

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Focusing on the Goodwill

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



Often I get requests to write an article about rudeness at the bridge table because unfortunately, we lose many players annually because of such bad behavior. I would prefer to write about goodwill at the bridge table to remind us all of what we should do rather than what we

shouldn't.

The ACBL has a standing Goodwill Committee whose mission is the promotion of active ethics, awareness of those with disabilities such as hearing loss, and support of junior programs. Each District Director is entitled to appoint two lifetime members from their district annually. Rand hasn't announced his choices for this year yet and has asked players in District 23 to recommend players who they believe merit such distinction. Such players are good partners, good teammates, and good opponents.

Marty Bergen gave good advice in The Bridge Bulletin, January 1964 on how to be a good partner.

1. Remember that this is only a card game. Have a good time and make sure partner does too.
2. Don't give lessons (unless you are being paid to do so).
3. Like partner and root for him/her 100 percent. Remember you and partner are on the same side and partner wants to win as much as you do. It's OK to be nice to a partner you happen to live with.

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Focus Sessions and Charity Grants

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



First item is of course our Fall Regional to be held later this month at the Torrance Marriott. See the ad in this issue of the Bridge News.

Hand in hand with the Regional, Sharon Anderson, ACBL President and her husband Roger will be attending. Sharon had been conducting Focus Sessions with members of the ACBL as she visits the various ACBL districts. She will be having a Focus Session with our district during her visit. I need ten volunteers to attend this session. I already have two participants, but I would like to get a mix of teachers, club owners, beginning players, advanced players, and unit officials. Please contact me if you are interested.

District 23 Charity Grants

On a four or five year cycle, the ACBL Charity Foundation provides a \$30,000 grant to each District for distribution to their local charities. It has been my practice, that when it is District 23's turn to receive the grant, to invite all of our units to submit requests. I am able to divide the grant into six smaller grants of \$5,000 each. For this year, the following grants have been submitted to the Charity Foundation.

On behalf of the Torrance-South Bay Unit, the Toberman Neighborhood Center/Auxiliary is a designated charity. The unit has been supporting this charity for many years. Toberman was founded in 1903 by James and Emma Toberman as a memorial to their only son Homer, who passed away at age 29 in 1902. James came to Los Angeles in 1864 when he was assigned here to be an IRS tax assessor by President Abraham Lincoln. James then became the mayor of the City of Los Angeles from 1872 to 1874 and from 1878 to 1882. The agency was first located in Echo Park and was originally named The Homer Toberman Mission.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 11*

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

4. When you choose to play bridge with someone, it is unfair to get upset when he/she doesn't play any better than usual.
5. Never say anything to partner unless you would want him/her to say it to you.
6. If you feel the urge to be nasty, sarcastic or critical, excuse yourself and take a walk.
7. When you have time between hands, try to discuss topics other than bridge.
8. Think twice before verbally analyzing a hand (you may be wrong). Never assume partner made a mistake until the hand is over and you have time to think it through.
9. When asking another player about a disaster ask about your hand, not partner's. Don't ever criticize or embarrass partner in front of others. Never side with an opponent against your partner.
10. If you are too good for a partner or don't enjoy playing with him/her, choose someone else next

time rather than being a martyr (but don't dump a partner unless you're sure).

The Goodwill Committee also has a list of goodwill gestures:

1. Greet and welcome opponents
2. Always say, "Director, Please"
3. Lead or place dummy before you write the contract in your score card
4. Mentor a new player
5. Compliment opponents play
6. Discuss hands after the game
7. Accept defeat and victory with grace
8. Say, "Thank you, partner"
9. Leave a tidy table
10. Smile often

All of us can think of players who routinely don't do these things. Let's honor those who do. If you have a suggestion of a player you believe should be singled out for this honor please let me or Rand know

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Grass Roots Fund

The ACBL established a Grass Roots Fund and designated December as "Grass Roots Fund Month." 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.) Funds raised shall be returned annually no later than March 31 to the individual district in which those funds were raised, and shall be used by the district to help fund Grass Roots Events. Grass Roots Events are the Grand National Teams and the North American Pairs.

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.

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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

The world is boiling and more hatred surrounds and threatens Israel, so why should bridge in the Antelope Valley be any different? The cauldron simmers here in the high desert.

Special congratulations go out to Ted Maki and George Macdonald for being our top performing local players at the recent Orange County Regional with over 13 points won. Great job guys!

The hard work of Kathy Swaine and Rand Pinsky continues to bear fruit as the Valencia game remains a big hit with all our players. Rita Vanatter has seen her Castaic club continue to do well, but hopes to add to her core group of loyal players as she works hard to improve an already great game experience for her loyal followers. The recently formed "Friends of Rita's and Friends of Kathy's" hope to aid in the future growth of these wonderful clubs. Even Paula Oliveras, who just started her "Friendly Bridge Club" featuring a Monday game, has acquired a "Friends of Paula's" group. Wow, the base of support in the Santa Clarita area is wonderful.

Valencia club winners this past month have been: John Swanson & Sid Brownstein, John Langer & Paula Oliveras, Ruth Baker & George MacDonald, Paul Mostman & Bruce Bloch, Hansford Rowe & Adam Ellenfeldt, Marguerite Pinkers & Hugh Bartlett **twice**, Dave Gasper and his wife Marlene **twice**, and Jeff Stock & Bert Stock.

Castaic club winners have been Lamont Johnson & Basant Shah, Bert Stock & Paul Gill, Melanie Moran & Mira Rowe, and Bill Brodek & Hugh Bartlett **twice**.

The Lancaster club has seen Mary Ellen Downs & Ginny Dudley, Sandi & Ron Oest, Bob Hart & Onarita Pallanti post wins. A big welcome to Hal Underwood and Ben Sour for breaking through into the winners column. Russ Buker & Marlene Warren Gasper tallied a win along with Dan Spector & Rick Jackson and Ginny Dudley & Sylvia Fieman. Gloria Robinson

chalked up wins with Dave Gasper as well as Viviane Dinehart. Brad Ward scooped up wins with May Abagi & Marlene Warren Gasper and Dave Gasper & Marlene Warren Gasper completed a good month with a win.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: www.acblunit557.org
club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

August 19 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Larry and Sibyl Slutsky, 2nd Sankar Reddy/John Petrie, 3rd Carmela Chiurazzi/Walt Schafer, 4th Collen Bilas/Mark Teaford, 5th Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 6th Kaye Amdon/Eileen Niesen. B flight overalls: 4/5 tie between Lisa Kuo/MuratVeysoglu and Jo and John Melis, 6th Shirley Andrews/Tom Ludwig. And over-alls in the C flight were 2nd Robert and Richard Bakovic, 3rd Lynn Johnson/Rosemary Ford, 4th Bob and Pat Adam. In the NLM section first over-all were Linda Dillon/Ruth Roe, 2nd Susan Bibby/Sue Boswell, 3rd Jane Okimoto/Darlene Harrison. Congratulations to all!

70+% games in the club August 16 through Sept 15: In open games: Aug 20 Bob and John Weiser had a 69.75% game; Aug 21 Mark Itabashi/Steve Lowe had a double-header: 72.28% in the afternoon game and 70.14% in the evening game; Sept 7 Marcie Evans/Jo Daigle had 70.74%. And in NLM games Aug 28 Sunny Harper/Rick Schaeffer had 70.54% and in the Sept 10 evening NLM game Pam Cronn/Sharon Biederman had 70.83%. Congratulations to you all!

Big masterpoint awards: Big point awards in open pairs games August 16 through September 15: Only the Aug 19 Unit Game generated large mp awards: Sibyl and Larry Slutsky were 1st winning 4.33mp and John Petrie/Sankar Reddy were 2nd winning 3.25mp. Congratulations to both pairs!

New member: Transferring into our unit: Robert Mueller. Welcome to the club! →

Status changes: Club Masters— Jack Dampman, Joyce Newton; Sectional Master— Jane Okimoto; NABC Master— Jane Reid; Bronze Life Master— Mike Ullman; and new Gold Life Master— Brandon Sheumaker. Congratulations to you all!!

Get well wishes to John Killian who is still recovering from injuries sustained when he was hit by a car while riding his bicycle over a month ago, Sharon Appel who fell and broke her hip last month, and Jon Yinger who was thrown from a moving car last month. (It was a 1951 Imperial— no seat belts. Thanks to all of those who have sent me get well wishes, especially Rosalie Storc who baked the delicious eggplant for me).

Upcoming events at the club: October 1-7 D22-D23 STaC week: Hand records, overall awards, card fees \$11. October 14-20 Club Appreciation Week: Extra points, regular prices. October 21: Unit Game-lunch 12:30, game at 1 p.m. October 31 Halloween Party and unit-rated game: Extra points, regular prices.

No Leisure World ACBL Bridge World news this month. Our regular correspondent, Joan Tschiriki, is on vacation, and will return next month.

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

Ge 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.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Chuck Cordaro and Marie Nimmrich

Unit Game Sunday October 7 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations to our newest Life Masters Madhu Sudan and Sandy Rucker; and a huge achievement by Samuel Wang to become a Diamond Life Master (over 5000 master points). These are bridge milestones and the unit is proud of you. Did you know that only 1.41% of the entire ACBL membership have the status of Diamond Life Master. We have four diamond life masters in our unit: Jeff Fang, Jim Rosenstiel, Peter Szecsi and Samuel Wang. And we have two Emerald Life Masters with more than 7500 master points: John

Jones and Jeff Goldsmith. They have more than 7500 master points and are in the top 99.4% of the ACBL total membership (only .60% of ACBL members have 7500 master points or more.).

Welcome to our new members Carl Chang and Kenneth Chuk. And speaking of new members, we are in need of them. Slowly but inexorably the bridge population is declining, which in turn diminishes the attendance at the club games. Who would not applaud Art and Diane Gulbrandsen at the Bridge Center for inducing new people to take up this time-honored pastime? How many countless people have joined us through the auspices of the Bridge Center? We are very grateful and fortunate in having these wonderful club owners in our midst.

Eight Is Enough (August Unit Game): We had 17 teams at our Eight Is Enough game in August. And the winners were John Barrow, Susan Jones, Amr Elghamry and Dominique Moore. Second place winners were Nancy Nakanishi, Ray Malki, Cheryl Loggins and Ann Croupe. Third were Rae and Jerry Murbach, Jack Chang and Nolan Chang.

Jan Wickersham organized this game and had pizza for everyone. Thank you, Jan. Jan does so much for this unit that I think it deserves some mention. She hosts our monthly unit board meetings; she brings food every week for the San Marino Wednesday night games; she organizes special events for the unit (sectional, election party, etc.); and she has served for many years on the ALACBU Board and done many services for that organization. Jan loves the game and we love Jan.

September Unit Game: The "Red Baron" (Richard Banta to you) and John Villalobos won the September unit game, with Jim Rodgers and Ann McClelland taking second place. Third were Shiu-Ming Huang and Frank Shih; fourth were Diana Borgatti and Cathy Martin. Miriam Harrington was our hostess and you can count on Miriam for excellent hospitality.

Our next unit game will take place on Sunday 7 October at 1:00 p.m. Come early for food and conversation.

Chuck's story

Like many of us I learned to play bridge at the office during lunch. My office mate, Russ Sturges, taught me the Goren system, which I played for decades while the game grew up around me.

Since we only had an hour for lunch, we would →

deal a couple of hands while our opponents made their way to our office. Russ loved to play practical jokes, and he liked nothing better than to set up a hand our unwary opponents would always take to slam, only to be cross-ruffed silly while Russ chortled to himself.

Russ was the nephew of John Sturges, who directed about 50 films. Most were action movies like "The Magnificent Seven," but the critics best liked "The Old Man and the Sea" and "Bad Day at Black Rock." Sturges was chosen to direct these two because he could get along with Spencer Tracy, who looked amiable enough on screen but, like many of us, could prove to be more difficult behind the cameras.

Our supervisor, Ron, drove to work in a nice little Datsun Fairlady convertible. To keep his hair in place Ron wore a beret. He claimed to have been a member of the Maquis underground in WWII. Although Russ and I never heard him utter anything longer than a single curse word in French, his affiliation did explain how the Germans were able to capture the country in only a month.

When we lost our largest contract (writing independent test reports for Navy test programs), many of us became expendable. When Russ was called in for his termination by Ron and our department manager, he accomplished something I had never seen before or since: He simply refused to go.

Russ must have inherited some of his Uncle John's acting genes. When I asked how he survived, he said, "I just looked them in the eye and said, 'You can't fire me! You can't fire me!'" I was thrilled at this happy news. It was only later that I stopped and wondered, "How do you look two guys straight in the eye?" I'd hoped they were at least standing close together. If not, they must have been really transfixed. Later, each one called him aside and said, "I'm the one who got your job back for you."

Anyway, that was the extent of my bridge education until I arrived at the Arcadia Bridge Center 30 years later. I was piqued when Art started me in the rookie section. But I finished last, dropped down to the beginners, and finished last there, too. In time, with the help of Art's lectures, some patient partners like Bettie Middleton and Julio Cervantes, and a book called "Common Sense Bidding," I was able to leave Goren behind and play the Standard American system.

Great story, Chuck!

Cathy's Game: We are hearing good reports coming from Cathy's Game on Friday mornings at San Marino.

Attendance has picked up and Cathy is outstanding as a director. A cordial atmosphere, wonderful people with whom to spend the day, good competition, and only \$6.00 card fee. What more could any bridge player desire? Game starts at 11 a.m., so give it a try.

Glendale Sectional: Our esteemed unit member Jeff Goldsmith won the most points at the Glendale Sectional, 20.41.

North American Pairs: Mike Marcucci is organizing the next stage in the North American Pairs qualifying games, this time at the district level. The first qualifying semifinal game will be held at San Marino on Sunday, October 14. Points will be red and goooooooooooooold. The second semifinal game will be held in San Fernando on Sunday 21 October. And then on to St. Louis!!

Travel: Jeannette Deverian is in Turkey as we write. Carole Collins is in the middle of a month-long trip to the Baltic.

That's the news for this month. Until next time, Finis coronat opus.

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Annual Two-Session Unit Dinner
Saturday, Oct. 20, 11:00 a.m.

As usual, the major unit event for October is the annual two-session open pairs and membership meeting. The official purpose of the event is to have the unit members choose the new unit board for 2013. To entice participation, a free catered dinner will be served between sessions. In order to make sure we order the right amount of food, players who plan to join us are requested to sign up with Penny Barbieri or notify one of the current board members at least a week before the October 20 game date. I can't think of a more frightening scene than a bunch of starving bridge players rioting because the board failed to order enough food.

In addition to signing people up for dinner, we are desperately seeking volunteers to serve on the new board. Some of the current members have been in office since the Eisenhower administration, and we would welcome a chance to let some replacements take over. If you are willing to serve, contact Richard Patterson. He will welcome you with open arms (or just a →

handshake, if you're not into gratuitous hugging).

Moving on to last month's results, we have the second edition of our new feature—the honor roll of top masterpoint winners in last month's LaFetra club games. The top ten were: Vic Sartor (10.89), Bill Papa (7.77), Clint Lew (7.01), Genise Hasan (6.89), Dave Ruoff (6.41), Paul Chrisney (6.35), Susan Ruoff (6.18), Richard Patterson (5.82), Ron Purkis (5.63), and Lary Alba (4.69). Top game of the month was a 73.9% by Papa-Sartor, which was good enough to take first place in the District 23 STaC.

The August Grand National Pairs qualifying game was won by Dave and Susan Ruoff. Other overall finishers included Eric Tan, Amr Elghamry, Lulu Minter, Vic Sartor, Denise Morgan, and Genise Hasan.

Ron Purkis and Ned Sissel took first overall in the September unit game, with Tom Lill and Ann McClelland winning opposite direction. Charlotte Capelle, Hanan Mogharbel, Dave Ruoff, Susan Ruoff, Richard Patterson, and Roger Boyar Finished in the overalls. Richard Patterson and Wendy Wanderman tied for first in the September individual, followed by Roger Boyar and Clint Lew.

Our hand of the month is a fine example of how to handle the Michaels cue bid. You hold : ♠KQxxx ♥AKJxxx ♦-- ♣Ax Your RHO opens 1♦. You make the obvious 2♦ cuebid and pard bids 2♠. Opener bids 3♦.

Your bid? 4♦ seems reasonable. After all, you hold a real moose. Pard just bids a prosaic 4♠. Are you done? Not the hero of our story. He now makes a nice cuebid of 5♣. This finally wakes pard up, and he jumps to 6♠. It turns out that 7♠ makes, but just bidding the slam is enough for a good score.

In closing, this month we lost a friend, Mike Emminger. His many friends in our local bridge family have expressed their support for his wife Susie and their admiration for Mike's courage and unflagging positive outlook on life. He will be missed.

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Upcoming Unit Events

Our next Unit Game is scheduled for Saturday, October 20 at the 750 Bridge Club located at the Prince of Peace Church. 5700 Rudnick Avenue, Woodland

Hills, CA 91367. Join us for a catered lunch at 12:00 noon and one session of bridge beginning at 1:00 p.m. There will be one stratified game for 0-199ers and all other players will be stratified in an open game. This plan will allow players to socialize with other players whom they may not see on a regular basis. Card fees are \$7.00 and convenient parking is available. Reservations are appreciated and can be made at the Bridge Academy, the 750 Club, or by e-mail to Mike Fierman at mandhent@sbcglobal.net

Unit News

Awards were announced at the last Unit Game. Recipients of the Ace of Clubs Awards are those players who have earned the most master points, in their category, at bridge clubs. Awardees for 2011 included Ron Malkin, Elaine Roth, Samy Antoun, Larry Kussin, Paul Endler, Dan Strauss, Fred Kleinzweig, Shoshana Blumenfeld, William Carlson, Jr., Ellen Anten, Bill Sides, Gilbert Stinebaugh, and Martin Blain.

Mini-McKenney 2011 recipients are Shoshana Blumenfeld, Linda Silvey, Dan Strauss, Doug Beagle, Paul Endler, Bunny Roth, Sam Antoun, Alan Palansky, Marta Monheim, Marty Blain, and Andy Vinock

The Kaiser Award was presented to Om Chokriwala. This award was established by Roz Kaiser to honor her husband. The award is presented to the player with fewer than 500 points who earns the most points at the Unit 561 Sectional. Well done players and congratulations to all!

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for August 2012

750 Bridge Club: Paul Endler 9.51, Doug Beagle 8.07, Don Rosen 7.02, Larry Gordon 6.82, Ann Dupont 6.31, Ellen Carrier 5.53, Bill Raines 5.53, Bob Glasser 4.97, Linda Silvey 4.80, Susan Raphael 4.64

Bridge Academy Under 750 Masterpoints: Ron Stewart 4.81, John Van Egmond 2.76, Estelle Baron 2.67, Martin Hurwitz 2.66, Gregory Bozin 2.07, Sheila Singer 2.07, John Tickner 1.98, Deborah Levinson 1.83, Douglas Timmer 1.56, Samy Antoun 1.56.

Bridge Academy Open Masterpoints: Gary Frans 12.69, Armand Szulc 11.93, Joan Rubin 11.88, Gilbert Stinebaugh 11.28, Leda Danzig 9.77, Dick Lum 9.03, Sheila Bozin 8.56, Seymour Zemlyn 8.50, Tammy Purkin 8.41, N. Purkin 7.80.

In Memoriam

We lost Winnie Green to cancer in late August. Players were shocked to hear the news since Winnie had told few people about her illness. Winnie had continued to play bridge with the same quiet, gentle persona that we had grown to know and respect. We extend condolences to her family, friends, and bridge partners.

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.

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568

SBBC: www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

District 22/23 STAC: October 1-6

Club Championship: Wednesday, Oct 10, 11:30

Club Championship: Saturday, Oct 13, 3:00

ProAm Unit Game: Sunday, Oct 14, 1:00 (tentative)

NLM Club Championship: Thursday, Oct 18, 10:30

Club Championship: Friday, Oct 19, 11:30

Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening

Friday night games on October 5 and 19.

Special Games and Lectures For 299er's at the Torrance Regional

There is a Regional Tournament at the Torrance Marriot Hotel October 22-28. There are lectures on various Bridge topics from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. by ACBL certified teachers for 299er players. On Monday, October 22 there will be a two-hour lecture by Teri Atkinson followed by a lunch. Advanced signups are required for this one. Call Jan Wickersham at (626)-355-2666. Following the lectures there will be a game. Players with 0-5 masterpoints will play for free.

Note: The South Bay Bridge Club will be closed during the Regional.

Club Championships

The North American Pairs Qualifier on August 31 was won by Allen Hamburger/Ron Murray in both Flights A and B. The Club Championship on September 10 was captured by Gary King/Ted Gibbs in flight A with Ron Carlson/Morris Lorber taking Flight B honors.

The North American Pairs Qualifier at Veterans Park on August 15 was led by Chiye and Bruce Horiguchi in Flight A with Judith and James Scott taking Flight B and C honors.

Team Winners

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

- Aug 21: Elaine Godin, Ed Srenco, Neal Kleiner, Bob Svensrud
 Aug 28: Ted Gibbs, Bruce Horiguchi, Ron Carlson, Ernie Frank
 Sept 4: Krystyna and Dennis Hollingworth, Dolly and Bruce Weiner
 Sept 11: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

Western Conference STAC

The following lists pairs from games at the South Bay Bridge Club who finished in the overalls of the recent Western Conference STAC.

Monday Morning, August 20

10A Richard Cheng/John Brailliar

Monday Evening, August 20

5A Bea and John Brailliar

10B 4C Jean and Harold Brunner

Wednesday Morning, August 22

8A 3B Cal Waller/Bob Rothman

Thursday Morning, August 23, 749er Pairs

1A 1B 1C Joyce Klossner/Roberta Brown

2A 2B Suzanne Kuuskmae/
Shameem Rahimtoola

3A Marianne David/Beebe Morehead

4A 3B Terry Arnush/Elaine Asch

5A 4B Jeanette Betts/David Lyons

→

6A 5B 2C Elizabeth Biggins/Lynn Evans
 Friday Morning, August 24, 99er Pairs
 1A 1B Carolyn Woo/Edward Bucklin
 2A 2B Joyce Field/Julie Tan

Saturday Afternoon, August 25, Aux Pairs
 3A Fran Israel/Mark Raggio

GUV Memorial Award

At the recent Irvine Regional I was a member of a Swiss team that also had a player with conservative tendencies (my pard) and a former ACBL president who is anything but conservative. We had a chance for plus 850 on one board which would have been worth 13 IMPs. Instead our net on the board was minus 1900 equal to an 18 IMP loss, a 31 IMP swing.

Without giving names the conservative culprit on our team held ♠Axxx ♥KQxx ♦x ♣Axxx with no one vul. On this board he picked the wrong time to try to lose his conservative image. His partner (me) opened 1♣ and RHO bid 5♦. We do not play Negative Doubles at the 5 level and conservative culprit decided to bid 6♣ which was doubled (clubs were going 6-0) and I went for 800. A double of 5♦ would have netted our side 800. I must admit that if I had the imagination to bid 6♥, 6♠, or 6NT our losses would have been limited to 300.

At the other table the presidential culprit held ♠xx ♥xx ♦QJTxxxxx ♣--. The story I heard is that he mistakenly made a bid which showed 2 suits with this hand. After that the opponents wound up in 5♥ which was destined for a 1-trick set. But our former president couldn't stand the thought of not bidding his 9 bagger and bid 6♦ going for 1100. We didn't win the match. However with a 31 IMP swing in the final result we would have won going away.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Mind Games

The World Mind Games took place last month in Lille, France, and they included bridge. In addition to the traditional events designed for teams that represent a single nation, there's also an event called the World

Transnational Teams for teams that don't want to so restrict themselves. As you may have guessed, I'm leading this month's column with this event because our very own unit boasts a winner. The team captained by Reese Milner emerged victorious over a field of world-class teams. Congratulations to Reese and his teammates. I'm guessing our unit has more world championships per capita than any other unit, so keep those titles coming.

The Road to St. Louis

For those who took the trouble to qualify at the club level for the North American Open Pairs, the next step in the process occurs this month. To advance to the District Final (held January 20 at our very own Beverly Hills Bridge Club), you must play one of the semifinals. They take place October 14 in San Marino and October 21 at the Bridge Academy. If you qualified in more than one flight, you can play both semifinals, but you must play a different flight in each semifinal; in other words, you only get one shot to qualify in each flight. If you're fortunate enough to qualify for the District Finals in more than one flight, you'll have to choose at that time, because all three flight finals are held simultaneously. Good luck, and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Party Vegetable

Watch your mailboxes this month. Invitations will arrive for our annual Holiday Party, being held again at the popular Beverly Hills Country Club. The date for this year's party is December 9, which means that the bridge afterward will be part of the Great Western STAC. And that, in turn, means that along with great company and the chance to be the first on your block to learn who won this year's Volunteer of the Year and Player of the Year awards, you'll also have the chance (if you score well enough) to win roughly 20 silver points in a single session. It's the must-attend social event of the season, and you won't want to miss it.

Voices from the Past

The tournament trail continues unabated, and this month's report includes winners from events up and down the California coast. First, a trip to Santa Ana for their annual Labor Day Regional, where Adam and →

Elianna Meyerson send their regards. For the second year in a row, the tournament's premier pair event, the two-day All Western Open Pairs, was won by someone who started the year in our unit. Sid Brownstein followed Adam Meyerson's victory last year (shortly after he and Elianna relocated to the Bay Area) by winning the event this year. Your Humble Scribe was fortunate enough to nab a victory on the final day of the tournament in the Fast Open Pairs.

Our unit's success continued in Irvine. Joel Schiff, Rick Turner, and Alyssa Kennedy grabbed the brass ring by winning their bracket of the Saddleback Knockout Teams event. Bill Rogers added a victory in the Fast Pairs event. The Great Western STAC, which combines results across most clubs west of the Rockies (and a few clubs further east) ended with two wins in our unit. Jill Richmond won the Tuesday evening event, claiming the prize in an event with 152.5 tables. Not to be outdone, Sherie Schneider and Viktor Anikovich won the Thursday afternoon event, which included 503

tables. Well done to one and all.

Location, Location, Location

And then of course, there was our annual Labor Day Sectional. Viktor Anikovich got things rolling by winning the Friday Open Pairs event. Lynn Finkle won the Saturday morning Flight B/C/D Pairs game, and Joel Schiff warmed up for Irvine by winning the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs game. Mike Savage kept the ball rolling for our unit by winning the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams event. Sunday saw Pam Wittes take top honors in the afternoon Open Pairs game, while Fred Zhang and Howard Einberg won the Sunday Compact Knockout. The tournament concluded with the Labor Day Swiss Teams event, which Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten won.

And that brings me to a discussion of the playing site. The Unit Board and our Tournament Manager (who has spent dozens of hours vetting possible sites for →



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 Free Lesson - Includes Lunch
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<p>Teri Atkinson - Bridge Teacher and Gold Life Master</p> <p>Free 2-Hour Lesson followed by a lite lunch! Advanced signups are required Call Jan Wickersham 626 355-2666</p>	<p>Scott Campbell - National Director and 299er Specialist</p> <p>When to say, Director, Please!</p>	<p>Rick Turner - Manager of the Beverly Hills Bridge Club</p> <p>Responses to a 1NT Opening Bid</p>	<p>Roger Boyar - Owner of the La Fetra Bridge Club</p> <p>How to Play a Bridge Hand</p>	<p>Jan Wickersham - Bridge Teacher and Gold Life Master</p> <p>The Devil's in the Defense</p>	<p>Mike Fierman - Bridge Teacher at the Bridge Academy</p> <p>Losing Trick Count</p>

October 22 - 28

The Los Angeles Fall Regional
 Torrance Marriott South Bay
 3635 Fashion Way
 Torrance, CA



the tournament) are well aware that a number of players and potential players are dissatisfied with the facility's climate control system. We share that dissatisfaction and we are open to solutions. Anyone who wants to suggest a specific alternate site (or another solution) is welcome to contact a board member.

However, there are a few factors to bear in mind. First, and perhaps most important, please remember that our unit is situated smack in the middle of one of the most expensive real estate markets on the planet. Rental fees tend to reflect that fact. Our current site has the virtue of being affordable. Most potential alternates simply aren't. In addition, our current site has adequate on-site parking and extremely convenient overflow parking, not to mention a reasonable selection of nearby food. So bear in mind that if you do gripe about our current site without suggesting a potentially feasible alternative, you just might get drafted for our site search committee.

It's Not Unusual (with apologies to Tom Jones)

This month's hand is one I held in the All Western

Open Pairs at Santa Clara. All red at matchpoints, as dealer I held:

♠5 ♥-- ♦JT8752 ♣AKQ976

I didn't want to open the hand 1♦ and I certainly didn't want to preempt because I had no idea which minor suit was right, so I passed. Partner opened the bidding 1H in third seat and I got a 1♠ overcall on my right. Having both minors (in spades, as it were), I thought a negative double was appropriate. That's when things started to get interesting.

My left-hand opponent found some spades in her hand and raised to 4♠. I planned to back in with 4NT, but I didn't have to; partner bid 5♣. I had nothing more to say, but LHO wasn't finished — she bid 5♠. Partner doubled, but I've never had a good experience sitting partner's penalty doubles with an undisclosed 6-card side suit, so I pulled the double to 6♣. That ran around to RHO who found his red card.

It turns out that both 5♠ and 6♣ can be beaten. But it takes an opening trump lead to beat 6♣ and RHO first tried the diamond ace. Now partner, who had a stiff →



LAS VEGAS GLITTER GULCH SECTIONAL

Monday to Friday

February 25-March 1, 2013

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Monday, February 25

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd. 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd. 2 of 3

Tuesday, February 26

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Final Rd.
1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd. 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Rd. 2 of 3

**Non-smoking Tournament
with Hospitality Breaks**

Wednesday, February 27

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd.
1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd. 1 of 3
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd. 2 of 3

Thursday, February 28

9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Final Rd.
1:15 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams

Friday, March 1

9:30 a.m. & (approx.) 1:00 p.m.
Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by
3:45 p.m.) (This is a 2-session event, but
single session entries may be sold at the
director's discretion.)
9:30 a.m. & TBD Stratified Swiss Teams
(2-sessions) (finish by 4:45 p.m.)

*All stratified events are stratified by the
average masterpoints of the team or pair.*

Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750
I/N: 0-20/50/100/200/300

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diamond, four clubs, and the spade ace, had the timing to ruff out the diamond suit and draw trump. I had to look that score up — it was 1540.

Around the Clubs

Barrington club champions this month were Shulamit and Ephraim Katz, Marty Blain and Ted Glaessner, and Sue Ann Simon and Sheldon Appel. Three players hit the 70% hat trick, with Sandy and Robert Carroll hitting that score three times, as did Michael Nash, while Hans Kraepelian was not far behind with a pair of the high scores. Additional 70% games were recorded by Shulamit and Ephraim Katz, Nelly Gordon, Lidia Epelbaum, and Barbara Hamman, while Jill Richmond and Marty Blain hit 70% at Cyma's game. Sam Haveson and David Segal won a Beverly Hills club championship, as did Stephen Goldstein and Michael Shaw, while Edith Large and Arlen O'Hara scored the extra free play for a 70% game.

Climbing the Ladder

Lots of advancement in the ranks this month. Jeannette Christy joins the addiction as a Junior Master, and Ellie Lederman has reached Club Master. Lee Hausner, Thomas Hilger, Andrea MacNichol, and Sandra Nagler are now Sectional Masters, while Joan Abrams, Joseph Hooker, Karraine Murray (who must have taken time out from kibitzing), Richard Schulman, and Judy and Lou Zucker all have become Regional Masters. Patricia Shellogg-Seal is now an NABC Master.

We also have three new Bronze Life Masters in our unit. Alyssa Kennedy, Frani Ridder, and Karen Schwartz all have achieved that rank. Congratulations to all on your achievements.

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

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

As one of the oldest Methodist Mission projects, Toberman provided an infirmary, a residence for single women, and youth development and prevention services.

In 1917, the agency moved to Boyle Heights and operated as an original settlement house. Then, in 1937 Toberman made another move to the Barton Hill community in San Pedro, where it remains today, and adopted a new name Toberman Settlement House. Since that time Toberman has kept pace with the changing and diverse needs of the Harbor community. In October of 2007, Toberman welcomed the grand opening of its newly built 36,000 square foot campus and became Toberman Neighborhood Center.

Toberman's new campus receives over 18,000 requests for services each year. Toberman offers a holistic approach to social services through three main areas of programming: Healthy Living & Learning, Family Resources, and Gang Intervention.

The West Los Angeles Unit has selected Friends of the Observatory (FOTO) for their designated charity.

FOTO helps support the special programming and activities that Griffith Observatory produces annually for the millions of children, youth and families who visit each year, including the full-dome planetarium shows in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium theater and demonstrations in the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon theater;

It also funds the free School Field Trip Program that annually brings more than 30,000 5th graders to Griffith Observatory for an in-depth, personal and educationally exciting visit; provides free transportation for thousands of underserved students to Griffith Observatory via buses funded through the Bus Scholarship Program; and connects youngsters with the Cosmic Conjunction of the arts and astronomy by inviting them to attend free special programming that explores the relationship between astronomy and the arts.

Next month I will announce the other three Unit Charity Grants.

It's a Different View from Dummy

Last month I asked for suggestions for my nomination 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. How about it Torrance or West Los Angeles!

Until next month, you can reach me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net. See you at our regional.

go directly to www.acbldistrict23.org

Competing Against Two-Suited Bids

Ifti Baqai & Mitch Dunitz

How often have you heard the bidding proceed 1♥ (partner) – 2♥ (RHO), you chime in with 3♣ and your partner goes into a tank not being sure whether your bid is merely competitive or forcing? Modern duplicate bridge bidding has become intensely competitive and having sound agreements is more important than the sophistication of the treatment you employ with your favorite partners. Our suggestion is to try having generic agreements that are easier to remember but cover most commonly occurring scenarios.

We will deal with two most frequently encountered two suited bids by opponents after our side opens the bidding at one level:

- a. Unusual No Trump showing two lower unbid suits
- b. Michaels Cue Bid showing either both majors (over 1 ♣/♦ opening) or showing one major and an unspecified minor (over 1♥/1♠ opening)

While many treatments are available to effectively compete against opponents' interference, our focus is to emphasize simplicity and logical thinking to achieve easier memory retention of partnership agreements.

a. Our side opens the bidding with 1♥. Opponents overcall 2NT showing clubs and diamonds

The generic idea here is that of the two cue bids available to our side, the lower cue bid is used to indicate invitational or better values in the fourth suit while the higher cue bid shows an invitational or better values in partner's suit. The following sequences illuminate the methods:

1. 1♥ (partner) - 2NT (RHO) - ?
 - 3♣ shows spades with invitational or better values
 - 3♦ shows hearts with invitational or better values
 - 3♥ shows values equivalent to a single raise in hearts
 - 3♠ shows spades but with less than invitational values
 - 3NT natural with stoppers in both minors
2. 1♠ (partner) - 2NT (RHO) - ?
 - 3♣ shows hearts with invitational or better values
 - 3♦ shows spades with invitational or better values

3♥ shows hearts but with less than invitational values

3♠ shows values equivalent to a single raise in spades

3NT natural with stoppers in both minors

3. 1♣ (partner) - 2NT (RHO) - ?

3♣ shows limit raise in clubs

3♦ shows spades with invitational or better values

3♥ shows game forcing raise in clubs

3♠ shows spades but with less than invitational values

3NT natural with stoppers in both red suits

4. 1♦ (partner) - 2NT (RHO) - ?

3♣ shows spades with invitational or better values

3♦ shows limit raise in diamonds

3♥ shows game forcing raise in diamonds

3♠ shows spades but with less than invitational values

3NT natural with stoppers in both clubs and hearts

Notice that over a minor suit opening, you don't have a way to show a simple raise in opener's suit.

b. Our side opens the bidding with 1♥ and the opponents overcall 2♥ showing two suits, spades, and an unspecified minor

The generic idea here is that the cue bid is used to indicate invitational or better values in the opener's suit while the direct suit bids at 3-level are natural and show invitational or better values. All other hands with less than invitational values are handled through Lebensohl type 2NT bid. The opener is expected to initiate a relay to 3♣ thus allowing the responder to either pass or correct to the desired suit. The following sequences illuminate the methods:

5. 1♥ (partner) - 2♥ (RHO) - ?

2♠ shows hearts with invitational or better values

2NT relays to 3♣ and now responder can:

- pass to show less than invitational values with clubs

- bid 3♦ to show less than invitational values with diamonds

- bid 3♥ to show less than invitational values with hearts →

- 3♣ shows clubs with invitational or better values (one round force)
- 3♦ shows diamonds with invitational or better values (one round force)
- 3♥ shows values equivalent to a single raise in hearts (This bid is redundant and may be used to show just a limit raise)
- 3NT natural with stopper in spades
6. 1♠ (partner) - 2♠ (RHO) - ?
- 2NT relays to 3♣ and now responder can:
- pass to show less than invitational values with clubs
 - bid 3♦ to show less than invitational values with diamonds
 - bid 3♠ to show less than invitational values with spades
- 3♣ shows clubs with invitational or better values (one round force)
- 3♦ shows diamonds with invitational or better values (one round force)
- 3♥ shows spades with invitational or better values
- 3♠ shows values equivalent to a single raise in spades. (This bid is redundant and may be used to show just a limit raise)
- 3NT natural with stopper in hearts
7. 1♣ (partner) - 2♣ (RHO) - ?
- 2♦ is natural and non-forcing
- 2♥ shows diamonds with game forcing values
- 2♠ shows game forcing raise in clubs
- 2NT relays to 3♣ and now responder can:
- pass to show less than invitational values with clubs
 - bid 3♦ to show less than invitational values with diamonds
- 3♣ shows limit raise in clubs
- 3♦ shows diamonds with invitational values
- 3♥ shows game forcing raise in clubs with heart shortness
- 3♠ shows game forcing raise in clubs with spade shortness
- 3NT natural with stoppers in both major suits
8. 1♦ (partner) - 2♦ (RHO) - ?
- 2♥ shows clubs with game forcing values
- 2♠ shows game forcing raise in diamonds
- 2NT relays to 3♣ and now responder can:
- pass to show less than invitational values with

- clubs
- bid 3♦ to show less than invitational values with diamonds
- 3♣ shows clubs with invitational values
- 3♦ shows limit raise in diamonds
- 3♥ shows game forcing raise in diamonds with heart shortness
- 3♠ shows game forcing raise in diamonds with spade shortness
- 3NT natural with stoppers in both major suits

District 23 Rank Changes - August, 2012

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Pamela Boyer, Diana Gutman, Sue Hunter
Carol Lopresti, Monica McKenna

Club Master (20 MPs)

Gregg Alsdorf, David Duke, Barbara Eliades
Barbara Fisher-Freeman, Susan Frank, Joann Jubas
Wendy Kelley, Michael Perera, Etta Skylan
Linda Tessier, Jan Toppel

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Barbara Astrin, Joan Buhl, Arline Halper
Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten, Jeff Lang
Dwight McCormick, Ramesh Sawhney
Steve Shanker, Harry Wang

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Setsuko Miyasaka, Sue Schultz

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Sharon Biederman, Kenneth Okel
Melanie Smith, Joanna Wallis

Life Master (300 MPs)

Temo Arjani, June Boyd, Roberta Gotfried
Sam Litovsky, David Peim, David Sievers

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Roger Boyar, Carmela Chiurazzi, Morris Jones

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Aaron Jones, Ronald Malkin

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Mary Ann Coyle, John Crabtree, Ronda Platt

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Contacts

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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: Leo Bell

Panelists: Jeff Goldsmith, Ross Grabel, John Jones, Marshall Miles,
David Sacks and Bill Wickham

1

MPs
NS vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠8 ♥AKT754 ♦942 ♣A53
What call do you make?

GOLDSMITH: 4♥. Partner is probably 3-1-5-4 without spades double stopped. 3NT will require either hearts 3-3 or six tricks from partner. It's possible that partner has ♠Kxx ♥x ♦AQJTx ♣Kxxx, in which case 3NT is on the diamond finesse and 4♥ is bad, but make the ♦J the ♣J and 3NT is almost hopeless, while 4♥ has chances.

GRABEL: Pass. Not enough stuff in the right places to think we can make 6♦, and not good enough hearts to think 4♥ a better spot.

JONES: 4♣. I have a minimum, but it's a good-fit, control-rich minimum. My stiff spade doesn't look good for notrump, especially given that partner will strain to bid 3NT at matchpoints but would bid something else at IMPs. It's probably right to remove even if we wind up in 5♦. I'll keep describing my hand, but 4♣ is my last voluntary positive move on this hand. I'll pass game in either red suit.

MILES: 4♥. It sounds as though partner has, at most, a single stopper in spades, quite likely the ace. He was hoping I would bid 3NT with the queen, or that I have a high honor in diamonds so his suit will run. With a singleton jack or queen of hearts, hearts will play better than notrump, especially with the ♠A as a stopper. Unlike some, I don't guarantee six hearts by rebidding 2♥.

SACKS: 4♥. We haven't shown a good six card heart suit or good diamond support with a singleton spade. Perhaps we would have been better placed to have bid 3♥ rather than 3♦ so we could now bid 4♦. In the position I am in now, 4♥ is my best guess.

WICKHAM: Pass. What sequences would have shown a doubleton heart? The 3♣ bid should show significant extra size or shape. This sequence is complicated by the fact that some partnerships think that 2NT should be the catch-all rebid, and that the 2♥ rebid should show a six-card suit, although I have held ♠xxx ♥AKJxx ♦Qx ♣Qxx or similar too many times to believe that to be a playable method. In the modern super streamlined style, some partnerships play that all bids of 4 of a minor are optional keycard, which hardly seems to solve this problem.

If I bid, I would like for either partner to be able to toss in the towel in either 4NT or 5♦. If I could bid a natural and encouraging 4♦, and if I could have bid 4♥ kickback instead, and if partner could bid 4♥ kickback over 4♦, then I would issue a 4♦ bid *[PSP Editor - with hearts having been bid twice, some pairs would play that 4♠ would be the kickback bid]*. Absent these agreements, I would be forced to pass 3NT.

This hand provides an excellent example of inferential

2

IMPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
pass	1♠	pass	2♥
pass	4♣*	pass	4♦
pass	5♥	pass	?

You hold: ♠T8 ♥AK754 ♦A ♣Q8653
What call do you make?

GOLDSMITH: 6♥. There's no unbid suit, and I've already bid Last Train [*the only bid available below game, denoting slam interest*] to say my hand is slam-suitable, so this should ask about trumps. I don't think we're in a grand slam auction (partner would have tried exclusion keycard a round ago), so there's no need to cue bid diamonds.

GRABEL: 6♥. I have good trumps and 2nd round diamond control. Partner must have the fillers.

JONES: 6♥. It's clear that partner and I are not on the same wavelength. To bid 5♥, I would have good trumps (at least two of the top three), significant extra values, and need a spade control. He doesn't have that, since I have the ♥A and the ♥K. I'm going to guess that he needs good trumps and has good spades and complete control of clubs (although I wouldn't bid that way). Whatever partner has, there is another way to bid his hand (he must have a black suit control). 5♥ may be asking if I have a ♦ control or if 4♦ was Last Train. If so then I have the ♦A, so maybe I owe him a 6♦ bid.

MILES: 6♥. Partner can't be missing both the ace and

king of spades for his splinter bid. Perhaps he was just giving me a chance to cue bid the ♠K?

SACKS: Pass. Could partner have ♠QJxxxx ♥QJxxx ♦KQ ♣--? [*Wouldn't he/she just bid 4♥ over 4♦?*] I guess he/she might have bid this way. With most any hand with better spades and this shape he/she might have bid 4♠ rather than 5♥.

WICKHAM: Pass. With a doubleton spade, only five trumps, and a worthless ♣Q, I must ask what hand partner might have to bid 5♥. We do have a club loser for sure [*partner can't have the ♣A?*]. I am trying, with some difficulty, to construct such a hand. Maybe ♠AKQxx ♥xxxx ♦KQx ♣x. [*it seems inconceivable that partner would splinter and force to the five level*] So, partner has been endplayed by inferior methods into this plea for lots of help, and I pass since I don't have it.

My partner sprang this on me with a hand very close to David Sacks' example hand. (♠QJxxxx ♥Qxxxx ♦K ♣A) If I had thought long and hard about the bid, I might have concluded partner needed a spade control but, in actuality, he also needed good trumps.]

PSP1 *continued from page 15*

bidding. If partner had diamonds and clubs and spades well-stopped, why didn't they bid 2NT or 3NT over 2♥? As most of the panel points out, it's likely partner has only one spade stopper. I would consider bidding 4♣ or 4♦ over 3NT to suggest 5 of a minor as a possible contract, but 4♥ is reasonable given a decent six card suit.

Los Angeles Fall Regional

October 22 - 28, 2012

Torrance Marriott South Bay

3

IMPs
NS vul

West	North	East	South
1♦	pass	pass	?

You, South, hold: ♠5 ♥AJ9 ♦KJ4 ♣AK9654
What call do you make?

GOLDSMITH: 3♣. I play that as intermediate (11-15ish) in the pass-out seat, but my diamonds are worth less than 4 HCP, and I don't want their finding spades.

GRABEL: 3♣. I'm tempted to bid 2NT, but I'll refrain.

JONES: 3♣. Jumps are intermediate in balancing seat, and 3♣ looks about right. A heavy 2♣ bid might put some pressure on partner to bid again. Double followed by cheapest ♣ is possible, but it's always a pain to have partner think that he/she are catching support (and maybe bid too much), when he/she is actually facing a singleton. Partner can bid 3♦ to ask for a diamond stopper.

MILES: Double. A double followed by 2NT over partner's spade response seems about right. *[Only if the opponents accept your insufficient bid over 3♠ or 4♠]* Also, the double gives us a chance of playing in hearts.

SACKS: 2♣. By default, as every other bid has more flaws. 3♣ is right on strength but not advisable with that diamond holding. Double runs too much risk of partner's insisting on spades (and wrong siding my diamond holding). Thus, I take the low road and hope to catch up later (albeit unlikely).

WICKHAM: 2♣. Kaplan-Rubens *[hand evaluation algorithm]* tells me this hand is worth 18.40. Even the average player grudgingly adds almost a full point for the club length. An intermediate jump to 3♣ might work well if one can make 8 or 9 tricks in clubs, and he/she isn't able to find a spade fit. I simply have too much hand for a petrified pass, but enough fear to eschew the injudicious jump to 3♣, so I will choke out an underbid.

Again we're faced with the imperfect combination of strength and distribution. Even though we'd like a little better suit for 3♣, it points partner in the right direction. Wickham fears the opponents' spades, but the jump would seem to shut out the opponents and give us the best chance to reach 3NT.

Los Angeles Fall Regional

October 22 - 28, 2012

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IMPs
NS vul

West	North	East	South
pass	1♠	3♦	pass
			?

You, South, hold:
 ♠QJ8 ♥J9643 ♦A9 ♣K62
 What call do you make?

GOLDSMITH: Double. I can't bury a 3rd seat opener by bidding game, so I have to double or bid 3♠. I think double rates to work out a little more often, for example, if partner has 4-4 in the majors and 11 HCP.

GRABEL: Double. My hand is a little too good for 3♠, and my next call will be a guess (assuming I do have a next call).

JONES: 4♠. This is the easiest hand of the set. After an opening bid of 1♠ followed by an opponent's preempt, 3♠ shows a constructive raise in spades, 4♠ shows a limit raise in spades, and that looks about right here.

MILES: Double. If partner bids 3♥, I'll raise. If we belong in 4♠, I hope partner will do something other than bid 3♠ or pass. Also, the double gives us a chance for plus 200 (or -670). Most players open lighter in 3rd position than I do.

SACKS: 3♠. At IMPs, I would bid 4♠, but matchpoints is a game of plus scores. It doesn't feel right to make a negative double, intending to next bid the lowest possible level of spades. [*Partner might bid hearts or 3NT.*]

WICKHAM: Double. 3♠ is an underbid and 4♠ is an overbid. But one can bring hearts into the picture as well.

Double seems the most flexible option. If partner tends to open light in 3rd seat, bidding a game directly might punish partner for doing so.

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IMPs
NS vul

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

* support

You, South, hold:
 ♠92 ♥KQT93 ♦JT ♣K632
 What call do you make?

GOLDSMITH: 3♥. Yeah, we're red at IMPs, but the perfect 14-count, ♠xxx ♥Axx ♦Axx ♣AQxx, doesn't make game cold, [*PSP Editor - opposite that hand game is a significant favorite*] so 3♥ is enough.

GRABEL: 3♥.

JONES: 4♥. It would be nice if 3♣ were a help suit game try, but it would be competitive in clubs with only four hearts. When vulnerable at IMPs, we should bid games with a little less than a 50/50 chance to make, so I'll bid the game. This would be harder at matchpoints.

MILES: 4♥. I think my good suit and club fit will give us at least a finesse for game, if not a laydown.

SACKS: 4♥. I have no idea what either side can make, but at this vulnerability, we might as well put maximum pressure on opponents and/or not take the chance of missing a vulnerable game.

WICKHAM: 3♣. Given that we have a double fit, 3♣ may play a trick better than 3♥, even though methods might not let him pass. If 3♣ is interpreted as a game try, partner might bid a borderline game with ♠xxx ♥Axx ♦Ax ♣Axxxx.

The current expert treatment is to use 3♣ as an attempt to play clubs rather than a game try for hearts. At IMPs, you can either choose to take the aggressive road and bid game or encourage partner by bidding 3♥.