

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 51, #6

June 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Finding New Regionals

by Becky Clough



One of Roger's and my favorite things to do is to attend a regional tournament we've never been to before. That is how we found Penticton, Taos, Seaside, and Sun River among others. The trick the next year is to decide which tournaments to return to because

there aren't enough weeks in the year or money in the bank to attend them all.

This year we went to Medford, Oregon. It had two appeals— a new tournament for us and its proximity to Ashland, Oregon, the home of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

Destined to become the Rogue Valley's largest city, Medford began when the railroad came to southern Oregon in 1883. Hundreds of thousands apple and pear trees were planted in the early 1900's and commercial fruit became the major export of the Rogue Valley. Harry and David's, originally based in Medford, still offers factory tours.

Ashland, Oregon, a 25-minute drive from Medford, celebrates its 75th anniversary of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival this year. Begun as a summer outdoor series in the 1930's, the festival now stretches from February to October incorporating both Shakespearean and non-Shakespearean plays at three theaters. It is now the largest regional repertory theater

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LA Regional

by Rand Pinsky, District Director

LA Regional - Pasadena



Our tournament begins on Monday July 6 and runs through Sunday July 12. The Westin Pasadena is our host hotel. Room rates are only \$119. Reserve before June 15 at 626-792-2727

(ALACBU). Complimentary Wi-Fi and parking for \$6 with in and out privileges.

The bridge schedule includes Gold Rush Pairs, Tuesday through Saturday, New KO's beginning every day, Monday through Saturday, 299er games twice a day and **daylight schedule on Saturday and Sunday**. A yearly tradition of our Pro-Am Game will be on Monday at 1:15 p.m. with a free 299er lesson at 10:15 a.m.

For additional information, contact Peter Benjamin at ahoneydo@aol.com and Betty Jackson for partnerships at rjackson6277@roadrunner.com.

The Longest Day

This year ACBL will be holding events on both Sunday June 21 and Monday June 22. The reason is that June 21 is Fathers' Day. There have been many articles in the Bridge Bulletin about this event. Again this year, Elaine Moore has been contacting our Los Angeles clubs for participation. If there are any clubs that want to participate, please let me know and I will put you in touch with Elaine.

Mentor/Mentee Games

This month there were two more Mentor/Mentee Games. The first was at the Valencia Bridge Studio sponsored by the Santa Clarita/Antelope Valley Unit. There were 15 tables and no charge to play. The Unit covered the cost of the room rental and many mentors

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in the United States.

We attended two plays during our week in Oregon. First was Guys and Dolls which we had seen many years ago, but seemed relevant today due to the thawing of United States/Cuban relations and the real possibility that Cuba may again become a popular vacation destination. Our second play was Much Ado About Nothing. I loved it— Roger not so much. As long as I knew the basic story, I found I could follow the plot despite the Shakespearean language. What about the bridge tournament itself? The tournament had a lower table count than any of our tournaments but attracted quite a few good players. I was surprised that the one compact knockout on the schedule was very poorly attended. Our table count rises dramatically

when we offer a compact knockout on the schedule.

There is one non-stop flight daily on Alaska Airlines between LAX and Medford daily. We managed without a car because we found enough restaurants within walking distance and reasonable taxi service to Ashland.

What other new tournaments do we have in mind? In late October we are going to Leavenworth. Kansas you say? No, Washington.

This is my penultimate column. My term as District 23 President ends in July. I've enjoyed sharing our bridge travels with you and hope I've inspired some of you to travel for bridge as well. Bridge has afforded us the opportunity to make friends all over the country. We look forward to playing both new tournaments or favorite old ones with these and new friends for as long as our health and wealth allow.

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brought snacks for the game.

A second game was held at the Agile Bridge Club in Hermosa Beach, Jeff Grotenhuis owner. Jeff also had 15 tables. Jeff was able to recruit mentors from the units of Torrance, Long Beach, West Los Angeles, Pasadena, and Santa Clarita. I would not be a good partner if I did not report that at this game, my partner, Linda Klebs brought me in first overall. Thank you Linda.

I am a strong believer in these types of games. If any club or Unit is holding one, please let me know and I will attend. I will also write about the game in this column.

ABA-ACBL Game

For the past few years, our District, with the West Los Angeles Unit leading the way, comes together with the Los Angeles American Bridge Association Unit to host reciprocal bridge games. On June 7, the Los Angeles ABA Unit will host the game. The date is June 7. For information or reservations, call Stephanie Young 323-314-8851 or Candy Scott 310-652-6116.

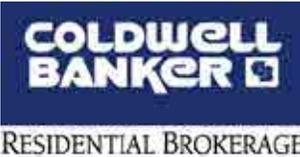
ALACBU Elections

Last month I wrote about District Elections. I still need to hear from many Unit Presidents as to who your ALACBU delegates are for voting purposes.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Pasadena. Old Town Pasadena is just a short walk from the hotel.

Remember you can always reach me at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net

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Los Angeles Regional Pasadena!

July 6-12, 2015

The Westin Pasadena
191 North Los Robles Avenue
Pasadena, California 91101
Ph: 626 792-2727



- ♦ *GOLD RUSH PAIRS every day - Tuesday through Saturday*
- ♣ *New Knockouts start everyday - Monday through Saturday*
- ♥ *299er Games twice a day (Monday-Friday)*
- ♠ *Daylight Schedule Saturday and Sunday*

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- *Self parking \$6, overnight parking \$9 (in and out privileges)*
- *15 min. walk to Pasadena downtown*



Entry Fees: \$14 per session (all events)
\$18 unpaid or non ACBL members
Juniors: \$8

Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin
310 720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com
Director-in-Charge: Brian Russell
Sanction R1507057

Bridge Stories

This recurring series in the Southern California Bridge News includes short bridge stories from District 23 players who earned a new rank last month, as collected by Rand Pinsky

It all began on January 29, 2013, when I went to the Barrington Bridge Club for the first time. I did not know what to expect. However, I was aware that I wanted to enhance my life and start something new. I lost my husband in November 2011, and I had a difficult time. I realized that I needed to begin doing new things and at the same time, maybe, I would meet and make new friends.

As I walked into the “baby room,” it was filled with so many enthusiastic people who had blank faces, including me. All of a sudden, a robust woman wheels herself in and says, “Good morning everyone. You are all here to learn such a fantastic game.” Immediately, I could feel her sense of passion for this game that my mother used to love and play at Barrington. This incredible woman passes out binders with the lessons numbered and her name, phone number, and email.

Being a teacher, I thought to myself, “This is the kind of teacher that impresses me. She is really organized and filled with excitement.” She introduces herself as Pat Banks and gives us a little bit of background about herself. I was so impressed and mesmerized that she had mine and everyone else’s total attention. Pat always encouraged us and never once put us down. She always emphasized that it is a difficult and challenging game. She always said, “Please be patient. Never think that you cannot do it. All of you will become wonderful bridge players.” Her attitude and patience were phenomenal. It is because of Pat that many things happened for me.

I met one of my dearest, closest friends, Harriet. We became bridge partners and girlfriends. I attribute our close friendship to Pat. She knew we would be good together, and she was correct. When we heard she died, not one of her students could believe it. We loved her as family, and we did things for her whenever possible. Unfortunately, she died in an unpleasant accident. I still cannot believe it as I am writing this to you. All of her students in our class, still miss and speak of her often.

Since Pat has passed, Harriet and I have met many people. We have had a variety of teachers both in a group lesson and privately. None have been as

organized and positive like Pat. However, recently we have begun taking lessons from a gentleman who is quite knowledgeable. We are learning many things from him that we should have learned in the past.

The challenges of learning all the conventions and offensive and defensive plays are massive. Harriet and I often say, “We hope we live long enough to learn many of these.” This game is in our blood. We would rather play bridge than do many other things. Family is still first, but for me, other than that, I think bridge is the best! I will not speak for Harriet, but I know she has a passion for it, too.

As I am writing this, my thoughts are going to Pat Banks. She is looking down on us, and saying, “Nancy and Harriet, I told you to be patient and that you will love it, too.” Do you know what, **we do!!!**

*Nancy Polacheck
Junior Master*

I am thrilled to receive this honor. It was totally unexpected that I have become a Junior Master so soon after I have joined the ACBL.

My club, 750 Club, is well organized and well run by the husband-wife team, Teri and Bill Morton, and Teri had introduced me to Harvey Wuitt, a Life Master, for my regular partner. I have been playing with him once a week on a regular basis, and he has been instrumental to my success at the bridge. Up to now, I had never been an organizational duplicate player. I played party-type duplicate games (3 tables) twice a week at a senior center in New Orleans before I moved to California.

I also play regularly on Tuesdays with a nice lady. I love to play bridge games. It keeps me mentally alert!

*Yoshie Bell
Junior Master*



I have been playing bridge for about 3 years. It started in party bridge style. I was introduced to duplicate bridge early in my second year of playing bridge. I came upon a mentor program at South Bay Bridge Club where every Wednesday night a beginner was paired off with a →

more experienced player. This mentor program ran from March-December 2014. This gave me the opportunity to expand my bridge knowledge. The picture is of my classmates and me from the program.

After the mentor program ended, the Wednesday night game continued, and I continue to play this night as well as other games to obtain practice. Then a local experienced player took six beginners and furthered our duplicate bridge experience. We first discussed the convention card and went over each section and filled it out based on what we were knowledgeable at that point. After we covered the convention card in its entirety, we had supervised play. The hands were random and we discussed bidding based on our knowledge. We also gained experience on how to evaluate the hand, how to defend if we are the defenders, and also practice play of the hand. After this, I became more comfortable playing and have enjoyed the experience.

*Johanna Kuang
Club Master*

Thank you for extending congratulations for my Sectional Master achievement. Here is my story.

Playing bridge was on my retirement bucket list. A few women at my golf club invited me and others who wanted to learn to join them. Not wanting to be totally ignorant, I bought a copy of "Bridge for Dummies" to learn the basics. Not much learning going on at the golf club though, and my frustration went up. Time after time I would either drive all the way there to find we did not even have four players or get a call just before I left that someone could not make it. The last time that happened I went online found the Long Beach Bridge Club, and noticing they were playing that day, headed over there. Nice surprise: welcoming people, they found me a partner, there was a 99/199 group, and it was only \$5!

Goodbye to playing bridge at the golf club. However, one of those women found Marcie Evans. She agreed to come to the golf club every week and teach a group of us. Her fee was so low, we were embarrassed and took turns buying her lunch. After a few months I found a steady partner, attended supervised play and became an ACBL member. After four years, I have two steady partners and play twice a week. Golf is still my first love, but I seek out bridge games on vacation just like I do golf courses. I've played at the Duncan Bridge Center in Palm Desert and just missed a game on Kauai

last winter.

I play at the Long Beach Bridge Center but belong to Downey. I know I can switch, but Downey is Marcie's love and I will not desert her.

*Rai Scime
Sectional Master*



I began learning how to play bridge five years ago. It was extremely difficult for me-- just like learning a new language. I recall when I first started; all the new bridge terminology was intimidating. As I continued to practice playing with other players, I slowly became more confident and was able to pick up the game little by little. It also helped that I had teachers such as Bob Mault, John Wong, Terri Primmer, and Liang Fan who's guided me toward the right way. I would like to recommend to the beginner, in order to sharpen your bridge skills, to take lessons from the local Bridge Club. Also watch online or at the club how experts play, ask questions of the experts, play up with someone who is better than you and at tournaments. In order to encourage the beginners and intermediates to play bridge, I recommend playing the Pro-Am game and tournaments and one day 299ers and 499ers sectional tournaments these will be beneficial to the beginners and intermediates.

*Linda Nye
NABC Master*

I have to start thank yous with my Mom. I grew up playing all kinds of cards, but not bridge, at the kitchen table after dinner starting from the time I was sitting on the telephone book so I could see over the table. Eventually Mom did take up bridge and then even ventured into duplicate at the Cornhusker Bridge Center in Omaha. She didn't last long as some cranky oldtimer yelled at her for some error and she never went back. Please don't unleash your frustrations on new players. Ever. Please.

There are so many people I played with through the years... my first ever ACBL duplicate partner, Pamela Nerheim. Hindy Batt and Bruce Arnold. All of whom were regular partners from my days in Omaha. Alyssa Kennedy, my first regular LA partner. Marcia →

Meyerson who was my only regular weekly game at Barrington for a long time. Connie Fishbach, Sue Ann Simon, Terry McGough and Julie Kimmelman also. Not all of whom are regular partners, but would be if there were more days in the week. And where would I be without so many players who were better than me but played with me anyway, Some from Iowa City when I had less than 20 masterpoints whose names I can't even remember any more. Vikki Galvin, Marilyn Hemmingway and Don Sloter. Diamond Life Masters from Omaha who gave me regular games when I was still a 299'er. And at Barrington there are my current crop of expert partners Steve Yaffe, Chuck Maltz, Bob Levy... all of whom significantly out-masterpoint me and generally outplay me too.

Then there is Tate Shafer, who I introduced to ACBL play, but who, at the table, generally outshines me and most others too. Tate and I won the Gold Rush Pairs in three consecutive attempts at recent nearby Southern California Regionals giving me most of my final tally of Gold Points. Tate was at the table at the STAC at Barrington when I incorrectly thought I had made Life Master, and asked Ida to announce it. Embarrassing and premature. And finally, Tate actually pushed me over the top in April when I got my final Silver Points as we finished 2nd in Flight A, despite our Flight C status, at the IMP pairs on Sunday at the Oxnard Sectional. He is a great player and I appreciate that he takes pride in getting the best out of me at the table-- not just being brilliant, being right or winning an argument. For years, I worked hard and prided myself on being the best partner possible. It's so nice to be on the receiving end of someone who is also pursuing that aspect of the game.

I don't think by any means I am done yet. Life Master is definitely not the end of my bridge goals. Partnering with Tate, I still have high ambitions. A partner once said to me, "Well, I've given up on chasing aN NABC title." And I immediately responded, "I haven't." It may be grandiose, but I'm not giving up yet. Can't make Chicago, but see you all in Denver.

Jim Perkins
Life Master

District 23 Rank Changes April 2015

Junior Master

Yoshie Bell, Jeddud Cartagena
Harriet Finebaum, Grace Frey
Lisa Gauff, Paul Goddard
Liqun Li, Jenni Pham
Nancy Polacheck, Carol Simonoff
Edna Steel, Barbara Wallace

Club Master

Sue Bernstein
Tadeusz Galardos
Thomas Grove
Synne Hansen Miller
Ann Hinchliffe
Ann Igawa
Bonnie Okamoto
Howard Rosen
Sue Rosenwasser
Janice Scholler
Carla Spinner
Mary Williams

Sectional Master

Peggy Diller, Linda Hedden
Edward Mizrahi, Glen Musicer
Raimonda Scime

Regional Master

Cheri Bitar
Tate Shafer
Michiko Sharp

NABC Master

Linda Nye

Life Master

Diane Bishop
Linda Eagan
James Perkins

Silver Life Master

Norman Avrech

Diamond Life Master

Martin Blain

Around the Units in District 23

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

June Unit Game, June 13, 2015
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

It's time to mark space in your calendar for the Glendale-Verdugo Sectional, which will be held July 24-26 at the Scottish Rite Temple in Pasadena. The location and schedule are basically the same as in years past but this year the tournament will be held in July rather than August.

Results of the May Unit game were as follows:

N/S

| | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| A1 | Caroline Cohen & Tim Lolli |
| A2 | Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel |
| A3 | William Ng & Samuel Wang |
| B1 | Dan Garner & Muxin Li |
| B2 | Lyle Wiedeman & Gloria Balfour |

E/W

| | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| A1 | Jack Futrell & Rae Murbach |
| A2 | Paula Olivares & Bill Brodek |
| A3 B1 | Sharon Wolf & Steve Shanker |
| A4 B2 | Nancy Lyon & Betsy Josias |

Please join us on June 13 for our next Unit game.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org

Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

April 26 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle, 2nd Sankar Reddy/Sam Wang, 3rd Phil Hiestand/Shoichi Yoshihiro, 4th Betty Jackson/Diane Sachs, 5th Lois Abrmason/Lina Cheng,

6th John and Jo Melis. In the B flight overall Orhan Gurbuz/Hayim Ninyo were 2nd, Larry Slutsky/Gary Paugh 3rd, Susan and Keith Hafen 4th, Rob Preece/Usha Bansal 5th. In the C flight overall Kiyo Nagaishi/Noburo Ogura were 2nd, Melanie and Jerry Smith 3rd, Nanci Schultz/Barbara Shortwell 4th. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: There were no 70+% games at the LBBC April 16 through May 15.

Big Masterpoint Awards April 16 through May 15: April 16 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 3.06mp for 1st. April 18 Bob Mault/Sherry Troeger won 3.06mp for 1st. April 22 Earl VanDerVord/Mike Daley won 3.65 for 1st. In the unit game April 26 Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan won 4.60mp for 1st, Sankar Reddy/Sam Wang 3.50 for 2nd. Congratulations to all five pairs!

Get Well Wishes: Mary Thomas.

New Members: Sinclair Blue. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Masters: John Hagman, Stan Johnson, William Power, Louise Siefert. New Club Masters: Audrey Healy, Richard Stammerjohn. New Sectional Master: Ralph Brunson. New Regional Master: Carol Ramseyer; New Life Master: Susan Bibby. New Silver Life Master: Renee Hoffman. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club:

May 23 Lucky Penny Day. A bag of pennies will be awarded to the winners of both games.

May 24 Unit Game. Lunch 12:30, game 1pm

May 25 Memorial Day unit-rated game. Extra points, regular price

June 6 Friday evening game: Worldwide Bridge Contest. Extra points, \$12 fee.

June 8-14: North American Pairs qualifying week. Extra points, regular prices.

June 28 Unit Game. Lunch at 12:30, game at 1 p.m.

Note: If you bring a person to one of our unit →

games who has never played in a Unit 557 unit game, both you and your guest will play for free.

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Game April 16th- Clubhouse #3 Emma Trepinski/Gary Paugh 1 in A. Sharon Beran/Christine Frumen 2 in A, 1 in B. Sharon and Al Appel 3 in A. Sue Fardette/Vince Remedios 4 in A, 2 in B. Tadeusz Galardos/Richard Sands 5 in A, 3 in B. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Harshad Vora 4 in B, 1 in C. Jim Kaping/Alan Olschwang 5 in B, 2 in C. Julie Cunningham/Midge Dunagan 3 in C. Julie Mills/Mary Sipple 4 in C.

Unit Rated game - April 25 - Clubhouse #1 Bee Kinman/Gary Paugh 1 in A. Monica and Paul Honey 2 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Al and Sharon Appel 3 in A. Marilyn McClintock/Joan Tschirki 4 in A. Fern Dunbar/Janet Logan 5 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Howard Smith 6 in A, 2 in B. Joyce Henderson/Dalia Hernandez 3 in B. Lee and Kenneth Miller 4 in B, 2 in C. Tadeusz Galardos/Richard Sands 5 in B. Louise Seifert/Stan Johnson 3 in C.

Congratulations - 70% games - On April 16 Emma Trepinski/Gary Paugh had a 71.57% game and on May 11 Claudette Barrack/Monica Gettis had a 71.78% game.

Congratulations to Louise Seifert, Stan Johnson, John Hagman and Bill Power new JUNIOR MASTERS and to Audrey Healy and Dick Stammerjohn new Club Masters.

Get Well wishes to John Hagman

Club Championship Game: Clubhouse #3 July 20, Aug 10 Clubhouse #1 May 16, August 14

Unit Rated Games: Clubhouse #3 - June 18 Clubhouse #1 - June 19

Pro-Am Game: Clubhouse #3 - May 21

Phone number for Clubhouse #3 - Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner--After 12:00 noon: (562) 481-7368. Games are held on Mondays/ Thursdays at Clubhouse #3 and Friday/Saturday at Clubhouse #1 at 12:15. Advanced reservations are requested as Leisure World is a gated community. Please call: Mon. - Midge Dunagan (562) 594 9698 Thurs - Cookie Pham (562) 431 6453 Fri and Sat - Jaye Woodington (562)799 1089. Any news for next month's column, please e mail me @ jcj90740@gmail.com results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via email: Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jjyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

Worldwide Pairs at the Arcadia Bridge Center
Friday Evening, June 5, 7:15
Saturday afternoon June 6, 1:00

559 Unit Game

Sunday, June 7, 1:00

Memorial luncheon in honor of Rita Corwin
San Marino Community Center
1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino

Beat the House at the Arcadia Bridge Center
Friday, June 19 7:15

Winners and Losers at the Arcadia Bridge Center
Sunday, June 19 1:00

Big Games

75% Gitta Earl – Joan Mesias on May 4 at the Arcadia Bridge Center.

Unit Game Winners - May 3: A Flight: Saul Teukolsky - Roselyn Teukolsky, B & C Flight: Robert Reichmann - Michael Lo

STAC Game Results: Thursday morning, 187 Tables in play, Andrew and Joerg Rottenbacher,- 60.36% game. 29th in A, 12th in B and 3rd in C. 187 tables, Zu Ming Cheng - Jackson Tsao – 55.81, 13th in C, Marty Husted - Judy Husted – 55.76%, 14th in C

Friday evening, 79.5 tables: Chihwen Chen - Xingping Kang -73.51%, 1st in A

Saturday afternoon, 362.5 tables: Margery Gould -Joan Mesias -63.14% 26th in A, Amr Elghamry- Dan Botoaca -61.86%, 39/41 in A, Bob Verhoef - Bob Novell -56.41%, 28th in C

Bridge Stories

I re-immersed myself into the world of bridge about 22 years ago. About a year later, sitting East/West, at the club in Maywood NJ, no cane then, I approached my next table, at which a woman was seated, →

reading a book. She was one of the more experienced and better players at the club. The book she was reading was a newly published sequel to a book I had read and enjoyed. As I sat down, I asked, "Are you enjoying this one as much as his last book?"

Barely raising her head an inch or two, she replied, with a cold stare, "If I wanted conversation, I wouldn't be reading a book."

Some two or three years after I began playing at Maywood, I learned that someone, sometime previously, had approached the owner/director, with the complaint that I was cheating. The basis of the complaint was that I often pushed myself away from the table, thus to afford me the opportunity and ability to see the cards at other tables. Of course, anyone who knew me also knew I have virtually no kneecap in my right leg-- the residual of injuries sustained in an auto accident many years earlier and often have to extend my leg to relieve the pain.

The director warned the complainer that if ever she repeated the slander, being barred from the club would be only the first of many problems she would encounter.

My partner Michel and I were defending a hand in which the declarer was one of the strongest players

in the unit. Michel, you might recall from an earlier column, was a very fine player who had competed internationally, representing at different times, Turkey and Israel. With 4 or 5 cards still in his hand, the declarer <graciously> conceded saying "down two," and started to fold his hand back into the tray. This was not the first time he had done this, but it was the first time anyone objected. Michel, angrier than I'd ever seen him, called out "Stop! You are down three!" The declarer agreed, somewhat reluctantly, leaving me wondering about his prior 'gracious' early concessions.

Bev and I were defending a hand at a club in Scarsdale, NY. It was played by a very experienced pair, a husband and wife. With 5 or 6 cards in hand, the wife claimed, put her cards down and almost immediately closed them and placed them back in the board before Bev had time to see them. When Bev said she hadn't seen them, the woman said, "We thought you were experienced players and were paying you a compliment."

No, I did not explode. In fact, I said nothing. Bev reached across to spread declarer's cards so she could see them.

"Don't touch my cards!" the woman ordered. →

HOTEL IRVINE
JAMBOREE CENTER

Orange County Regional






September 7-13, 2015 ♠ **Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center**
17900 Jamboree Road, Irvine CA 92614 • 888 230-4452

Monday GOLD POINT Compact KO on Sept. 7 @ 3:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Evening games Wednesday, Thursday & Friday cost only for paid members! (\$6 for others) \$2.00

Free 90-minute Lesson by ACBL Grand Life Master **Marjorie Michelin** on Monday Sept. 7, at 1:00 p.m.

Free Bridge Boot Camp for players with 0-300 Masterpoints with Maritha Pottenger & Marjorie Michelin

♦ **Gold Rush Pairs** every day Tuesday-Saturday & new **Knockouts every day**, Monday-Saturday

♠ ACBL Club Director Refresher Course Monday Sept. 7 (contact Teri Atkinson 661-664-1678)

♥ D22 North American Pairs (NAP) Final on Saturday Sept. 12

For more info go to: OrangeCountyRegional.com
or contact: Tom Shulman, tomshulman@gmail.com 702-301-5856

Tournament Manager: Tom Shulman
Director -in-Charge: Nancy Boyd

Find partners or teammates at : OrangeCountyRegional.com

No. I did not explode. In the vain hope of lightening things up, I smiled, leaned over and said, "They're really not yours. They belong to the club."

Her response was to scream, "Don't touch my cards!"

Now I exploded. Really exploded. I don't believe you heard me out here in California but they probably did in the Midwest.

At the end of the session at least three or four people came over and quietly thanked me. Apparently they, and the director were fed up with that pair. Nevertheless, I still cringe when I remember how I lost it.

These four vignettes are merely a sampling I've chosen from many similar ones I encountered playing bridge back East. You might ask why did I continue playing and the answer is simply that the game is great, the players not always.

The wonderful thing is that in the 18 months we've lived and played bridge out here, we have never encountered anything remotely like the above. Well, maybe one man, one time.

What is it that makes bridge in Arcadia/San Marino such a pleasant and rewarding experience, even when we play lousy? Must be the weather.

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, June 20, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, June 6, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

Longest Day – Mon June 22, 9:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Plans for the Longest Day are moving along. We will be hosting two pairs games, at the Knights of Columbus in Glendora (our usual Unit Game site), on June 22. Table fee will be the usual \$6 – all of which goes to the Alzheimer's Association. The game director will get nothing, but hey, he's worth it!

Additional donations to this very worthy cause may be made by visiting <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>, by handing it to any Unit Board member, or by simply bringing your donation to the game. No password is needed to use the web site. Remember, snacks will be available as usual during the games, but we aren't pre-ordering lunches this year. There will be time between games to duck out to a local food purveyor between games. Still have questions? Ask any Board member!

The May Individual was won by Steve Mancini,

followed by Barbara Killebrew, Ann McClelland, and Carolyn Siracuse.

The May Unit Game results will be available in next month's column.

Promotions this month: Marty Husted to Sectional Master, and Linda Tessier to Regional Master. Congratulations to you both, and keep up the good work.

The top game in open pairs this month was a monstrous 82.5% blitz by Lulu and Fredy Minter, far ahead of the not-too-shabby 71.1% game by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. again. Other winners: Richard Patterson, Kurt Trieselmann, Penny Barbieri, Claudia Cochran, Genise Hasan, Gayle Ginsburg, Pat Radamaker, Sandy Jones, Joe Unis, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, Walt Otto, Ken Bloomfield, and Yours Truly.

For our hand-of-the-month, we visit an old gem from the Laurel and Hardy school of bridge. As dealer, at favorable vulnerability, you pick up:

♠AJ42 ♥AJ82 ♦J6 ♣A52

No problem here, you open 1NT. The opponents are silent throughout the auction. Partner bids 2♦ (transfer) and you show your hearts. Partner now bids 3NT, and you have an obvious correction to 4♥. The opening lead is the ♣7, and partner tables a somewhat disappointing dummy:

♠K863 ♥953 ♦AT87 ♣K3

Oops. Partner obviously pulled the wrong card from the bidding box, and you belong in 4♠. Oh well, as the saying goes, playing in lousy contracts makes you a better declarer. (Eventually!) With a somewhat strangled "thank you, partner," you win the first trick in dummy and then play ♣3 to the ♣A and ruff a club. Next you play the ♥5 to the ♥8, and are pleasantly surprised (to say the least!) when this is taken by the ♥K. You win the spade return with the ♠J and lay down the ♥A and ♥J. Trumps are 3-3, so there is no further problem, and you win 11 tricks – just like all the normal people playing in spades (the ♠Q is on side, doubleton no less, and the spades are 3-2). The opponents, of course, are not amused.

Quote for the Month: "No matter how cynical you get, it's impossible to keep up." (Lily Tomlin)

Until next month ...

San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Special Congratulations

The San Fernando Valley Unit 561 hosted a highly successful Woodland Hills Sectional Tournament, April 24 – 25, 2015. There were 125 total tables and over 200 participants. THE TOP TEN Masterpoint winners were: Steve Gross 12.93, Andrew Vinock 12.93, Marel Bates 12.38, William Brodek Jr 11.57, Paula Olivares 11.57, Kevin Lane 11.23, Martin Blain 10.75, Samy Antoun 9.69, William Carlson Jr 8.31, and Barbara Pinchuk 8.31.

Friday Morning Game Winners: Open Pairs -- Marel Bates - Kevin Lane (A1), Claude Le Feuvre - Dwight Hunt (B1), and James Hawkins - Linda Silvey (C1); 299er Pairs -- Linda Hanson - Nancy Alvarado (D1/2), Aramis Simion - Daniel Strauss (D1/2, E1), and S Peterson - Cheri Bitar (F1).

Friday Afternoon Game Winners: Open Pairs -- William Brodek Jr - Paula Olivares (A1, B1) and Martin Hurwitz - Anne Hurwitz (C1); 299er Pairs -- Jane Winston - Michael Winston (D1, E1), and S Peterson - Cheri Bitar (F1).

Saturday Morning Game Winners: Swiss Teams -- John Van Egmond - Lamonte Johnson - Samy Antoun - Arif Shaw (A1/2, B1), William Carlson Jr - Sara Wilson - Barbara Pinchuk - Seymour Zemlyn (A1/2), and Richard Plotin - Helen Yamashiro - Connie Vinson - Michael Neuser (C1). Open Pairs -- Henry Zee - O Leung (A1, B1), and Larry Wong - William Morton (C1).

Saturday Afternoon Game Winners: Open Pairs -- Rae Murbach - Jerry Murbach (A1), Janice Richter - Norman Avrech (B1), and Raymond Primus - Ravnesh Amar (C1).

April Top Ten Masterpoints at the 750 Club were Susan Raphael 15.07, Phil Calloway 12.05, Gloria Feerst 11.56, Ray Primus 9.53, Norm Bloomfield 8.71, Ellen Carrier 8.71, Rochelle Lotto 8.69, Gary Baxley 7.89, Samy Antoun 7.72, and Dick Berg 7.70. 70% GAMES were achieved by Carole Hamburger - Barbara Astrin (73.72%) and Audrey Hill - Dennis Hill (73.54%).

Current News

Longest Day Charity Games will be held on Monday, June 22, 2015. Game times are 11 a.m. (1499er

game), 3 p.m. (Open game – joint-venture between Bridge on the Boulevard and the 750 Bridge Club), and 7:15 p.m. (1499er game). All three games will be held at the 750 Club in Woodland Hills. The card fees are \$10.00 and an auction of donated goods and services will be held. All proceeds are to be contributed to the “Alzheimer’s Association.” Additional donations will be accepted in the form of cash or checks made payable to the above organization.

Calendar

Friday, June 5, Carol Lang Memorial Game, at the 750 Club, game at 11 a.m., catered Italian lunch at 12noon, game continues 1 – 3:15 p.m. Reservations required.

Monday, June 22, Longest Day Alzheimer’s Charity Games. Details listed above.

Tuesday, July 21, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night, starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 6009-1071.

Saturday, December 5, Unit 561 Holiday Bridge Party/Dinner. Please save the date!

Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 held its first Mentor Game of 2015 on Tuesday, May 5. It was a huge success with 15 tables. The winners for North/South were Marianne Bakic and Betty Pavey with 58% and East/West was won by Marlene Strauss and Ruth Baker with 62.5%. The next Mentor Game will be held on Sunday, August 2nd at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale at 12:00 noon. A light lunch will be served and reservations are required. Anyone interested in participating should contact Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net) or Beth Morrin (morrin@sbcglobal.net).

This month we would like to highlight Rita Vannatter’s Thursday game in Castaic. This is an open game of 6-9 tables, usually using a Howell movement. Occasionally free plays are given to pairs by a random drawing. The game starts at 10:00 a.m. with a short lunch break around noon (players bring their own lunch) and is over around 2:00 p.m. The cost of game is \$8 and the location is at the Sports Complex in Castaic (take the Parker Road exit off I-5 north and turn right at the first stop sign). For more information contact →

Rita Vannatter at 661-803-2266 or 661-255-8667 or ervannatter@sbcglobal.net.

Unit 556 will participate in the Longest Day games by holding one game on Sunday, June 21st and 2 games on Monday, June 22. On Sunday, the Joshua Tree Bridge Club will hold a game at 1:00 p.m. in Palmdale. For information and/or directions visit their website at joshuatreebc.com or call 661-274-0959. On Monday, the Friendly Bridge Club will hold two games at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita. Space is limited in these games and reservations are required. Contact Paula Olivares at paula@pacbell.net or call 661-755-8543.

Congratulations to Russ Buker and Barbara York who scored over 65% in the Western Conference S.T.a.C. game on Friday, May 8 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club. They were 33rd overall in the Western Conference.

North/South Results

- 1st - 65.31% - Russ Buker – Barbara York
- 2nd - 54.59% - George Lewis – David White
- 3rd - 53.06% - Robert McBroom – Kathy Flynn

East/West Results

- 1st - 59.44% - Roshen Hadulla – Kathy Cresto
- 2nd - 56.38% - Roy Ladd – Albert Stock
- 3rd - 54.34% - Paula Olivares – Shari Elias

Unit Game Results

Monday, May 4th in Santa Clarita

North/South Winners

- 1st - 56% - Ruth Baker - Vibeke Gilbreath
- 2nd - 55% - Ron Oest - Sandi Oest
- 3rd - 54% - Bob Kofnovec - Dick Greenberg

East/West Winners

- 1st - 66% - Albert Stock - Roy Ladd
- 2nd - 56% - Lamonte Johnson - Hansford Rowe
- 3rd - 54% - Shari Elias - Bill Brodek

May 21st in Castaic

- 1st - 62.6% - Richard Stark - Lamonte Johnson
- 2nd with 62.5% - Brad Ward - David Gasper
- 3rd with 58.4% - Bill Brodek - Roy Ladd
- 4th with 56.1% - Aggi Oschin - Paula Olivares
- 5th with 53.5% - Albert Stock - Marguerite Pinkers

May 22nd in Palmdale

- 1st - 62% - Russell Buker - Barbara York

- 2nd - 61% - Nora Fincher - Rosalee McEntyre
- 3rd - 56% - George Lewis Jr - Henry Roediger

Upcoming Unit Games

Tuesday, June 9

Senior Center in Santa Clarita at 6:45 p.m.

Friday, June 19

Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale at 12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 13

Friendly Bridge Club in Santa Clarita at 1:00 p.m.

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, June 9 in Santa Clarita.

The Magic Mountain Sectional will be held this year on October 24 and 25. The board voted to hold the sectional again at the Friendly Valley Community in Santa Clarita.

Visit us on facebook for pictures from various tournaments and other activities. <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit556>

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

- Club Championship: Friday, June 5, 11:30 AM
- Club Championship: Tuesday, June 9, 11:30 AM
- Club Championship: Monday, June 15, 7:00 PM
- Club Championship: Friday, June 19, 7:00 PM
- Friday Night games on June 5 and 19

Club Championships

Sorry, the powers that be did not seem to recognize the South Bay Club Championships advertised on this website as Club Championships this past month. Consequently, no results are listed.

Milestones

We are sad to report that two of our unit members passed away this past month. They were Mahin Khadivi and Johnny Arceri. Mahin played regularly at the South Bay Club in the Monday and Wednesday afternoon games. She emigrated to the USA from Iran many years ago. Johnny played regularly mostly in NLM pairs. She and I once owned property together. She was instrumental in helping me to profit from this ownership.

Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night Swiss team games.

April 28: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronck Felczer

May 5: Mary Ann Coule, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

May 12: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

TSB Overall Finishers in Great Western STAC

Pairs that finished in the overalls of the gigantic Great Western STAC May 4 thru May 10 in games played in Torrance South Bay Unit clubs are listed in the following.

Monday Morning, May 4, SBBC,
 13A Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott
 21C Roberta Brown/Harold Koletsky

Mon Afternoon, May 4 Agile Bridge Club, 99er Pairs
 1A 1B 1C Marilyn and Andrew Limbach
 2A 2B 2C Susie Johnson/Sue Dillenbeck
 3A Melody Harper/Sue Gocke
 4A 3B Bob Turner/Edna Broman

Monday Evening, May 4, SBBC, Aux Pairs
 1A 1B Arlene Greengard/Ernie Frank
 2A Kim Wang/Ray Mack
 4A 3B Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio
 5A Fran Israel/Steve Ramos

Tuesday Morning, May 5, SBBC, 499er pairs
 5A 2B Regina Boll/Judy Colaianni
 6B Jamila Malikyar/Edward Rutenberg

Tues Afternoon, May 5, Agile Bridge Club, 199er pairs

1A 1B George Kay/Pamela Boyer
 3A Mike McGory/Nancy Karnes
 6A Sylvia Christensen/Mary Williams
 6B Carol DeCordova/Betsy Nicassio
 7B Kate Pecarovich/Marilyn Henshel
 6C Valerie Turner/Bonnie Okamoto

Wednesday Evening, May 6, SBBC, Aux Pairs
 1A Fran Israel/Mark Raggio

Thursday Morning, May 7, SBBC, 499er Pairs
 2A 1B Dawn McGill/Linda Bernard
 7A Elaine Asch/Terry Arnush

Friday Morning, May 8, SBBC
 35/36B Dolores Nawa/Carole King
 35/36B Pat Berg/Nanci Schultz

Friday Morning, May 8, Agile BC, 199er Pairs
 1A 1B Mike McGory/Bruce Schelden
 2A 2B 1C Doug Carlson/Howard Schecter
 5A 5B 2C Lynn Harvey/Joanne Hadley
 3C Jan Drayer/Thea Drayer
 5C Jim Mercer/Rose Marie Tashima

Saturday Afternoon, May 9, SBBC, Aux Pairs
 1A Gabriela Jackson/Betsy Amador
 2C Harold Koletsky/Carol Verin
 4C Nancy Guenther/Terry Hane

GUV Memorial Award

Last month I found myself on a cruise in the Mediterranean Sea with Gerri Carlson. On most days we listened for over an hour to Bridge lectures by a renowned pro. The subject of one of these lectures was when did a double mean double and when was it an action double. At the conclusion of this lecture we were given a few hands to play with the admonition that don't be surprised if all these hands required a double of some sort.

On one hand Vul vs NV Gerri's LHO opened 1♠ and RHO bid 2♦. Not to be phased Gerri jumped in with 3♣ on a broken club suit and a couple outside cards. This was passed back to RHO who tried 3♥ and LHO then bid 3NT. When this was passed back to Gerri she doubled demanding a club lead. Well she got the club lead, but the opponents easily wrapped up plus 550 on this hand. When I asked Gerri why she doubled →

she replied that all of these hands required a double of some sort so she figured she should Double 3NT. What she forgot to realize was that the double should have occurred when she bid 3♣. That score would have been even worse as she would have gone for 800.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Game: June 7

ABA-ACBL Game, ABA Los Angeles Unit

Heading for Chicagoland

District competition is complete for the Grand National Teams event to be held this August in Chicago. Bruce Altshuler is again on the team that will seek the Flight B title on behalf of District 23, and Jill Meyers, along with new Unit member Alex Kolesnik, will represent our District in the Championship Flight. They will join our Flight A and Flight C teams in Chicago, and we wish them luck.

Director, Please

Every three years our District elects a member to the ACBL's Board of Directors. This year, the election will be contested. One challenger to the incumbent has already emerged and nominations remain open until May 31. The members of the Unit Boards throughout the District will be the voters in this election, and votes will be cast beginning in August. If any of our Unit's members have issues you'd like considered as we contemplate our choices, I encourage you to bring those issues to the attention of our Board's members.

Hostest with the Mostest

Every year, one of the hottest tickets on our schedule is the annual ABA-ACBL Game. What makes it such a treasured commodity? It's a draw between the general hospitality and the food that makes me gain weight just thinking about it. The ABA's version of this year's game will be Sunday, June 7, at its Los Angeles Unit, 134 North Market Street, Inglewood, California. The food begins at 12:30 p.m. Don't forget to assure your spot by making a reservation. Take notes, so you

can compare when our turn to host rolls around in a few months.

A Change of Pace

After years of service to the Board, David Raphael has decided it's time for him to step down. We thank him for his years of service and look forward to many more years having him clean our clocks at the table. David's resignation left a vacancy on the Board. At its last meeting, the Board chose Bob Chen to fill that vacancy. We welcome Bob to the Board. After all, no Board can possibly have too many Bobs.

Let the Games Begin!

June marks the beginning of qualification for the North American Pairs competition, which culminates in the national finals at the Spring North American Championships. This year's finals will be at Reno in March 2016. The event has three flights. Flight C is limited to non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 points, and Flight B is limited to players with fewer than 2500 points. The first step on the road to Reno is to find and play in a qualifying game at a club. Don't miss this opportunity to let the ACBL pay your way to Reno.

Departures

It seems I'm writing too many of these paragraphs lately. In this month's column we must bid farewell to Charlotte Ukra. Charlotte was a fixture at the table for a number of years and things simply won't be the same without her. Our sympathies go out to Charlotte's family and friends.

Also leaving us was Don Krauss. Because Don was absent from the game for a number of years, many of us were unaware of the scope of his accomplishments at the table. Don won four North American Championships in the 1960s and 70s and also won a silver medal at the Bermuda Bowl. At the table, I knew Don as a kind and thoughtful competitor. Our sympathies go out to Don's family and friends.

Laurel Wreaths

As usual last month saw a bunch of tournament action. We defended our home court at the Spring Sectional when Bruce Altshuler won the Saturday →

morning Open Pairs event and Ifi Baqai won the Sunday Swiss. We thank all of those who made the restoration of the Spring Sectional such a rousing success.

The Garden Grove Sectional saw a number of visits to the winner's circle. Saul Priefer won the Saturday afternoon Stratified 499er

Pairs event. Ifi Baqai took home a win in the Saturday afternoon Swiss, while your Humble Scribe paired with Mike Savage for a win in the Sunday Swiss. Finally, Aram Bedros had a day for the ages on Tuesday in the Great Western STAC, winning both the afternoon event (playing at Barrington with Art Zail) and the evening event

(playing at the Marina Club with Wayne Karson), topping 75% in both sessions.

Welcome Mat

Three new members used our Unit as their entry point to the ACBL this month. We welcome Gilbert Cohen, Victor Palmieri, and Philip Reich. Transferring in from other Units to fill a couple of tables are Emily Blum, Sanford Glick, J.E. Goerz, Ashok Hargunani, Gordon Hubbard, and Barry West. As always, when you see these people at the table, please make them feel at home.

Around the Clubs

We held a pair of Unit-Wide Championships last month, and both events were won by married couples. Colin and Nelly Gordon won the first event, while Cecil and Ted Glaessner won the second.

At Beverly Hills, Lew and Rhoda Himmell won the Club Championship. Scoring up 70% games were Chuck Fonarow and Alan Wollman along with Bob Ashen and Karen Schwartz.

Om Chokriwala scored up a pair of 70% games at Barrington, playing with Marty Blain and Art Zail. Club champions at Barrington were Becky Clough and Nelly Gordon.

As always, the Marina City Club holds its games Tuesday evenings at 7:15 at 4333 Admiralty Way. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information or for a partner.

Climbing the Ladder

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July 6-12, 2015

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Entry Fees: \$14 per session (all events)
\$18 unpaid or non ACBL members
Juniors: \$8

Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin
310 720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com
Director-in-Charge: Brian Russell
Sanction R1507057

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Mark Bartusek, Leo Bell, Roger Lee, Jill Meyers, David Sachs, Michael Shuster, Bill Wickham, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
no vul

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| | Pass | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1♠* | Pass | 2♦ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

* WJS was not available

You, South, hold: ♠J8642 ♥9 ♦-- ♣KT96543

What call do you make?

This problem was given to me by Fred Upton, a reader. Fred knew that 1♠ was not an automatic response. Pass and 1NT are both possible. Three panelists either abstained or thought about abstaining because they thought that 1NT (forcing) was superior. 1NT does have the advantage of guaranteeing that we will find a 7-card fit, even if it is a 7-0 club fit. However, if opener has spades, it is possible to miss a 5-4 spade fit. If opener has 4=5=4=0, we could fail in 3♣ with 10 tricks available in spades. I will note that the three panelists who wanted to bid a forcing NT all play Flannery, so they are far less likely to miss a 5-4 spade fit by responding 1NT. Maybe this would have been a better problem if I would have given the auction as a response to 1♥. This problem would have been more difficult at MP, and, would also have been more difficult if responder was 5=0=1=7.

Bartusek: Abstain. I would not have bid 1♠ on the first round. One is supposed to “plan” the auction, and bidding 1♠ is ignoring partner’s probable continuations. I would either have passed 1♥ or I would have bid a forcing 1NT to allow me to subsequently sign-off in 3♣. Sure I might miss a 5-3 spade fit, [to say nothing of a 5-4 spade fit] but I think I’m going with the odds.

Shuster: 2♥. It is tempting to abstain after the anti-partnership 1♠ call. With a two-card length disparity and significant difference in quality, it would have been best to start with 1NT (the way to get to clubs in

2/1 without forcing.) Now that we’ve wound up in this situation (which we richly deserve) there is nothing we can do other than call 2♥ and hope for the best.

Bell: 2♥. I really dug a hole when I responded 1♠. I would have used a forcing notrump or passed even with five spades since there is no logical escape from the auction I perpetrated.

Meyers: 2♥. I’m getting out of Dodge as cheaply as possible.

Lee: 2♥. I don’t see any way of steering us to 3♣, and I also don’t see why 2♠ should do better.

Sachs: 2♥. At least I have a real preference, and anything else can lead to who-knows-where. In the surreal world, partner bids out his shape with 3♣, and I get to raise to six.

One panelist would like to use 2NT as a puppet to 3♣.

Wickham: 2♥. An auction that begins with the three bids as shown above is the very most difficult for standard bidders whenever responder has invitational or better values. Over the past several years, a couple of different solutions have become popular. In this case, I choose to be playing with a partner who plays my favorite method which is that 2NT demands a 3♣

PSP#1 continued on page 22

2

IMPs
EW vul

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| 1♠ | Pass | 1NT | Pass |
| ? | | | |

You South hold:
 ♠AKT8642 ♥K52 ♦A ♣KJ
 What call do you make?

This problem is based on a question Rae Murbach sent me, although I changed it some. All panelists forced to game, but they took several different routes to get there.

Shuster: 3NT. This shows a hand worth game with long spades. *[This is standard expert practice, it offers a choice of games, and is normally 7-2-2-2 or 6-3-2-2.]* If we belong in hearts, that is just too bad. We cannot safely force to game and have a dialogue about the majors without an artificial gadget. And it isn't even clear that a potential 5-3 heart fit will be better than a 7-1 spade fit. With only six spades (and an extra club), three clubs would be possible.

Sachs: 4♠. Are we playing some form of Drury? If yes, I bid 4♠, if not I bid 3♣ and hope things unscramble sensibly.

Bell: 4♠. I'll settle for what I think I can make opposite some scattered values. Some play 3♣ as an artificial game force which gives more room for exploration, but absent that agreement, I'm just going for the likely make.

Meyers: 3♣. This is worth a SJS.

Wickham: 3♣. This hand has strong game and even possible slam interest opposite a decent minimum response. Although our strain is likely to be spades, rounded suits are possible as well. I believe that 3♣ is virtually automatic, and I see no worthwhile alternative. This is most particularly true if my methods include a three-way jump shift into 3♣, showing spades alone,

or spades with four hearts or spades and clubs.

Bartusek: 3♥. This hand is definitely too good for 4♠. Partner might be able to figure out if he has golden cards if I bid 3♥ followed by 4♠. It's normal to jump shift into a 3-card minor but somewhat dangerous into a 2-card minor since partner might be loaded in the suit. *[Jump shifts into a major are rarely short suits. 3♥ looks far riskier than 3♣.]*

Wittes: 2NT. I play 2NT as forcing in this auction. Partner now bids 3♣ with either a doubleton spade or four hearts. 3♦ by partner would show five hearts. 3♥ by partner would show six hearts. 3♠ by partner would show a weak raise. 3NT by partner would show most hands with a singleton spade and no interest beyond game. *[This treatment has some significant upside, but does have a small downside. The upside includes having jump shifts be real and straightening out the number of hearts held by responder. It also frees up 3NT to be used in another way. In Wittes' partnership with Ross Grabel, they use 3NT to be 5=2=3=3, so that responder knows opener has exactly two hearts. The downside includes getting to game when responder has responded a little light and opener has a balanced 18 HCP. Another downside is that responder doesn't have an immediate 3 level support bid for opener's minor. Some slam tries may get murky. However, I think, on par, that the convention is good.]*

Lee: 4♦. Seems like it's barely worth a slam try, but I don't quarrel with 4♠. *[The self-splinter into diamonds looks on target to me.]*

3

MPs
no vul

| South | West | North | East |
|---------|------|-------|------------|
| 1♥ ? | 3♣ | 4♣ | Pass 4♠ |

You, South, hold:

♠8763 ♥AQJT6 ♦KQ62 ♣--

What call do you make?

This is a tough problem. I have first-round club control but since West is always going to lead a spade, spades become the real problem. I think it's close between doubling 4♠ and passing. If I pass partner may think I have a spade control. Thus, I lean towards doubling. Then, when East runs to 5♣, I can pass to show club shortness.

Some panelists ignore the spade suit problem and show the club control. This will work well if partner has a spade control, but could be a disaster if partner has no spade control (and a positional control will get lead through).

Bartusek: 5♣. Since I'm bidding again I might as well show the club control. Somewhat of an overbid, but if partner cue bids 5♦ I will obviously sign-off in 5♥. East clearly has sufficient club support to sacrifice in 5♣. Hopefully 5♥ is safe even with a spade lead.

Lee: 5♣. I'm not even sure what the alternative is supposed to be.

Sachs: 5♣. I changed my mind versus Pass. 4♣ did not show shortness just strength. I want to make it easy for partner to bid 5♦ so I can raise to six on the off possibility that 6♦ from his side is the best contract. Pass is probably still the best bid but 5♣ could be so pretty. *[Yes 5♣ could be pretty, but if partner has three spades without the ace or king-queen, 5♣ could be pretty awful.]*

Shuster: 5♣. Before LHO corrects to 5♣, stealing my cuebid.

Meyers: 5♥, close between Pass and 5♥. I am not going to feel comfortable if partner doubles, because they will run to 5♣ and I am not going to want to sit for that. So I am just bidding (plus I play that 5♥ is slightly invitational here).

Wickham: Pass. What a huge batch of attractive choices exist for this soft minimum. I'm certainly not eager to pound 4♠ with my wonderful trump holding, although that might chase my LHO into 5♣. If I move forward now, I risk finding very few losers but a large lack of winners in a five level (or higher) contract. It seems best to Pass and let partner make the best choice.

Wittes: Pass. The 4♠ bidder, as a passed hand, rates to have a big club fit with a desire for a spade lead. If partner has a good hand with spade shortness, I am interested in a possible slam. If partner has two or more spades, 4♥ may be the limit of the hand, and I would expect partner to double.

Bell: Pass. I might double if they were really going to play 4♠, but I suspect my RHO will bid 5♣ quickly if passed back to her. Anything else is too aggressive even with a good minimum.

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL PASADENA!

July 6th - 12th 2015

4

MPs
no vul

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| ? | Pass | 1♥ | 1♠ |

You, South, hold:
 ♠AK962 ♥T64 ♦T962 ♣K
 What call do you make?

What is this hand worth in support of hearts? Forcing raise? Limit raise? Simple raise? Since partner figures to be short in spades, the ♠K is likely to be wasted. If partner has at least two spades, one either has to draw trumps or lose the king to a ruff. The ♣K might not be worth anything. Something to consider is what if West raises spades. The last thing you want to happen is for partner to bid 4♥ based on his spade void.

Some panelists think that 2♠ is obvious.

Bartusek: 2♠. I don't understand what the problem is. *[The first problem is play versus defend. The second problem is hand evaluation.]*

Sachs: 2♠. I show a limit raise.

Others bid 2♠ because they don't think defending is quite right.

Meyers: 2♠. I don't like to sit for penalties at the 1 level when we have a fit.

Lee: 2♠. A bit chicken, but I don't think these spades are defensive enough to trap.

Wickham: 2♠. Defense might be our best option if partner has enough slow junk to beat 1♠ enough to exceed the value of our partscore (+300) and not make game. That risks -160 instead of +420 *[Hold on a minute! There are a total of 17 tricks available in spades and hearts combined with most of our points in the opponents' suit? Shirley you jest! Are you defending with Laverne? Even if partner reopens with a double holding a spade void (some players will reopen with a double holding a void, but some won't),*

we rate to have 8 hearts while they have 8 spades. The Law of Total Tricks says 16 should be the combined maximum. There will frequently be less than 16 total tricks with spade honors being better placed on defense than on offense. Declarer will probably score three trump tricks but not ever get control. He needs four outside tricks with spades as trumps to make 1♠ doubled, but he can only muster three defensive tricks against hearts? Jean-Rene Vernes is turning over in his French grave!] I have a three-card limit raise, so I show that with a 2♠ cuebid. That option is even more attractive if it shows only three trumps.

One panelist raises hearts, but is hoping he gets another chance to bid. No matter who bids again, he is in great shape.

Shuster: 2♥. It's matchpoints, so I don't need to stretch to make a limit raise. Going for penalty at the 1-level with an undisclosed fit is dangerous. The great thing about 2♥ is that it solves all future problems. I'll accept any game try with 3NT. Should the opponents continue to compete, I will have a trivial double.

The defenders!

Bell: Pass. Even with three hearts, my hand isn't really that great offensively. I hope partner reopens with a double, but if partner does anything else I can handle the auction.

Wittes: Pass (for penalties). My spades are good enough that I would expect to do some serious damage to 1♠ after a reopening double. I'm not crazy about having three hearts, but my spades are too good to pass up this opportunity. We have no guarantee of a game anyway.

5

IMPs
all vul

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1♠ | Pass | 2♦* |
| 3♣ | 3NT | Pass | 4♦ |
| Pass | 5♣ | Pass | 6♦ |
| Pass | Pass | | |

* Game forcing

North: ♠JT976 ♥Q83 ♦A5 ♣AJT

South: ♠Q8 ♥AK96 ♦KQJT96 ♣6

Assess the blame. Which bid was the worst?

Mark Bartusek sent me this problem, so I'll start with him. Mark didn't name his partner, but stated he was a good player who occasionally opened light. The first bid by both North and South is clear, but thereafter, every bid was criticized somewhat.

Bartusek: 90% North and 10% South. 5♣ (worst bid). This is not a mandatory cue bidding situation (I would sign off in 4NT rather than bidding 5♣). South is making a slam try in diamonds, and North has a horrible hand (despite the two aces). He has a minimum opener with two jacks and a queen, which are mostly going to be wasted (and only two diamonds). BTW, I would always double 3♣ with the North hand since West put his head on the chopping block when he came in vulnerable as a passed hand, and I have a minimum with no fit for partner. Sure South gets a little bit of the blame for jumping to 6♦, but I don't think he can realistically expect a good result if he cuebids 5♥ and then passes a 5NT bid by partner.

Mark gets some love from both Wickham and Sachs.

Wickham: North 98%, South 2%. 3NT is the worst bid. The opening bid and response were perfectly normal. The 3NT bid by North does seem a little rich; I can see that North has a definite opinion to express, but passing with a shapeless minimum seems to be normal. If North does have the extras that he implies, South must make the forward going 4♦ bid. North then had the option of showing no slam interest with an attempt to signoff in 4NT, but instead he chose to continue toward slam by making an optimistic 5♣ cuebid. If the 5♣ bid by North denied a control in either major, South does have some cause for alarm. But if so, where are partner's extras? Partner

did state that he had extra values and a slam suitable hand, did he not? North earns 98% of the blame for continual, unabated over-aggressiveness. South gets 2% because he charged through a possible stop sign, if 5♣ denied any major suit control (and 20% if he had played with North previously). As is frequently the case, the first bad bid 3NT is the worst, as it destroyed the foundation for partnership dialogue. And a bonus extra: Kaplan-Rubens Evaluation. North has a normal minimum opening bid. The nice spots cards in the black suits cause the K&R count to rise up to 11.95; not quite enough to escape the minimum range. Removing the 10's and 9 causes the K&R count to drop to 10.40. This must be the exact type of hand that North should push to open and then pass at his first opportunity in competition to show a 5332 minimum. The hand cannot be worse, can it? North did not believe that his hand was a minimum. This is obvious because at his next opportunity he bid 5♣ to show a slam suitable hand with his invisible extra values. On the other side of the table, South held an attractive 6-4 shape with clear extras. K&R tells us that the hand is worth 18.45 without any upgrade for either the singleton in the enemy suit or the queen of the suit partner opened. The hand is easily well within the slam range opposite a slam suitable opening with only mild extras. I would envision ♠KT976 ♥Q83 ♦A5 ♣AJ2, which K&R values at 14.15. Notice that slam is almost invincible opposite ♠KJTxx ♥Qxx ♦Ax ♣Axx, which K&R values at 14.35.

Sachs: North gets most of blame. Bad bids? 3NT which pre-empted our bidding space, 5♣ which overstated our happiness with a slam try, and a bit of blame for 4♦ which, if partner had a real 3NT bid, would almost never be right.

→

Some think many bids were mistakes.

Wittes: I don't like several of the bids on this hand. I don't like 3NT by opener with a dead minimum. I would rather pass, and allow partner to further describe his hand below game level. That hand can still bid 3NT over 3♦, 3♥, or even 3♠ (unless that would be a serious 3NT bid in spades). I would pass 3NT with responder's hand rather than bid 4♦. It is a good hand, but diminishes in value opposite probably wasted club values in partner's hand. 4♦ does have more credibility at IMPs than MPs. I don't like 5♣ by opener over 4♦. The hand is a dead minimum with a very poor major suit holding for the bidding. I would probably rate 5♣ as the worst bid.

Meyers: Give North 60% of the blame for not bidding 4NT (signoff) and South 40% of the blame for not bidding 5♦.

The rest of the panel finds more fault with South.

Shuster: North 40% South 60%. In order: 3NT: If N/S had a specific agreement that 3NT shows a slam negative hand with at least two stoppers, then 3NT should have ended the auction. I assume they had no such agreement. Given that, then it isn't a good idea - it eats up a whole level opposite an unlimited partner. What is the rush? Passing would allow partner room to call 3♦, 3♥ or 3♠. Over any of those, you can then offer 3NT, and the rest of the auction would become much easier. 4♦: South could have passed 3NT, but at IMP scoring, I understand bidding over it - surely both 4NT and 5♦ are safe landing spots, and he does have a 5-loser hand. BUT South bid over it in the wrong way - South would have been better placed to call either 4♣ or 4♥. Either of these would get N/S into a more logical cuebidding/choice of strain auction. 4♣ seems best, as it leaves the most room, and the auction would have proceeded 4♣ - 4♦; 4♥ - 5♣; 5♦ - pass. 5♣: North, holding two aces, cuebids for partner. I agree. South will usually have short spades on this auction, and North holds almost no wastage there, so his hand has improved. While my first instinct was that North should backpedal with 4NT, upon reflection, I decided that 5♣ is right. 6♦: Hoisted by his own petard, South was concerned that 4♠ by partner would be an offer to play, not a cuebid, so bids slam. But what is he hoping partner holds? Surely partner holds the heart queen (and maybe the jack) to volunteer 3NT. Partner holds two club

stoppers including the ace. Partner didn't open 1NT. So what's he got that can make slam? ♠KTxxx ♥QTx ♦Ax ♣AJT? No, that is a 1NT opener (and slam isn't cold even then!) 5♦ would have been enough. Putting it all together, the worst calls are 3NT, 4♦, and 6♦ - all clear errors. 3NT was the worst of these, as it set the off the whole debacle by preempting his own constructive auction. 4♦ and 6♦ showed muddled thinking. I make 3NT to be worth 40%, 4♦ and 6♦ 30% each.

Lee: Almost all the blame to South. I think North should double 3♣, but 3NT is definitely a bridge bid. South should pass 3NT, but given that he didn't, 5♦ is surely enough. I don't think North's 5♣ bid denies a spade control at all. I would say it was almost entirely South's fault.

Bell: South 95%, North 5%, with 6♦ being the worst bid.. North could have passed 3♣ to see what partner would do, but it's certainly reasonable to bid 3NT. Obviously, South perceived this showed extra values and tried for slam. North made the normal cuebid over 4♦, and South simply ignored the fact that North skipped a 4♠ cuebid, making 6♦ a thoughtless overbid.

This turned out to be an excellent "Assess the Blame" problem. Thank you Mark! It generated opinions from "South gets almost all the blame" to "North gets almost all the blame" and everything in between. The bid I hate the most is 3NT. When Mark first gave me the problem I asked "Why not double 3♣?" Doubling 3♣ generates +800 for North-South. Further, at the table it was even easier. West was known to be a little too creative with some of his bids. The 5 IMPs lost by not doubling 3♣ are 100% on South. But 3NT gets the blame for preempting the auction also, so it gets a significant portion of the 13 IMPs which were lost by bidding the no play slam. 4♦ gets a small amount of blame because 4♣ would be a better bid. 4♦ sets trumps, is the strongest bid North has, and asks South to cuebid if possible, basically a demand cuebid. What would North do if he were even stronger? South didn't absolutely have to bid 5♣, but he didn't know how strong the unlimited North hand was. 5♣ was a reasonable effort made more difficult by the two mistakes which preceded it. 6♦ of course gets a fair amount of the blame because of South's lack of a spade cuebid. So I'm assessing 65% to the 3NT bid, 5% to the 4♦ bid, and 30% to 6♦. I agree with 1♠, 2♦, and 5♣.

PSP #1 *continued from page 16*

bid, which I would then pass. This requires, of course, that you will be willing to give up on ever making exactly +120, which is a small loss IMHO. Of course, playing standard methods, I would simply prefer to 2♥.

Wittes: 2♥. This is a truly impossible problem. *[I think Jon hit the nail on the head with that statement. We have to guess whether to bid INT, 1♠ or Pass before we get any information, and it's impossible to change courses after we have heard partner's rebid.]* At least we're not vulnerable. I'm going to try to get out as cheaply as I can.

WEST LA *continued from page 1*

No fewer than five of our members took the first step on the ladder of achievement by becoming Junior Masters. That first step belongs to Sally Boardman, Phoebe Chang, Stanley Kangas, Suzanne Prince, and Sue Wittner. Suzanne Barbis has become a Club Master, while Zorina Pelant, Saul Prierer, and Tate Shafer are now Sectional Masters. Carole Hamburger is now a Regional Master, while Leslie Brucker and Lee Hausner are now NABC Masters.

Our Unit's newest Life Master is Nancie Barrier. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

What do
you think?

Send letters to the editor to:

bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org

Next Month's
Problem Solvers Panel Problems

1. IMPs all vul:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| Pass | 1♣ | 2♥ | Pass |
| Pass | Dbl | Pass | ? |

You, South, hold: ♠T3 ♥KT94 ♦Q873 ♣863
What call do you make?

2. MPs all vul:

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 3♦ | 3♠ | Pass | 1♣ |
| | | | ? |

You, South, hold: ♠A6 ♥AQ62 ♦Q64 ♣AK76
What call do you make?

3. IMPs all vul:

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♣ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass |
| 2♠ | Pass | 3♣ | Pass |
| ? | | | |

You, South, hold: ♠AK9 ♥J654 ♦87 ♣AT93
What call do you make?

4. IMPs both vul

| West | North | East | South |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| | 1♥ | 3♣ | ? |

You, South, hold: ♠Q9754 ♥A7 ♦A7 ♣AQ53
What call do you make?

5. MP Pairs no vul

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| 1♥ | 4♠ | Dbl | Pass |
| ? | | | |

You, South, hold: ♠-- ♥AKJT8 ♦J952 ♣Q873
What call do you make?