

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 52, #3

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Director, Please

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



As if our game of bridge wasn't complicated enough, throw in the fact that we have "referees" to monitor the proceedings and a whole new dimension opens up. How many players have come to that point in the game when something unusual happens during the bidding or play and you have to think for a moment whether the proper action is to call the director? We probably all have come to either decision more than once. Sometimes we call and sometimes we do not.

What thoughts go through our minds at those moments? Is it serious enough? Should I take the time? Who are the opponents? Can it help us or hurt us? Do I know the answer? On and on it goes. And what is the right answer? Well, if we just review the axioms of our game, it would seem that it is ALWAYS correct to call the director. Probably even more so when you know the answer!

Part of playing the game and enjoying the game is keeping peace at the table. For **any** irregularity, please call the director in as friendly a manner as possible and all players should be more receptive to any forthcoming resolution. The director will restore equity, if possible, or take other action as the rules dictate.

I was watching a rookie game recently and wit-

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A Challenging Time

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun.

In early March I will attend the ACBL board meeting in Reno. The meeting will be active on a number of fronts.

The ACBL is in a challenging time. The two most visible signs of those difficulties are the cheating scandal that emerged last fall and summer and the continuing financial problems. Last fall, the ACBL raised club game fees, StaC fees, NABC card fees and various regional/sectional tournament fees to counterbalance an \$800+K increase in costs. The fee increases primarily address technology and cheating costs.

Fortunately or unfortunately, the money and cheating issues are not the biggest challenges facing the ACBL. The ACBL can easily weather those two very serious issues if we're able to attract and retain new players to this great game. We need a long-term strategy. The key issue is that our new players now are mostly baby-boomers who had prior exposure to bridge. The ACBL must adapt to a time when bridge is not part of popular culture.

I am on the strategy committee and so I welcome your thoughts on ensuring bridge's future. Fortunately, District 23 has several clubs that have enjoyed sustained growth. These clubs offer insights into possible solutions.

I'm also on the technology committee. Bad news: as near as I can tell, the \$2M spent re-writing ACBLscore appears to be a total loss. To be sure, the ACBL learned some valuable lessons, but the ACBL Chief Technology Officer is very focused now on fixing technology infrastructure problems at headquarters. By "infrastructure" I mean technologies other than ACBLscore that are critical to ACBL operation. I am working with other members of the committee to make the best of our technology situation, and the new ACBL President,

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

Ken Monzingo, has made technology a priority.

Monzingo has also made it a priority to cut waste. He has led by example by self-imposing some cuts to his own budgets. At Reno, and throughout this year, the board will be considering a number of ways to better manage needless costs.

Lastly, our district is due to receive our quadrennial charity grant. Next month I will discuss how that process will work, including ideas mentioned at the District 23 board meeting in mid-February.

I hope to see you at the Reno NABC. Reach me at: kland23@gmail.com.



PRESIDENT continued from page 1

nessed an irregularity which I had to smile at (to myself of course). Believe me, folks, I have a limited knowledge of the rules, but one thing I know is that a kibitzer cannot say or do anything during the play, so I sat back and watched the outcome. Here was the situation:

N	E	S	W
1♣	P	1♥	2♠
P	3♦	3♣	P
P	P		

East proceeded to lead a spade and the declarer, North, after some maneuvering ended up making 3♣ on the button. North and South were very pleased.

At the end of play while cards were being returned to the tray, I politely asked the players if anyone realized what just happened. No one replied, so I asked for a bidding review and the light dawned. They

then asked what to do about it and I replied that the director should be called for a summary of events and he would advise the players on the correct procedures for this event. The director was called and, while also mildly amused, advised the players that the result would stand and they should try to pay more attention to the bid sequences in the future.

The lesson for the players, besides the director advice, was that the director is available for such advice and should be called when unusual things happen. At some point, they will also realize that the outcome of that hand might have been much different if the director call had come from them when the insufficient bid was made. It also may have changed the game results for many pairs!

We do risk other kinds of problems when calling the director and it is hard to get around this one. Offending the opponents is a risk even when a call is made in the friendliest manner possible. Natural human reactions cannot be controlled. Hopefully, the director will handle all situations with courtesy and respect for all the players and this attitude will smooth over any ruffled feathers.

No one said directing was easy, but players should realize that settling irregularities is in the Director's job description, not in ours! Please call them when needed and our games will run more efficiently. See you at the tables.

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier REALTORS

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What do you think?

Send Letters to the Editor to:
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

February at the Sheraton

by Stan Holzberg, District 23 Tournament Chairman

Our first Regional of 2016 was hosted last week by the 4-Points Sheraton near LAX. A first time venue is always a challenge, but most things were handled smoothly by our well-oiled Tournament Committee headed by Peter Benjamin and me. We hope all the attendees from around the country enjoyed themselves as much as we enjoyed being their hosts.

We had lots of winners – some of whom had their pictures taken! If you snagged our photographer, Tom Lill, you'll see those pictures on this page and the next one. We'll use our imaginations for all those other winners.

Our week started off with a 299er bang on Monday. Jeff Grotenhuis' workshop had 85 players anxious to learn more about our game and jump into the competition. Heard that the lunches were super.

We were honored during the tournament to have the new ACBL president, Ken Monzingo, attend and even pitch in as a speaker on Saturday. He mentioned some challenges in our organization but having good people to work those issues.

Our attendance list showed players from Honolulu, New York, Chicago, Kansas City, Michigan, Canada, and Texas. Wow! Local participation was just outstanding from the West LA and South Bay Units, and pretty fair from San Fernando and Long Beach. Our District 22 friends also continued their outstanding support of their sister District, and we thank them for driving all the way to our locations. We hope that nice free lunch on Sunday made the trips worth it. The cookie was super after a great sandwich and coke.

Much planning and hard work is happening now to prepare for our next super summer tournament at the Hilton in Long Beach. No one should miss that one as we lead up to the fireworks on the 4th of July. Please come join us for good weather, good bridge, good dining, and good friendships.

**More pictures
and a big thank you
on the next page!**



Monday Charity Pairs
1B: Leila Greenfield & Mike Klemens



Tuesday Rita Corwin Memorial Pairs
1A: Mark Itabashi & Peter Gelfand



Wednesday Open Pairs
1A: Peter Gelfand & Mark Itabashi



Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs
1: Leslie Brucker & Bob Greene



Wednesday George Washington KO 2
Mike Klemens, Dwight Hunt, Leila Greenfield, Claude LeFeuvre



Wednesday Compact KO 2
Nancy Heck, Cecil and Ted Glaessner, Karen Byrd



Thursday Pat Banks Open Pairs
1A: Mark Itabashi & Peter Gelfand



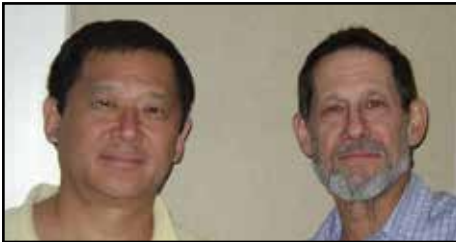
Thursday Abe Lincoln KO
Subba Ravipudi, Ron Lien, Mark Tang, Sankar Reddy

A Big Thank You

by Candy Scott



Thursday Bracketed Swiss 2
Nancy Heck, Cecil and Ted Glaessner,
Karen Byrd



Friday Open Pairs
1A: Mark Itabashi & Steve Love



Saturday Open Pairs
1A: Yatindra Sahae & Peter Benjamin



Saturday Teddy Roosevelt KO 2
Samantha MacDouglas, Bryan Delfs,
Jennifer Chalfan, Brian Reynolds

As corresponding Secretary for District 23 it's my responsibility to thank all those who made it possible to enjoy a week of bridge. First there's Pete Benjamin, our Tournament Manager, whom we are so lucky to rely on. Bad luck is when we have to play against him (he has a trick or two up his sleeve).

Next is Stan Holzberg the Tournament Chairman. He did an incredible job with some amazing people. Amongst those people were those stationed at Hospitality, starting with Penny Barbieri and her candy, stickers, and bags for winners and novices. Sitting next to her was Diane Sachs on Partnership. Many partners and newcomers had smiles on their faces as they left with another LA Regional memento and directions to the entry desks. Tom Lill did double duty as Daily Bulletin Editor and photographer (and the lucky guy who got to partner Penny). Jeff Grotenhuis (I can now spell his name, but still can't pronounce it) not only organized, but got dressed up for the Monday special workshop, lunch, and bridge.

We thank all our speakers who entertained us during the breaks. Ellis Feigenbaum stepped in for Steve Smolen and explained the Smolen convention – always handy. Paul Darin gave us those major suit raises to think

about. Margie Michelin gave us clues to the game in between her jokes, and Jordan Chodorow spoke on slam bidding tips. What surprises will Margie bring us next time?

Lastly, we could not do without our Caddymaster Kim Wang and sidekick Bob Chen. McKenzie Myers, our Director-in-Charge, and his crew Arleen Harvey, Pete Knee, Ken Horwedel, Brandon Sheumaker, and Gary Zieger kept all in control. I must admit to having called them to my table more than once (sigh).

Thank you all and see you in Long Beach!



Saturday Gold Rush Pairs
1: Tom Bauer & Virginia Ward



Saturday Compact KO 3
Carnell Wingfield, Stephanie Young,
Gloria Brown-Cook, Lutrell Long

Fabulous Guest Speakers

Los Angeles Regional 2016



Tuesday February 16th
Steve Smolen
 on **"SMOLEN"**
2:30

Retired attorney and bridge bum. Steve teaches and works with junior cruises all over the world. His brother Mike Smolen, who passed away years ago, created the system on our convention card, SMOLEN. If you use the convention at Steve's table, he tries to collect quarter from you for royalties.

Wednesday February 17
Paul Darin
"Major Suit Raises"
2:30



Paul Darin has been playing bridge for 30 years. He is a diamond life master, teacher and director. He strives to make things easy with a laid back approach. His method of teaching includes positive reinforcement. He loves bridge and delights in helping others to see the light of this fascinating game.



Thursday February 18th
Marjorie Michelin
"Clues"
2:30

Grand Life master, ACBL teacher and lecturer. A favorite for her energy and spirit. She is a national champion and is known by many as "The Secret Partnership Desk".

Friday February 19
Jordan Chodorow
"Slam Bidding"
2:30



Jordan Chodorow is the President of the West Los Angeles Unit. In 2003, Jordan won the North American Pairs B. His play of the hand has been featured in the New York Times bridge column, and he is a popular expert Vugraph commentator on Bridge Base Online. Jordan practices tax law in Westwood. He also is a professional film critic (*Jordan on film*), a U.S. Open tennis umpire, and a four-time California crossword champion.

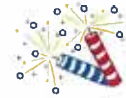


Saturday February 20
ACBL President
Ken Monzingo
"Aunt Lucy Hand Patterns"
and Q & A on the ACBL
2:30

Ken Monzingo, San Diego, is the current President of American Contract Bridge League. He has represented District 22 for the past seven years on the National Board of Directors. One of the pioneers of cruise ship bridge teaching, Ken spent the 80's and 90's as bridge director on seven cruise lines. Ken has chaired four North American Bridge Championships. He will close his political career next year as Chairman of the Board of ACBL and Chairman of the popular San Diego Fall NABC.

Los Angeles Regional

Long Beach, CA
June 27 - July 3 2016



Tournament Highlights

Gold Rush Pairs - Tuesday through Thursday!
New Gold Rush Swiss - Friday!
Star Speakers every day!
299er games every day!
Daylight Schedule all week!



Eat ... Sleep ...
BRIDGE!!!

Monday Pro-Am Workshop & Game

Free two-hour bridge lesson on Monday June 27 from 10:30 am to 12:30, followed by lunch and a Pro-Am pairs game.
Card fees for Pro-Am: \$14 (pros play for free)

Registration Required!

Please call Jeff Grotenhuis
310-600-4275

Hilton Long Beach

701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Room rate: \$129 (please refer to ALACBU)

Reserve at 800-445-8667 by Thursday, June 2nd
Self parking: \$7

Card fees: \$14 (\$18 for non-ACBL Members)



Need a Partner?

Diane Sachs
dianesachs@yahoo.com
562-981-4884

Tournament Manager:

Peter Benjamin
ahoneydo@aol.com
310-720-6050

Director-in-Charge:

Ken Horwedel

Tournament Chair: Stan Holsberg
District 23 President: Mike Marcucci

Tournament Sanction: R1607031
Flyer Designer: Mr. F

Los Angeles Regional

Long Beach, CA
June 27 - July 3 2016



Monday, June 27, 2016

299er Free Workshop/Lunch Reserv. Rqd.....10:30 am
PRO-AM (single session) Reserv. Rqd.....1:15 pm
AM Side Game Series (1 of 6).....1:15 pm
Single Session Stratified Charity Pairs (ALACBU Scholarship).....7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

AM Side Game Series (2 of 6).....10:30 am
AM 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Marvin Grabel Memorial Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm

Guest Lecture.....2:30 pm

Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (1 of 5).....3:15 pm
PM 299er Pairs (single session).....3:15 pm

Dinner Break.....6:45 pm - 7:30 pm

Tue-Wed Evening Swiss Teams (1 of 2).....7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 29, 2016

AM Side Game Series (3 of 6).....10:30 am
AM 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Wed. Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm

Guest Lecture.....2:30 pm

Wednesday, June 29, 2016

Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (2 of 5).....3:15 pm
PM 299er Pairs (single session).....3:15 pm
Dinner Break.....6:45 pm - 7:30 pm

Tue-Wed Evening Swiss Teams (2 of 2).....7:30 pm

Thursday, June 30, 2016

AM Side Game Series (4 of 6).....10:30 am
AM 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Stars and Stripes KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Equinox Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
John Wreede Memorial Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm

Guest Lecture.....2:30 pm

Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (3 of 5).....3:15 pm

Friday, July 1, 2016

AM Side Game Series (5 of 6).....10:30 am
AM 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
Stars and Stripes KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Liberty KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Gold Rush Swiss Teams (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Friday Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Guest Lecture.....2:30 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (4 of 5).....3:15 pm

Saturday, July 2, 2016

AM Side Game Series (6 of 6).....10:30 am
Sandy Rink Memorial 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
Marshall Miles Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Liberty KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Queen Mary Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Saturday Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm

Entertainment Event.....2:30 pm

Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (5 of 5).....3:15 pm
PM 299er Pairs (single session).....3:15 pm

Sunday, July 3, 2016

Marshall Miles Stratified Pairs (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Stratified Fast Pairs (2 sessions).....10:30 am & TBA
Flight A/X Swiss Teams (2 sessions).....10:30 am & TBA
Bracketed Flight B/C/D Swiss Teams (2 sessions).....10:30 am & TBA

Event Colors:

New Events: Gold

Teams: Green

Pairs: Blue

299ers: Black

Breaks: Hot Pink

Stratified Games:
0-1500/1500-3000/3000+

Gold Rush:
0-100/100-300/300-750

Bracketed Flight B/C/D:
Bracketed by average points of team. No player over 3000 MPs

KOs may be handicapped.
Games will be stratified by average masterpoints.

Around the Units in District 23



Glendale Verdugo
by Sharon Wolf

Unit Game, March 12, 2016
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

Results of the February Unit game were as follows:

N/S

A1	Karen Arase & Samuel Wang
A2	Caroline Cohen & Tim Lolli
A3 B1 C1	Rufus Rhoades & Carole Provost
B2	Adam Barron & Bud Kalafian

E/W

A1 B1	Art Chacanas & Patrick Cardullo
A2 B2 C1	Nancy Lyon & Betsy Josias
A3 B3 C2	Fay Chu & Maureen Mosh

Our next Unit game is on March 12. Please join us.



Long Beach
by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

January 24 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Kevin Lane/Robert Shore, 2nd Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy, 3rd Kim Wang/Chiwen Chen, 4th Steve Sturm/Subba Ravipudi, 5th Mark Leonard/Phil Clayton, 6th John Petrie/Sankar Reddy. In the B flight overalls: 3rd

Eileen Nelson/Julie Cunningham, 4th Pamela Cole/Steve Alt, 5th Judith Jones/Wayne Rapp, 6th April and John Berg. And in the NLM game overalls: Barbara and Alan Olschwang were 1st, Don Vallens/Rai Scime and Bill Dilks/Bonny Walsh were tied for 2/3. Congratulations to all!

February 14 United-Rated Sunday team game:

The winning teams were: 1st Penny Wentworth/Eva Mroz/Jon Yinger/Sankar Reddy. 2nd Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith/Diane Sachs/Jane Reid. 3rd Peggy Waite/Janet Logan/Betty McClellan/Richard Bakovic. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: January 16 through February 15:

In the open game Wednesday evening Jan 27 Brandon Sheumaker/Mark Leonard had a 72.67% game, and in the open game Feb 7 Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger had a 70.14% game. In the NLM game Jan 25 Dalia Hernandez/Joyce Roberts had a 72.67% game. Congratulations to all three pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards January 16 through February 15: In the Unit Game Jan 24 Kevin Lane/Robert Shore won 4.67mp for 1st, Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy 3.50mp for 2nd. Feb 6 Keith Hafen/John Melis won 4.13mp for 1st, Brian and Linda Trent 3.23mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all four pairs!

Get Well Wishes to Lois Perovich

New Members: Mark Beizer, Julianne Belbin, Carolee Windsor. Welcome to the Club!

Status Changes: New Advanced NABC Club Masters: Martin Lipman, Richard Schaeffer. New Bronze Life Master: Jean Kato. New Silver Life Master: Sharon Biederman. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club

Feb 28 Unit Game. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8.

Feb 29 Unit-rated Leap Day game. 12:30 p.m. Extra points, regular card fees.

March 20 Unit Game. Game begins at 1pm. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8. →

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Game: Jan 22--clubhouse #1: Judy Carter-Johnson/Phillippe Varda tied for 1/2 in A, 1 in B. Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Slutsky tied for 1/2 in A. Sharon and Al Appel 3 in A. Joan and Ted Wieber 4 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Claudette Barrack/Cookie Dampman 5 in A, 3 in B. Simone Chotten/Joyce Henderson 6 in A. Sue McHale/Alan Olschwang 4 in B, 2 in C. Sharon Beran/Nancy Lichter 5 in B. Carmen Gross/Jack Dampman 3 in C. Jean Byer/George Koehm 4 in C.

Club Championship Game Jan 23--Clubhouse #1: Sue Fardette/Marilyn McClintock 1 in A. Verna Burns/Joan Tschirki 2 in A. Sharon and Al Appel 3 in A. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 4 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Sibyl Slutsky/Chie Wickham 5 in A, 2 in B. Dorothy Favre/Eileen Nelson 6 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Howard Smith 4 in B. Martin Lipman/Alan Olschwang 5 in B, 2 in C. Joan and Ted Wieber 6 in B. Betty Scharf/Bill Robinson 3 in C. Linda Nye/Bill Power 4 in C.

Unit Rated Game Feb 11—Clubhouse #3: Jim Kapling/Alan Olschwang 1 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Fern Dunbar/Carol Murakoshi 2 in A. Linda and Richard Stein 3 in A. Ted Galardos/Richard Sands 4 in A. Kiyo Nagaishi/Bob Mault 5 in A. Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 6 in A, 2 in B. Midge Dunagan/Mark Singer 3 in B, 2 in C. Sharon Beran/Bud Parish 4 in B. Louise Seifert/Stam Johnson 5 in B, 3 in C. Julia Cunningham/Dick Stammerjohn 6 in B, 4 in C.

Congratulations: Camden 'Bud' Parish earned over 15 MPs at the Regional in Riverside

Upcoming Games

Club Championship Games:

Clubhouse #3: March 17, April 18

Clubhouse #1 April 16, April 22

Unit Rated Game: Clubhouse #1 April 15

Any news for next month's column: please email me at jcj90740@gmail.com. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, March 19, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Sat, March 5, 9:30 a.m., La Verne site

In December's Unit game, Margie Hall and Ann Raymond took top honors. Second place went to Genise Hasan – Linda Ananea, followed by Fredy and Lulu Minter, Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry, and Karen Olin – Karen McCarthy.

We're in luck this month, as the February Unit game was held early enough to make the newsletter. Top honors went to the Minters, followed by Clint Lew – Walt Otto, Claudia Cochran – Hanan Mogharbel, Richard Patterson – Margie Hall, and Gino Barbieri – Carolyn Siracuse.

In the February Individual, Ann McClelland took the top spot, followed by Sofi Kashubai, Don Logsdon, Steve Mancini, and Al Lax.

The top game this month was "only" 67.7%, turned in once again by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Other winners: Claudia Cochran, Clint Lew, Kurt Trieselmann, Walt Otto, Ken Bloomfield, Margie Hall, Ann Raymond, Penny Barbieri, Carolyn Siracuse, and Gayle Ginsburg. The final Unit Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenny standings are out. You can find them on the ACBL web site. We will be presenting the awards at the April Unit game, and if you have won an award, you'll be getting notified by our hard-working Membership Chairman. For our hand-of-the-month we return to the "Why Me?" theme. This hand occurred during the charity pairs at our district winter regional. You deal and pick up:

♠AK9632 ♥AQ63 ♦85 ♣9

You open 1♠, LHO chimes in with 2♣ (don't they always?), partner raises to 2♠, RHO passes, and over to you. Only 13 HCP, but if partner has help in hearts ... do you make a game try by bidding 3♥?

If you do, partner will accept. The opening lead is the ♠K, and partner faces these cards:

♠Q87 ♥84 ♦T9632 ♣AJ

A bare minimum, but you have chances. Trumps need to be 3-2 or you have problems. They are, so ... all you need is the heart hook! It loses, of course. →

You can ruff your two little hearts in dummy, which succeeds when the opponent with 3 trumps also has 4 hearts. You also succeed when the ♠J falls doubleton (enabling you to ruff both hearts with small cards.) Not the best game, but certainly not the worst.

Too bad. In addition to the ♥K being offside, the ♠J is guarded twice and only three hearts accompany it. Down 1 was worth all of 4 matchpoints on a 12 top. Did you bid the game? Looks like most people didn't. Oh well. Looks like a case of terminal optimism.

Quote for the Month: "If you can't say anything nice to your partner, at least have the decency to be vague." (Ron Klinger)

Until next month ...



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

We are continuing to profile some of our Inspirational Players in Unit 556. This month we will feature Betty Pavey:

Betty Pavey moved from Chicago to California in 1964. She picked up a bridge book entitled "Learn to play Bridge in Three Weeks" by Alfred Sheinwold. She started to play bridge right there and then and has been playing ever since. She also read other books and declared "each time I play bridge, I learn something new." Friendly and sociable, Betty used to play pinochle and mahjong and has always loved card games.

She played bridge in Canoga Park but now that she only plays once a week, she narrowed it down to Santa Clarita where she played from the time it opened "a very long time ago."

She has three grown children and three grandchildren but sadly, none of them learned to play bridge, said Betty. She used to play golf and held a 13 handicap "until the legs gave out." She donated much of her time in the National Guard making gift boxes for the servicemen and their families. Betty loves movies, exercises three times a week, and if "she is still around" will turn 90 on April 13.

Betty said "I met some of the nicest people in bridge and am very happy for that".

Winners of the 2015 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Races: Susan Strassner, Jane Dietz, Phoebe Evans, Aggi Oschin, Barbara York, Mary Ellen Downs, Bert Stock, Roy Ladd, Bill Brodek, and Nell Schanz.

Winners of the 2015 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Races: Susan Strassner, Gay Gipson, Phoebe Evans, Aggi Oschin, Carol Provost, Mary Ellen Downs, Bert Stock, Roy Ladd, Bill Brodek, Paul Markarian, (Over 10,000) John Swanson.

STaC Game Results January 29 in Palmdale

- 1 Bill Brodek & Bert Stock - 60.9%
- 2 Rand Pinsky & Kathy Swaine - 60.7%
- 3 Rosalee McEntyre & Nora Fincher - 60%
- 4/5 Barbara York & Beth Morrin - 54.6%
- 4/5 George Lewis & Joanne Freatman - 54.6%
- 6 Henry Roediger & Sharry Vida - 53.9%

Upcoming Events

Unit Game and Awards Luncheon at Joshua Tree Bridge Club on Sunday, March 6th at 12:30 p.m.



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

April 1-2: San Fernando Valley Sectional

Unit 561 will host a San Fernando Valley Sectional Tournament on Friday - Saturday, April 1 -2, at the 750 Club (Prince of Peace Church) 5700 Rudnick Ave, Woodland Hills. Limited MP Pairs, Fri, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., Stratified Open Pairs, Fri and Sat, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Fees will be ACBL members \$12, Non-members \$15. Swiss Teams, Sat, 10 a.m., fee of \$112/Team (which includes lunch). Contact Rochelle Lotto, Tournament Chair, for information at nanalotto@yahoo.com. For partnerships, contact M. J. Jubelirer at mjjubelirer@att.net.

District 23 STaC Proposal

The recent District 23 proposal to eliminate →

STaC games at the local clubs unless ACBL would agree to revenue sharing with the clubs has been reviewed and voted on by U561 Board Members. The U561 vote was unanimous to reject this D23 STaC Proposal.

Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Winners

Bravo and congratulations to all of the U561 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners for 2015! These outstanding players are as follows: 0-5 - Yoshie Bell (MM, AOC); 5-20 - Doni Sidell (MM, AOC); 20-50 - Raymond Primus (MM, AOC); 50-100 - Beverly McLeod (MM, AOC); 100-200 - Dennis Hill (MM, AOC); 200-300 - Daniel Strauss (MM, AOC); 300-500 - Phillip Calloway (MM, AOC); 500-1,000 - Dwight Hunt (MM) and Rhoda Weisler (AOC); 1,000-2,500 - Om Chokriwala (MM, AOC); 2,500-5,000 - Martin Blain (MM, AOC); 5,000-7,500 - Peter Knee (MM) and Armand Szulc (AOC); 7,500-10,000 - Gilbert Stinebaugh (MM) and Andrew Vinock (AOC); and, over 10,000 - Mitch Dunitz (MM) and Steve Gross (AOC).

Special Congratulations

New Life Master Achievements by Unit 561 players are: Michael Davoudian and Larry Kussin (Life Master); Bobbi Le Feuvre, William Raines, and Renee Wishengrad (Bronze Life Master).

January Top Ten Masterpoints at the 750 Club were Claude Le Feuvre 9.74, Dwight Hunt 9.33, Susan Raphael 8.83, Phillip Calloway 7.78, Ray Primus 7.43, Bill Raines 6.72, James Gardner 6.52, Doug Beagle 6.15, Gloria Feerst 5.90, and Carol Bell 5.42. 70% Games were achieved by Dwight Hunt – Claude Le Feuvre 74.14% and 70.57%, and Ann Dupont - Doug Timmer 72.50%.

March 15: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, March 15. Dinner is \$18 per person and starts at 6 p.m. and the bridge is \$5 per person and begins at 7 p.m. This is an ACBL sanctioned game and the first place NS and EW winners will receive coupons for Braemar's Wednesday night "Pastabilities" dinner. For reservations and/or partnerships contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

March Special Events at the 750 Club

Pies will be served at lunchtime and before the night game on Monday, March 14 (3/14/16) in celebration of *Pi* Day (3.1416 – rounded off!). Monday – Friday, March 14 – 18 will be Club Membership Week. Extra black points will be awarded for no extra fees. Both players must be members of ACBL ("instant" membership forms available at the Club). St. Patrick's Day will be celebrated on Thursday, March 17 with drawings for free plays at day and night games. Players must wear green to be eligible.

Calendar

Wednesday, March 2, U561 Board meeting, 2:45 p.m., at the 750 Club.

Saturday, March 5, Unit 561 Awards Lunch/Games, at the 750 Club.

Monday, March 14, *Pi* Day Celebrations at the 750 Club, with pies served at lunchtime and before the night game.

Monday – Friday, March 14 – 18, Club Membership Week at the 750 Club.

Tuesday, March 15, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Thursday, March 17, St. Patrick's Day Celebrations at the 750 Club.

Friday, April 1 – Saturday, April 2, San Fernando Valley Sectional, at the 750 Club in Woodland Hills. See details above.



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, March 4, 7:00 p.m.
Club Championship: Tuesday, March 8, 11:30 a.m.
Club Championship: Monday, March 21, 11:30 a.m.
Friday Night games on March 4 and 18 →

Club Championships

The SBBC Club Championship on January 23 was led by Lucy Gellner/Sharon Biederman in Flight A with Sheryl Kohlhoff/Mark Raggio leading Flight B and Jean and Norman Futami on top in Flight C. At the February SBBC NLM Club Championship on February 11 Mary Gillett/Loretto Russell led Flights A and B with Bruce Walker/James Deflon leading Flight C.

Team Winners

January 19: John Brailliar, Jeff Strutzel, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken
 January 26: John Brailliar, Jeff Strutzel, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken
 February 2: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Mark Leonard, Ed Piken
 February 9: John Brailliar, John Jones, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

**TSB Unit Overall Finishers
 District 22/23 STAC in January**

Players who finished in the overalls of the recent District 22/23 STAC in games played in Torrance South Bay Unit Clubs are listed below.

Monday Morning, January 25, SBBC

5A Gabriela Jackson/Masae Kato
 9A 4B Hank Sheehan/Steven Dagel
 5B 2C Beverly Narahara/Carole King
 6B Robert Rothman/Mike Welsh
 5C Judith Tomis/Margaret Yeh
 6C Nancy Raiche/Gerry Gastelum

Monday Afternoon, 499er Pairs, January 25, Agile BC

1A Jeff Grotenhuis/Nancy Karnes
 2A Sandy Rathbun/Rae Yan
 3/4A Bruce Schelden/Linda McKenzie
 3/4A Elaine Asch/Morris Asch

Monday Evening, January 25 AUX Pairs, SBBC

1A Fran Israel/Steve Ramos
 2A Arlene Greengard/Ernie Frank

Monday Evening Special Pairs, Jan 25, Veterans Park

1A 1B Barbara Shortwell/Freddie Spradlin
 2A 2B 1C Ed Srenco/Elaine Godin

3A 3B Neal Kleiner/David Peim
 2/3C James and Judith Scott
 2/3C Joan Chrishal/Clara Trummer

Tuesday Morning, January 26, SBBC

3A Fran Israel/Stam Greengard
 6A 2B Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan
 6/7B Harry Wessells/Ed Srenco

Tuesday Morning, January 26, Special Pairs, SBBC

1A Charlotte Lewin/Edward Ruttenberg
 2A Jeanette Betts/Setsuko Miyasaka

Tuesday Afternoon, January 26, 299er pairs, Agile BC

1A Thomas Grove/Joyce Field
 4A 1B 1C Dominick and JoHanna Cardella
 3B Carol Decordova/Betsy Nicassio
 4B 3C John Sellers/Bonnie Okamoto
 5B Joseph Duke/Jim Mercer
 6B 4C Herb Koch/Phyllis Cohen
 5C Jon and Annie pack
 6C Judy Colaianne/Darlene Hoy

Wednesday Morning, January 27, SBBC

4A Gaye Herrington/Jeff Strutzel
 5A 1B Cal Waller/Stanley Greengard
 9A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott

Wednesday Afternoon, January 27, Veterans Park

7A 3B 3C Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman
 5B 5C Clara Trummer/Thomas Hirata
 33A 12B Harold Koletsky/hank Sheehan
 17B 9C Tajie Major/Loretto Russell
 21B Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder

Wednesday Evening, January 27, SBBC

8A Fran Israel/Norman Futami

Thursday Morning, January 28, 499er Pairs, SBBC

1A Rae Yan/Dalia Hernandez
 2A 1B 1C Freda Main/Madge London
 3A Suzanne Kuuskmae/Shameem Rahim-
 tola
 4A 2B Terry Arnush/Elaine Asch
 5A 3B Jamila Malikyar/Edward Ruttenberg
 6A Jeanette Betts/Elaine Davidson
 4B Madge Weinstein/Myron Mitzenmacher
 5B Neal Hudson/Greg Gallager
 2C Donna Moody/Robin Hill →

3C Anni and Jon Pack

Friday Morning, January 29, 299er game, Agile BC
 2A 2B 1C R Hargrove/Russell Lefevre
 4A 4B Carol Decordova/Linda McKenzie
 5A 5B 3C Gloria Butman/Marianne Montgomery
 6A Bruce Schelden/Norma Nicholson
 6B 4C David Serbin/Bonnie Okamoto

Friday Morning, January 29, SBBC
 5A Gaye Herrington/John Farr
 6A 2B Hank Sheehan/Bob Bacharach

Friday Evening, January 29, Inglewood Beach
 1A 1B 1C Jane Tourino/Lee Sagendorff
 3A 3B Barbara Shortwell/Henry Crowder
 4A 4B 3C Joan Chrishal/Pearl Karon
 5A 5B 4C Jeff Grotenhuis/Liang Fang
 6A 6B 5C Paul Sachs/Paul Marjoram

Saturday Afternoon, January 30, SBBC
 2A Lucy Gellner/Sharon Biederman
 9A 2B 1C Jean and Norman Futami

GUV Award

As this is being written the District 23 Winter Regional is in full swing at a location near LAX. I claim receiving the most undeserved near top at this tournament. With none vul, I picked up, ♠T9xx ♥x ♦xx ♣AKJxxx.

In first seat I chose to pass. This was followed by 2♥ on my left and 2NT (asking for a feature) on my right. I couldn't resist bidding my clubs this time and LHO bid 3♠ which partner doubled. My RHO bid 4♥ and this time I couldn't resist bidding 4♠. LHO doubled viciously and partner pulled to 5♣ which was doubled on my right.

Well I went down 3 for -500 against the non vulnerable game which they had bid. Most players would estimate this result as a zero. I did at first but when I started thinking about the hand and realized LHO was void in clubs and RHO had a stiff spade opposite partners ♠A. The opponents red suits were solid. Voila... They were laydown for 13 tricks which need I remind is worth 510. In fact, we received 9 of 12 matchpoints as most opponents were plus 510. As the old saying goes its better to be lucky than good.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Games

March 6, 1:00 p.m. (Beverly Hills)

Gold in the Silver State

District qualifying has concluded for the 2016 edition of the North American Pairs to be held this month in Reno. Pete Knee won in Flight A and Bruce Altshuler won in Flight B. These winners both will receive a \$700 check from ACBL to help pay their way to the event. Qualifying for the 2017 event begins at the club level in June, so it's not too early to start making your plans.

Best of the Best

ACBL has announced the winners of the Mini McKenney Awards, given to the player in each masterpoint category who has won the most points in his Unit, District, or in the entire ACBL. In 2015, our Unit's top Rookie was Jackson Tsao. Jill Thesman led our Unit among Junior Masters and our top Club Master was Sin Orensztein. Heading up the Sectional Masters was Shoreh Toufanian, and leading the field among Regional Masters was Lisa Karako. Homa Nasseri was the winner among NABC Masters. Paula Natat took top honors among Life Masters with less than 500 points. Jim Perkins won the Bronze Life Master category and Sandy Carroll won the Silver Life Master prize. Your Humble Scribe was the winner among Gold Life Masters, Viktor Anikovich topped the field among Diamond Life Masters, Aram Bedros won the Emerald Life Master Category, and our leading Grand Life Master was Becky Clough. Congratulations to all on your awards.

The People Have Spoken

The results of the Beverly Hills board election were announced as scheduled on February 6 and the new board has been installed. Rick Turner has temporarily resumed the reins as interim club manager until →

Om Chokriwala begins his tenure in the position later this month. The Unit will hold a Unit Game at the Club on Sunday, March 6, to welcome the Club's new Board members to their role.

More Winners

Last month's STAC saw our Unit grab its share of glory. Your Humble Scribe paired with Bruce Altshuler to win the Tuesday evening event. Aram Bedros scored a pair of wins, on Thursday night and Sunday afternoon. Leaving our local tables for the tournament scene, at the Riverside Regional, Val Romoff, Sue Ann Simon, and Judy Freeman won their bracket of the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams. Bob and Ellen Kent won their bracket of the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams. Alan and Sherie Schneider teamed with Lidia and Mauricio Epelbaum to win a bracket of the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams. Alex Kolesnik and John Ramos won the Flight A Sunday Swiss. Some of our junior members trekked to the Hermosa Beach 299er Sectional. Ira Thierer and Barbara Fisher-Freeman won the Sunday 299er Pairs event and Ann Turner's team won the Sunday 299er Swiss.

We also held some Unit Championships in the last month. Your Humble Scribe paired with Joe Viola to win the January 18 Unit-Wide Championship. Lew and Rhoda Himmell won the Unit-Wide Championship on the afternoon of February 8, while Ellen Anten and Steve Gross won the Unit Championship that evening.

Location, Location, Location

With everyone red as dealer, after opening a 12-14 NT as dealer, you play 2H after a transfer auction. The opening lead is the heart 7 and this is what you see:

Dummy: ♠93 ♥Q10643 ♦A1076 ♣73
Declarer: ♠AK4 ♥K85 ♦542 ♣Q1064.

You can always hook the trump jack later so you play low, fetching the ace. RHO shifts to the ♣A, followed by the 2. You try the 10 and it forces the king. LHO returns another trump, everyone following.

Having nothing better to do, you draw the last trump (LHO throwing a spade) and then duck a diamond to RHO's jack. RHO shifts to a spade, and now the fun begins. You win the ace, cash the ♣Q (the jack doesn't fall), cross to dummy with the ♦A, fell-

ing RHO's ♦Q, and then cash the last two trump. You know RHO has the ♣J, so when he discards two spades, you pitch the ♣10. LHO pitches a low diamond on the penultimate trump, but he has to keep the ♦K to guard against Dummy's 10, so he has to throw a second spade. In summary, RHO has the ♣J and LHO has the ♦K, so nobody gets to keep two spades and your ♠4 will cash. Aren't double squeezes fun?

Welcome Mat

New members of the ACBL joining our Unit in the last month are Carla Barnes, Nancy Field, and Judy Gordon. Transferring into our Unit was Gary Moore. As always, please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Winning club championships in the last month at Beverly Hills were Norman Avrech and Al Blunder, Rhoda and Lew Himmell, and Aram Bedros and Wayne Karson. Hitting 70% were your Humble Scribe and Joe Viola, Susanne Menck and Zalman Perelman, Stephen Goldstein and Bonnie Macbride, and Rhoda and Lew Himmell.

At Barrington, Beverly Goldstein and Rodger Harbin hit the 70% mark, as did Les Rawitt and Bob Weingarten.

Climbing the Ladder

Susan Gornel has taken the first step on the ladder of bridge achievement by reaching Junior Master status. Edward Pelant is now a Club Master. Mitchell Blumenfeld, Stephen Griffith, Merle Liebesman, and Joan Oliver are now Sectional Masters. Judy Freeman has reached Regional Master and Joan Abrams is now an NABC Master.

Ken Okel has become a Life Master. Fran Malina and Karen Schwartz are now Silver Life Masters. Wayne Karson has become a Sapphire Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

Las Vegas Regional

JUNE 6-12, 2016

Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino

3645 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas NV 89109
Phone: (877) 603-4390

BALLY'S

GOLD POINT games starting on Monday June 6 @ 1:15 pm

- ♦ Bracketed Knockouts ♣ Gold Rush 0-750 Pairs
- ♠ Stratified Pairs (0-1500/1500-3000/3000+)

LOTS of Daylight Games @ 10 am & 3 pm

- ♠ Daylight 0-100 & 0-300 single-session Pairs
- ♦ Daylight Stratified Pairs 0-750/750-3000/3000+ (Tue-Thu); 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+ (Fri-Sat)
- ♣ Gold Rush 0-750 Swiss Teams on Friday @ 10 am & 3 pm
- ♥ Gold Rush 0-750 Pairs on Saturday @ 10 am & 3 pm

Six Days of GOLD RUSH!

- ♠ Gold Rush 0-750 Pairs Mon-Thu @ 1:15 & 7 pm & Sat @ 10 am & 3 pm
- ♦ Gold Rush 0-750 Swiss Teams Wed-Thu @ 9 am
- ♣ Gold Rush 0-750 Swiss Teams Friday @ 10 am & 3 pm

Card Fees: \$12 per session for paid members; \$16 for others

Tournament Chair: Elizabeth Hamilton, Liz@LVRegional.com
Ph: 415-994-3527

Partnership Chair: Rolf Houtkooper, BridgePartners@LVRegional.com

Director: Gary Zeiger • Sanction R1606011

Caddiemaster: Leslie Heid, lbridgeb@gmail.com



Need a Partner? Need Teammates?

Visit our online Partnership Desk at
LVRegional.com

Please refrain from wearing fragrance.

Looking For Gold Points?

The entire tournament schedule is packed with Gold Point events. In the Gold Rush games you can win Gold Points and nobody you play against will have more than 750 masterpoints. In Sunday's Bracketed Swiss, you play teams having approximately the same total masterpoints as your team, and the top three teams in each bracket win gold points!

Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino

\$89 Sun-Thu, **\$129** Fri-Sat (NO mandatory resort fee)

For room reservations call 800-358-8777, (group code SBACB6), or reserve online at LVRegional.com. Reserve by May 16, 2016.

Rate includes free parking and one free Wi-Fi connection

Las Vegas has **world class dining, shopping, entertainment, and BRIDGE**, and Bally's is the place to stay to enjoy all that Las Vegas has to offer. With its **Heart-of-the-Strip** location, your spacious **450 sq. ft. guest room** at Bally's will be in the center of all the Las Vegas attractions, including the Bellagio Fountains, Art Gallery, and Botanical Garden, and the Forum Shops at Caesars Palace.

Zero Tolerance Policy will be in Place

Tournament Website: LVRegional.com

D23 Rank Changes January 2016

Junior Master

Gerry Amarel
Lynn Berberian
Dominick Cardella
Johanna Cardella
Fay Chu
J Donald Houser
Terre Osterkamp
Anni Pack
David Peterson
Dixie Peterson
Patricia Sullivan
Mary Louise Weissmann
Suzanne Wilcox
Wendy Wilson
Mary-Sue Wright
Jianping Xu

Club Master

Lorna Belman
James Boehnlein

Janice Boehnlein

Susan Cornelius
Donald Dewey
Myrna Frankel
Joanne Goodman
Darlene Hoy
Ed Janik
Stan Johnson
Elaine Kaufman
Russell Lefevre
Carol Muchin
Jerry Muchin
Louise Seifert
Jill Terrell

Sectional Master

Barbara Barishman
Mark Conley
Carol Decordova
Georgeann Dorn
Thomas Fisher

Barbara Fuller

Joanne Hadley
Marilyn Henschel
Roselyn Martov
Rosalee McEntyre
Norma Nicolson
Miles Rubin

Regional Master

Ralph Brunson
Jeanette Christy
Nicholene Costanti
David Hwang
H David Law
Betsy Nicassio
Aggi Oschin

NABC Master

Barbara Freeman
David Stern
Linda Stuart
Michi Yoshida

Linda Nye

Life Master

John Berg Jr

Bronze Life Master

William Raines
Robert Riechmann Jr

Silver Life Master

R Turner

Ruby Life Master

Ephraim Katz
Jo Anne Kelley

Gold Life Master

Ann Banta
Leila Greenfield

Sapphire Life Master

Margery Gould

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Tim Lolli, Jill Meyers, Mike Shuster, John Swanson, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
Dbl	3♠	1♣	2♠
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
?		6♣	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠A ♥AKQ5 ♦KJ9854 ♣A5
What call do you make?

If partner can bid 6♣ by himself, we can raise to seven. The question is: which grand slam should we bid? If partner has six solid clubs and the diamond ace, we can count 12 top tricks in notrump with excellent chances for a thirteenth. Any of ♥J, ♦Q or ♠K would suffice. If clubs split, 7♣ makes but what if clubs don't split? In clubs, a bad club split would be a disaster but in notrump we might be able to survive. Give partner ♠x ♥Jxx ♦AQx ♣KQxxxx, 7♣ goes down when clubs are 4-1 but 7NT makes easily. Give partner ♠x ♥Jxx ♦Axx ♣KQJxxx, we might still make 7NT if clubs are 5-0. Another reason for bidding 7NT is that partner passed over 3♠. Partner may have thought 4♠ agreed clubs and have only five clubs. No opening ruff can possibly be available in 7NT.

Shuster was significantly the most vociferous, but most panelists commented on the negative double probably not being the best bid. I agree. The problem comes from the 1980s when negative double theory hadn't been explored nearly as thoroughly. I agree the negative double is not best, but it was made then by a world class expert. Shuster has two objections to the auction up to this point. His first objection is that the negative double itself is wrong. His second objection is that the follow-up 4♠ bid agrees clubs. He is correct on both counts. It is important to bid slammish hands by bidding longer suits before shorter suits. Diamonds should be bid before showing hearts on this hand. The negative double shows the shorter suit, hearts, first. The negative double makes it impossible to find a descriptive bid on the second call.

4♠ does agree clubs! Partner's jump to 6♣ is less definitive given that he believes clubs have been agreed. Another important point is the observation that Wittes made: the opponents have only bid to the three-level. How many combined spades do we think they have? Partner might have a spade void, or singleton, but ♠Kx is also a strong possibility.

Shuster: 7♦/Abstain. A negative double, huh? Showing my four-card heart suit and modest values rather than my six-card diamond suit and game forcing values? Last time I checked, both hearts and diamonds were outranked by spades. Then on my next turn, I think partner can rightly infer that I was showing club support when I bid 4♠. I can't have a game force with long diamonds, so the only hands that bid this way include hearts and clubs. I psyched twice and need to recover. I'll bid 7♦, or abstain. I don't have a strong opinion between those two at this point.

Lolli: Pass. Partner has a hole somewhere, or he would have handled it differently to get to a grand if that's where we belong. I must admit I would have bid 3♦ instead of double at my first turn. It might have helped.

Bare: 7♣. Passing 3♠ shows a minimum, but the 6♣ bid must be good clubs and ♦A.

Meyers: 7♣. I don't see how partner won't have ♣KQJxxx and the ♦A.

PSP#1 continued on next page

2

IMPs
no vul

South

West

North

East

1♠
?

Dbl

1♦
Rdbl*Pass
2♣

* 3-card spade support

You, South, hold: ♠AQ T54 ♥A95 ♦A7543 ♣--
What call do you make?

There is an argument for several different numbers of club bids: 3♣ (cuebid), 4♣ (splinter), or 5♣ (exclusion RKC).

Wittes: 3♣. I'm going to start with 3♣. We need very little to make a grand on this hand. If partner has ♠Kxx and ♦KQxxx, possibly even ♦Kxxxx, a grand in diamonds should be a favorite. I'll support diamonds at my next opportunity, then try to find out about the keycards we need for a grand.

Lolli: 3♣. I don't know what else I can do at this point in the auction. I need to hear more about what partner has. I don't see any need to crowd the auction with a 4♣ call at this time, and this isn't the time for a 5♣ exclusion call either.

Meyers: 3♣. I am not discounting having a diamond

slam (or maybe spades but steering toward diamonds).

Bare: 4♣. 3♦ is not forcing, so I'll bid 6♦ over a signoff.

Shuster: 5♣. If we have all the key cards, I can show that and maybe partner can judge correctly when to go to seven. If accepting, he should allow for 7♦.

Swanson: 2♥. I use a new suit bid below two of our suit as artificial, showing five (or more) trumps, presumed to be a game try. 3♣ would show a strong diamond raise. The plan is to cue bid clubs next, then bid diamonds. There is a lot to show with this hand. *[I've never heard of this exact treatment previously, but it must increase your options of how you can best describe hands in this situation.]*

PSP#1 continued from previous page

Swanson: 7♣. It's tough to assign values to partner for his jump other than a good club suit and the diamond ace. I would prefer to bid 3♦ immediately with this powerful hand, rather than start with a negative double.

Wittes: 7♣. I can't for the life of me figure out what partner can have to bid 6♣ when I'm looking at all these controls. Can partner really have a spade void, when the non-vulnerable opponents only bid to 3♠ with 12 trumps? If partner has a hand such as ♠void ♥Jxx ♦AQxx ♣KJxxxx *[there are 13 top tricks in NT on that construction]*, 7♦ might be the spot. Even if partner has ♠void ♥Jxx ♦AQxx ♣KQxxxx, 7♦ is better than 7♣ *[7NT has 14 top tricks]*. Would partner really be bidding 6♣ on either of those hands? I would think his club suit must be at least ♣KQJxxx to bid 6♣, and he has to have the ♦A, so I will bid 7♣. Maybe I should have started with 2♦ rather than double. If partner has a diamond fit, surely I would hear about it then.

Looking for a Club?

Did you know how easy it is to find a bridge game in LA? This url brings you to a great ACBL page: <https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

All 34 Clubs in Los Angeles are listed (including one new one that I didn't know about) and you can look up all the game times, locations, and contact info. Some of them even offer cookies - the good kind!

Go out and try them all. Wonder who holds the record for most club games in a week? Any claims?

- by Mike Marcucci

3

MPs
all vul

South

West

North

East

?

1♠

Pass

You, South, hold: ♠QT95 ♥A ♦AKJ954 ♣JT
What call do you make?

Shuster: 2NT. I have a strong enough hand to establish trumps and take control. I can force a 4♣ cuebid out of partner via Serious 3NT if it comes to that. Hopefully, I didn't make some silly agreement that minimum hands all jump to 4♠ over 2NT, but if he does do that,

I'll just Black and bid six opposite two controls, hoping for a favorable lead or layout.

Meyers: 2♦. There is no rush here.

Lolli: 2♦. Some play that if you don't show four card spade support

at your first turn, that you don't have four card support. I don't abide by that though, so I bid 2♦ game forcing. We should be able to handle the auction from there.

Swanson: 2♦. If I use a splinter 4♥ and partner bids 4♠, I will feel that I have left something on the table, but the five-level may not be safe.

Wittes: 2♦. I will bid 2♦, then support spades, then cue bid hearts. Partner should know what to do with a club control by that point.

Bare: 2♦. I play 3♦ to show 10 or 11 points and six diamonds. If I played strong jump shifts, I still might not bid 3♦ as it's not an ideal hand for a strong jump shift. With a small heart and ♣Ax, a bid of 4♥ over the expected bid of 3♥ would set the trumps and show my distribution, of course, planning to bid 5♣ over a 4♠ signoff. *[A Soloway style strong jump shift, starting with 3♦ and continuing with 4♥ over partner's almost forced relay of 3♥ shows long diamonds, spades support and heart shortness. Gerry is questioning if the singleton ♥A is best described this way, I agree that it isn't perfect, but I think if I had a Soloway style SJS in my toolbox, then I would use it here.]*

District 23 Grand National Team Trials Representing Units 551,553,556,557,559,561,562,564,568

Teams must be a member of a unit in District 23.

SAVE
THE
DATE
2016

Flight
A and C
April 16, 17th

Flight
B and Open
April 30th &
May 1

Represent District 23 at Washington DC Nationals in August.

Flight & GOLD POINTS

OPEN	0 - unlimited	36 Gold
Flight A	0 - 6000	30 Gold
Flight B	0 - 2500	15 Gold
Flight C	0 - 500	15
	non life master	25% Gold 75% Red

GNT rated event with gold points for over all winners

Only master points earned prior to August 6, 2015 are considered.

The teams flight is determined by the player on the team who has the most points.

Players may play in more than one flight.

All teams must register 15 minutes before game time. Games will begin at 10:00 AM.

Location: Long Beach Bridge Center . 4782 Pacific Coast Highway, Long Beach . Ca

For more information contact Grand National Team Coordinators:

Howard Einberg
Janet Logan

howardeinberg@yahoo.com
janlogan99@gmail.com

4

IMPs
no vul

South

1♠
?

West

Pass

North

4♦*

East

Pass

* Splinter, spade raise with 0 or 1 diamonds

You, South, hold: ♠AKQJ5 ♥J5 ♦Q754 ♣Q5

What call do you make?

Bare: 4♠. I have a minimum. If partner has a club suit and enough controls, he/she should have bid 2♣.

Lolli: 4♠. I'm going to need more encouraging signs from partner to cooperate further.

Meyers: 4♠. I like to play that over 1M a splinter is a limited splinter and that with a good splinter you bid Jacoby and then show your splinter. If partner were showing an unlimited splinter with his or her 4♦ bid, I don't have extras.

Swanson: 4♠. Maybe slightly conservative, but even if partner holds: ♠10xxx, ♥Axxx, ♦x, ♣AKxx, I will be short a trick after a trump lead. The aggressive move is 5♠, which should show good spades because I would cue bid both other suits if I needed spade help. Switch the club king to the heart suit, and the limit is ten tricks.

Shuster: 5♠. Partner has a game force outside of diamonds and spades, so must have a lot of stuff there. I'll let him know trump aren't a problem, but I can't cue-bid anything myself. This might be just what partner needs to hear.

Wittes: 4NT. If partner has both missing aces, I'll bid the slam. Worst case scenario, he has the AK of hearts and the A of clubs, in which case I'll need a card like the ♥Q or the ♣J to give me a finesse. If he has ♣AK and the ♥A, we should at least have a play. Partner almost surely has to have one of the missing kings to have enough for a splinter bid, and he/she can't have enough, missing both aces. I suppose it's possible to have the ♥AQ and ♣AJ. Partner could also have a diamond void. There are too many possibilities to just bid 4♠.

This is a tough hand without a round suit control. The chance partner has just a little extra and that a slam is good is fairly high. I think we must make some sort of a try. No panelist mentioned the modern treatment of using 4♥ as Last Train (an artificial cuebid, invented by Jeff Meckstroth and occasionally called Clarksville after the rock song by the Monkees). I like 4♥ on this hand. My second choice is 5♠.



Long Beach, CA
June 27 - July 3 2016

Los Angeles Regional

5
 IMPs
 all vul

S	W	N	E
1♠ ?	2♣	2♥	Pass 3♣

You, South, hold:
 ♠QT98762 ♥Q54 ♦AKQ ♣--
 What call do you make?

The location of the honors makes this hand difficult. Does partner fit my spades? Do we belong in hearts or spades? This hand would be stronger if we kept the shape and high card points the same but moved the honors around some.

Bare: 3♠. If partner bids 4♠ or 4♥, I'll bid 5♦.

Shuster: 3♠. If partner can't raise spades, we'll play in hearts. I have no plans to drive to the 5-level by myself.

Is 3♥ forcing? The heart bidders are not in agreement. Lolli and Swanson vote "yes, 3♥ is forcing."

Lolli: 3♥. Unless partner has some semblance of a spade fit, I'm not in love with this hand. However, I do think this is a better than a fast arrival 4♥ bid, so there I am for better or worse.

Swanson: 3♥, assuming it is forcing (I wouldn't play in a partnership in which it weren't forcing, but other than that, I don't have strong feelings). *[So you wouldn't partner your sister-in-law, the number 1 ranked woman in the world? (See Meyers' response below).]* 4♣ is reasonable even if 3♥ is forcing. The unbalanced honor location makes this hand difficult to bid.

Some vote "no", 3♥ isn't forcing. They cuebid instead. Most partnerships don't play 3♥ as forcing here. I think theoretically that it is better to play 3♥ as forcing.

Meyers: 4♣. I have to cue bid to show these extras because I don't play 3♥ forcing in this auction.

Wittes: 4♣. I can't bid less. ♠K of and ♥AK may be enough for a slam. If partner has a minimum with a club card, the 4-level could be too high, but I have to make a forward going bid.

Next Month's Problems South: What call do you make?

1. MPs EW vul

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

You hold: ♠K94 ♥T6 ♦KJ98 ♣T964

2. IMPs, EW vul

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	1♥	Dbl
2♦	Pass	2♥	2♠
4♥	Pass	Pass	4♠
?			

You hold: ♠J ♥AT4 ♦A64 ♣AKQJT4

3. IMPs, call vul

South	West	North	East
			3♣
?			

You hold: ♠AQT94 ♥KQ94 ♦J6 ♣Q4

4. IMPs, all vul

South	West	North	East
		1♥	2NT
?			

You hold: ♠64 ♥T64 ♦J64 ♣AQT87

5. IMPs, all vul

South	West	North	East
			1♦
Dbl	Pass	1♠	Dbl
?			

You hold: ♠KQT4 ♥K64 ♦AKJ64 ♣6