

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 52, #4

April 2016

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reno Tales

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



A week at an NABC is always interesting and Reno was no different. The fact that the Lavazza team won the Vanderbilt took me back to 2001 when I attended my first NABC in Las Vegas. Got those first gold points. Didn't know what gold points were. Could not understand my partner from Canada jumping up and down when we won our Zip Swiss bracket. Lots of fun taking advantage of the town – gambling a little and having breakfast at 4 a.m. Took golf clubs and played a very cold and windy round at the old Desert Inn course before they closed it. Enjoyed the history of it. Played with a guy from Miami and his girlfriend. Did not break 100 but who cares?

This year, Lavazza did a wire-to-wire job on the Vanderbilt. Lots of strong competition but the Multi-Continent team had their act together. Didn't see the celebration but an NABC+ win just MUST be a thrill no matter how many others are on the resume. Watched one round where Marty Fleisher won out over Meike Wortel. Very serious and very time consuming. Filled in for dummy a few times. Think I deserve a sliver of platinum for that.

The hotels were downtown and connected together – mostly. Got the idea that the El Dorado, Silver Legacy, and Circus Circus are all part of the same conglomerate so the cooperation was understandable. Only had to go outside for one of the ballrooms where most of the NABC+ events were held. Lots of players probably stayed inside for their whole stay and never knew whether it was night or day. They plan it that way, of course.

A fair number of D23 players were there. Hope

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Board Passes Balanced Budget

by Kevin Lane, District Director



*Bridge is a game
and should be fun*

I enjoyed the Reno NABC. I did return home a week ago with an upper respiratory infection that I'm just now overcoming. Many players have reported similar health issues which they attribute to the Reno hotels allowing smoking. On the positive side, the main ballroom offered great smoke-free playing conditions and hotels and restaurants were plentiful and reasonably-priced.

At the Reno board meeting, the board balanced the budget. In fact, the board finally approved an operating budget with a surplus of \$100K. The board voted to cut a number of costs including \$15K in the president's budget. The board worked very hard over the past six months to adjust costs and revenues to absorb substantial increases in technology, cheating prevention and other costs.

The board voted to reduce the Cooperative Advertising Program from a 75% reimbursement to a 50% reimbursement. Clubs and units use this program to subsidize advertising. Although this program is only being reduced for now, the momentum on the board is with eliminating the program entirely so speak up if you feel the program is useful. One problem with this

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District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying Events are this month. See schedule on page 16

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program is that it's very difficult to tell whether the benefits outweigh the costs. I favor giving the new 50% reimbursement level a chance to play out.

The most contentious motion before the board switched responsibility for hearing NABC+ appeals from player committees to the tournament directors. I voted against this motion, but both sides presented strong arguments. The prevailing "TDs should hear NABC+ appeals" side argues that TDs will have more objectivity and that objectivity outweighs any perceived shortcoming in the quality of the decisions. Many on the other side consider the quality of the decisions of paramount importance.

This motion has come up frequently before the board, and I fa-

vor reviewing the new scheme for a couple years before entertaining a new vote on the matter.

What I care about is the health of bridge overall. This meeting therefore marked the start of my efforts to raise awareness of the importance of clubs, units and districts – and other people/organizations directly impacting the future of our game. My initial assessment is that a total cultural shift on the board is necessary. The good news is that some other board members share my views and that many very savvy players, employees, ex-employees agree that the prosperity of clubs and teaching programs should be a strategic priority.

I'll share more details on the Reno board meeting in next month's column.

Reach me at klaned23@gmail.com

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

they all enjoyed their travel as much as I did. A few tales may be in this paper from other players for you to enjoy. I haven't seen their articles but know what Fred Upton and John Ramos would like you to hear about. If you haven't been to an NABC yet, grab your favorite partner and you'll have your own stories when you come back!

Back to reality next week and will continue our work to prepare for our D23 priority tasks. Nothing signed yet for an October or February Regional. Your Tournament Committee is looking at all the possibilities. Meanwhile, I hope all our Units and players are looking forward to our Long Beach Regional just before July 4th. Please look for the flyers, line up your partners, and practice – practice- practice!

By the way, the reason it reminded me of 2001 was that I watched Bocchi and Duboin for a round that year and here they were again!

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What do you think?

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

The Platinum Pairs
By John Ramos, Unit 562

The late Norman Kay, one of bridge's legends, has his name attached the Platinum Pairs, and it's a fitting tribute: The event, held at every Spring Nationals since 2010, is arguably the strongest matchpoint contest held in the United States thanks to its rigid platinum-point entry requirement. With my Nationals attendance fairly sporadic over the years, I had never had the chance to play this event before last month, and playing with a new (non D23; sorry, Mitch) partner, I had few expectations other than that I should be prepared to kill or be killed. Luckily, although the latter occurred with regularity, the former was more prevalent. A round from the first session went particularly well for us:

Dlr: S
Vul: N/S

North
♠ J8762
♥ K95
♦ T86
♣ AK

West
♠ AK53
♥ 63
♦ A54
♣ QJ73

East
♠ QT94
♥ AJ872
♦ Q2
♣ T9

South
♠ --
♥ QT4
♦ KJ973
♣ 86542

As North, after my partner passed and RHO opened 1♣, I perpetrated a matchpoints-influenced 1♠ overcall, picking off my opponents' fit and drawing an awkward 2♥ bid from LHO. RHO's 2NT ended the auction, and with the opponents sounding well prepared for a spade lead (and how), I hit on a low diamond. Declarer unhappily saw the queen covered by the king, held up until the third round, and then knocked out one of my high clubs, whereupon I found the play of the king of hearts.

Declarer now could have cashed out for down two, but hoping I had the heart queen, he knocked out my other club, whereupon we took two hearts in addition to our four diamonds and two clubs for down three and a near top. The next deal:

Dlr: W
Vul: E-W

North
♠ 52
♥ AQ32
♦ Q9654
♣ AQ

West
♠ 7643
♥ 8764
♦ JT
♣ 952

East
♠ 98
♥ KJT95
♦ K2
♣ KT87

South
♠ AKQJT
♥ --
♦ A873
♣ J643

As North once again, I opened a 14-16 1NT in second chair, and LHO overcalled 2♥, showing hearts and a minor. My partner bid 3♥, a Transfer Lebensohl bid showing spades with at least invitational values, and after my minimum-showing 3♠, he bid 4♦. After my raise to 5♦, he might have bid 6♦, which would have made even on a club lead (details left to the reader), but he chose a higher-scoring strain by jumping to 6♠. My LHO accurately led a trump, giving nothing away, but I drew trumps in four rounds, discarding my two low hearts, after which ace and a diamond forced LHO to lead into one of my AQ tenaces for my twelfth trick. Phew!

At the end of three grueling days – the last of which was played behind screens – my partner and I lay 13th of an original 104 pairs. Seeing our names up there by so many of the game's greats was the thrill of my bridge career to date. I never really thought of matchpoints as my game, but I can't wait to play this event again.

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!



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)



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

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 Holzberg
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:

Now 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

April Unit Game, April 9, 2016
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon



Long Beach
by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

Results of the March Unit game:

N/S

A1 Caroline Cohen & Tim Lolli
A2 B1 Patrick Cardullo & Steve Licker
A3 B2 C1 Temo Arjani & Steve Page

E/W

A1 Gerry Belcher & Amr Elghamry
A2 B1 C1 David Rozzell & Adam Barron
A3/4 B2 Sandra Rucker & Ann Raymond
A3/4 Phil Dessert & Sam Wang

Please join us on April 9 for our next Unit game which will honor the following winners of the 2015 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races:

MP	Ace of Clubs	Mini-McKenney
0-5	Paul Brunton	Paul Brunton
5-20	Betty & Bill Kinsel	Kathy Bernick
20-50	Melanie Moran	Melanie Moran
50-100	Stephen Page	Stephen Page
100-200	Barry Heller	Barry Heller
200-300	Kathy Cresto	Kathy Cresto
300-500	Philip Berk	Philip Berk
500-1000	Sharon Wolf	Sharon Wolf
1000-2500	Dick Plumer	Patrick Cardullo
2500-5000	Carolyn Cohen	Paul Nason
5000-7500	Tim Lolli	Tim Lolli

February 28 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Kay Amdon/Cathy Bauer, 2nd John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 3rd Steve Mager/Gerri Carlson, 4th Steve Ramos/John Bralliar, 5th Chiye and Bruce Horiguchi, 6th Louis Shen/Xingping Kang. In the B flight overalls: 1st Alan and Barbara Olschwang, 2nd Marcus Evans/Fran Every, 3rd Robert and Richard Bakovic, 4th Rob Preece/Jill Bornstein, 5th Judith Jones/Wayne Rapp, 6th April and John Berg. And in the C flight overalls Colleen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez were 4th. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: February 16 through March 15: In the open game Tuesday March 1 Steve Skinner/Jackie Hess had a 70.19% game; March 14 John Petrie/Sankar Reddy had a 76.92% game. In NLM games Feb 22 afternoon Dee Park/Katie Moore had a 72.68% game and in the evening Bony Walsh/Lynn Danielson had a 71.88% game. And in the NLM game Feb 29 William Eddy/Bob Barmeyer had a 71.53% game. Congratulations to all five pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards: February 16 through March 15: In the Unit Game Feb 28 Kay Amdon/Cathy Bauer won 4.08mp for 1st, John Petrie/Sankar Reddy 3.06mp for 2nd. Feb 29 John Petrie/Sankar Reddy won 3.79mp for 1st. March 7 John Petrie/Sankar Reddy won 3.94mp for 1st. March 8 George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord won 4.96mp for 1st, Bill Wilson/Linda Renkus 3.72mp for 2nd. March 9 Fay Beckerman/Lavonne McQuilkin won 3.35mp for 1st. March 10 Rich Wasser/Baum Harris won 3.06mp for 1st. March 11 Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley won 3.79mp →

for 1st. And March 12 EarlVanDerVord/Sean Lui won 3.21mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

Condolences to the family and friends of Dottie Thompson who passed away earlier this month.

Get Well Wishes to Lois Perovich, Peggy Waite

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Donald Houser. New Club Masters: Ed Janik, Stan Johnson, Louise Seifert. New Regional Master: Ralph Brunson. New Advanced NABC: Master Linda Nye. New Life Master: John Berg. Congratulations to you all!



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game: Saturday, April 2, 11:00 a.m.
Individual: Saturday, April 16, 9:30 a.m., La Verne site

Upcoming Events at the Club

March 20 Unit Game

Dessert served during the game, card fees \$8

April 4-10 Club Championship Week

Extra points, regular card fees

April 14 ACBL-wide Charity Game

Extra points, regular card fees

April 24 Unit Awards Game

Awards at 12:30, game at 1,
dessert served during the game, card fees \$8

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

LA Regional Report: Congratulations to master points winners Howard Smith, Betty Jackson and Sylvia Kaprelyan as well as two of our Directors Diane Sachs and Rob Preece. Also congratulations to Sherry Troeger who earned master points at Laguna Woods Sectional.

Congratulations: 70% GAMES: Jeanette Estill and Sibyl Slutsky 70.83% on Feb 20th at Clubhouse #1

Upcoming Games

Club Championship Games: Clubhouse #3: April 18. Clubhouse #1 April 16, April 22

Unit Rated Game: Clubhouse #1 April 15

Condolences to the family of Dottie Thompson.

Welcome to our new Monday Director at Clubhouse #3 Patricia Bailey

The February Unit Game was taken by Fredy and Lulu Minter's 65.4% game. Walter Otto - Clinton Lew were second, Claudia Cochran - Hanan Mogharbel placed third, Richard Patterson - Margie Hall, and Gino Barbieri - Carolyn Siracuse round out the top 5.

In the March Individual, Claudia Cochran took the top spot. Jed Cartagena was second, followed by Roger Boyar, Richard Patterson and Carolyn Siracuse.

The top game this month was 72.9%, turned in by Bill Papa - Vic Sartor. Other winners: Lulu Minter, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, Penny Barbieri, Pat Radamaker, Fredy Minter, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Karen Olin, Mary Miller, Richard Patterson, and Yours Truly.

No promotions this month. Perhaps that's due to the large number that occurred after the first-of-the-year new-category circus. Don't know!

This month it's back to the "why me?" theme. Third seat, no one vulnerable, you find yourself looking at this balanced hand: ♠-- ♥KJT983 ♦AK8652 ♣A.

Well, anyway, the red suits are balanced with each other, and so are the black suits. OK. While you are deciding what to do with this monstrosity, partner opens 3♣, and RHO jumps to 4♠! Oh well, how about 5♦ by you? (5♥ could be right, but the diamonds are fractionally better, so we'll go with that.) LHO bids 5♠, partner goes 6♦, and now it's all pass.

The opening lead is the ♠K, and this is the dummy you have to work with: ♠85 ♥-- ♦QJT4 ♣KQJT953.

So, 13 tricks roll home, and you are +940. Is this bad because you missed the cold grand slam holding only 24 HCP between the two hands? Nope, that's not it. At almost every other table, the contract was 6♦ doubled, +1190. At the one remaining table... 6♦ **redoubled**, +1580! You were the only one not to get doubled.

Quote for the Month: "A study of economics usually reveals that the best time to buy anything is last year." (Marty Allen) →



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

We are continuing to profile some of our Inspirational Players in Unit 556. This month we are featuring Hansford Rowe.

Hansford Rowe is an actor and an avid bridge player. He had 60 years in show business and has filmed about 400 commercials. He lived in New York City for 25 years, performing in Broadway and off-Broadway shows. He toured Europe for two months with the Sound of Music and Japan with Porgy and Bess. He moved to California 25 years ago and did about 20 movies and a string of TV episodes. In between jobs, however Hansford always found time to play bridge.

In college he learned to play bridge in the second-floor rafters during lunch break. He did not learn to play duplicate bridge, however, until he came to California. His partner was Helene Wilson with whom he scored 70% in his first duplicate game. His second partner was Bill Brodek, then Hugh Bartlett, and Caroline Tucker. Locally, he now plays with his wife Mira Rowe and their friend, George MacDonald.

Hansford Rowe believes bridge is a fascinating game to play for fun. Like a puzzle it has to be put together with a partner and then reach a happy conclusion. Rand Pinsky, former District 23 District Director, "Not many 91-year-olds win bridge often".

In tournaments, Hansford plays with District 23 president Mike Marcucci. Mike says Hansford is a fine partner and a buddy. Further Mike believes Hansford Rowe as a bridge partner has the following qualities: He is always a true gentleman to the opponents and to his partner. He greets all opponents cheerfully. He is serious about good bridge, always looking to be better and clear up mistakes, Supportive and understanding when opponents commit an irregularity and has superlative manners before, during, and after play. He is a role model for other players.

Unit Game Results

Sunday March 5 at Joshua Tree Bridge Club

- 1 Roy Ladd and Bert Stock with 63.37%
- 2 Rand Pinsky and Robert McBroom with 59.88%
- 3 Bill Brodek and Paula Olivares with 59.67%
- 4 Ruth Baker and Tracy Boys with 59.26%
- 5 Richard and Carol Ashbacher with 58.02%
- 6 Carol and Paul Reukauf with 56.38%

Thursday, March 10 in Castaic

- 1 Roshen Hadulla - Anita Walker with 64.44%
- 2 Paul Gill - Jackie Moor with 60%
- 3 Kathy Swaine - Russ Buker with 52.29%
- 4 Hansford Rowe - Mira Rowe with 52.22%
- 5 Aggi Oschin - Maressa Naftulin with 51.85%

Upcoming Events

StaC Game

Saturday, May 7 at 12:30 p.m.
Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

Magic Mountain Sectional

Saturday, September 17 and Sunday September 18
Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita

Balboa Unit 515 Sectional

United Methodist Church
12741 Main Street, Garden Grove, CA 92840

Friday and Saturday
June 3&4, 2016

10:00 a.m.

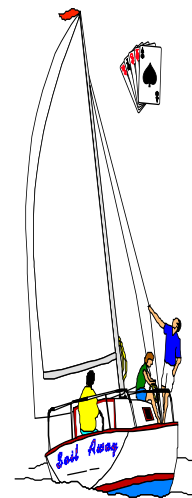
- . Compact KOs (Rounds 1 & 2)
- Top bracket may be handicapped.
- . Stratified Open Pairs
- . NLM Pairs

2:30 p.m.

- . Compact KOs (Rounds 3 & 4)
- . Stratified Open Pairs
- . NLM Pairs
- . Single Session Open Swiss

Stratification Levels

Open Pairs	
Strat A	2500+
Strat B	750-2500
Strat C	0-750
NLM Pairs	
Strat D	250-500
Strat E	50-250
Strat F	0-50



Sunday
June 5, 2016

10:00 a.m.

Stratified Swiss Teams
2-Session Play Through
\$108 per 4-player team
with lunch

Flight A/X	3500+/2500
Flight B	1000-2500
Flight C	500-1000
Flight D	0-500

FREE

Parking . Coffee . Snacks

Directions:
Off 22 Freeway at Euclid
Downtown Garden Grove
(Garden Grove Blvd and Main)

Director in Charge: Brandon Sheumaker
Tournament Manager: Ginnie Blitzman (949)395-2402 ginnieb21@hotmail.com
Partnership Desk: Shirli Thomas (714)968-5726 shirith@verizon.com
Card Fees: \$11.00 pp, per session; \$14.00 for non or unpaid ACBL members
ACBL Sanction #:1606107



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Unit 561 Awards Luncheon/Game Report

A very successful Awards Luncheon and Game were held on Saturday, March 5, at the 750 Club in Woodland Hills. Awards and free lunches/games were given to all 2015 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs Winners from Unit 561. This was followed by an afternoon game with twenty-three tables of bridge, ably directed by Doug Beagle.

Winners in the open game were as follows: NS – Steve Gross – Ellen Anten (A1), Donald Crum – Janice Richter (A2), Gilbert Stinebaugh – Joan Rubin (A3), Gary Baxley – Rick Weiss (B1), Beverly McLeod – Kousi Pathi (B2, C1), and James Hawkins – Linda Silvey (B3); EW – Fuad Khuri – Nabil Nahman (A1, B1), Gloria Malkin – Ronald Malkin (A2), James Gardner – Mike Fierman (A3), Phillip Calloway – Susan Raphael (B2), Mark LaVine – Renee Wishengrad (B3), Joanne Meyer – Marjorie Barg (C1), and Sue Alverson – Ray Primus (C2).

Defibrillator Gift to Unit 561

Special thanks go to Alene Friedman for donating the funds to purchase a defibrillator for Unit 561. The equipment is housed at the 750 Club where several of the regular players are retired medical professionals who are familiar with the usage of the device. Training sessions are planned in the near future for others who wish to learn how to use this life-saving defibrillator. Thanks so much, Alene, from Unit 561 for your generous and thoughtful gift!

750 Club News and Special Events

Congratulations to the following “Top Ten” Regular Club Masterpoint winners from February: Fuad Khuri 11.24, Dwight Hunt 9.47, Linda Silvey 8.07, Michael Wiener 7.73, Doug Beagle 7.60, Martin Hurwitz 6.92, John Tickner 6.78, Daniel Strauss 6.46, Ronald Malkin 6.32, and Helen Malzer 5.91.

Club Championship week will be held from April 11 – April 15. Winning players will be able to earn extra black points for no extra fees during the day and evening sessions.

Calendar

Friday, April 1 – Saturday, April 2
San Fernando Valley Sectional
750 Club in Woodland Hills.

Monday, April 11 – Friday, April 15
Club Championship Week
750 Club

Tuesday, May 17

Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m.
contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071 for
reservations/partnerships



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: Saturday, April 2, 2:30
Club Championship: Monday, April 11, 7:00
Club Championship: Wednesday, April 20, 11:30
Eight is Enough Swiss Teams: Saturday, April 23, 1:00
Friday Night games on April 1 and April 15

Club Championships

The Club Championship on February 24 was led by Nancy Guenther/Mark Raggio in Flight A with Janice Scholler/Lena Ashar taking Flight B honors.

On February 26 the Club Championship saw Betsy Amador/Cal Waller come out on top in both Flights A and B. On March 4 the Club. On March 4 the Club Championship was led by Arlene and Stanley Greengard. →

Team Winners

February 23: Steve Ramos, John Brailliar, Bruce Horiguchi, Ed Piken

March 1: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

TSB Unit Leaders In 2015

The following lists the players who led each of the masterpoint categories in the Torrance South Bay Unit during 2015. Leaders are shown for both the mini McKenney and Helen Shanbron Ace of Clubs.

	Mini McKenney	Ace of Clubs
0-5:	Douglas Carlson (28)	Marilyn Limbach (20)
5-20:	Thomas Grove (41)	Thomas Grove (33)
20-50:	Hsuehching Chang (117)	Joseph Duke (42)
50-100:	Laura Gastelum (94)	Loreto Russell (47)
100-200:	Rae Yan (117)	Roberta Brown (62)
200-300:	Michael Piken (102)	Shameem Rahimtoola (53)
300-500:	Richard Bakovic (142)	Richard Bakovic (98)
500-1000:	David Peim (154)	Harold Koletsky (54)
1000-2500:	Gerri Carlson (371)	Stan Greengard (131)
2500-5000:	Ed Piken (330)	Fran Israel (131)
5000- 7500:	Ron Feldman (110)	Lucy Gellner (51)
7500-10000:	Bruce Horiguchi (598)	Bruce Horiguchi (40)
10000+:	John J. McDermott (557)	John J. McDermott (199)

TSB Unit Winners at the February LAX Regional

Following is a list of TSB Unit players who finished first overall in events at the recent LAX Regional .

Monday 0-50 Pairs:	1I Shelly Zirkes/Dorothy Gram
Monday 299ers:	1D Roberta Braown/Patricia Berg
Monday PM Side Game:	1B Ray Mack/Laura Gastelum
Monday Charity Pairs:	1A John Brailliar/Bruce Horiguchi
Wedneaday Morning 299er:	1C Ann Igawa/Janice Scholler
Wednesday Eve Side game:	1B Ray Mack/Laura Gastelum
Wednesday 299er Swiss:	1D Tajie Major, Janet Warner, Diane Maye, Susan Morgan
Thursday Side Game:	1B Roberta Brown, Mary Belle Hoenig
Friday AM Side Game:	1A Gerri Carlson, Elaine Godin
Friday Aft Side Game:	1C Carl Muchnick/Virginia Brewer
Friday Gold Rush Pairs:	1B Sandy Rathbun, Rae Yan
Saturday Compact KO-3	1 Lutrell Long, Gloria Brown, Stephanie Young, Carnell Wingfield
Sunday Bracket B3 Swiss	1 Paul Sachs, Lee Sagendorf, Jane Tourino, Paul Marjoram

→



Long Beach, CA
June 27 - July 3 2016

Los Angeles Regional

GUV Award

Some players have the chance of a lifetime and really blow it. At the recent Reno NABC, I offered Geri Carlson a bet of \$100 as to who would finish higher in the qualifying sessions of the Silver Ribbon Pairs. She didn't take it. Too bad Geri, she and pard qualified for the final and I didn't while suffering through the worst NABC anyone ever had in history. At least I'm a C-Note richer.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Games

April 4-6, 8, 12:30 p.m., Beverly Hills and Barrington
 April 5, 7:15 p.m., the Marina
 April 7, 7:00 p.m., Beverly Hills
 April 9-10, 1:00 p.m., Beverly Hills

Unit Championship Week

April is just chock full of special events. As you can see above, we're beginning with a full week of Unit Championships. Starting April 4, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons will all be Unit-wide Championships. The Tuesday night game at the Marina will be a Unit Game, as will the Thursday night team game at Beverly Hills. And both weekend games at Beverly Hills will also be Unit Games. Good luck joining Adrienne Green and Jill Thesman, who won the Unit Championship on Sadie Hawkins Day, or Elaine Moore and Tom Shudic, winners of the March 6 Unit Game.

It's Not the Heat

Later in the month, qualifying starts, and ends, for the annual Grand National Teams competitions. Players in the Championship Flight and Flights A, B, and C all will compete for the opportunity to represent our

District at the Summer Nationals in Washington, D.C. Flights A (0-6000) and C (0-500 non-Life Masters) will compete April 16-17. The Championship Flight and Flight B (0-2500) will duke it out April 30 and May 1. Each competition will be a Swiss (or round robin) teams event to qualify teams for a knockout final, all to be held at Long Beach. And of course, after our District GNT competition, our West Los Angeles Sectional will take place on May 21 and 22 at Barrington.

Regional Results

Thanks to everyone from our Unit who showed such strong support for the February regional at the Four Points Sheraton. That support is crucial to the continued viability of our tournaments. That's not an idle observation. The District Tournament Committee was forced to cancel this October's tournament, although there is still some hope of a year-end regional.

Irwin and Patricia Jaeger started the regional off by winning the 49er Pairs game on Monday. Myrna Frankel and Lynne Rabineau picked up the victory in the Tuesday morning 299er Pairs game. Leslie Brucker won the Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs. Cecil and Ted Glaessner combined with Karen Byrd and Nancy Heck to double their fun, winning the Wednesday Compact Knockout Teams event and then their bracket of the Thursday Flight B Swiss. Stephanie Young's team won its bracket of the Saturday Compact Knockout. Peter Benjamin won the Saturday Open Pairs and Marion Tumen picked up a win in her bracket of the Sunday Flight B Swiss.

Traveling Man

I went up north in early March to play with my old partner, Ryan Wessels, and had what was probably my most fun declarer experience ever. Facing strong opponents, after a 1♥ opening on my left, I overcalled 2♣ and found myself in 3NT facing a heart lead:

Dummy: ♠AT3 ♥983 ♦A ♣QT7653

Declarer: ♠6 ♥Q742 ♦K64 ♣AKJ42

RHO won the first heart with the king, and took a very long time before deciding that if her partner had spade cards, he might have found a negative double. So she led the ♦Q, her partner encouraging with the 3. I won the trick with dummy's stiff ace and led another →

heart. RHO took her ace and persevered in diamonds.

That decision proved unfortunate. I won the king (throwing a spade from dummy) and ran clubs, looking carefully for the seven outstanding diamonds that were higher than my 6. With 4 cards to play, this was the position:

Dummy: ♠AT ♥9 ♦-- ♣3

Declarer: ♠6 ♥Q7 ♦6 ♣--

I led dummy's last club, and RHO had to come down to three cards. Two of them had to be hearts or I'd just cash my last two hearts. Because of the entry situation, a spade discard would defeat an ordinary double squeeze because if I threw my heart threat, RHO could protect diamonds and if I threw my remaining spade, I'd be unable to squeeze LHO because I'd have no way back to dummy after cashing my heart. But RHO started life with KJ94 of spades so if she threw her last spade, her partner's queen would be exposed to a finesse. That left her no choice but to throw her last diamond.

My extra heart wasn't doing me any more good, so

I threw it and led a heart to my hand. LHO had to come down to two cards, and chose to keep a diamond and a spade. I led a spade to dummy's A and the 10 scored as well. My first (and possibly last) double guard squeeze.

Welcome Mat

Joining the ACBL in our Unit this month are Evelyn and Frank Campbell, Jane Holcomb, Joel Kaplan, Sheridan Liechty, Christine O'Brien, and Jacob Segal. Transferring in from elsewhere is Sonia Bubar. Please give both tables of new Unit members a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Beverly Hills saw a 70% game posted by Valerie Aron and Rama Linz. Winning a club championship were Aram Bedros and Peter Benjamin.

As always, the Marina City Club holds its games Tuesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. at 4333 Admiralty Way.

West LA *continued on page 16*

TORRANCE – SOUTH BAY SECTIONAL (UNIT #568) MAY 28TH, 29TH, 30TH 2016 SANCTION NO. S1605145			
SILVER POINTS! SILVER POINTS! SILVER POINTS!			
LOCATION: THE TOM RICO CENTER AT LOMITA PARK 24424 ESHELMAN AVE. LOMITA CA LOCATED ON ESHELMAN AVE. JUST NORTH OF LOMITA BLVD. PARKING AVAILABLE AT LOMITA PARK			
 SATURDAY, MAY 28TH 1:30 PM - Stratified Open Pairs Single Session - NLM Pairs (0-500 pts.) Single Session 	 SUNDAY, MAY 29TH 10:00 AM - Stratified Open Pairs Single Session - NLM Pairs (0-500 pts.) Single Session 3:00 PM - Stratified Open Pairs Single Session - NLM Pairs (0-500 pts.) Single Session	 MONDAY, MAY 30TH 10:00 AM - Swiss Teams Session 1/2* - NLM Swiss* (0-500 pts.) Session 1/2* TBA (30 min break) - Swiss Teams Session 2/2* - NLM Swiss* (0-500 pts.) Session 2/2* <i>*Food will be available for order at registration</i>	 Tournament Director: Peter Knee Tournament Manager: Stan Greengard stangreengard@gmail.com Partnership Chair: Gabby Jackson 424-263-4639 Card Fees: ACBL Members - \$14 per session Non-members - \$17 per session Stratification: Open Pairs: 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+ NLM Pairs: 0-50/50-300/300-500 Swiss: Stratification by team avg. Open 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+ NLM: 0-50/50-3000/300-500 No team member may have more than 500 points

D23 Rank Changes February 2016

Junior Master

Carla Barnes, Susann Bauman
Paul Chen, Rita Davis
Stephen Feak, David Finkel
Robert Hall, Vennie Liddell
Caryn Musicer, Frank Roig
Darlene Sessions, Chris Sun

Club Master

Judy Colaianni
Mary Anne Finnance
Lynne Rabineau, Barry Ross
Murray Salkin, Howard Schecter
Carol Simonoff, Eiko Toshima

Sectional Master

Jane Canter, Abraham Kleks
Doreen Lewin, Jacob Libman
Paul Sachs, Janice Scholler
Sue Tewksbury
Bob Weingarten

Regional Master

Patricia Berg
Deborah Downs
Dennis Forst
Lisa Karako
Freda Main
Michael McGory

NABC Master

Patricia Bessone
Laura Gastelum
Misook Jung
Kitty Moon
Karraine Murray
Sue Schultz
Lou Zucker

Adv NABC Master

Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten
Rae Yan

Life Master

Barbara Astrin, Lee Axelrod
Joan Johnson, Robert Moest
Phyllis Selig-Kerns
Robert Verhoef

Bronze Life Master

Robert Moest, Ruth Ann Poppa

Silver Life Master

Liang Fan
Morris Jones

Ruby Life Master

Lutrell Long, Vera Mandell
Carole Mason
Mary Ann Wotring

Gold Life Master

Theodore Glaessner

Las Vegas Regional

JUNE 6-12, 2016

Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino

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Phone: (877) 603-4390

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

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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**

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Mark Bartusek, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar,
Roger Lee, Tim Lolli, Rick Roeder and David Sacks

1

MPs
EW vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠K94 ♥T6 ♦KJ98 ♣T964

What call do you make?

The first question is "Do you agree with South's second pass?" There are seven scattered soft HCP; not much to write home about, but not close to a Yarborough either. No bid came close to adequately describing the hand on South's second call, but this situation is clear as mud, too. 2♦ is the closest to being a sure plus-score, but hearts will score higher than diamonds if they make the same number of tricks. Highest scoring of all will be passing and letting the vulnerable opponents play 2♣. Well, it's highest scoring if they go down!

I'll start with those who make a negative double the first time.

Lolli: 2♥. At least we're in a seven-card fit, but I would have made a negative double at my first turn to show partner some values, scant as they are.

Sacks: 2♥. I think I would make a negative double the first time. Usually one would avoid a negative double with only three spades, as partner might bid spades with three, but holding four clubs, that seems less likely. If we get beyond our negative double, we will be better placed having shown some real values. Here, I have shown nothing, but I have no clear bid to show I have something, so I feel I am relegated to a simple

2♥ and hope partner bids again. Passing for penalties does not seem right with no aces and no guaranteed trump trick.

Lee: 2♥. It seems clear at matchpoints to play the major. At IMPs there is some appeal to bidding 2♦, planning on raising 2♥ to 3♥, but at matchpoints, we just have to go for the higher scoring strain. [Roger also told me he preferred the negative double on the second round.]

Kantar: 2♥. When two other bids are possible (pass and 2♦), choose a third, 2♥, taking the low road.

Bartusek: 2♥. Why gamble? Seriously, wouldn't everyone often reopen with a double holding 3=6=3=1 distribution?

Goldsmith: 2♦. If partner can make game opposite this, he'll bid again.

Roeder: 2♦. To those who astutely point out that majors score more than minors, I bow down to this galactic truism. It must be said, however, plus scores are good, and it will be very important on many hands to take the tap in the hand with the short clubs. The lack of a heart honor is another detraction in bidding 2♥.

2

IMPs
EW vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠J ♥AT4 ♦A64 ♣AKQJT4
What call do you make?

This hand comes from a recent regional. Mike Savage held this hand. His second and third bids were far from clear, and some of the panelists objected to one or both of them. I would have started with a redouble to show three card heart support. Mike passed in this situation on the actual hand, but he took longer than normal to do it. The opponents called the director and complained. When the directors did a survey among "experts," two of four stated that pass wasn't forcing. Thus, the directors ruled that pass was a logical alternative and ruled the contract as 4♠ undoubled down one. Savage was outraged, claiming pass was clearly forcing. I agree! If a reverse followed by jumping to game doesn't create a force, what does create a force? I would not want to partner an "expert" who thought pass wasn't 100% forcing. The discussion of this problem drew enough attention that John Swanson, writing the counter to this column in "The Forum," used his partner's hand. Roger Lee was on both panels and connected the hands. Let's see what the panel thinks.

Roeder: Pass. The question: Is this a forcing pass? After a reverse, I think so. I would bid before I would double. At best, you will beat this one. When opponents bid to this level red against white, they are either insane or they've got it.

Bartusek: Pass. Partner has the spade length and knows the quality of his trumps; let him decide what to do. My pass is clearly forcing.

Lee: Pass. I suppose I've shown something like this,

so I'm happy to hear partner bid or double. I hate 2♦ [I agree, redouble is clear], redouble was a better bid whether it showed 3-card support or extras. [Roger told me on the phone that he thought pass was clearly forcing.]

Goldsmith: Pass. I think we are in a force, since we've bid game on power, so I'll leave this decision up to partner.

Sacks: Pass. Where is our fourth trick on defense? Righty heard me reverse and still kept walking the hand. My partner heard me bid, too, maybe he'll have something to say.

Kantar: Double. East is bidding like a guy who is sacrificing. I will look silly if he isn't.

Lolli: I would have redoubled at my first opportunity to show three hearts. Later in the auction, I would have bid 6♣ to show partner solid clubs. I would expect partner to bid 6♥ on ♥KQJxx, since he knows I have three. If partner has only ♥KJxxx, maybe he'll have the ♦K or ♦QJ. All the panelists will say they find the ♥Q if necessary for a diamond pitch or a red suit squeeze, if playing 6♣. I think 4♥ is an awful bid.

It looks as though the panel thinks pass is forcing. The table opponents were obviously looking for something. The sportsmanship of this bothers me.

3

IMPs
all vul

South

West

North

East

?

3♣

You, South, hold: ♠AQT94 ♥KQ94 ♦J6 ♣Q4
What call do you make?

This hand is also from a recent regional, but I added the ♦J accidentally.

Lee: Double, which I think is normal with this shape, especially with a hand that is happy to pass 3M or 3N. If partner bids 3♦ and

it's wrong, so be it.

Lolli: Double. I didn't ask partner to bid diamonds did I? If he does, maybe he's got some and we'll be all right.

Bartusek: Double. Aggressive,

but seems indicated (don't want to miss a vulnerable game). I don't want to risk losing hearts by overcalling spades. Hopefully we'll be in at least a 7-card fit if partner bids 3♦.

Goldsmith: Double. Pass could be right, but with both majors and moderately short clubs, I prefer to act.

Kantar: 3♠. Edgar Kaplan says: "when in doubt bid your longest suit." This one is for you Edgar. If partner has hearts, I won't tell anyone, Edgar.

Roeder: Pass. If partner cannot bid in balancing seat, I judge game to be against the odds. Also, bidding close games after a preempt often does not pay due to potential bad breaks.

Sacks: Pass. Partner is still allowed to bid. 3♠ is marginal at best, and we might belong in hearts. Double begs for a minus score.

The winning call on the actual hand was to pass. The hand behind you was quite strong.

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.

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OPEN	0 - unlimited	36 Gold
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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
all vul

South	West	North	East
?		1♥	2NT

You, South, hold: ♠64 ♥T64 ♦J64 ♣AQT87
What call do you make?

This hand is from a regional about 20 years ago.

Sacks: 3♥. This seems right on values. I don't really want to defend 3♦.

Lolli: 3♥. I'll take the mundane raise. At least the ♣K should be in the slot. Double would have been expressing useless information, because they won't be playing it in clubs.

Bartusek: Pass. This could be a massive vulnerable misfit (imagine LHO bidding 3♣ with three clubs and three diamonds). I can always decide to back in with 3♥ over LHO's 3♦ bid.

Goldsmith: Pass. All my stuff is in their suits, so I'll just defend. Hopefully, partner will lead trump.

Kantar: Pass. Cowardliness is rearing its ugly head again. I cannot get myself to bid 3♥. Besides, a 3♣ bid will slow the game down to a crawl.

Lee: Pass, happy to defend with a hand like this.

Roeder: Pass. If it goes 3♦, Pass, Pass to me, I will have another decision. Bidding 3♥ immediately is way too optimistic when hearts may break badly.

The winning action on the actual hand was to double any contract by the opponents. The player presented with the problem did just that, doubling 2NT, and doubling again when 3♣ came to him.

West LA continued from page 11

Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information or for a partner.

Climbing the Ladder

Wendy Wilson and Mary-Sue Wright are our Unit's newest Junior Masters. Reaching Club Master are Lorna Belman, Myrna Frankel, Eleaine Kaufman, Carol Muchin, and Jerry Muchin. Rose-lyn Martov and Miles Runin have attained Sectional Master status. Jeanette Christy and Nicolene Costanti are now Regional Masters while Barbara Freeman and David Stern have become NABC Masters.

Rick Turner has become a Silver Life Master. Effie Katz and Jo Anne Kelley are now Ruby Life Masters. Leila Greenfield has become a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

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

5

IMPs
all vul

S	W	N	E
			1♦
Dbl	Pass	1♠	Dbl
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠KQT4 ♥K64 ♦AKJ64 ♣6
 What call do you make?

This is another hand from the last millennium. Style has changed considerably since then. Few experts would agree with the double now. They would either Pass, overcall 1NT, or possibly overcall the four-card spade suit (not recommended on hands this strong).

Kantar: In real life if I double 1♦ with a hand like this, my partners don't respond in spades. [No kidding!]

Sacks: 3♠. Einy, meiny ... three or four, I bid 3♠. Good thing my partner did not respond 2♣ to my silly double. [Whew!]

Lee: 3♠, right on values, though I strongly object to the double of 1♦.

Bartusek: 3♠. I don't have many losers when the aces and the ♦Q rate to be onside. Game probably won't take much from partner.

Goldsmith: 3♠. What was the double on the first round? Then, the choice was between pass and 1NT (or maybe 1♠). Are we playing power doubles? A normal maximum for partner is something like ♠AJxxx ♥J ♦xxxx ♣xxx. On the other hand, he could hold ♠Jxxx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣Qxxx. We aren't completely safe at the three-level, but game is in the picture, so I need to invite.

Lolli: 4♠. Bid what I think I can make. Slam is not in the picture, so no need to tell the enemy what my hand is about. I considered 3♠ for about 10 seconds, [oops, a break in tempo in the column] but partner will have a hard time bidding 4♠ on such as: ♠Jxxxx ♥Qx ♦xx ♣xxxx.

Roeder: 4♠. Both the ♦Q and the ♥A look to be well-placed. Not 4♣, as my fifth diamond may be devalued.

Next Month's Problems

South: What call do you make?

1. IMPs, no vul

South	West	North	East
		1♠	2♣
?			

You hold: ♠AJ32 ♥K76543 ♦765 ♣--

2. IMPs, NS vul

South	West	North	East
	3♠	4♣	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠KJT98 ♥AKQ3 ♦KQ5 ♣K

3. IMPs, no vul

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

* Inverted, 10+

* use your own methods

You hold: ♠KJ ♥AQ ♦A753 ♣QJT54

4. IMPs, all vul

South	West	North	East
		1♠	2♥
?			

You hold: ♠Q7653 ♥5 ♦A9 ♣QT985

5. IMPs, no vul

South	West	North	East
	1♠	2NT	Dbl
?			

You hold: ♠JT3 ♥A7543 ♦T8754 ♣--