July 19, SBBC, NLM Pairs

- 1A 1B 1C Dorothy and Peter Joseph
- 2A Elaine Bleiweiss/Christine Uriu
- 3A Nancy Collinge/Betsy Miller
- 4A Ron Prando/Sam Lim
- 5A 2B Jeanette Betts/Marie Lynch

- 6A 3B 2C Myron Mitzenmacher/Sheila Cottle
- 4B 3C Sue Morgan/Donetta Seratini
- 5B 4C Carol Hansen/Diane Maye
- 6B Tajie Major/Ellen Tarlow

## West LA by Robert Shore

### Meet John Herriot

Thursday Evening Aux Pairs, July 19, SBBC

- 1A 1B Steve Ramos/Lorraine Hohn
- 2A 2B Tom Barna/Ernie Frank

Friday Morning, July 20, SBBC

- 1A Gaye Herrington/Ed Barad

Friday Morning, July 20, 0-99er Pairs, SBBC

- 1/2D Joyce Field/Marjorie Hainline
- 1/2D 1E Russell LeFevre/Richard Hargrove
- 3D K. Pecarovich/Marilyn Henshel
- 4D Elizabet Biggins/Cathy King
- 5D Bobbi and Myron Mitzenmacher
- 2E Margaret Ota/Judy Colaianni

Friday Afternoon, July 20, Beach Cities

- 12A 6B 1C Robert Svensrud/Robert Fieselman

Friday Evening, July 20, SBBC and Inglewood Beach

- 5A 2B Louis Bruhnke/Harry Wessells
- 3B Joan Chrishal/Freddie Spradlin
- 5B 1C Barbara and Peter Shen
- 2C Lorna Wallace/Ed Srenco

Saturday Afternoon, July 21, SBBC

- 4C Joanna Wallis/Booth Tarkington

### GUV Memorial Award

Without mentioning names, a partner whose carding I often criticize had her moment in the sun recently. Playing with said partner I was declarer in 4♠ with two 5-3 major suit fits missing only the queen with a two way go for each of these cards. Guessing both queens will allow you to make 7. Without an inspired lead by a defender and guessing one queen will allow you to make 6. Well I got the inspired lead and misguessed both queens... down 1. When we opened up the traveller there was a wall of plus 710 and 680 scores our way next to my lone minus 100. My partner couldn't resist uttering one of my favorite expressions, "Good declarers made 7, Average declarers made 6." And she wouldn't even listen to me explain why my line was best.

Na Zdrowie

John Herriot is a name that's new to me, though upon review his name has appeared in this space before. I don't think I've ever encountered him at a local club, none of my acquaintances seem to know him, and I don't recall ever crossing his path at a local tournament. In short, John has been enjoying our game as a member of our unit in relative anonymity.

That ends now, and for the nicest possible reason. In Philadelphia, John (who started the year with fewer than 2,000 points), picked up an NABC+ victory, by far the most difficult qualification for the Grand Life Master title, by winning the Senior Swiss. It bears emphasis, by the way, that (according to the Bulletin) none of John's teammates were professionals, nor had any of John's teammates (nor John himself) ever won a national title before. In short, John picked up his national title the old-fashioned way, not by hiring a team, but by assembling good partnerships and outplaying the competition. Congratulations, John! I look forward to meeting you.

### Unsung Heroes

I think most readers of this space understand how much work it takes to put together the events we all enjoy. What can get lost in the shuffle (so to speak), though, is the identity of the people willing to put in that effort— particularly when it's behind the scenes. One such person is Sam Haveson. Sam spent time as a member of the Unit Board, and then relinquished his seat. That effort is more or less expected of board members, but even after leaving the board, Sam continued to contribute his time and experience.

For years, now, Sam has been responsible for securing sanctions for our monthly unit games, and he has generally accepted responsibility for scheduling their dates. Recently the ACBL decided that sanction applications had to be requested by directors or officers of the unit. I certainly wasn't going to let that technicality serve as a barrier to Sam's continued invaluable assistance, so it was my pleasure to appoint Sam as a Unit Tournament Coordinator. Sam was kind enough to accept the position, so he will continue in his role coordinating unit games. Please be sure to →

thank Sam the next time you find yourself enjoying his handiwork.

On a related note, we extend get well wishes to Jeri Berger. Jeri has just begun to resume her volunteer activities on behalf of the unit, when her return was interrupted by an untimely illness. We hope that by the time these words see print, she'll be back at the table. Perhaps Jeri will sign up to run for a two-year term on the board — sign-up lists will remain up at Beverly Hills and Barrington until September 30.

### **Back at the Table**

Unit members acquitted themselves well at the table up and down the coast and from coast to coast. Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten won her bracket on the second Friday Compact Knockout at Philadelphia. While others were playing in Philadelphia, the District 23 STaC was progressing and we picked up a number of wins. Susanne Menck and Zalman Perelman won the Monday evening game, while Sylvia Shallon paired with Marshall Rose to win the Tuesday afternoon game. Aram Bedros and Paul Smith won the Thursday afternoon game (contributing to Aram winning the most points overall from the STaC), and Rhoda and Lew Himmell won the Friday afternoon event.

We nearly took over the Pasadena Sectional. Jim Brunet and Ken Okel got things started by winning the Friday afternoon 299er game, and Viktor Anikovich kept things rolling by winning the Mike Shuman Open Pairs game Friday evening. (In fact, Viktor came fairly close to picking off the jackpot awarded for a 70% game.) Roberto Scaramuzzi won the top bracket of the Saturday Compact Knockout, while Leslie Brucker and Susan Coggins combined to win the Saturday afternoon 299er game. Patricia Shellogg-Seal capped off a successful tournament for our unit by winning the Sunday Flight B/C/D Swiss.

Moving up the coast, your Humble Scribe made a quick sojourn to Castro Valley to play the South (Alameda) County Sectional and picked up a win in the Sunday Open Pairs event. Returning to the local area, your Humble Scribe played the Glendale-Verdugo Sectional of Pasadena and won the Friday evening game. Bennett Kerns and Phyllis Selig-Kerns won the Friday morning 299er game, and Val Romoff won the Friday afternoon 299er game. Congratulations to all!

**Sometimes Crime Does Pay**

Playing at IMPs, all red, as dealer against a strong pair, I held: ♠Q75 ♥AKQ42 ♦KT8 ♣A4.

I opened 1♥, of course, and heard a 1♠ overcall on my left. Partner found a raise, and after a game-try auction I played 4♥. The opening lead was the ♥J and dummy came down with: ♠862 ♥865 ♦A4 ♣QJT82.

I won the opening lead with the ace and then had to decide on an approach. There was a legitimate play for the contract. I could cross to the diamond ace, take the club hook, and then ruff a diamond if it won, eventually losing 3 spades. But I thought that line was a serious underdog. LHO hadn't led a spade, so the high spade honors were almost certainly split, and I was pretty skeptical that he'd have overcalled on a suit to the AJT without holding the club king. So I decided to try a swindle.

At trick 2 I led the club 4 from my hand. LHO passed the first test by rising with the club king, but then he had to decide what to do. He fell from grace by trying a diamond through dummy's ace. I ducked around to my king, and when hearts broke 3-2, I was able to draw trump, unblock the club ace, and then cross to the diamond ace to run clubs, ending up with 5 hearts, 4 clubs, and 2 diamonds for 11 tricks. Unfortunately the 13 IMPs we picked up on that hand weren't enough to win the match.

### **Let the Good Times Roll**

By the time this column sees print, our annual Fall Sectional will be under way at the Kayne-Eras Center. We're adding a 49er pair game to the Saturday afternoon schedule at 3:00 p.m., so we're looking forward to welcoming a number of newer players to the ranks of tournament veterans. And it's not too early to make plans for the Unit Holiday Party. Thanks to an unexpected wrinkle, we've had to change the date. The party is now scheduled for December 9, not the November date you may have seen on our sectional flyers. It'll be a great party, so save that date.

### **Around the Clubs**

Lou Papp and Allan Chapman, playing at Beverly Hills, won last month's unit Game. Club champions at Beverly Hills were Chuck Fonarow and Marshall Wengrow, Ellen Anten and Steve Gross, Sam Haveson and David Segal, and Michael Shaw and Stephen

UNITS *continued on page 17*

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

disbursing these funds.

The Grass Roots Fund shall be considered an additional, eligible beneficiary from regionally rated games at sectionals along with the Junior and International Funds and the ACBL Charity and Educational Foundations.

There was also a motion dealing with the awarding of masterpoints only for sanctioned games that follow the laws of Duplicate Bridge, with the exception of teaching games, where teachers are encouraged and often do use specially prepared hands to establish a lesson point. The purpose of this motion was an attempt to void computer robot games. However, it was pointed out that robot games are really the fairest game of all as each human player plays against the same robots as everyone else in the game and therefore gets the same play, thereby eliminating human chance or error.

One final motion passed held that playing directors in STaC games and their partners are ineligible to receive overall STaC masterpoint (silver point) awards, but are eligible to receive section awards. I voted against this as I felt that there are many small clubs and this rule might make the club manager (director) choose not to hold the game. It was also felt that not having this rule might encourage the playing director to cheat to get a better score. I felt that our club managers (directors) have enough integrity to not cheat, and if they did, the ACBL already has penalties in place to deal with this situation.

### **It's a Different View from Dummy**

The time is quickly approaching where I get to nominate two people to the ACBL Charity Foundation. If you know of anyone who has an interest in and does charity work, I would like to know about it.

Until next month, you can reach me at [Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net)

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

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

Nancy Bennett, Colleen Bilas, Jack Christy  
Jeanette Christy, George Davall, Nancy Guenther  
Robert Lapin, Kay Maeda, Jeanette Mamakos  
Richard Vendeland

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

Natasha Bomeisler, Paul Chrisney, Jack Dampman  
Carol Goldman, Jeff Grotenhuis, Ellie Lederman  
James Macklin, Joyce Newton, Ferne Petrie  
Greg Stewart

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

Mary Froede, Lee Hausner, Thomas Hilger, Peter Ji  
Andrea McNichol, Sandra Nagler, Jane Okimoto  
Regina Ann Strother, Charles Warner III

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

Joan Abrams, Mary Brow, Carole Collins  
Keiko Fukami, Richard Gero, Joseph Hooker  
Robert Krause, Karraine Murray, Frank Pinkus  
Richard Schulman, Judy Zucker, Lou Zucker

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

Om Chokriwala, Barry Cooper, Myrna Kalman  
Yurii Mukhin, Patricia Shellogg Seal, Bonny Walsh

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

Jane Reid, Madhu Sudan, Zachary Vedro

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

Tracy Boys, Alyssa Kennedy, Elaine Moore  
Frani Ridder, Karen Schwartz, Mike Ullman

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

Helen Malzer, Betty Pavey

### **Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)**

Brandon Sheumaker

### **Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)**

Samuel Wang

# Los Angeles Fall Regional

**October 22 - 28, 2012**

**Torrance Marriott South Bay**

**3635 Fashion Way  
Torrance, CA 90503**

**(405 Freeway to Hawthorne Blvd. South)**

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## **Contacts**

**Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin**

**310-720-6050**

**Partnerships: Betty Jackson:**

**562-594-4420: before 10/22/12**

**626-665-0596: after 10/22/12**

**DIC: Betty Bratcher**

## **Entry Fees**

**\$13 per session ( all Events)**

**\$14 for unpaid or non ACBL members**

**Juniors 21 and under play FREE**

**Juniors 22- 25: \$8.00 per session**



**Torrance, October 2012**

**Monday, October 22**

Education Foundation Charity Pairs (single sessions) ..... 2:00 PM & 7:00PM  
 Kick-off Bracketed KO (session 1) ..... 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, October 23**

Orange Side Game Series 1 (single sessions 1, 2 & 3) ..... 9:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Kick-off Bracketed KO (sessions 2, 3 & 4) ..... 9:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Pumpkin Bracketed KO (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Stratiflighted Gold Rush Pairs (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 299er Pairs (single sessions) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Single Session Swiss ..... 7:00 PM

**Wednesday, October 24**

Morning Swiss (session 1 of 2) ..... 9:00 AM  
 Orange Side Game Series 1 (single sessions 4 & 5) ..... 9:00 AM & 1:00 PM  
 Black Side Game Series 2 (single session 1) ..... 7:00 PM  
 Pumpkin Bracketed KO (sessions 3 & 4) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Ghostly Bracketed KO (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Stratified Open Pairs (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 299er Pairs (single sessions) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Single Session Swiss ..... 7:00 PM

**Thursday, October 25**

Morning Swiss (session 2 of 2) ..... 9:00 AM  
 Black Side Game Series 2 (single sessions 2, 3 & 4) ..... 9:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Ghostly Bracketed KO (sessions 3 & 4) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Witches' Bracketed KO (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Stratiflighted Gold Rush Pairs (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 299er Pairs (single sessions) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Single Session Swiss ..... 7:00 PM

**Friday, October 26**

Morning Bracketed Compact KO (session 1 of 2) ..... 9:00 AM  
 Black Side Game Series 2 (single session 5) ..... 9:00 AM  
 White Side Game Series 3 (single sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Witches' Bracketed KO (sessions 3 & 4) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Jack o' Lantern Bracketed KO (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Stratified Open Pairs (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Board-a-Match Teams (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 299er Pairs (single sessions) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Single Session Swiss ..... 7:00 PM

**Saturday, October 27**

Morning Bracketed Compact KO (session 2 of 2) ..... 9:00 AM  
 White Side Game Series 3 (single sessions 3, 4 & 5) ..... 9:00 AM, 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Jack o' Lantern Bracketed KO (sessions 3 & 4) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Saturday Bracketed Compact KO (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 Stratiflighted Gold Rush Pairs Pairs (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 1:00 PM & 7:00 PM  
 299er Pairs (single sessions) ..... 1:00 pm & 7:00 PM  
 Single Session Swiss ..... 7:00 PM

**Sunday, October 28**

Stratified Fast Pairs (sessions 1 & 2) ..... 10:30 AM & 1:15 PM  
 Stratiflighted Swiss Teams (7 boards, 7 matches) play-through ..... 10:30 AM & TBA

**Stratified Events:**

- 0-750/750-2000/2000+

**299 Pairs:** 0-20/50/100/299

**Stratiflighted Gold Rush Pairs:**

- Flight A/X: 0-2000/2000+
- Strats B/C: B=300-750 Gold! C= 0-300

**Stratified Events will be stratified based upon the average masterpoint holdings of the team members. Stratified Swiss Teams are stratified based upon the team member with the highest number of points.**

**Midchart allowed in:**

- Top Flight of any KO with at least 2 brackets
- A/A/X events
- BAM or 4 Session Swiss
- No Multi in Rounds of less than 6 boards

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: David Sacks

This month's panelists: Leo Bell, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, John Jones, Eddie Kantar, Mr. Mealy-mouth, and Adam Meyerson

1

MPs  
all vul

South	West	North	East
		3♠	dbl
redouble	4♣	pass	5♣
?			

You, South, hold: ♠Q7 ♥AJT87 ♦AK5432 ♣--  
What call do you make?

*Alas, this problem was a typo from where I originally found it. In Australian Bridge, the first bid was 1♠. But such as the problem was presented, it seems our experts pretty much agree that 5♠ is the best guess available. Though at this vulnerability, (I know I should consult Eddie), I would think that pass should be forcing. In theory, that somewhat detested redouble should have set up a forcing situation. If the pass were in fact forcing, I think it would be clearly superior to a stab at 5♠. I still like the problem with a 1♠, not 3♠ opening, though Eddie does provide us with sage advice, vis-a-vis his quote of former partner Bob Hamman.*

**Bell: 5♠.** Somewhere in my bridge education I learned that when an opponent voluntarily bids a vulnerable game, s/he expects to make it. For that to be true in this case, s/he must have freakish distribution such as: ♠x ♥KQxxx ♦void ♣AKQJxxx. So 5♣ might make and we might make 6♣. Since 5♠ looks relatively safe, that's my choice.

**Ed Davis: 5♠.** I may be giving partner too much rope on this but then again spades are probably 4-0 (how else can RHO have a 5♣ bid?) and the auction may not be over.

**Jones: 5♠.** The big bids 6♠, 6♦, 6♣ and 5NT (whatever that means) are too much for my taste; there must be quite a bit of distribution in the opponents' hands. Pass is too conservative, which leaves double and 5♠. I think we'll make 5♠ more often than not. I get a little vigorish because, once in a blue moon, 5♣ will make.

**Mr. Mealy-mouth: 6♣.** I love the controls and the ace-king side suit. I won't try anything fancy, as I don't see trying for a grand slam. But why did I mess around with a redouble?

**Dunitz: 5♠.** So you made me psyche a XX. I would have bid 4♠ the first time. Alas, I'm a 5♠ bidder now.

**Meyerson: Double.** I disagree with the redouble; I would've bid 4♠ at first turn which might avoid the whole problem. Given the actual auction, I will try a double without a great deal of confidence.

**Kantar: 5♠.** My first inclination was to bid 6♠, but Bob Hamman's voice is still ringing in my ears: "Edwin, I never have the hand you want me to have, so stop playing me for it." Also the bidding leads me to believe that suits aren't breaking all that well.

2

IMPs  
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♠ ?	pass	1♦ 2♠	pass pass

You, South hold: ♠A86432 ♥J7 ♦6 ♣AKJ3  
You are playing 12-14 NT. What call do you make?

*Since, on this hand, we are playing a weak NT, we should probably keep in mind that more often than not, partner has a 15-17 NT and bid 2♠ after we transferred (with the added knowledge that partner is actually guaranteeing at least 3 spades). The hand is clearly worth a slam try. The question is, which one. While 4♦ gets the hand described, I actually think it is a sixth spade too strong for that bid. [editor: How can a hand ever to be too strong for an unlimited bid?] Perhaps 4♦ would be best with the same hand but with 6-3-3-1 distribution. I think the 3♣ bidders have a better chance of finding out what they need to know, or at least of describing what they need. Leo's treatment actually is perhaps the best way to approach this hand. Our chances in slam are significantly different opposite four card support.*

**Mr. Mealy-mouth: 3♣.** What's weak notrumps got to do with it? Opposite (a) ♠Qxx ♥Axxx ♦KQJxx ♣x, even 4♠ isn't assured, but opposite (b) ♠Kxxx ♥Axx ♦Axxx ♣Qx, [editor: This hand would open INT] 7♠ is odds-on. That tells me the right course is to try for slam. 3♣ looks like a good start, but wouldn't we be better off if 4♣ were a slam try showing the ace instead of the currently fashionable splinter?

**Meyerson: 4♦ (splinter).** I'm worth a try, but I think not more than this. If partner has wastage in diamonds,

there are many hands where slam is poor.

**Davis: 4♦.** If partner bids 4♠, that is the end, otherwise I'll check on the ♣K.

**Dunitz: 4♦.** This is a slam try with diamond shortness. It's unlikely but possible to have two heart losers and a trump hole - so I will pass 4♠ if partner doesn't get excited over 4♦.

**Jones: 4♦.** We can make a cold grand opposite some hands (♠KQxx ♥Ax♦ Axxxx ♣Qx) and might go down in 4♠ opposite other hands (♠Qxx ♥KQxx ♦KQJxx ♣x). 4♦ splinter slam try looks like the best way to get partner to evaluate his hand.

**Kantar: 3♣.** How can it wrong not to bid 3♣? 6-4 bid some more.

**Bell: 2NT.** Normally, when playing 12 - 14 notrump, a raise to 2 of partner's major either shows a 15-17 notrump with 4-card support or a hand that reevaluates to that range with distribution. I play that 2NT here asks partner to show whether s/he has 3 or 4 card support and either a minimum or maximum. If partner shows a maximum, I'll make a slam try. If not, I'll just bid 4♠.

Los Angeles  
Fall Regional

October 22 - 28, 2012

what do you think?  
send letters to  
the editor to:  
bridgenews@district23.org



South	West	North	East
	1NT	double	3NT
double	pass	pass	4♣
?			

You, South, hold: ♠A9743 ♥K842 ♦T ♣864  
 Opponents play 12-14 NT. What call do you make?

*Adam touches on an important concept on this type of hand: it is easier to sort things out when you play the double as takeout. Pass is still forcing but denies a hand that would be best described with a takeout double. Though, if playing it this style I would pull 4♦ to 4♣ implying the majors but with longer spades. Forward going forcing passes may well be best suited for hands in which we have already established a fit. A forcing pass, with double being more penalty convertible values, does not imply takeout shape.*

**Meyerson: Double;** I play this as takeout-oriented in this sort of auction (planning to pull 4♦ to 4♥) but happy if partner leaves it in. Of course, some will have the opposite agreement (pass being takeout and double penalty); it's good to have a general rule in these sorts of strong sequences below game.

**Kantar: Pass.** If this isn't a forcing pass, I've never seen one.

**Bell: Pass.** I think this should be absolutely forcing. Bidding 4♠ here is just a shot in the dark. If partner doubles or bids 4♦, now I can bid 4♥, and partner should work it out. I have both majors. Why not sit for the double? I fully expect the opponents to have a

nine-card club fit.

**Mr. Mealy-mouth: Pass.** My double of 3NT let partner in on the secret that east psyched 3NT, so my pass now is forcing. Partner will either double, or bid a five-card major, if he has one and a very strong hand. I will pass again if partner doubles and East runs to 4♦ (as I expect).

**Dunitz: Pass.** I think this is close between double and pass. I'm a passer. Partner will likely bid 4♦. I will correct that to 4♥ which shows both majors.

**Jones: Pass (forcing).** Let's see, 1NT is doubled for penalty and the fruitcake to my rightbids 3NT?!?!? I hope the goofball is having fun. David Mahler used to call bids like that masturbating at the table (except his terminology was significantly more colorful). It doesn't cause me any problem yet, as I have a clearly-forcing pass. I will bid 4♠ over partner's 4♦ bid. I am perfectly willing to play 5♦ if partner bids it, either before or after 4♠. The ♦10 may be a nice card.

**Davis: Pass.** I'm betting we can make 4 of a major. I'll pass if partner doubles and bid 4♥ over 4♦ hoping this will convey more than one place to play.

UNITS continued from page 11

Goldstein. Putting up 70% games were Phyllis and Mario Mory, Don Krauss and Ted Gibbs, Peter Benjamin and Aram Bedros, Rhoda and Lew Himmell, and Chuck Fonarow and Marshall Wengrow.

Barrington added a pair of 70% games by Sheri Rivera and Aram Bedrow, another pair by Michael

Nash, partnering with Barbara Hamman and Hans Kraepelien, and a solo effort by Nelly and Colin Gordon. Aram Bedros and Birger Holmquist tacked on a 70% game at Cyma's Game.

**Climbing the Ladder**

Our unit's newest Junior Masters are Susan Jameson, Mariann

Lord, and Arnold Stein. Linda and Roger Rasmussen became Club Masters, and Herb Garfinkel is now a Sectional Master.

Shirley Levine has become a Bronze Life Master. Harriet Dana and Joel Schiff have reached Silver Life Master status. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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



South      West      North      East  
 ?

You, South, hold: ♠Q ♥AKJ8 ♦KQJ ♣97542  
 What call do you make?

*Well, we got three different answers, actually four if you count Mitch's lack of making a choice. I think 1♦ is better than 1♣ if one is going to treat the hand as having reversing strength. Opening 1NT with a stiff Q is almost always a stopper opposite Jxx if it is in the NT bidder's hand. Also, there are times when it is right for the hand with the queen to be declarer in NT. If one is playing four card majors, I think you are on solid footing opening 1♥ and rebidding a slightly heavy 1NT over 1♠. But I think the extra burden of lying about a five-card major makes opening 1NT much more attractive to those playing five-card majors.*

**Davis:** 1NT. This is a better description than a reverse (ugh... too weak and the clubs look more like a 4-card suit) and the hand is too strong for a 12-14 1NT rebid.

**Jones:** 1NT. I have no problem with opening 1♣ and rebidding 1NT (over 1♠), or opening 1♥ and rebidding 2♣. I could even accept 1♦ and rebidding 2♣ (shades of Richard Walsh). The only auction I can't buy is opening 1♣ and reversing into hearts! That is way too much.

**Bell:** 1NT. Second choice would be 1♥ since opening 1♣ and reversing to 2♥ is an overbid.

**Kantar:** 1♥. I've been doing this my whole life with hands like this - powerful hearts, singleton spade, lousy five card suit, etc. and I have no plans to stop now. Besides, it works... most of the time.

**Meyerson:** 1♣. Yes, there is some possibility that partner bids 1♠ and opponents are passing and I am forced into an ugly reverse.... but against this there are many other ways the auction could go, and I'd rather be (maybe, sometimes) forced into a slight distortion later in the bidding than make one immediately on my first call.

**Dunitz:** Three actions worth considering: Open 1♣ and rebid 1NT over 1♠ (I'm a little too heavy for that action); Open 1NT (this is reasonable and only a slight distortion); and lastly, our old friend from rubber bridge days—the zoftig 4 card major. This action will be a big winner or possibly, a big loser. Here I am...

**Mr. Mealy-mouth:** 1♥. Strong four-card heart suits make fine openings, especially with shortness in spades. Close second choice: 1NT. A singleton queen is just about as good as a low doubleton. Distant third choice: 1♦. At least I can stand the lead against West's possible spade contract, and handle a 1♠ response by rebidding 2♣. Out in left field: 1♣. I detest five to the umpty almost as much as S.J. Simon detested four to the umpty.

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South	West	North	East
1♣ ?	1♦	1♥	2♦

You, South, hold: ♠KJ8 ♥KJ5 ♦K72 ♣Q976  
What call do you make?

*Oh yee slaves to convention. Hands change as the auction progresses. This hand has gotten worse and worse. MrMealy is probably right that passing initially was the best action. But this is today's bridge world and nobody passes a 13 count. That said, making a support double now with possibly a working 9 HCP hand is only asking for trouble. Even if support doubles are mandatory with 3-card support, it is mandatory that we not leave our thinking cap at the door. This hand is no longer an opening bid in support of hearts.*

**Meyerson:** Easy **pass** for me, as I prefer my support doubles to be **optional** and imply something similar to takeout shape. Of course, if you play **mandatory** support doubles you have to double, and I think this is a weakness of the method.

**Dunitz: Pass.** Should support doubles be mandatory? I pass! Please give this hand to my regular partners so they can have a good laugh

**Mr. Mealy-mouth: Pass.** What I should have done last turn. This bad 12-HCP hand [editor: Mealy is devaluing the hand because of the 4-3-3-3 distribution and that it contains no aces] has suddenly become a bad 9-HCP hand.

**Bell: Double.** I don't play support doubles as mandatory, but I have full values for my opening bid despite the poorly placed ♦K.

**Davis: Double.** Showing 3 hearts. My hand is not very good but partner will strain not to let them play 2♦ when they have a fit. Partner is not 4-4 in the majors as there was no negative double over 1♦ so partner is likely to have 4 clubs (or a fifth heart) and I don't want to hear 3♣ from partner on a competitive hand. Also, they are more likely to take the push to 3♦ over 2♥ than over 3♣. The ♦K is not always wasted as sometimes partner will have the ace or queen of diamonds and sometimes the ace will be on sides for us.

**Jones: Double.** If I play more or less mandatory redoubles, this one looks automatic with ♥KJ5. If I play optional support doubles then I get to choose between pass and double. Even then, double is reasonable despite the defensive oriented hand.

**Kantar: Pass.** Maturity and mostly fear keep me from making a support double or a single raise if not playing support doubles with this likely wasted ♦K.

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