

Bridge News

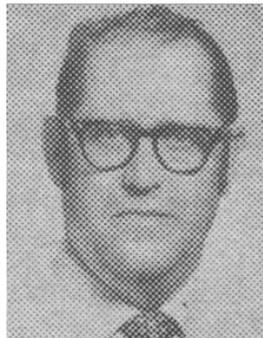
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Legends of LA by Mike Marcucci



There are many folks in LA who have contributed time, effort, devotion, and sometimes resources to furthering the game of bridge for all to enjoy. The players who have astounding numbers of masterpoints, who get their pictures in the news, who write books and articles for national publication, and who are tournament speakers or directors are usually the ones the average player hears about and knows about. There are others who may not receive the accolades, but work harder than any of us know. You may be hearing about several in future issues of your SCBN.

Cecil Cook is one of the founders of bridge in LA. Please read the other article in this magazine about our historical beginnings. You'll see that Cecil was right there helping to organize and peace-keep. Though Cecil was one of the most gentle persons I've ever met, one could not help but notice that 6'5" mountain in the room during arguments. Our early history does record many shouting matches, name-calling, and dirty deals in the those early days. Real emotion was rampant and I'll bet that Cecil quelled much of it to forge those early agreements.



Now, I'm not the first person to write about Cecil. Rand Pinsky wrote a glowing tribute to all the hard work Cecil had done for the district back in 2008. He passed away this year at the age of 85 and I want to add to that tribute.

Cecil was a tireless.
Cecil Cook, 1975 PRESIDENT continued on page 2

District Director Report September 2018

by Kevin Lane

“Bridge is a game and should be fun.”



A chance encounter in Atlanta

After the board meetings in Atlanta finished I took the train to the airport. As I exited the train an outgoing man approached me and introduced himself, and I'm glad he did. His name is Victor

Song, and he and his District 23 teammates had just won the Grand National Teams flight C championship. Well done.

Our district has enjoyed success in GNT flight C with D23 winning the national event in 2013 and finishing second in 2014 and 2008. Well done to the whole Song team.

Atlanta board meeting recap

The board devoted a day in Atlanta to hearing presentations from key bridge personalities and discussing these ideas in more focused groups. I am delighted the board is shifting away from a purely parliamentary motion-driven agenda over my 3 years on the board. For the board to become more effective we've got to work harder on bigger issues and spend

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thorough, caring, conscientious, and accurate worker on a project. I have reviewed his notes on all his ALACBU work going back to the 60's and am astounded by the details he researched and consolidated. Cecil never said "no" to a task. It would be hard to count all the hats he wore between positions on his Units, District 23, and ACBL itself. How many players have contributed their time and energy to our game of bridge for more than 55 years? Besides having time to accumulate 5650 points with such partners as Gene White, Roger Clough, and John Petrie, to name a few, here are a few of the jobs he took on out of love for the game and his fellow players.

- D23 Vice President 1960-61
- D23 Treasurer 1963, 1983-99
- D23 District Director 1990-97
- ACBL President 1995
- ACBL BOD Chairman 1996
- D23 Regionals Manager 1976-77, 1998-2005
- ACBL Hall of Fame Committee 1997-2008 &

chairman for 2 years.

- 5 LA NABC Committees – 1962, 1969, 1975, 1992, and 2003.

- D23 STaC Coordinator 2009-14
- Chair - Unit boundaries committee
- Chair - Consolidation of units committee
- Produced 1st set of District "Ethical Standards"
- Countless duties for the Inglewood and Long Beach

Units here in LA.

He is also the lifesaver for the D23 history Project which we started 5 or 6 years ago. In the various office moves ALACBU has had since 1960, we lost precious copies of the So Cal Bridge News, where countless Unit Reporters had recorded their Unit's happenings over all these years. All that information on the walls at our Regionals would not be there if Cecil had not saved his copies of the SCBN. Dusty though they may be, his papers going back to 1972 may be the sole surviving record of the LA tournaments, the parties, the personal life moments and reflections, the ceremonies, the sad and happy events, the winner pictures, our district financials, and much yet to be discovered.

There is still a big hole in our research, though. That pesky 1960 to 1972 time frame is still a gray hole of emptiness because even Cecil's records contained not a trace of those SCBN copies. There is, however, a glimmer of hope to be had, my friends, because there was something else in those boxes. For whatever

reason, Cecil retained some copies of the Western Conference Forum from those years. Even though D23 was not a member of the WC, there seems to be a limited amount of info on our District in those pages and that is what we will be reviewing over the next few months to see if we can fill in some missing details of our history.

So expect to see more pictures from the past, more details of our tournaments from our early days, and some data gaps filled on Top 30 players, etc. in the future. It is very sad that our next D23 Regional is not till July of next year. The SCBN becomes even more important in our lives when something like this happens, because it is our avenue to keep in touch. Dave White is making real strides in his efforts to send EVERYONE an e-mail on the 1st of each month with that link to the latest edition, so please look for it. This last month he had lots of "bad address" and "junk mail" responses to his effort, but we are going to work on that issue. We cannot believe that any player in LA would NOT like to receive that 1st of the month e-mail from Dave. We will not use your address for any other purpose, but very strongly hope that you will let the SCBN get delivered to your mailbox!

Beverly Cook, Cecil's lovely wife of 62 years still lives in Long Beach and does play bridge occasionally. Music and the performing arts are strong interests and she does much volunteer work in those areas. We thank her heartily for donating all of Cecil's records to us. They will be carefully preserved.

All of his family and all his bridge friends will miss Cecil greatly. Loving husband and father, diamond Life Master, successful businessman, master of any subject in the business of bridge, and good friend to half of Long Beach and Westwood, Cecil will be remembered as a kind gentleman to all.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

less time on board procedure and smaller issues.

The search for the new leader of the ACBL is continuing more-or-less smoothly. The board has decided that the title "Executive Director" best fits the role we are expecting the new leader to fill. I have urged the board to discuss in more depth the role we foresee for the new Executive Director to maximize chances for his or her success. Good news: the board votes related to hiring the new Executive Director

indicate to me that the board is working together better than in the previous hiring.

The Atlanta "masterpoints committee" vote

Last month I reported that I submitted a motion to move the masterpoints committee off of the board. That is, several board members feel the work of the masterpoints committee would be more effectively done by a committee that includes non-board-members. This motion was deferred to Hawaii, though my sense is that the motion will pass in Hawaii after some minor revisions.

This masterpoints committee vote is important because it is a template for how to make the board much more focused and effective by smartly shifting work off the board. But there's the rub. The prime reason for the deferral is that the board disagrees on what a good-governance approach to these committees should be. The key issue is that we need good volunteers for these committees so we have to ensure that committee work is valued by the board to attract good volunteers. It's sensible for the board to settle this issue at the beginning of the process of moving work off the board.

Feel free to contact me at kland23@gmail.com

Legends of LA-2

by Mike Marcucci

Here's another LA player that not many know about. Only if you were around in the really early days of bridge would you know how much this author did for our game. Eilif was the first D23 President (2 years), then was our District Director for the next six. Please enjoy his article telling about your District's start.

Reprinted from the [ALACBU Bridge News, June 1964, Vol 1, No 1.](#)

by Eilif Anderson



The Association of Los Angeles County Bridge Units had its first regular meeting on January 14, 1961, during the San Fernando Sectional at the Glen Aire Country Club.

However, the various units in the County had been meeting on an informal basis as early as 1952. These meetings, at first annually, and later semi-annually were concerned principally with the coordination of Sunday Unit events and the plans for Bridge Week hospitality. Responsibility for these meetings rotated among Helen Cale, Hugh Edwards, Dan Garder, Lew Mathe and later, myself.

By 1955, there were some 16 units in the County (District 23) representing 2,328 ACBL members. There were four sectionals in the District then: Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, and Westwood with its initial venture. That year there were 63 duly sanctioned weekly fractional master point games. Now in 1964, there are 18 units (a peak of 21 was reached in 1960), representing 8400 members and supporting seventeen sectionals and 340 weekly fractional master point games. Of the 340 sanctioned games, 205 are open games, 99 invitational (including 29 Industrial clubs) and 36 junior games.

FIRST ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

There was an attempt to establish a formal organization of the units in 1956, but the movement died for lack of interest. However, by 1960, the climate had changed. Approximately two-thirds of the units were represented at the Bridge Week hospitality meeting held during the Culver City sectional on April 9th. It was unanimously agreed at this meeting that the Los Angeles County units should associate themselves in some kind of formal organization.

Just prior to the Summer Nationals in 1960, our Los Angeles team (Kelsey Petterson, npc, Ollie Adams, Ivan Erdos, Harold Guiver, Eddie Kantar, Lew Mathe, Morris Portugal, Ira Rubin and Meyer Schleifer) beat New York to prove to the rest of the country what we already knew – that we are the Bridge Capitol of the world. A week after that National, on August 27th, the Ambassador Hotel, at the behest of Tom Stoddard, donated the Sunset Room for our organizational meeting. I was elected President pro-tem of the organization, and a Constitution and By-Laws Committee consisting of Kelsey Petterson, Chairman, Pat Nagle and Fred Ullrich was appointed.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS APPROVED

We next met on Sunday morning, October 16, 1960, at the Elk's Club during the Los Angeles Unit Sectional. Sunday morning has proved to be the worst time to hold a meeting – we had to do some stalling before we could reach a quorum. The recommendations of the Constitution and By-Laws

Committee were approved with minor clarifications. Copies of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws were then mailed to the various units for approval. Well over three-fourths of the units had ratified these documents by December 15, 1960, and we were ready to go.

At our first regular meeting, the following officers were elected: Eilif Anderson, President; Cecil Q Cook, Vice-President; Bea Petterson, Secretary; Robert E Scherner, Treasurer.

Although our By-Laws require only four quarterly meetings per year, we held ten meetings in 1961, all of which were well attended. The interest and enthusiasm displayed by the representatives to the Association since that beginning has emphasized the vital role that the organization has performed in fostering our community spirit. These unit representatives work with no recompense except a feeling of satisfaction they receive from improving the "conditions of contest" for tournament bridge.

FUND RAISING

One of the agenda items for our first meeting was the consideration of the feasibility of sponsoring a Sectional for the benefit of the Association's treasury. We owe a great deal to the memory of Ken Johnson for his successful negotiations for the use of the South Gate Auditorium. Since our prime object was to raise funds, we decided to treat this tournament as we would a charity event; therefore we advertised that no prizes would be awarded. This may have contributed to the small (for Los Angeles) turnout of 469 tables. We did, however, clear \$1261.85, thanks to:

1. The favorable terms negotiated by Ken Johnson.
2. Donation of card tables by the League Office (Tom Stoddard).
3. Donation of transportation of tables by Roxy Violin.
4. Cooperation of the staff above and beyond the call of duty.
5. Volunteer help provided by Association representatives and other bridge players.

Although the funds we raised were primarily aimed at the sponsorship of a publication, we found we could not get a clear majority decision as to how to proceed. There were those who were lukewarm about any publication, and then there were those who wanted nothing but the best, as represented by New York's "Post Mortem" and Chicago's "Kibitzer", or any one of a dozen fine magazines. The paper you are now

reading is the crystallization of the ideas which were expressed, and if we are to maintain the consistent high standard desired, your cooperation and contributions are necessary. Ideas, suggestions and criticism (preferably constructive) are being asked for.

Today, the County Association is a smoothly functioning organization serving bridge. In addition to coordinating Sunday Unit activities, arranging Bridge Week hospitality and sponsoring this publication, it has inaugurated a prize plan for tournaments which will be discussed in next month's Bridge News. As the elected representatives to the Association, we feel we owe something to the players – but the players in turn owe something to us, but most of all to the game. Although more tournament bridge is played in the United States than in the rest of the world, and more per square mile in Los Angeles County (District 23) than in any of the other districts of the ACBL, let us not be complacent. Let us all exert our best efforts continuously to use our County Association as an instrument for the betterment of bridge everywhere.

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Looking for a Club?

Check out
<http://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

All clubs in the Los Angeles area are listed.
 You can look up all the game times,
 locations, and contact info.

Appliqués from Past District 23 Regionals



Our Tournament's Hospitality Chair, Penny Barbieri, put together a little display of tournament appliqués from recent District 23 Regional Tournaments. A few don't seem to be available ... if you have one of those missing soldiers, perhaps you'd lend it to us (it WILL be returned, with thanks) so we can fill-in-the-blanks.

Also ... for some tournaments, we still have a small stash of these appliqués. Missing one? Drop by the Hospitality desk next tournament and ask!

More Stoddard Trophy Winners

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President

Last month, we published lots of winner pictures for our Stoddard Trophy given to the high masterpoint player at the LA Summer Regional. We mentioned that we had, so far, 18, of the 49 total years. Here are some more!



1972 David Ashley



1974, 1985, 1988, 1996, 1997 Jim Robison



1976 Paul Ivaska



1977 Harold Guiver



1978 Hermine Baron



1980, 1982 Barry Crane



1987 Pam Wittes



1995 Bill Schreiber

There are more pictures to come. They may not be with the trophy beside the winner, but we are going to try to publish ALL of them, given some luck and good copying capabilities! More to come.....

From the Director's Chair: *by Jim Perkins*

As They Say in Paris

Even your author is in the habit of making comments in club games as he puts down the dummy. "I've got a source of tricks for you here," dropping 7 Spades AKQJ432 as partner declares 3NT. Or, "Sorry, it's not much of an Opener" laying down AK53, A94, 8762, 32 as partner again declares 3NT. Or you often hear, again in 3NT, "I hope you can make something of these," as a broken but long minor is laid down.

A player from the Novice game asked this week, "Can my Opponent say, 'remember what she bid' when laying down the dummy?" I knew the answer but I wanted to refer to the specific language of the rule, so I looked it up. Law 43A.1.(c) provides that "Dummy must not participate in the play, nor may he communicate anything about the play to the declarer."

Not only does this prohibit every single one of the above comments, it also bans hand gestures, grimacing, eye-rolling or taking any other action that indicates anything whatsoever to do with the play of the hand in issue. Declarer must play the hand on his own without the assistance of dummy. As they call it in France: le mort. Dead. Dead. Dead.

Playing in the clubs is not necessarily as serious as playing in tournaments. And playing in the 299er game may not be as serious as playing in the open room. Still, there is no reason for us to not follow the laws of bridge here. We can make our jokes and other comments after the hand has been played. Reminding myself as much as anyone on this topic.

Fun is fun, but let's try to remember that everyone is competing to win and wants to have a fair field in which to do that.

How to Keep Your Director Happy

(note: Jim Perkins is *not* responsible for the following material!)

Slow play is your easiest route to success. This being the case, the following suggestions may help:

1. When you get to the club, socialize with all your friends right up to game time. Only when the game commences is it time to go for that restroom break you've needed since you arrived.
2. Round timers are for decorative purposes only. Never pay any attention to them or any random noises they may make. It took you only twenty minutes to play the first two boards. Surely you can bid and play the third board after the "two-minute-warning" has sounded.
3. When it's your lead, make sure to write down the contract in your convention card and enter it into the terminal prior to actually making the lead. If you're dummy, do the same before facing your hand on the table.
4. When you are the dummy, get up for a smoke break. The other players love to play your cards for you.
5. Rehash each deal at great length prior to playing the next. While you are at it, speak loudly and clearly, ensuring that as many players as possible will be impressed with your analysis.
6. If you have accidentally passed out a deal and are actually ready to move when the round is called, don't. Discuss the weather or your grandchildren until you are sure you are several minutes behind.
7. When moving for the next round, do so slowly. Stop for water, coffee, snacks, etc. Say hello to other players on the move and engage them in a lengthy chat about the stock market, world peace, politics or religion.

(More next month ... or as space warrants)

District 23 Rank Changes July 2018

Junior Master

Otis Birnbaum
 Teresa Dubernet
 Louis F. Entin
 Kerry Goldstone
 Debbie Hamilton
 Jane E. Jackson
 Gail A. Klein
 Brenda McKinnon
 Wendy Meek
 Dingan Ohen
 Sue S. Reese
 Myrna A. Silton

Club Master

Christine Atkinson
 Beth Mary Burne
 Jan Ladd
 Gloria P. Markowitz
 Peter E. Schwab
 Dave Singhal
 Marion Solomon
 Jim Werner

Sectional Master

Peg Burkhardt
 Mary Ann O. Carr
 Joseph Caserma
 Florence K. Cooper
 Juliane Deluccio

Sectional Master

Glen Drogin
 Petra E. Green
 Charles G. Jarai
 Madge F. London
 Barbara C. Olschwang
 Larisa Rappaport
 Mark S. Rappaport
 Ramani Ravikandan
 Katharine A. Seibert
 Jay Swerdlow
 Ana M. Winn
 Denise I. Wreede
 Donald L. Zachary

Regional Master

Barbara A. Catino
 Paul S. Chen
 Bonnie L. Cox
 Thomas Fisher
 John G. Kambe
 Joseph M. Lieberman
 Linda Lin
 Mike Mintz
 Carol A. Reukauf
 E. A. Ruttenberg
 Lynn B. Sager
 Adrienne Sarmiento
 Mark A. Singer
 Jack D. Stewart
 Charles O. Strathman
 Bruce J. Walker

NABC Master

Linda Katz
 Irving Klasky
 Chiu H. Lee
 Anita C. Walker

Life Master

Hsuehching Chang
 Eknath Deo
 Jeff Grotenhuis
 Nancy Nakanishi
 Andrew H. Rottenbacher
 Rashmi K. Shah
 Bonny T. Walsh

Bronze Life Master

Eknath Deo
 Michael E. Newman
 Bonny T. Walsh

Silver Life Master

Paul Allman
 Stuart J. Hemple
 Kiran Kumar

Ruby Life Master

Gitta Earl

Gold Life Master

Carol McCully
 Steven W. Rowe

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier
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Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

July 22 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Dominique and Arthur Moore, 2nd John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 3rd Jeff Grotenhuis/Linda Lin, 4th Kay Tseng/John Melis, 5th Mark Leonard/Xiaoxue Walker, 6th Jackie Hess/Bob Lavery. In the B flight overalls Mike Welsh/Carole Mason were 2nd, Tybie Becker/Andrea Sigmond 3rd, Usha Bansal/Rob Preece 4th, Alan and Barbara Olschwang 5th, Rosemary Ford/John Berg 6th. And in the 199er game Judy and Willie Grieb were 1st, Robin Hill/Linda Gassett 2nd, Judy and Thomas Percer 3rd. Congratulations to all!

70+% GAMES July 16 through August 15: In open games August 4 David Peim/Neal Kleiner had 73.42%, August 8 Jackie Hess/Shirley Carroll had 70.25%, and August 12 Phyllis Parker/Ray Mack had 70.64%. Congratulations to all three pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS July 16 through August 15: In the unit game July 22 Arthur and Dominique Moore won 5.10mp for 1st, John Petrie/Sankar Reddy 3.83mp for 2nd. In the open game August 13 John Melis/Kay Tseng won 4.52mp for 1st, Jackie Hess/Shirley Carroll 3.39mp for 2nd. August 14 Phil Schuster/Gale Grubb won 4.38mp for 1st, Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth 3.29mp for 2nd. And August 15 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 3.65mp for 1st. Congratulations to all seven pairs!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: Tejus Deo-Dixit, David Eggleston, Jan Klein, Marce Schindelmann, Marty Shober, Jeanette Williams. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Junior Master: John Benson. Club Master: Carolyn Byrnes. Sectional Master: John Krafft. NABC Master: Miriam

Kelley. Gold Life Master: Kay Tseng. Congratulations to you all!

GET WELL WISHES TO Bob Bakovic, Martha Schuster and George Welsh.

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

Sept 13-15: International Fund Games: Extra points, \$12 card fees

Sept 16: Swiss Team Game. Extra points, regular card fees

Sept 17: 9:30 Pro-Am game. 12:30 Birthday Monday: Sept birthdays \$6 card fee

Sept 21: 4:15 Unit-rated game; spaghetti dinner

Sept 23: 12:30 Unit Game: \$8 card fees; dessert served (no lunch)

\$1.99 card fees for players with 199 masterpoints or fewer

Oct 1: New classes begin

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD

BRIDGE CLUBS

Judy Carter-Johnson

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Clubhouse #1---

August 4:

Jeanette Estill/Hanefi Erten 1 in A. Judith Jones/Al Appel 2 in A. Verna Burns/Sibyl Smith 3 in A. Ann Croul/Usha Bansal 4 in A, 1 in B. Joan and Ted Wieber 5 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Russell Gray/Mark Singer 3 in B, 2 in C.

REMINDER: ACBL classifies Leisure World bridge games as “invitational” meaning non-resident guests must secure an advance reservation. Games are held on Monday/Thursday at clubhouse #3 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Monday—Midge Dunagan [\(562\) 594-9686](tel:562-594-9686). Thursday—Sharon Beran (562)308-7838 or email: hbsharonb@gmail.com. Phone number for clubhouse #3---Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner--After 12:00 noon: [\(562\) 481-7368](tel:562-481-7368). Games are also held on Friday/Saturday at clubhouse #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday—Currently there is no reservation person for Friday—please come early and perhaps volunteer!! Saturday—Judith Jones (714) 840-2300—(between 9am and 9pm only!) or mikrojones@aol.com. Any news for next month’s column, please e-mail me at

jcj90740@gmail.com Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pomona –
Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Unit Game: Saturday, September 15, 11:00 a.m.,
Glendora

Individual: Saturday, September 1, 9:30 a.m.,
Claremont

Club game results from La Fetra are now being posted on the Unit web site. What dat? Hint ... see above. We'll try to update the site weekly. Sometimes that becomes "weakly," of course, due to apathy, sloth, and distraction of the Webmaster.

The top finisher in the August Individual was Steve Mancini, at 64.6%. We had a three-way tie for second: Penny Barbieri, Sofi Kasubhai, and Yours Truly.

The August Unit game was won by Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry, 61.75%. Finishing second were Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, followed by Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson, and Penny Barbieri – Rosalie Roberts.

The top game this past month was 72.5.1%, posted by Vic Sartor and Paul Chrisney. Since most pairs topping the leader board are over 60%, we will raise the bar for "special mention" to 65%. This month, those meeting that standard were Clint Lew, Bill Papa, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Richard Patterson, Roger Boyar, and Hanan Mogharbel. Other winners: Don Logsdon, Herb Stampfl, Sofi Kasubhai, Claudia Cochran, Margie Hall, Linda Ananea, and Joe Unis.

Top master point earners this month: Vic Sartor, 5.77; Roger Boyar, 5.40; Hanan Mogharbel, 5.16; Richard Patterson, 4.47; Clint Lew, 4.16;. These totals include our Unit game, La Fetra games, and the monthly Bridge41 game, but not points earned in "foreign" venues or at tournaments.

Four promotions this month: Gail LeRoy is now a Junior Master; Vinay Gupta is a Club Master; and Stephen Dorse and Douglas Hess are Sectional Masters. Congratulations, and keep up the good play, ladies and gentlemen.

This month we present a little defensive problem for you. You hold your usual trash:

♠ 642 ♥ 85 ♦ 10873 ♣ A853

and have to find a lead after this auction (RHO opens the bidding): 1NT – 2♣; 2♦ – 3NT. Well?

The traditional lead, "fourth best from longest and strongest," is possible, but really has little to recommend it here. The auction simply *screams* for a major suit lead. Either hearts or spades is possible.

If you do lead a major suit, hats off. To see why, let's look at the entire deal:

♠ KJ10	
♥ Q972	
♦ J2	
♣ K974	
♠ Q953	♠ A87
♥ AJ64	♥ K103
♦ A6	♦ KQ954
♣ Q62	♣ J10
♠ 642	
♥ 85	
♦ 10873	
♣ A853	

Let's say you do follow traditional wisdom (?) and lead a club. Declarer will win the third round and play on diamonds ... setting up your ♦10, but you no longer have the ♣A as an entry. After discovering the unfortunate (although normal) diamond break, he will probably now lead up to the ♠Q, losing to partner's ♠K. But now what? A heart costs your side its heart trick, so a spade return is probably best. Declarer wins, and has lost 3 tricks. The ♠9 stops the suit, so he can now lead a spade, hoping for a 3-3 break here. That's what happens, so declarer makes 3 diamonds, 2 spades, 1 club, and ... 3 hearts, because partner is endplayed after taking her spade trick, unless she was good enough to unblock the ♣9. If so, very well done.

Let's go back to the beginning, and say you lead the ♠6 (top of nothing). Whether or not declarer holds up, partner can get the same two spade tricks. Declarer plays on diamonds as before, discovering the 4-2 break. Declarer now must either play on hearts, where partner has a sure trick, or on clubs, letting you

in to cash the ♦10. 2 spades, 2 clubs, and a diamond (or a heart), at least, down one. Well done.

A heart lead – also a good choice on this auction when leading from a poor hand – also works, because partner has the vital ♥9 (you do lead the ♥8, right?) and also the ♥Q. Again, well done.

One last thought. Returning to traditional wisdom ... if partner has the guts to duck the club lead, declarer can still make the hand by playing partner for the ♥Q. He'll take four diamonds, a club, a spade, and four hearts for a top. And if you trade your ♦10 for declarer's ♦9, the hand is cold for 9 tricks if partner ducks. (5 diamonds, 2 hearts, 1 club, 1 spade.) The duck is not a play that I would find! (Which is perhaps why I've never been invited to the Cavendish ...)

Quote for the month: "Clarke's Law of Revolutionary Ideas: Every revolutionary idea – in science, politics, art, or whatever – evokes three stages of reaction. They may be summed up by three phrases:

1. "It's crazy – don't waste my time."
2. "It's possible – but not worth doing."
3. "I *said* it was a good idea all along ..."

(Arthur C. Clarke)



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

This year's Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 22nd and 23rd at the Friendly Valley Auditorium, 19345 Avenue of the Oaks, Santa Clarita, 91321. For more information, contact tournament chair, Gay Gipson (gegipson@gmail.com) or Tracy Boys (abigquack@sbcglobal.net) for partnership information. The Saturday game will be Stratified Open Pairs at 10:00 AM and 2:30 PM. The Sunday game is a play-through Stratified Open Swiss Teams at 10:00 AM.

Unit 556 is going to offer a second sectional tournament this year called the Holiday Magic Mountain Sectional to be held on December 29th and December 30th at the Santa Clarita Senior Center at 22900 Market Street in Newhall. We will offer Open and Limited MP Swiss Pairs on Saturday at 10:00 AM

and 2:30 PM and a duplicated play-thru (36 hands) on Sunday starting at 1:00 PM. All profits for this game are being donated to the construction fund for the new Senior Center for Santa Clarita Valley.

New Bridge Class: Meressa Naftulin will be teaching a 3-session bridge class at the Santa Clarita Senior Center starting Wednesday, September 26th at 2:30 PM. For more information, call Meressa at 661-993-6251. The cost is \$30 for 3 sessions.

Western Conference STaC Results:

Monday Afternoon game on August 20th at the Friendly Bridge Club:

North/South

1 st	Fran Franklin – Gil Franklin	60.17%
2 nd	Bernard Seal – John Vacca	57.67%
3 rd	Tracy Boys – Russ Buker	54.49%
4 th	Ted Maki – Lamonte Johnson	52.63%

East/West

1 st	Ron Oest – Alan Nueman	65.61%
2 nd	Kristi Kubo – David White	63.04%
3 rd	Roy Ladd – Bert Stock	57.88%
4 th	Gay Gipson – May Ho	56.88%

Ron Oest and Alan Neuman made the Western Conference overalls with 3rd in "C" to receive a total of 6.02 silver points (based on 547 tables).

Tuesday Evening game, August 21st, at the Valencia Bridge Studio (Santa Clarita):

North/South

1 st	Ted Maki – Lamonte Johnson	71.64%
2 nd	Irwin Novick – Ruth Baker	51.87%
3 rd	Barbara Jones – Tom Jones	50.60%
4 th	Aggi Oschin – Viviane Dinehart	49.02%

East/West

1 st	May Abagi – John Langer	62.42%
2 nd	Elaine Moore – Tom Shudic	55.27%
3 rd	Paula Olivares – Peter Knee	52.46%
4 th	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	49.69%

Congratulations to Ted and Lamonte for placing first overall in the Western Conference with their outstanding 71.64% game.

Thursday Morning game, August 23rd, at the Valencia Bridge Studio (Castaic):

1 st	Roshen Hadulla – Ted Maki	63.43%
2 nd	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	61.11%
3 rd	Bert Stock – Tomoko Stock	59.26%
4 th	Carole Provost – George MacDonald	57.41%

Friday Afternoon Strat. Aux. Pairs game, August 24th, at Joshua Tree Bridge Club (Palmdale):

1 st	George MacDonald – Ron Oest	68.75%
2 nd	Carol Reukauf – Paul Reukauf	57.29%
3 rd	Russ Buker – Sharry Vida	53.13%

Congratulations to George and Ron who were second in A and first in B in the Friday Afternoon Auxiliary Pairs.

Upcoming Events:

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs, Friday, October 5th at 11:30 AM at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game, Wednesday, October 31st at 12:30 PM at Joshua Tree

Next Board meeting: TBA after sectional



San Fernando Valley
by Linda Silvey

Unit 561 Unit Luncheon/Game Report

A very successful Unit Luncheon and Game were held on Saturday, August 18, at The 750 Club. There were twenty and a half tables of bridge which followed a luncheon of Jersey Mikes sub sandwiches, salads, and a variety of desserts (provided by U561 Board Members).

Winners in the Open game were as follows: NS -- Noel Purkin – Tammy Purkin 60.83%, Sharon David – Barbara Pinchuk 59.77%, Martin Hurwitz – Anne Hurwitz 58.30%, Helen Malzer – Betty Andelson 57.51%, and Gilbert Stinebaugh – Donald Crum 56.37%; EW -- Lynn Heckler – Marsha Bocan 60.92%, Sheila Singer – Ray Primus 60.80%, Jerry Goodman – Mike Fierman 60.59%, Ilene Feinstein – Harold Kahn 60.18%, and Sin Orensztein – Mark Peters 57.36%.

December 22: Holiday Bridge/Dinner & 2019 Board Election

Unit 561 will host its Annual Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party on Saturday, December 22, at The 750 Club. An Open Stratified Game will start at 2 p.m., followed by a festive dinner at approximately 5:45 p.m. The election of 2019 – U561 Board

Members will take place at a Unit meeting before the bridge game. Look for further information about these events in the San Fernando Valley article in future issues of this newsletter.

Special Congratulations

July Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Susan Raphael 9.77, Lou Simmons 8.94, Gary Baxley 8.58, Robert Lapin 6.71, Vera Mandell 6.38, Ronald Malkin 6.25, Alan Golden 6.18, Ray Primus 5.98, Shoshana Blumenfeld 5.80, and Dick Bratkovich 5.62. The team of Bill Raff-John Tickner achieved a 71.09% game.

September 25: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, September 25. Dinner is \$20 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 "Taste of Tuscany" dinner. For reservations and/or partnerships contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

September Events at The 750 Club

The 750 Club will be open for the day game on Monday, September 3 (Labor Day) and closed for the night game. The 750 Club will be closed on Monday, September 10 (Rosh Hashanah) and Wednesday, September 19 (Yom Kippur). Club Championship Week will be held Monday-Friday, September 24-28. This is an opportunity to earn extra black points for no extra fee!

Calendar

Monday, September 3 (Labor Day), 750 Club open for day game, closed for night game.

Monday, September 10 (Rosh Hashanah), The 750 Club will be closed.

Wednesday, September 19 (Yom Kippur), The 750 Club will be closed.

Monday-Friday, September 24-28, Club Championship will be held at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, September 25, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Saturday, December 22, Unit 561 Election for 2019 Board Members, Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party, at The 750 Club. **Please save the date and plan to attend!**



Torrance- South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568

SBBC: www.southbaybridgeclub.com

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Unit Game: Friday, September 7, 11:30 AM

Apologies

I apologize for not submitting a column for the August Bridge News. Right after Bridge Week I was preparing for a vacation trip and totally forgot to write a column.

Club Championships

The July 13 Club Championship was won by Jim Jensen/Booth Tarkington in Flights A and B with Robin Hill/Donna Moody leading Flight C. The August 3 Club Championship saw Gaye Herrington/Lucy Gellner winning Flight A with Chris Freeland/Jill Bornstein ahead in Flight B and Robin Hill/Donna Moody leading Flight C.

The week of Club Championships August 13 thru August 19 saw the following leaders.

August 13 Afternoon

Flight A: Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott

Flight B: Nanci Schultz/Stan Greengard

Flight C: Lorraine and Michael Kammerman

August 13 Evening:

Flight A: Fran Israel/Steve Ramos

August 14 Afternoon:

Flight A: Ted Gibbs/John J. McDermott

Flight B: Hank Sheehan/Jim Jenaen

Flight C: Roberta Brown/Patricia Berg

August 15 Afternoon:

Flight A & B: Kevin Lane/Jeff Grotenhuis

August 15 Evening

Flight A: Fran Israel/Mark Raggio

Flight B: Chris Freeland/Joan Crishal

August 16 NLM

Flights A&B: Bruce Walker/James DeFlon

Flight C: Doug Carlson/Howard Schecter

August 17 Afternoon:

Flight A: Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott

Flight B: Betsy Amador/Cal Waller

August 17 Evening

Flight A: Terry Hane/Mark Raggio

August 18 Afternoon

Flight A: Lisa Cote/Pat Schenasi

Flight B: Nancy Raiche/Gerri Gastelum

Team Winners

July 17: Laura Gastelum, Ray Mack, Janice Scholler, Jack Stewart

July 24: Kim Wang, Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer, Jim Dutton

July 31: Carol Mason, Wayne Otsuki, Carol McCully, Ed Barad

August 7: Carol Mason, Wayne Otsuki, Ed Barad, Carol McCully

August 14: Fran Israel, CVal Gamio, Luis Gamio, Bronek Felczer

August 21: CVal Gamio, John Jones, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

TSB Unit Winners during Bridge Week

Following are players from the Torrance South Bay Unit who won events during Bridge Week.

Tuesday AM 299er Pairs: Thomas Fisher/Charles Strathman

Tuesday AM Side Game FLTS A&B: Cal & JoAnne Waller

Tuesday AM Side Game Flt C: Patty Taylor/Patricia Berg

Tuesday Evening Side Game 1C: Jeff Grotenhuis/Morris Jones

ProAM Pairs 2A 1B 1C: Betsy Amador

Wednesday Aft Side Game: Patty Taylor/Mark Raggio

Wednesday 299er Pairs 1D 1E: Lina Asher/Janice Scholler

Wednesday 299er Pairs 1F Terry Hane/Ramani Ravikandan

Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs 1A: Rae Yan

Thursday Swiss Teams 1C: Carol Mason, Elaine Godin, Lutrell Long

Thursday Evening Side Game: Chiye Horiguchi/Jack Waller

Friday Morning 299er: Brigitte Prince/Petra Green

Saturday Gold Rush Pairs 1B: Jackson Tsou/Tsu Jan

Sunday Bracket B Swiss: Hank Sheehan, Henry Crowder, Bob Bacharach, Masai Kato

Sunday A/X/Y Swiss 1A 1X Ed Piken, Mark Leonard, Rai Osborne, Philip Heistand

Sunday A/X/Y Swiss 1Y Kim Wang, Jack Waller, Chiye Horiguchi

Atlanta NABC

Our unit had one outstanding result at the Atlanta NABC. Ed Piken paired with Steve Cohen was second overall in the 0-10000 Pairs overalls.

GUV AWARD

Gerri Carlson picked up a partner for a duplicate game on a cruise in the Baltic Sea. She came back from the cruise bragging that she had an 85% game with said partner. Also she claimed the field was as tough as the finals of the Blue Ribbon Pairs. If you believe that perhaps you should stay home from the Fall NABC. If you don't believe it I highly recommend booking a European cruise to pick up some easy points.

Na Zdrowie



West LA
by Robert Shore

The Good, the Better, the Best

The District's Long Beach Regional was a rousing success. We built significantly on last year's table count, and therefore built significantly on last year's financial results. This tournament proved to be a valuable first step to getting the District back on its feet financially. If you didn't find time to make it down there this year, make plans to join your fellow

players next year to find out what you were missing. Special thanks to the Beverly Hills Bridge Club for helping the tournament by cancelling its evening sessions for the week, and to all of the other clubs that closed or curtailed their hours for the regional.

Our neighbors to the south and north, District 22 (in the person of their president, Ron Lien), made an appearance at the District Board meeting to float an interesting proposal. District 22 is interested in expanding the region's tournament schedule by co-hosting a regional with our District. This proposal was of significant interest to the Board, because District 22 is willing to bear all of the financial risk while offering us a modest share of any profits. This proposal is under active discussion between the two Districts — more details (such as where and when) as they become available.

And now, of course, it's time to highlight the best of the best: our Unit's Long Beach winners. Roger and Becky Clough kicked things off by winning the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event, as Rita Levin also won her bracket of the event. Nancy Barrier and Charles and Jo Anne Kelley were triumphant in their bracket of the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams. We really shined over the weekend. Mike Mikyska and Ifti Baqai won the Saturday Open Pairs, while Ken Okel and Jim Brunet topped the field in the Saturday Gold Rush Pairs. Alex Wiles, Nancy Heck, and Karen Byrd won a bracket of the Sunday Flight B Swiss. Marion Tumen won another bracket and a third set of winners was Mark and Larissa Rappaport, Masha Fleissig, and Lisa Caras.

Believe it or not, there was tournament action elsewhere as well, but it's going to get monotonous. At the Ontario Regional (Canada, not California), Alex Kolesnik won the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event. Alex Kolesnik also won the third Knockout Teams event, and Alex Kolesnik won the Sunday Swiss. Then, in the Austin Regional, Alex Kolesnik won the Scott Humphrey Swiss Teams.

STACKing the Deck

Our Unit was unable to find a venue this year for a traditional Sectional tournament, though we're still hoping to find a site for next year. We didn't want to go a year without a Sectional, though, so we're returning to a strategy that has worked in the past. From September 10 through September 16, we'll be holding a STAC at the Unit's clubs. So far, Beverly Hills and Barrington have signed up for STAC sessions, but if you play at another of the Unit's clubs

and would like them to join, tell the club's management that there's still time.

A Peachy Tournament

To warm you up for the upcoming STAC, let's give you a recap of last month's tournament action. We had a number of winners at the Atlanta Nationals. Joe Lieberman won the Flight B/C Swiss on the tournament's first Sunday, and also won the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event. Alex Kolesnik and Sharon Beynon won their bracket of the first Saturday-Sunday Knockout Teams event. Ifti Baqai brought home a win in the Sunday-Monday morning Compact Knockout Teams event, and John Herriot won the Friday Open Pairs.

Moving to other tournaments, Roger and Becky Clough won the Tuesday-through-Thursday morning Knockout Teams event at the Boise Regional. At the suddenly relocated regional in Scottsdale, Arizona (their venue was flooded out the Friday before the tournament was scheduled to start), Alex Kolesnik and John Ramos won the Wednesday Bracketed Teams event, and your Humble Scribe won the Monday afternoon Charity Pairs. At the Pasadena Sectional, Rochelle Blumenfeld and Val Romoff won the Friday afternoon 499er Pairs event, and in the District 23 STAC, Peggy Levin and Julie Kimelman won the Friday afternoon event while Ifti Baqai won the Saturday afternoon game.

No Need to Wait for November

Have you caught election fever yet? Just can't wait for November to get into that ballot box and choose your candidate? Then I've got great news for you. You don't have to wait until November. The Unit Board still has two vacancies, and we'll be posting sign-up sheets in the clubs to solicit candidates. The best news of all is that, much like my junior high school JV soccer team, I'm pretty sure that if you sign up at all, you'll make the team. So look for that sign-up sheet and put your name on the dotted line.

Safety Play

There's a fairly standard safety play that I've been using for a while, but it finally paid off in a big way. My hand was:

♠ 5 ♥ K8753 ♦ AK10764 ♣ 6.

I was in fourth seat. After a pass, partner opened 1♣ and RHO overcalled 1♠. My partner and I play negative free bids, so if I started with a double, bidding

either red suit would create a game force. I decided instead to bid 2♥, non-forcing, and hope to introduce diamonds later. I got good news when partner raised to 3♥.

My hand just got a lot better. Give partner the heart AQ, the diamond Q, and the club A, and 6♥ looks like a pretty good spot. That seemed more likely after RHO bid 3♠. I bid 4♠ (key card for hearts), and, as I'd hoped, partner bid 5♥, showing 2 key cards and the trump Q. Undeterred, RHO bid 5♠ and I continued with 6♥, ending the auction. The opening lead, unsurprisingly, was a spade, and this is what I saw:

Dummy: ♠ J9 ♥ AQ6 ♦ Q9 ♣ AJ10872

Declarer: ♠ 5 ♥ K8753 ♦ AK10764 ♣ 6

RHO won the first spade with the 10 and continued with another high spade, which I ruffed. Obviously I'd need hearts to break 3-2 and absent a miracle in clubs, I was also going to need to bring home the diamonds. That's where the safety play comes in. I drew 2 rounds of trump and then switched to diamonds. If everyone had followed, I'd simply draw the last trump and claim and if the second diamond gets ruffed, I was going down anyway. But RHO, who had been dealt 2 hearts and 1 diamond, discarded on the second diamond. I trumped a diamond with dummy's last trump got back to my hand with a club ruff, drew the last trump, and claimed for a cold top.

Welcome Wagon

Three new members of the ACBL are gracing our Unit's rolls this month. Chris Dowson, Susan Humphreville, and Barbara Quinn have taken that leap. Transferring here from other units are Paul Allman, Boots Lenox, and Barry Stultz. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Barrington saw Rob Perlsweig and Peter Knee score up a 70% game. At Beverly Hills, Marlene Abergel and Michael Korney reached that mark. Club champions at Beverly Hills were Rick Turner and Charles Kelley, Patricia Hubbard and Richard Weinberger, Karen Schwartz and Bob Ashen, Bruce Altshuler and Robin Thayer, and Rob Perlsweig and Pete Benjamin.

Climbing the Ladder

Starting their climb up the ladder of ACBL achievement are our Unit's newest Junior Masters, Ross Bengel, Evelyn Campbell, Justin Chin, Nick Schwieterman, and Phyllis Siegel. Reaching Club Master status are Carol and Leon Bender and Ruth Hochberg. Lindsay Gronich and Sri Nagesh have achieved Sectional Master rank and Walter Bodlander is now a Regional Master. Ravnesh Amar has become an Advanced NABC Master.

Keith Miller is our Unit's newest Bronze Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are Leo Bell, Becky Clough, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Eddie Kantar, Jill Meyers, David Sacks, and John Swanson.

1		South	West	North	East
		2♣	pass	2♥*	pass
		???			
Matchpoints E-W Vul		• Double negative.			
		You, South, hold: ♠AK5 ♥AKQ ♦AKQ ♣AK52			
		What call do you make?			

Some panelists try 5NT, knowing that it is without discussion. Note that they are not all in agreement with how partner should respond.

Bell: 5NT. This pretty much describes my strength and allows partner to put us into a contract in his long suit. This won't be an auction most partnerships have discussed, but I don't think Stayman or transfers should apply here since six or seven of a minor may be our best spot.

Dunitz: 5NT. Should command partner to bid a 5 card suit (we're in the twilight zone here, who discusses such things?)

Kantar: 3NT/5NT. If the double negative cannot have as much as two queens, I am rebidding 3NT. If it can, have as much as 2 queens, then I am rebidding 5NT asking partner to raise me one level for each queen he has. I do understand that if I rebid 3NT, I run the risk of partner asking me what the hell I was doing after he tables xxx xx xx xxxxx! The Kokish forcing 2NT rebid in this sequence would have come in handy here.

Sacks: 5NT. Since I do not have a way to make a forcing bid in NT, I will bid a pick a slam 5NT bid. This should ask for four card suits up the line. If partner manages to bid 6♣, I will pass, otherwise take my shot with 6NT. Perhaps 5NT should ask for a five

card suit. Who knows? I do not think I will try to come up with an agreement for my next 32 HCP hand.

Meyers: 4NT. If partner has Qxxxx if either black suit maybe she will bid a slam; if not I have 10 tricks off the top.

Swanson: 4NT. If you pick up this hand often you will want to add Kokish to your arsenal, or a forcing club. Also, switch to rubber bridge. As it is, I will bid something I know will make - 4NT.

Davis: 4NT.

Clough: 3♣. After much thought, I would bid 3♣ with the assumption that it is a one round force which allows partner to describe his hand.

Considering the ambiguity of 5NT, maybe 3♣, forcing partner to bid naturally at a low level is very practical. Some guess work will be necessary though. Becky held this hand at the table and submitted it (and problem 2). Her partner actually held QTxxx xx Txxxx x; 7NT was best, but with everything breaking well, 7NT, 7♠, and 7♦ all would make.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints N-S vul</p>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	1♠	pass	1NT*	pass
	2♦	pass	???	
	* forcing			
You, South, hold: ♠void ♥AKJ86 ♦97532 ♣J63				
What call do you make?				

Sacks: 2♥. If I get another bid, I will bid 4♦ but even that may be wrong if partner has something like AQ of the pointed suits (*spades and diamonds*) with a stiff heart and 3 small clubs. Who among us bid 2♦ over 1NT forcing with AJ654, xx, AKJ, xxx? If you would bid this way, then anyone claiming that a rebid of 2♦ with only three diamonds must have three hearts is clearly wrong. I do play that partner must bid again over 2♥s if they have a singleton or void. Thus, I will at least be playing a reasonable, if not the best, contract if it is passed out.

Davis: 2♥. It helps if partner is not expected to pass with a stiff. If playing differently, then 3♦.

Swanson: 2♥. This will go very wrong only if partner has a singleton heart. If the minors were switched and partner had rebid 2♣ I would raise rather than risking 2♥.

Both Davis and Sacks studied the original Walsh system in which Richard Walsh recommended not passing in this sequence with a singleton heart. Note that despite being one of the system developers, Swanson doesn't currently play this way, thinking partner will pass with a singleton.

Some panelists play that 3♥ here shows a diamond fit.

Kantar: 3♥. 3♥ should show this hand type. However, I don't play a 2♥ 2/1 response followed by 3♥ as forcing in some sequences. (*Eddie doesn't play 2/1 is a game force, so his jump to 3♥ in this auction can't be 10 HCP with 6 hearts, because he would have already made a Standard American 2/1 into 2♥ with that holding. Therefore his jump to 3♥ has a diamond fit.*)

Dunitz: 3♥. I like 3♥ if this is a fit bid (my preferred treatment). (*See Kantar's answer. I believe Mitch plays a direct 3♥ over 1♠ as invitational in hearts in some partnerships.*) Otherwise, I'm guessing. I would probably bid 4♦.

Other panelists want to make a straight forward diamond raise, but they don't agree on how many diamonds to bid.

Clough: 3♦. This is the least controversial, but will often be passed when game is available. At match points I like 3♥ even though I only have five, because they are good ones. If partner bids 3NT I will bid 4♦.

Bell: 4♦. A direct invitation to game is to the point, but it would be nice if there was some forcing bid available.

Meyers: 5♦, and hope they don't lead a club.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints Both vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♣	pass	1♥	pass
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠AKQ ♥AQ7 ♦7 ♣J96543</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

1♠ normally shows four spades here, but a majority of the panel thinks that sneaking in one teensy-weensy lie will make the rest of the hand easier to handle.

Davis: 1♠. It's close between 1♠, 2♣ and 2.6♥. The extra room and wide range of strength for the 1♠ rebid will hopefully give us a better chance to find the right contract than 2♣, 2♥ or 3♥.

Clough: 1♠. I don't like any of my choices on this hand; 3♥ is too unilateral and 3♣ impossible. My choice is 1♠. If partner has diamonds we may belong in NT. I would raise 1NT to 2NT.

Dunitz: 1♠. I like the treatment that 3♦ shows a good hand with 6-3-3-1 pattern. The problem with 3♦ is that my high cards are all outside my first bid suit. I have no quarrel with 3♥, but confess, I would bid 1♠.

Sacks: 1♠. I'm not strong enough to reverse into my singleton, have no desire to rebid my moth-eaten minor and slightly too good to raise to two hearts; I will at least bid where I live. 2♥ over partner's 1NT rebid does show extras (at least by my way of looking at it). In my advancing years, I am no longer of the cult of "must have 4" to raise one of a major.

Kantar: 1♠. The least of all evils?

Meyers: 2♥. I don't want to get passed out in 2♣, plus I don't want to miss a possible major suit game.

Swanson: 2♥. If partner holds five hearts to the KJ this is a very good hand. If he has four to the six spot it's not so good.

Bell: 2♣. The temptation here is to bid 3♥, but I'm taking the low road at matchpoints and will come to life if partner bids again.

Thank you to Roger Clough who submitted this problem.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Matchpoints Both vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	1♣	pass	1♥	pass
	2♣	pass	2♦*	pass
	2♠	pass	3♥**	pass
	???			
	<p>* Artificial and forcing</p> <p>** Natural, forcing, and unlimited</p> <p style="text-align: center;">You, South, hold: ♠10943 ♥void ♦QJ5 ♣AKJ862</p>			

Some panelists would prefer 1♠ to the 2CCC rebid.

Sacks: 3NT. I want to abstain; the ridiculous 2♣ rebid has created an impossible problem. In the above auction 2♠ did not show spades, I think, in most expert partnerships it is the default bad hand rebid. It denies having a decent further descriptive bid (perhaps xxx, x, AJx, KQJxxx or xxx, Q, KQJ, KQxxxx, though with that one I admit I would bid 2♥ with the stiff honor).

Davis: 3NT. It is my responsibility to rebid 1♠ if I have interest in playing in spades if we have a 4-4 spade fit. I would have rebid 1♠.

Kanter: 3NT I can live with 2♣, but probably would have rebid 1♠. I'll try 3NT now. My spades can't be all that great. What I will tell my partner after they run the suit?

Bell: 3NT. I hate, hate, hate bidding no-trump with a void in partner's suit, but I certainly want to slow the auction as much as possible and I do have a slow diamond stopper.

Clough: 3NT. 4♣ and 4♥ are all possibilities, but none are perfect. My choice is 3NT.

Swanson: 3NT.

Meyers: 4♥. 3NT is out of the question. Partner may only have one entry outside the heart suit, which is not necessarily solid.

Dunitz: 4♥.

I actually agree with raising with the void. That should scare my partners!

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>IMPs Both vul.</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	1♥	pass	2♦	pass
	3♠*	pass	4♦	pass
	4♥	pass	4♠	pass
	???			

* splinter in support of diamonds

You, South, hold: ♠J ♥AKQ1098 ♦8752 ♣K6

What call do you make?

This time, some panelists don't care for the 3♠ splinter, preferring a heart rebid instead.

Kantar: 5♦. I don't agree with the splinter. It is too weak with only one keycard. I would have rebid 2♥. Also, I would be responding to RKB playing my way over 4♦. Finally, I would sign off in 5♦ as I have already overbid and I picture something like AKxx - AJ10xxx Qxx over there and I don't want landing in 6♦ on these cards to be on my head.

Dunitz: 5♦. I don't care for 3♠. One should not chew up so much bidding room when they are uncertain what strain they wish to play in.

Sacks: 5♣. Once again I'm placed badly by a ridiculously bad rebid of a splinter bid (2♥ was absolutely clear). At least if 5♣ gets doubled we can stop in 5♦. This serves us right if partner has Ax, J, AJxxx, AQJTx and we get to play a tenuous 6♦ cold for 7NT.

Bell: 6♥. Let's correct my earlier faux pas by showing MY suit. This protects my ♣K (partner presumably doesn't have the ace) and will roll home even opposite a void if the ♥J falls doubleton or third. I don't expect much company for this bid!

Swanson: 5♥. Maybe I should have rebid hearts earlier.

Davis: 5NT. This asks partner to pick a slam. This should show enough values for a slam and the guarded club king since I would bid 5♣ with the ace of clubs and jump to 6♦ with the KQ of clubs. If partner has ♠Axx ♥Jx ♦AKQxxx ♣xx, we should reach 6NT.

Clough: 6♥. This protects the ♣K.

Meyers: 4NT. If partner has three key cards and the queen of trumps I am bidding 6♥ to protect the club king.

Hands 4 and 5 came from old play problems reported on by Jeff Goldsmith. If you wish to submit problems to be used, email them to me at johndjones44@yahoo.com