

# Bridge News

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Looking for Someone Special *by Mike Marcucci*



Everyone has heard the phrase “looking for a few good men.” It’s catchy & our Marines have gotten a lot of mileage and publicity out of it. I wonder what advertising exec thought of it? Somewhere, someplace, someone thought of that phrase first.

We on the District Board are looking for someone who loves bridge and wants to see it again emerge as the favorite game for the young and the old in LA. It is somewhat repetitious to say that because only a 1000 or so folks have said it before all over the country. Whenever there is a job to be done involving our game, we sort of always look for someone who loves the game. What is special is to have some extra time available over and above playing, family, work, other hobbies, travel, friends, & all the other things that consume our time. That person who can manage a little extra effort for a District task benefits all of us in LA & I always hope it is a pleasure to do.

Remember last October, when this column concerned the “promotion of bridge?” Well, that is the concern this month also. There are many dedicated folks across the city who are the ones devoting that “little extra time” to helping others learn bridge or develop their games by conducting lessons, workshops, or tutoring. We are so spread out in LA and since folks cannot be expected to monitor everyone’s web site that I have a feeling no one except locals know what is happening anywhere but in their Club. In addition, those folks developing and carrying the ball on these efforts are too busy to be aware of what anyone else is doing along a similar vein. We, therefore, have isolated pockets of activity proceeding down their own paths without the benefit of knowing

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### District Director Report May 2019

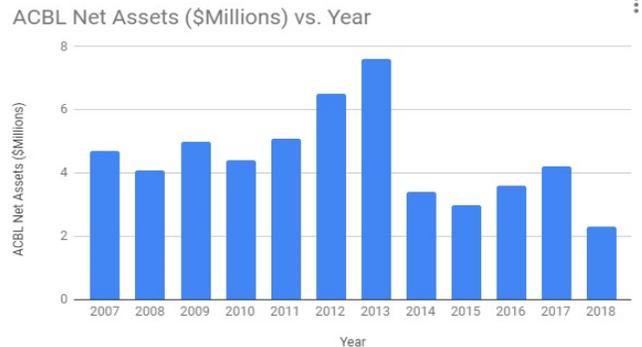
*by Kevin Lane*

“Bridge is a game and should be fun.”



I want to play tournament bridge in 20 years.

The ACBL’s financial outlook is sufficiently healthy that panic is not necessary. This year should be a good year financially for the ACBL. On the other hand, here is a table of the ACBL’s net assets through the past decade.



The bad news is that the ACBL still has a third lawsuit pending from several years ago that will further impact our finances.

The board has actively addressed our financial situation by cutting our own expenses by over 50% in

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whether small tweaks in their programs might have meaningful added value.

I propose that an Education Coordinator of sorts would be a valuable function on the District Board and I need help with finding that person. A few added words on the prime aspects of the job:

1. Coordinate all the educational and promotion of bridge activities across the District. This would involve becoming knowledgeable on all the programs across our area. Long Beach has lots going on. Beverly Hills has lots going on. Multiple clubs have lessons, both structured and random. Inquire with all the teachers and become familiar with their objectives, methodologies, and plans for the future. Develop lines of communication and friendships with the Education Coordinators in all our Units.

2. Spread the word on best practices observed. Assist with advertising the activities across wider areas than just local. Keep all our Units and teachers aware of the other programs being conducted across our District so they can determine mods to their own methods if they see something that strikes a chord. Any individual program may be helped with an influx of knowledge about all the other programs.

3. Assist Mitch Dunitz with his volunteer efforts to help Units attract new members and develop best bridge practices in their present members.

4. Suggest meaningful additions to Unit activities in the "promotion of bridge" action areas. By being knowledgeable with all 9 Unit and all Club activity, this central person would be in a position to fill gaps and spread the same messages to all our Units with information of value. Keeping everyone "on the same page" can only help us stay on the most forward moving path.

5. A key aspect of this position is to not get bogged down in the implementation of the efforts. All we are trying to do is spread accurate and helpful information to everyone involved. All our teachers and mentors are already motivated to improve player knowledge and capabilities. Integrating some outside ideas that they think might improve their own plan would definitely be added value. All these individuals do NOT have time to work their own efforts and do research on everyone else's. Our central District coordinator would be that collector and filter and summarizer each month and would then spread the messages to all our implementers at the same time. Our special someone will have to be good at

communicating ideas in a clear and simple way. A monthly column in the SCBN could be that vehicle, with special, individual topics going by e-mail to a smaller audience if that makes sense.

So where is our special someone? I have a few folks in mind and shall be speaking to them. Perhaps someone new in our District has a background that I do not know about and could step forward. It would be so valuable to have this central cog in our collective efforts, our educational efforts might accelerate and grow.

I heartily thank all our players involved in our present education efforts and want them to know that it is not by intention that more thanks are not handed out on a regular basis. When we identify our "Special Someone," more information and more thanks will stream out to all those deserving individuals. We do not want you to feel alone or unappreciated. You all have the most to do with keeping bridge alive and well. The rest of us just try to help out in small ways. You are making the major efforts and should feel great about that.

On another subject, last month, I mentioned a trip to Memphis for my partner & me. That completed, I can tell you that no trophies were displayed. You have to visit ACBL HQ in Horn Lake to see all our beautiful trophies. By the way, it is worth it. The display is dazzling. Why no trophies? Well, straight from the ACBL staff, it is the danger of theft, even for something 3 ft tall and weighing 20 or 30 pounds. Yes, a trophy can find its way into the wrong hands and, in previous years, has done just that. They told me that the small Vanderbilt replicas, when they were sterling silver, went for around \$800. That full-size trophy itself would peg out in the MANY 1000's of dollars and made it a very lucrative target when it disappeared from the Los Angeles NABC in 1964. It's sad that an Ambassador employee pilfered it, but he was quickly tracked down and caught. Our trophy was none the worse for its experience. Nevertheless, these days, it's all about safety rather than trust.

Our July Regional at the Hilton is fast approaching. Please get together with friends and CARPOOL. Such a good idea in LA!

Stay healthy, my friends.

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the last several years. We've also reduced our expenditures on international bridge, and on the

Cooperative Advertising Program (a cut I opposed), and other programs.

My point is simply that the ACBL must focus on basic business sense. We can't penny-pinch our way to long term prosperity, but we can focus on the

key issues that will determine the prosperity of our organization in twenty years. And we should.

Please contact me at [kland23@gmail.com](mailto:kland23@gmail.com) if you are interested.

## From the Director's Chair: by Brian Richardson

*SBC Welcomes Brian to our family of contributors. Brian has had more than 30 years' experience of directing at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club, the Barrington Bridge Club and in Australia and Indonesia. In addition he was employed by the ACBL as a part-time Director for five years.*

As a newcomer to the task of writing this monthly column I apologize, in advance, if I happen to write about a topic that has previously been the subject of discussion here.

Quite a number of Club players, and indeed some Tournament players, have a view that Declarer has some special privileges that are not available to the other players at the table. One of the misconceptions is that Declarers, if they lead from the wrong hand, can correct that mistake. Not so! Either Defender can accept or reject that lead. Whichever Defender speaks first determines acceptance or rejection. It should be noted that Defenders may not, in any way, discuss the matter. In addition, if one of the Defenders says something like "you are leading from the wrong hand," that is simply a statement of fact, it is NOT a request for Declarer to lead from the correct hand. Please, please, please - if an infraction occurs at the table you should call the Director. Let that person explain to all of the players what the options are. Players should also be aware that you can lose the protection provided by the rules if you, without calling the Director, make the decision to deal with an infraction at the Table.

Another common misconception is that Declarers can change their mind once they have nominated the card to be played from Dummy. In more than 30 years directing I have heard, many hundreds of times, Declarer saying "But it was in the

same breath!" Sorry Declarer, "in the same breath" has not appeared in the Law Book for more than 50 years.

However, and bridge has a number of 'howevers' both in bidding and playing, there may be an occasion in which the Director can permit a change to be made. The Law Commission clarified the situation after an incident at Nationals in Vancouver in 1999. In that Tournament a very experienced Declarer, with a long solid suit in Dummy, a singleton in that suit in her own hand, and no other entry in Dummy, led her small singleton and said "play". As most bridge players are aware the lowest card in that suit in Dummy is the one that must be played. HOWEVER, and this is what the Law Commission clarified, if it is clear that Declarer's **incontrovertible intent** was to play a higher card from Dummy, then a change can be permitted. Imagine that Dummy has a suit like AKQJ9874 and Declarer leads her singleton 5, it should be abundantly clear that Declarer meant to play the Ace, when she said, after a very slight pause "I mean the Ace." It is of passing interest to note that this became known as the "Oh, sh\*\*" ruling after the comment made by Declarer when she initially did not designate a card from Dummy.

In a later edition of From the Director's Chair there will be further examples of attempts to change a card called from Dummy.

# 85TH ANNUAL REGIONAL LOS ANGELES SUMMER

JULY 1-7, 2019

*023 Youth Day on Saturday, July 6!  
Players 26 and under  
PLAY FREE ALL DAY!*

## TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

**DAYLIGHT SCHEDULE! 299ER GAMES EVERY DAY!  
PILE UP YOUR GOLD POINTS IN OUR GOLD RUSH PAIRS!  
STAR SPEAKERS EVERY DAY! SATURDAY SPECIAL SHOW!**

### **MONDAY JULY 1ST.**

**\*\* Free 2-hour Bridge Workshop  
10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Followed by Lunch**

**Marjorie Michelin  
Grand Life Master**

**\*\* Pro Am Game at 1:00 pm  
Card fee for Am's: \$14**

**\*\* Please register before June 24.  
Gerri Carlson  
gsoffa@aol.com  
310-377-0316**

### **NEED A PARTNER?**

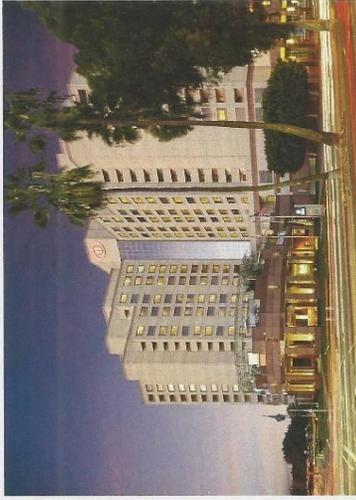
**Jan Wickersham  
wickershamjanet@gmail.com  
626-487-4014**

### **TOURNAMENT MANAGER:**

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ahoneydo@aol.com  
310-720-6050**

### **DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE:**

**Ken Horwedel  
District 23 Director: Kevin Lane  
District 23 President: Mike Marcucci**



**HILTON LONG BEACH**  
701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

**Room Rate: \$144 (Free Wifi) Please Refer to ALACBU  
Reservation must be made by Monday, June 10.**

**800-445-8667 or 562-983-3400**

**Card Fees: \$14 for ACBL Members**

**\$18 for expired ACBL Members.**

**Notice: Non-members will be required to either  
join ACBL on an annual basis or on a new  
temporary one month membership for \$7.99.**

**Self Parking: \$10**

**Lunch: \$5 for Sunday Lunch**

Sanction Number: R1907033

Background Photo Credit: Long Beach Convention & Visitor's Bureau



**Monday, July 1, 2019**

299er Free Workshop/Lunch (Reserv. Rqd.)..... 10:30 am  
 Pro-Am Pairs (Reserv. Rqd.)..... 1:00 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (1 of 6)..... 1:00 pm  
 Stratified Charity Pairs..... 7:00 pm  
 Starburst KO (1 of 4)..... 7:00 pm

**Tuesday, July 2, 2019**

AM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 10:00 am  
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am  
 Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Starburst KO (2 & 3 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
**Bernie Mateer** Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions).....  
 GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Guest Lecture..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (2 of 6)..... 2:15 pm  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (1 Session)..... 3:00 pm  
 Starburst KO (4 of 4)..... 3:00 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

**Wednesday, July 3, 2019**

AM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 10:00 am  
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am  
 Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions).....  
**Mark Schreiber** GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions).....  
 Guest Lecture..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (3 of 6)..... 2:15 pm  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (1 Session)..... 3:00 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

**Thursday, July 4, 2019**

AM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 10:00 am  
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am  
 Bracketed Flight A/B/C Swiss Teams (7x7).....  
 Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
**Pat Banks** GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions).....  
 Guest Lecture..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (4 of 6)..... 2:15 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

**Friday, July 5, 2019**

AM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 10:00 am  
**Walt Otto** 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am  
 0-99er Pairs (1 Session)..... 10:00 am  
 Liberty Bell KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
**Cecil Cook** Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions).....  
 GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Guest Lecture..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (5 of 6)..... 2:15 pm  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (1 Session)..... 3:00 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

**Saturday, July 6, 2019**

AM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 10:00 am  
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am  
 Queen Mary Compact KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am  
 Liberty Bell KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:00 am  
 Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

**Saturday, July 6, 2019**

GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6)..... 3:00 pm  
 Queen Mary Compact KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 3:00 pm  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)..... 3:00 pm  
 Youth Reception..... 6:30 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

**Sunday, July 7, 2019**

Ft Henry Stratified Fast Pairs (2 sessions).....  
 Flight A/X/Y Swiss Teams (7 x 7 Boards)..... 10:00 am & TBA  
 U562 Player of the Year - **Nancy Heck**  
 Bracketed B Swiss Teams (7 x 7)..... 10:00 am & TBA

**Event Colors:**

**299ers: Orange Teams: Green Pairs: Blue**  
**299er Games Every AM Compact KO on Sat**  
**Side Games Every Day Swiss Teams Every PM**  
**Open Pairs Every Day (4 x 6 Boards)**  
**Gold Rush Pairs Sunday Swiss Teams**  
 Tu - Sa Done by 6 PM  
**Stratified Pairs: 0 - 750 / 750 - 3000 / 3000+**  
**Open ABC Pairs: 0 - 2500 / 2500 - 5000 / 5000+**  
**GOLD RUSH Pairs: 0 - 100 / 100 - 300 / 300 - 750**  
**A/X/Y Swiss Teams: 0 - 3000 / 3000 - 5000 / 5000+**  
**Bracketed B Swiss Teams: 0 - 2500**  
**8 Teams/Bracket: Top 3/Bracket Win Gold**



**DISTRICT 23**  
**Grand National Teams Finals**  
 May 4th and 5th 2019

Long Beach Bridge Center, 4782 Pacific Coast Hwy, Long Beach, CA 90804

<p><b>Swiss Qualifying</b>          Saturday, May 4th @ 10 am          and          Saturday, May 4th @ 3 pm</p>	<p><b>Knock Out Finals</b>          Sunday, May 5th @ 10 am          and          Sunday, May 5th @ 3 pm</p>
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National Finals will be held July 17-July 21 during  
 Summer NABCs at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in Las Vegas, NV  
 Full Summer NABCs will be held July 18-28  
  
 Winners need not attend National Finals.  
 In which case, second place finishers will have the right to attend.

<p><b>Permissible Convention Charts</b>          Open Championship Flight</p> <p>Open + : Unlimited          Flight A : Open + 0-6000          Flight B : Open 0-2000          Flight C : Basic + Non LM under 500</p>	<p><b>Estimated Masterpoint Awards</b>          For Winners in Each Flight</p> <p>Open + : 36.00 Gold          Flight A : 30.00 Gold          Flight B : 26.00 Gold          Flight C : 15.00 25% Gold, 75% Red</p>
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**Event chair**  
 Howard Einberg • District 23 GNT/NAP Coordinator  
 email: [howardeinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:howardeinberg@yahoo.com) • cell: 310-704-2564

Conditions of Contest may be found at:  
<http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/>

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## District 23 Rank Changes March 2019

### Junior Master

Liza Billington  
 Shelby Birch  
 Susan E. Butler  
 Chris Dowson  
 Ann Hastings  
 Jane Houston Jones  
 Patricia L. Kasschau  
 Barbara A. Kaye  
 Lore A. Meline  
 Margot A. Miliias  
 Peggy A. Mitteldorf  
 Lisa Nesbitt  
 Mark Rayman  
 Andrew D. Smith  
 Pamela E. Sullivan

### Club Master

Fred Marcus  
 Harkirat Randhawa  
 Tsvetelina Valkov  
 Sherry C. Warmuth  
 Phylly Yarnall

### Sectional Master

Nancy H. Hamada  
 Sirje M. Puhvel  
 Sandra J. Schlosser  
 Leslie S. Sptiza

### Regional Master

J. Ross Bengel  
 Phoebe M. Evans

### NABC Master

Loretto O. Russell

### Life Master

Eilene Gittleman

### BronzeLife Master

Leslie Brucker  
 Eilene Gittleman

### Silver Life Master

Abby B. Triback

### Ruby Life Master

Paul Allman  
 Zalman Perelman  
 Trudy Sokol

### Gold Life Master

Dwight B. Hunt

### Emerald Life Master

Lulu Minter  
 George Wang

### Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier REALTORS

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**Carolyn 310-871-5051**

**Marion 310-721-7782**

2444 Wilshire Blvd.

Santa Monica, CA 90403

### Editor's Apology:

Last month, we published the District 23's Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney winners. Somehow, one bracket of the Mini-McKenney winners simply fell off the editing screen. Here's the missing information, which was the 5,000 – 7,500 masterpoint bracket:

Michael Mikyska	747.9
Joe Viola	520.3
Viktor Anikovich	448.2
Peter Knee	284.3
Jon Yinger	247.9
Mark Tang	247.4
Adrienne Green	225.6
Lulu Minter	210.0
Frances Israel	209.4
Bill Schreiber	203.8

## Around the Units in District 23



### Long Beach by Jon Yinger

[www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
[www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

**March 24 Unit game.** Overall results: 1st in A: John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 2nd Marcie Evans Mary Kiechle, 3rd Bill Skupen/Bill Clark, 4th John Melis/Jackie Hess, 5th Linda and Jay Tipton, 6th Ray Mack/Laura Gastelum. In the B flight overalls Rob Preece/Fern Dunbar were 2nd, James Perkins/Shoreh Toufanian 3rd, Ardis and Chuck Laine 4th, Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth 5th, Alvin and JoAnne Waller 6th. In the C flight overalls Alan and Barbara Olschwang were 2nd, Virginia Brewer/Bill Dilks 3rd, Bettyanne Houts/Nancy Toussaint 4th. In the 199er section Elaine Bok/Toshie Bergan were 1st, Lillian Slater/Jenny Ernst 2nd, John Kilmer/John Benson 3rd, Jeff Wyrick/Raymond Boncato 4th, Charlotte Roush/Ted Dowe 5th. Congratulations to all!

**April 3 ACBL-wide charity game.** Overall results: 1st in A: Kiyo Nagaishi/Wayne Rapp, 2nd Rich Wasser/Mike Welsh, 3rd Linda Nye/Alan Olschwang, 4th Paul Pettler/Bill McClean, 5th Sue Hunter/Marlene Felix. In the B flight overalls Steve Rowe/Richard Bakovic were 5th, Nancy Raiche/Gerry Gastelum 6th. And in the C flight overalls Marcia Lane/Bill Cray were 5th. Congratulations to all!

**70+% GAMES** March 16 through April 15: In NLM games: March 25 David Hoyt/Karen Swanson had 73.75%, April 8 Mary Mauck/Priscilla Caillouette had 75%, and April 13 Bill Heck/Jim Werner had 74.31%. And in the 199er section of the unit game March 24 Elaine Bok/Toshie Bergan had 71.45% Congratulations to all four pairs!

**BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS** March 16 through April 15: In the team game Feb 17 Walt Schafer/Wenjia Ya & Arvind Sheth/Ying Pan were 1st, each winning 1.10mp. In the big game March 20

George Welsh/Cayce Blanchard won 5.44mp for 1st, Sankar Reddy/Jackie Hess 4.08mp for 2nd, Toni Morford/Betty McClellan 3.06mp for 3rd. In the unit game March 24 John Petrie/Sankar Reddy won 5.10mp for 1st, Marcie Evan/Mary Kiechle 3.82mp for 2nd. In the ACBL-wide charity game April 3 Kiyo Nagaishi/Wayne Rapp won 5.44mp for 1st, Rich Wasser/Mike Welsh 4.08mp for 2nd, Linda Nye/Alan Olschwang 3.06mp for 3rd. In the NLM Sectional Rosalie Stork/Penny O'Toole were 1st winning 2.63mp, Tsu Jan/Paul Chen 2nd winning 1.97mp. In the big game April 12 Karen and Mike McKittrick were 1st winning 3.94mp, Jackie Hess/Wayne Otsuki 2nd winning 2.96mp. Congratulations to all!

**NEW CLUB MEMBERS:** Priscilla Cailloutte, Herb Glazeroff, Elsa Morgan, Toni Dasgupta: Welcome to the club!

**STATUS CHANGES:** New Jr. Masters: Marcia Cohen, Linda Hanley, Jonathan Lee, Edward Von Leffren. New Club Master: Charlotte Roush. Frances Gross. New Ruby Life Master: Carol Murakoshi. Congratulations to you all!

**GET WELL:** Jane Reid

#### **UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:**

April 25 Bridge Brigade Charity Game: Extra points, \$11 card fee

April 28 Unit Game 12:30 Dessert served

May 3 Grand National Teams 12:30 \$12 card fee

May 6, 9, 14, 22, 24 Grass Roots Games: Extra points, \$12 card fee

May 19 Team Game 12:30pm

No unit game in May 2019

May 29 Unit-rated game

#### **NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD BRIDGE CLUBS**

**Judy Carter-Johnson**

**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**--Clubhouse #3  
March 18: Bill Linskey/Larry Slutsky 1 in A. Coorie and Jack Dampman 2 in A, 1 in B. Joyce Henderson/Thad Mikols 3 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Mike Nielsen 4 in A, 2 in B. Diane Sachs/Hank Dunbar 5 in A. Nancy Lichter/Lavonne McQuilkin 6 in A, 3 in B. Chie Wickham/Alan Olschwang 4 in B. Ylia and Ernest Ross 5 in B, 1 in

C. Julie Cunningham/Gene Yaffee 6 in B, 2 in C.  
 Monica Gettis/Peggi Spring 3 in C. Richard  
 Barrack/Tad Galardoes 4 in C.

### CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP--Clubhouse #3

April 11: Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 1 in A. Joyce  
 Henderson/Rob Preece 2 in A. Kiyo Nagaishi/Alan  
 Olschwang 3 in A. Marilyn McClintock/Sibyl Smith 4  
 in A. Fay Beckerman/Betty Jackson 5 in A. Jeanette  
 Estill/Gary Paugh 6 in A. Monica and Paul Honey 1 in  
 B, 1 in C. Gene and Ron Yaffee 2 in B, 2 in C. Sue  
 Fardette/Bud Parish 3 in B. Lynne Finley/Kay Hyland  
 4 in B, 3 in C. Norma Krueger/Paul Chen 5 in B.  
 Sylvia Kaprelyan/Cookie Pham 6 in B, 4 in C.

**REMINDER:** ACBL classifies Leisure  
 World Bridge games as “invitational,” meaning that  
 non-resident guests must secure an advanced  
 reservation. Games are held on Monday and Thursday  
 at Clubhouse #3 at 12:15. For reservations please call:  
 Monday—Midge Dunagan (562) 594-9698,  
 Thursday—Sharon Beran (562) 308-7838 – or email  
[hbsharon@gmail.com](mailto:hbsharon@gmail.com). Phone number at Clubhouse  
 #3--late arrivals, last minute reservations or  
 cancellations, need a partner, etc – After 12 noon (636)  
 579-1357--- PLEASE NOTE this new phone number.  
 Games are held on Friday and Saturday at Clubhouse  
 #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday—  
 Sharon Beran (see above), Saturday—Judith Jones  
 (714) 840 2300 – Between 9am and 9pm only. Or  
 email [mikrojones@aol.com](mailto:mikrojones@aol.com). Any news for next  
 month’s column, please email me at  
[jcj90740@gmail.com](mailto:jcj90740@gmail.com). Results of all L.W. GAMES  
 are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)



Pomona –  
 Covina  
 by Tom Lill  
[www.acblunit551.org](http://www.acblunit551.org)

Unit Game: Saturday May 18, 11:00 a.m., Glendora  
 Individual: Saturday, May 4, 9:30 a.m., Chino

La Fetra will be holding STaC games (i.e.,  
 paying silver points) on Tuesday May 7, Thursday  
 May 9, and Friday May 10, at the usual times.

Unfortunately, the Wednesday lessons (and the  
 game, afterward) have been suspended due to lack of

participation. We’ll try to get things going again ...  
 stay tuned.

Here’s an offer you *can* refuse ... if you want  
 to. The Thursday evening La Fetra game has been  
 ailing for a long time, but now it’s on life support. In  
 order to build attendance at this game, consider this: if  
 you haven’t played in a Thursday game recently ... oh,  
 say, since January 1 of this year ... come play on  
 Thursday, and then play Friday morning for FREE!  
 Eligible players will remain eligible, i.e., if you come  
 on a Thursday, that won’t kick in the “since January 1”  
 exclusion. This offer will be good until further notice,  
 but at least through the summer months. We’ll be  
 figuring out some perk to reward those players who  
*have* been supporting the Thursday game, also; we just  
 haven’t decided what, yet. BTW, the play-for-free-on-  
 Friday offer is non-transferrable, and applies only to  
 consecutive Thursday-Friday games. We must also  
 exclude The Longest Day games on June 21, of course.

The top finisher in the April Individual was  
 Linda Tessier, with a whopping 72.73% game. Paul  
 Chrisney was second, Yours Truly third, and Penny  
 and Gino Barbieri tied for the fourth spot.

The April Unit game was won by Fredy and  
 Lulu Minter, with 63.33%. In second we Bill Papa –  
 Vic Sartor followed by Chuck Lohr – Yours Truly,  
 then Joseph Viola – Amr Elghamry. Margie Hall –  
 Steve Mancini took first in Flight B.

Only one pair was able to crack the 65% mark  
 in April. Vic Sartor – Bill Papa blistered the field with  
 a 72% game. Other club game winners were, Claudia  
 Cochran, Marjorie Preston, Linda Stuart, Roger Boyar,  
 Steve Mancini, Esther Johnson, Kurt Trieselmann, Ed  
 Lechner, Roy Wilson, Hanan Mogharbel, David  
 Ochroch, Chuck Lohr, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Fredy  
 and Lulu Minter.

The top 5 masterpoint earners in March were  
 Vic Sartor tying with Bill Papa, 4.12; Roger Boyar,  
 2.92; Richard Patterson, 2.69; and Gino Barbieri, 2.55.

No promotions to report this month: However,  
 at least one of our members headed south to the San  
 Diego Regional, so we expect some significant news  
 here next month.

For our hand of the month, we have an exhibit  
 from the Chamber of Horrors. Yes, yes, Walpurgis  
 Night was last month (April 30), and Halloween isn’t  
 until October. We report these things as we find them  
 ...

You are South, with Yours Truly kibitzing, and you pick up one of the worst hands we've ever seen dealt:

♠976 ♥76532 ♦72 ♣542.

Not only a Yarborough, but only one 9 and no 8s! Yuck! Heck, not even all four deuces so you can claim "deuces around." Partner deals and, of course, opens 1NT. *Just* what you wanted to hear. (Well, maybe 2♣ would have been worse.) At least you do have a five card major to transfer into, but since partner has only ♥Q9, there's not much hope. At least the trumps split 3-3!

Just for fun, let's invert the hand. That is, deuces become Aces, treys become Kings, and so on. What would we be holding in that case? Look:

♠1097 ♥AKJ109 ♦A9 ♣AQJ.

Not a bad-looking 19-count, is it? Oh well ... some nights, if it weren't for bad luck, we'd have no luck at all!

As a bonus, and continuing the Chamber of Horrors theme, we bring you the Auction from Hell. Sitting West, you are treated to this auction by North-South:

South	North
1♣ <sup>(1)</sup>	1♥ <sup>(2)</sup>
2♦	2♥
3♥	4NT
5♠ <sup>(3)</sup>	6♥
7♥	\$%!@ <sup>(4)</sup>

- (1) Artificial, 17+ HCP
- (2) Positive, 5+ hearts, 9+ HCP, game forcing
- (3) 2 key cards + ♥Q
- (4) No, not really, but that's what went through his mind!

As a bonus to this mess, East doubled! It turns out six is a lock, but poor North, reading East for ♥Jxxx (in which case he was always one down), tried to set up dummy's diamonds for a spade discard, his only legitimate loser. East in fact had only three hearts but still made the ♥J by ruffing the third diamond.

The reason for South's 7♥ bid? He had miscounted his key cards, showing two when he had three. Better lucky than good, for East-West!

Quote for the month: "The best thing about a good education is that you're always in on the joke." (Sarah Thomas)



## Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

This year's Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. For more information, contact Gay Gipson ([gegipson@gmail.com](mailto:gegipson@gmail.com)) or Roy Ladd ([royr.ladd@gmail.com](mailto:royr.ladd@gmail.com)).

### Unit Game Results:

#### Joshua Tree Bridge Club, Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>:

1 <sup>st</sup> , 64.80%	Kevin Lane – Stanford Holzberg
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 62.50%	Kathy Swain – Paul Markarian
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 57.40%	Basant Shah – Bill Brodek
4/5, 53.57%	Rand Pinsky – Greg Vernon May Abagi – David Khalieque

#### Friendly Bridge Club, Monday March 8th:

N/S:

1 <sup>st</sup> , 63.95%	Gay Gipson – May Ho
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 63.75%	Bernard Seal – John Vacca
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 59.96%	Irwin Novick – Bill Brodek

E/W:

1 <sup>st</sup> , 65.09%	Roy Ladd and Bert Stock
2 <sup>nd</sup> , 61.27%	Ruth Baker and Tracy Boys
3 <sup>rd</sup> , 60.78%	Melisse Benson and Paula Olivares

### **Change of Address for the Joshua Tree Bridge Club:**

Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>: 2747 West Avenue L, Lancaster, CA 93536

Phone: 661-285-1779 or 760-505-3491

### **Change of Address for Friendly Bridge Club**

Monday Afternoon, starting April 29<sup>th</sup>:

New Santa Clarita Senior Center, 27180 Golden Valley Road, Santa Clarita

Phone: 661-755-8543

The Valencia Bridge Studio's Tuesday night game will change to the new Senior Center sometime in May.

Check with Rand Pinsky ([kathyrand1999@gmail.com](mailto:kathyrand1999@gmail.com)) for the new start date.

### Upcoming Events:

Western Conference STaC games: May 6-12

World Wide Bridge Contest: Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 at Joshua Tree in Lancaster

Longest Day Games: Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita and Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at Joshua Tree in Lancaster

Instant Matchpoint Game, Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 PM at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita



## San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

A very successful Unit 561 awards luncheon and bridge game were held on Saturday, April 6, at The 750 Club in Woodland Hills. Special guest, Kevin Lane (D23 ACBL Director) brought greetings from ACBL and congratulated the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs award winners. Award winners were announced and presented with medallions or certificates by Marcia Broderick, U561 President, and Karyn Shatzkin U561 Vice-President. This was then followed by delicious Italian luncheon organized by Susan Raphael, U561 Hospitality Chair, and the U561 Board of Directors.

An Open bridge game of 23 tables was held after the buffet lunch and ably directed by Doug Beagle. Winners in the bridge game were: NS – Noel Purkin-Tammy Purkin 62.37%, Martin Hurwitz-Dwight Hunt 60.12%, Helen Malzer-Betty Andelson 58.66%, Gilbert Stinebaugh-Lisa Royer 57.85%, and Bette Gordy-Donna Bauer 57.58%; EW – Barbara Haines-Susan Raphael 66.99%, Jojo Sarkar-Douglas Timmer 63.42%, Claude Le Feuvre-Bobbi Le Feuvre 63.30%, Marel Bates-John Vacca 61.75%, and Kevin Lane-Stan Holzberg 59.14%.

### Special Congratulations

Recognition of Unit 561 players as 2018 National Winners in the ACBL Mini-McKenney contests were as follows: Om Chokriwala (#21, 606 MPs) in the 3,500-5,000 category and Mitch Dunitz (#23, 1,544 MPs) in the over 10,000 category. Mitch Dunitz was also #17 with 88 MPs earned in the Senior (60 and better) tournaments.

March Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club for regular club games were Susan Raphael 12.23, Tammy Purkin 8.15, Alan Golden 7.32, Martin Hurwitz 6.77, Vera Mandell 6.67, Noel Purkin 6.64,

Jerry Rose 6.36, Barbara Astrin 5.67, Mike Klemens 5.47, and Ray Primus 5.31. During March, the following achieved 70% games: Dwight Hunt-Jerry Goodman 79.25%, Anne Hurwitz-Martin Hurwitz 74.35%, Gloria Feerst-Michael Wiener 72.78%, Eddie Samandar-Nazli Zahedi 70.83%, and Gary Baxley-Doug Beagle 70.28%.

During Club Membership Week at The 750 Club, the Top Ten Masterpoint day game winners were Gary Baxley 6.40, Marilyn Gaims 6.27, Ruth Fleisher 6.27, Vera Mandell 6.17, Dwight Hunt 5.51, Jerry Goodman 5.50, Ron Malkin 5.15, Alan Golden 5.05, Larry Kussin 4.48, and Paul Endler 4.20. The Top Five Masterpoint night game winners were Ann Dupont 5.03, Douglas Timmer 4.37, Eddie Samandar 3.02, Nazli Zahedi 3.02, and Frona DeCovnick 2.76.

### May Events at The 750 Club

The 750 Club will be participating in the Great Western STaC games during the week of May 6-10. All card fees will be \$11/person/game. On Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day), there will be a day game as usual, but there will be no night game.

### May 21: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, May 21. 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](mailto:nrklemens@aol.com) or (818) 609-1071.

### June 7: Annual "Carol Lang" Game

On Friday, June 7, the Annual "Carol Lang" Game will be held at The 750 Club in honor of the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike, who started the club in 2006. Names of the winners will be engraved on the memorial plaque and certificates will be awarded. Game time is 11 a.m. and a buffet lunch will be provided at about 12noon. Reservations are required for this event. Please contact Terry Morton at [thmorton@att.net](mailto:thmorton@att.net) or (818) 815-8826.

### June 20: "Longest Day" Games

"Longest Day" games supported cooperatively by Unit 561 and The 750 Club will be held at The 750 Club on Thursday, June 20. These games will be at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. Card fees will be \$10/person/game. All proceeds, including card fees

and directors' fees, will be donated to Alzheimer's research. Additional donations will be appreciated and accepted in the form of cash or checks made payable to the "Alzheimer's Association."

### Calendar

**Monday-Friday, May 6-10**, Great Western STaC games at The 750 Club.

**Tuesday, May 21**, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

**Monday, May 27**, The 750 Club will hold a day game only (Memorial Day).

**Friday, June 7**, the Annual "Carol Lang" Game will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

**Thursday, June 20**, at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m., "Longest Day" Games will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

**Saturday, September 21**, "Fall Festival" U561 luncheon and bridge game will be held at The 750 Club. **Please save the date!**



## West LA by Robert Shore

### We're Back!

For the first time in two years, our Unit is able to hold a traditional sectional. The tournament will be Memorial Day weekend, May 28 and 29, and the Culver City Elks Club, located at 11160 Washington Place (not to be confused with Washington Boulevard), Culver City. We will hold our traditional events. Saturday will feature a couple of pairs games (each session including a 199er game) and a Compact Knockout, and Sunday will have a stratiflighted Swiss. Please come check out our new facility. I hope you enjoy it.

### The Short Road to Las Vegas

The weekend of May 4 and 5 will feature our District's Grand National Teams competition. Teams in four different brackets will compete for the right to represent our district at the Summer Nationals in Las Vegas. The District competition will be held at the Long Beach Bridge Club, each day starting at 10:00 a.m. Haven't yet made your plans? It's not too late. No pre-registration is required. Just put your team together, show up, and win some gold points.

### Tournament Action

Our report from the Memphis Nationals begins with Leslie Brucker, who took home wins in both the Wednesday Daylight Gold Rush Swiss and also the second Saturday Daylight Gold Rush Pairs. David Pelka won the Friday-Saturday Daylight Knockout Teams event, and Ifiti Baqai won the Wednesday-Friday morning Knockout Teams. Heading north to the Victoria Regional we have Mike Mikyska winning the Wednesday-Thursday morning Swiss Teams event, while back East at the Coral Springs Regional, Dawn Lee won her bracket of the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams.

Closer to home, Ifiti Baqai dominated the Garden Grove Sectional, with a hat trick consisting of wins in the Thursday afternoon Open Pairs, the Friday morning Open Pairs, and the Friday afternoon Open Pairs. Susan Morse-Lebow and John Ramos won their bracket of the Saturday Swiss Teams event there. Finally, at the Long Beach non-Life Master Sectional, Lindsay Grouch and Jill Sattinger picked up a win in the morning 49er Pairs event.

### A Little Technique

I had a hand in Memphis I thought was interesting. Playing matchpoints in third seat with everyone vulnerable, I held:

♠ QJ943 ♥ A2 ♦ AKQ94 ♣ 3.

I opened 1♠, partner raised to 2♠, RHO chimed in with 3♣, and I bid game. The opening lead was the club 6 and this is what I saw:

Dummy:	♠ A107	♥ 974	♦ 10872	♣ Q94
Declarer:	♠ QJ943	♥ A2	♦ AKQ94	♣ 3.

RHO won the club 10 and continued a high club, which I ruffed. I lead the spade Q, losing to the K, and saw another high club.

At this point, a little care was necessary. There was no reason for me to ruff this trick and expose myself to a potential 4-1 trump break. Instead, I just discarded a heart while Dummy followed with its last club and LHO threw a diamond. After long thought, RHO continued a 4th club. I threw a diamond from hand, trumping on the board. I led Dummy's last trump, RHO showing out (I should have applied the Rabbi's Rule). It was then a simple matter to return to my hand with the heart A, finish drawing trump, and claim. If I had ruffed the third club, I'd have lost control of the hand and gone down.

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

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

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

# 1

IMPs  
None Vul

South	West	North	East
1♦	pass	1♣	2♠
Dbl	3♠	pass	pass
???			

You, South, hold: ♠A ♥AKQ5 ♦KJ9854 ♣A5

What call do you make?

This column is dedicated to Judy Blankenfeld. Judy was a 77-year-old bridge playing resident of the Big Island in Hawaii. Judy flew from Hilo Hawaii to Long Beach to attend last month's San Diego Regional. Judy had just over 100 masterpoints and was headed to San Diego in search of gold points. Judy was riding in the back of a car driven by her bridge partner's husband during the drive from Long Beach to San Diego. The car exited the freeway mid-trip and hit a concrete block. The car spun, struck a parked car, and the rear door detached. Judy fell out of the car and was run over by a trailing vehicle. She died immediately. I have played bridge in Judy's regular bridge club only once. However, she was described by fellow bridge players and those in her book club as "Without debate, inarguably the nicest person in our club. It is such a shock to lose someone so genuinely vibrant and good." Rest in peace Judy. I don't know whether Judy was wearing a seat belt or not, but wearing seat belts is always a good idea.

*If partner can bid 6♣ by himself, we can raise to seven. The question is which grand slam should we bid. If partner has six solid clubs and the diamond ace, we can count twelve top tricks in notrump with excellent chances for a thirteenth. Any of ♥J, ♦Q or ♠K would suffice. If clubs split, 7♣ makes but what if clubs don't split? In clubs, a bad club split would be a disaster but in notrump we might be able to survive. Give partner ♠x ♥Jxx ♦AQx ♣KQxxxx, 7♣ goes down when clubs are 4-1 but 7NT makes easily. Give partner ♠x*

*♥Jxx ♦Axx ♣KQJxxx, we might still make 7NT if clubs are 5-0. Another reason for bidding 7NT is that partner passed over 3♠. No opening ruff can possibly be available in 7NT. Partner may have thought 4♠ agreed clubs and have only five clubs.*

*Shuster was significantly the most vociferous, but most panelists commented on the negative double probably not being the best bid. I agree. The problem comes from the 1980s when negative double theory hadn't been explored nearly as thoroughly. I agree the negative double is not best, but it was made then by a world class expert. Shuster has two objections to the auction up to this point. His first objection is that the negative double itself is wrong. His second objection is that the follow-up 4♠ bid agrees clubs. He is correct on both counts. It is important to bid slamish hands by bidding longer suits before shorter suits. Diamonds should be bid before showing hearts on this hand. The negative double shows the shorter suit, hearts, first. The negative double makes it impossible to find a descriptive bid on the second call. 4♠ does agree clubs! Partner's jump to 6♣ is less definitive given that he believes clubs have been agreed. Another important point is the observation that Wittes made: the opponents have only bid to the three-level. How many combined spades do we think they have? Partner might have a spade void, or singleton, but ♠Kx is also a strong possibility.*

**Shuster:** 7♦/Abstain. A negative double, huh? Showing my four-card heart suit and modest values rather than my six-card diamond suit and game forcing values? Last time I checked, both hearts and diamonds

were outranked by spades. Then on my next turn, I think partner can rightly infer that I was showing club support when I bid 4♠. I can't have a game force with long diamonds, so the only hands that bid this way include hearts and clubs. I psyched twice and need to recover. I'll bid 7♦, or abstain. I don't have a strong opinion between those two at this point.

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

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

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

**Swanson:** 7♣. It's tough to assign values to partner for his jump other than a good club suit and the

diamond ace. I would prefer to bid 3♦ immediately with this powerful hand, rather than start with a negative double.

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

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs None Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♠ ???	double	1♦ redouble*	pass 2♣
<p>* 3-card spade support</p> <p>You, South, hold: ♠AQ1054 ♥A95 ♦A7543 ♣void</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

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

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

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

**Meyers:** 3♣. I am not discounting having a diamond slam (or maybe spades but steering toward diamonds).

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

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

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

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints Both Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	???		1♠	pass
	You, South, hold: ♠Q1095 ♥A ♦AKJ954 ♣J10			
	What call do you make?			

**Shuster:** 2NT. I have a strong enough hand to establish trumps and take control. I can force a 4♣ cuebid out of partner via Serious 3NT if it comes to that. Hopefully, I didn't make some silly agreement that minimum hands all jump to 4♠ over 2NT, but if he does do that, I'll just Black and bid six opposite two controls, hoping for a favorable lead or layout.

**Meyers:** 2♦. There is no rush here.

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

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

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

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

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">4</h1> <p>IMPs None Vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	1♠	pass	4♦*	pass
	???			

\* splinter, spade raise with 0 or 1 diamonds

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

What call do you make?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<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♠ ???	2♣	2♥	3♣ pass
	You, South, hold: ♠Q1098762 ♥Q54 ♦AKQ ♣void What call do you make?			

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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