

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Begin at the Beginning *by Robert Shore*



Hi! I'm Bob Shore, and I ran for President. I won, so for the next two to four years I'll be President of District 23. Many people around the District probably already know me, but there are undoubtedly some who don't so I thought I'd start with a brief introduction.

Who Am I?

I'm (still) Bob Shore. I've been playing bridge regularly since college, except for a seven-year hiatus in the 1990s when I was beginning my career. I got my start at Art's 99er game at the Bridge Center in Arcadia. I joined ACBL, along with my college roommate, in 1980 at Bridge Week. I became a Life Master in 1987. My bridge-playing has increased over the years, and I've found myself on the Barry Crane Top 500 list once or twice. I play at most local tournaments, weekend Unit Games anywhere I can reach them, and at most of the clubs in the area. But I'm still a working stiff (litigation partner at a Century City law firm), so that mostly limits my play to nights and weekends.

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AN EXPLANATION REGARDING THE RECENT STaC

The District has received a number of well-taken inquiries regarding our July STaC. The Director-in-Charge of the STaC, Bill Michael, published on the STaC Web site an explanation of the issues resulting in various delays. Here is Bill's message:

“Hello, everybody.

“By law, I don't need to make the following disclosure, but most of you have shown incredible

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District Director Report August 2019

by Kevin Lane

“Bridge is a game and should be fun.”



Congratulations to the new District 23 President

Three strong candidates ran for District 23 President. Bob Shore won the vote at the District 23 board meeting in early July. Congratulations to Bob, and thank you to Stan

Holzberg and Paula Olivares for seeking to help our district.

As chair of the nominating committee I spoke to many volunteers and board members in our district. The feedback I received is that our district board meetings must be shorter and more businesslike and that our district board and officers need to foster a more positive atmosphere. I'm very pleased that Bob has already embraced those ideas.

Las Vegas motions: regional card fees at NABCs

I leave for Las Vegas tomorrow. Last month I mentioned a couple motions that I co-sponsored. Here are a few of the other motions submitted:

A motion was made to reduce the card fees at the regional events at NABCs. In Hawaii the board

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I started getting involved in bridge administration about 10 years ago when I was asked to join the Board of the West Los Angeles Unit and said yes. Since then, I've served as Vice President and President of the West Los Angeles Unit, Disciplinary Chair, Secretary, and Vice President of the District (a position I held until my recent election as President), and I am still chair of the Beverly Hills Club's Disciplinary Committee. And our District Director, Kevin Lane, is one of my regular partners. I like to think this background gives me a substantial background on many of the issues facing the world of bridge in general and our corner of that world in particular.

Who Are We?

The world of bridge couldn't run without volunteers, and I think they deserve recognition for their work. So while I have your attention, I want to acknowledge the people who have freely given their time and energy to help build and maintain the community centered around the game we all love. My immediate predecessor in this position was Mike Marcucci, who worked tirelessly to implement his vision for the District, at times spending money from his own pocket to make things work. Joe Viola spent four years as our Treasurer, with the often-thankless task of explaining the limits on our resources. Paula Olivares has been our Secretary, recording our official proceedings and distributing the results of her efforts to Board members. Please thank them for their efforts when you see them.

We have a new team in place, now, and I look forward to working with them. I'm excited about the possibilities I see in front of the District, and I couldn't be happier with the team that's stepped forward to help make it a reality. We are fortunate to enjoy the fruits of their efforts, and I hope you will thank them as well.

The District's new Vice President is Jan Wickersham. Jan has contributed not just in our District, but in our neighboring District 22 as well, with a prominent role in the annual Ventura Regional. I found it a very pleasant surprise when Jan agreed to serve as Vice President for at least the next two years.

Stan Holzberg has agreed (at least for the time being) to serve as our Treasurer. Stan has a long and storied history of involvement in our District. Stan served as President of our District back when I was a baby bridge player. Since returning to the game a number of years ago, Stan has freely given of his time

and expertise in a variety of roles, including as Tournament Chairman for our District's regionals.

Tom Lill has agreed (at least for the time being) to serve as our Secretary. If you're reading these words, you already know about Tom's work because he has been the editor-in-chief of the *Southern California Bridge News* for the last year+. Tom is also responsible for our regional's *Daily Bulletin*, a job that I know, from personal experience, regularly keeps him up until the wee hours of the morning throughout our tournament.

The four of us, along with District Director Kevin Lane, also are a large fraction of the District's Executive Committee. The ExComm makes decisions on behalf of the District on issues that can't be presented to the full Board (usually because a quick decision is necessary). The ExComm's roster will be filled out by two at-large members. I expect to announce those appointments in my next column.

More Thank You's

Some other people have agreed to help fill some badly needed roles in our District. First, I've been the District's Disciplinary Chair for the last eight years, but I cannot continue in that role as District President. Marta Monheim has agreed to accept the position. Second, Howard Einberg has served as our GNT Coordinator for as long as I can remember, but he will soon be moving out of the District. Jeff Grotenhuis, who built the Agile Bridge Club from scratch, has agreed to assume that role and I have asked him to do for our GNT competition what he did for his club.

We held "Youth Day" at our just-concluded regional on July 6, 2019. On that day we allowed our youngest players free entries to all games, and then held an evening individual event designed for our young players. (Proud papa needs to add that my son won his very first master points that evening.) Mitch Dunitz helped make this possible by personally agreeing to pay all of the expenses incurred by these activities, and we thank him for his generosity. Mitch informs me that Youth Day would not have been possible without the generous assistance he received from Janet Treisman, Kitty Keck, and Marta Monheim.

What Are Our Plans?

Because we're a volunteer organization, I think it's important to focus on a handful of issues and do them well, rather than try to tackle all of the possible ideas for improvement. I see my first priority as an

issue that will drive all the others. In business terms, I think that District 23 can and should increase its market penetration. Right now, District 23 ranks near the bottom among the ACBL in percentage of overall population that are members of ACBL. I'd like to improve those numbers.

ACBL has a program that's aimed at schools, but I think the existing program is inadequate. The maximum payment available to teachers for hosting a bridge club is \$350. When you compare that to the pay teachers receive for, say, serving as sports coaches, it's little wonder that this incentive has done little or nothing to bring bridge into schools in our District.

I'm hoping to build our own program that will supplement or replace the ACBL's program, at least within our District. And I want to put a committee together to design and implement that program. Mitch Dunitz, who has already devoted enormous time and effort to growing the game among youth, has agreed to make his input known on this committee and has tentatively agreed to take charge of the necessary fundraising. I'd like to have the program up and running in time for the 2020-21 school year.

I see three remaining tasks where the Committee's thoughts will be essential. First, program design. How much money should we offer teachers for simply hosting a bridge club? Can we and should we teach the teachers how to play, and how to teach bridge? Or should we rely instead on teachers who already know the game? Should we pay extra for teachers who succeed in recruiting new ACBL members? How much? What benchmarks should we require?

The second task is spreading the word. It doesn't matter how good our program is if no one knows about it. How can we make teachers, who may not be members of ACBL, aware of this program? Would teacher unions help us in this endeavor? Who will navigate the administrative shoals that may exist?

The final task is implementation. What criteria do we use to select the teachers who will participate in the program? How do we confirm that lessons are actually happening? How do we verify the benchmarks necessary for payment?

There's a lot of work to do, but there's enough time to do it. Does the prospect of igniting a spark among our younger players inspire you? Do you have ideas on how we can make this work? Please join us in helping make this program a reality and introducing bridge to the next generation of our community.

I have additional ideas, which I'll share in future columns as they come closer to fruition. And for some of those plans I expect to work hand in hand with our neighbors in District 22. I'm looking forward to continuing our conversation.

Something you want me to know? Contact me at Bob78164@yahoo.com.

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voted to significantly raise the card fees at NABCs for both NABC events and regional events. I voted against hearing the motion because it was added onto the agenda in the last half hour, bypassing the normal advance notice and management input provisions. Management should propose a budget and fee increases, not the board.

The card fees were raised, and now a motion authorizes ACBL management to set lower regional card fees based on how much regional card fees cost near the NABC. So, in D23 we pay \$14, and \$20 is high but not outrageously high given that some clubs charge \$13. In Montreal, however, \$20 for regional card fees is very high. I favor letting management make these type of decisions, though I'll see the final form of the motion before deciding how I vote.

Las Vegas motions: : what is a senior?

About five years ago, a young barber undercharged me at my local barbershop. It turns out he had given me the senior discount which was a serious jolt to my ego and, strictly speaking, ten years too soon at that barbershop!

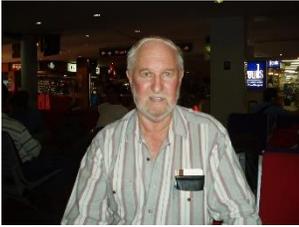
The ACBL proposes to redefine senior to 65 and to redefine super senior to 75 years old. I support this change as common sense. I view the change as a common sense reflection of an aging bridge membership. However, I do note that I am not a senior before or after this motion. Yet.

Feel free to contact me at klaned23@gmail.com



“I don't think anyone in this tournament can bid diamonds to show diamonds. We lost the club suit in the 1950s. Now diamonds are gone and hearts are sinking fast.” (Edgar Kaplan, commentating on Vu-Graph)

From the Director's Chair: by Brian Richardson



From time to time an opponent's explanation may not provide an accurate description of the bid that has been made. This may be because the explanation provided is not a correct explanation of the partnership's agreement, OR it may indeed be correct, BUT the bidder has not made the bid that is consistent with the partnership's agreement.

Mistaken Explanation.

If the explanation given is different from the partnership agreement this is an infraction of Law. If, as a result of this infraction, the non-offending side is damaged, the Director shall award an adjusted score. *It is important to note the word "shall". This means that, if damage has occurred to the non-offending side, the Director MUST award an adjusted score. Not "may" or "can", but "shall".*

If a player becomes aware, during the auction, that he has not given an explanation of his partner's bid that is consistent with their system agreement, he must call the Director BEFORE the opening lead is made IF he is going to be either Dummy or Declarer. He can then provide a correction to the information he had provided. If the player who provided the mistaken explanation is going to be defending, neither that player nor his partner, may make any attempt to correct the misinformation, until play has ended. At that stage the Director needs to be called and the correct explanation given.

Mistaken Call.

When the partnership agreement has been explained correctly, and the mistake was the bid made, NOT the explanation, there is NO infraction of Law. The explanation must not be corrected and the Director must not be called. Calling the Director would indicate to partner that something is "strange" in the auction. Partner is then in receipt of unauthorized information. In the situation of a Mistaken Call the result stands, whether or not the opponents were disadvantaged or damaged. The Laws do NOT require that an explanation of the mistaken call be made, and neither does the Director have to be called, although he may be called.

Unauthorized information.

It is important to note that, whether or not the explanation given was a correct statement of the partnership agreement, the bidder, having heard partner's explanation, is now aware that his bid has been misinterpreted. This is unauthorized information for the bidder, and he must avoid taking advantage of it.

Example 1: an opening bid of 2♦ is made and alerted. When an explanation is requested, the bid is explained as 11-15 high card points with a 5 card ♥ suit and a 4 card ♠ suit. This is a correct explanation of the partnership agreement, but the opening bidder actually had a 6 card ♦ suit with less than 11 points. If the response to the opening bid is 2NT the opener has no choice other than to make a re-bid to describe their hand as if they had made the bid of 2♦ which was consistent with their agreement. Should any other re-bid be made by Opener (including a Pass of the 2NT initial response), the Director will allocate an adjusted score.

Example 2: an opening bid of 2♦ is made and not alerted. The system agreement is that this bid shows 11-15 high card points with a five card ♥ suit and a 4 card ♠ suit. As the bid was not alerted the opener KNOWS that either partner knew what the bid meant and just forgot to alert it, OR partner has forgotten the meaning of the bid and thought it just showed a weak two opening bid. If Responder makes any bid, opener is required to respond as if his opening bid had been alerted. Failure to do will result in an adjusted score. If, in addition, the opponents have been damaged by the failure to alert, the Director can allocate an adjusted score.

If players find it difficult to fully understand the idea of unauthorized information it will probably help to imagine that your partner is behind a screen and you cannot hear him, or see his bid when he makes it. As the opener you have to assume that you have made the correct bid and partner has alerted it, if an alert was required.

Agreement or No Agreement.

As a partnership, both players are required to possess the same understanding of their bid, or series of bids, and it is an infraction to describe an agreement where the same mutual understanding does NOT exist. If the Director determines that NO agreement exists as to the meaning of the call, and an explanation was given to indicate that there WAS an agreement, the

Director allocates an adjusted score based on the likely outcome had the opponents been so informed. If it is clear that there was an agreement as to meaning of a call, or calls, and this was not disclosed, the Director allocates an adjusted score, based on the likely outcome had the opponents received a correct, timely explanation. IF the partnership has no agreement about a particular bid the most appropriate statement to make is “we have no agreement!”

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN THE DIRECTOR NEEDS THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON TO ENSURE THAT EQUITY IS RESTORED, AND THE RIGHTS OF THE NON-OFFENDING PARTNERSHIP ARE SAFEGUARDED.

STaC continued from page 1

patience during this STaC, and I regard many of you as friends, so I feel you deserve to know this.

For those who are unaware of it, on my return from Palm Springs last year, I had an unbeatable infection, and had my left leg amputated halfway up my shin. By April, my right leg also had the same problem – with the same outcome. So, since April, I’ve been recuperating from a double amputation.

I also have had issues with my musculature, compounding my problems and keeping me wheelchair bound.

My mother, simultaneously, has had some serious medical problems, so I am working to caretake for her, as well.

I am slowly gaining strength, and working hard toward getting dual prosthetics, to get out of my wheelchair and back on the tournament floor, where I belong.

Sadly, fatigue is a large part of my problems, so I haven’t been nearly as “on top” of this STaC – in part because I’ll fall asleep at any ol’ time, and in part because I’m in the grips of a minor learning curve – it’s been a while. As time goes on, these delays will become rarer and rarer.

I would like to thank ACBL for working with me, to keep me employed, and to all of you for your patience. I am nearly caught up, and all results should be officially posted by early afternoon Monday [July 15]. *[Editor’s note: indeed, they were.]*

I have also discovered that I made a mistake on some invoices – all games are \$6.00/table (\$3.00 for ½ tables). My apologies if I mistakenly overbilled

you.

Thank you all, and take care!

See you at the tables!

Bill Michael

Long Beach Winners



Kevin Dwyer – Shan Huang

Our July Regional in Long Beach concluded a few weeks ago & pictures have finally caught up for us. Our Stoddard Trophy this year (most points for the week) was taken home by Kevin Dwyer and Shan Huang, both from Melbourne, FL. As part of Cookie Potter’s team, their winnings for the week were impressive with totals of 158.9 masterpoints. Cookie had a 5 person team, with Steve Weinstein (Montclair, NJ) and Cecilia Rimstedt (Kungsbacka, Sweden) rounding out the group. We award a miniature trophy to our winners for home display & you can see it in our pic for 2019. Note also our plaque from the full-sized trophy and you will see that Cookie is making this a regular stop with her team – also winning the Stoddard 2 years ago. Our wonderful Long Beach weather must agree with our visitors and we hope to see them again next year.



2010 S Gross, J Mohan, E Anten	2015 Peter Gelfand, Mark Itabashi
2011 John Jones	2016 Bob Etter
2012 Jeff Goldsmith, David Grainger	2017 K Dwyer, S Huang, D Sabourin
2013 Billy Miller	2018 Brian Glubok
2014 L Bell, H Bertens, B Miller	2019 Kevin Dwyer, Shan Huang

District 23 Rank Changes June 2019

Junior Master

Bobbie Greenfield
 Mary Guzzetta
 Freddie R. Jacobs
 Katherine B. Jervik
 David W. Khalieque
 Adrienne E. Kerman
 Lyn Kraatz
 Jeanne D. Sinsheimer
 Rosalie Stern
 Lavonne Swyter

Club Master

Daniel C. Frank
 Jane Light
 Patricia Luehrs
 Herriet Miller
 Monique Shultz

Sectional Master

Karmen Armoudjian
 Carol D. Bender
 Leon I. Bender
 Debra B. Schellenberg

Regional Master

Yoshie Bell
 Harris J. Blumenthal
 Carol L. Decordova
 Paul A. Goddard
 George C. Kay
 Leon Lewin
 Arlene Newman
 Gregory Z. Teien
 Judith C. Wachtel
 Denise I. Wreede

NABC Master

Sue Hunter
 Jane E. Winston

Life Master

Anne L. Hurwitz
 Jerold A. Rose

BronzeLife Master

Roberta J. Brown
 Myrna Kalman

Gold Life Master

Michael J. Abrams
 Barbara Levitt

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

June 23 Unit game. Overall results: 1st in A: Jackie Hess/John Melis, 2nd Pamela Cole/Judith Jones, 3rd Bruce Horiguchi/Wei Pei, 4th Murat Veysoglu/Bruce Altshuler, 5th John Petrie/Steve Sturm, 6th Barbara and Alan Olschwang. In the B flight overalls Fern Dunbar/Rob Preece were 4th, Kevin Lane/James Perkins 5th, Wayne Rapp/Kay Tseng tied with Nancy Toussaint/David Hoyt for 6th. In the C flight overalls Joyce Roberts/Martin Lipman were 3rd, Sue Boswell/Janet Logan 4th, Ardis and Chuck Laine tied with Nancy Raiche/Gerry Gastelum for 5th. Congratulations to all!

70% GAMES June 16 through July 15: In the Monday morning game (12 boards) June 24 Renee Hoffman/Larry Wisinski had 77.50%. In open game June 30 Colleen Gardner/John Melis had 70.60%, in the July 1 morning game (20 boards) Jan Klein/Larry Wisinski had 75%, and in the open game July 12 Jo and John Melis had 71.53%. Congratulations to all four pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS June 16 through July 15: In the Unit Team Game June 16 the team of Wayne Rapp, Linda Renkus, Bill Clark, Bill Skupen was first, each winning 1.10mp. In the Unit Game June 23 Jackie Hess/John Melis won 5.94mp for 1st, Judith Jones/Pamela Cole 4.16mp for 2nd, Bruce Horiguchi/Wei Pei 3.12mp for 3rd. In open games: June 26 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger won 4.61mp for 1st, Kiyoko Nagaishi/Wayne Rapp 3.52mp for 2nd. June 26 (eve) Betty Witteried/Renee Hoffman won 3.38 for 1st. June 28 Renee Hoffman/Betty Witteried won 4.69mp for 1st, Alan Olschwang/David Hoyt 3.52mp for 2nd. June 29 Jane Reid/John Melis won 4.31mp for 1st, Craig Wilson/Hashim Mahmood 3.23mp for 2nd. July 8 John Melis/Kay Tseng won 3.19mp for 1st N/S,

John and Cory Hand won 3.19mp for 1st E/W. July 15 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 4.88mp for 1st, Marcie Evans/Betti Harris won 3.76 for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: Gene Huchingson, Carolyn Heyn, Ronald Sykora. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Jr. Masters: Priscilla Cailloette, Tom Dasgupta. New Club Master: Bonnie Shok. New Sectional Master: Carolyn Byrnes. New Silver Life Master: Doreen Maes. Congratulations to you all!

GET WELL: Phyllis Parker, Gabrielle Sills, JeanMatz

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:
 July 28 Unit Game 12.30pm. \$8 card fee, dessert served
 July 29 North American Pairs 12:30pm: Extra points, \$11 card fee
 August 1-3 Reach For Education Win gold points at the club (pay \$30 to ACBL) 12:30 games and 4:15 Friday Regular card fees to the club
 August 4 North American Pairs 12:30pm: Extra points, \$11 card fee
 August 10 CKUAASC/LBBC unit-rated game: Extra points, regular card fee
 August 13, 14, 15 ACBL Membership Games: Extra points, regular card fee
 August 16 North American Pairs 12:30pm: Extra points, \$11 card fee
 August 18 Team Game 12:30pm
 August 19-25: STaC games: Mon-Sat 12:30pm, Wed 7pm, Fri 4:15pm: Extra Points, \$12 card fee
 August 19 Birthday Monday 12:30pm. Play for \$5 on your August birthday
 August 25 Unit Game 12.30pm. \$8 card fee, dessert served

**NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD
BRIDGE CLUBS
Judy Carter-Johnson**

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP--Clubhouse #1
 June 22: Linda Nye/Alan Olschwang 1 in A, 1 in B. Jeanette Estill/Marilyn McClintock 2 in A. Fred Reker/Larry Slutsky 3 in A. Ellen Kice/Al Appel 4 in A, 2 in B. Lynne Finley/Kay Hyland 3 in B, 1 in C.

Kar-Yee Nelson/Chie Wickham 2 in C. George Alemshah/Martin Lipman 3 in C. Sue Fardette/Bud Parish 4 in C.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP--Clubhouse #3

July 11: Bobbi Vann and Paul Chen 1 in A, 1 in B. Frances Gross/Larry Topper 2 in A, 2 in B. Linda and Dick Stein 3 in A. Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 4 in A. Judith Jones/Al Appel 5 in A. Joyce Henderson/Rob Preece 6 in A. Russell Gray/Fred Reker 3 in B. Elaine Dovgard/Cookie Pham 4 in B, 1 in C. Ellen Kice/Norma Krueger 5 in B. Sue Fardette/Bud Parish 6 in B. Priscilla Caillouette/Eric Kaplan 2 in C. Barbara Wallace/Wm Dicks 3 in C. Claudia Bird/Dolores Cronin 4 in C.

UNIT RATED GAME--Clubhouse #1 July

13: Fred Reker/Larry Slutsky 1 in A. Judith Jones/Al Appel 2 in A. Judy Lorber/Marilyn McClintock 3 in A, 1 in B. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Gary Paugh 4 in A, 2 in B. Jenny Ernest/Joyce Henderson 5/6 in A, 3 in B, 1 in C. Ann Croul/Arne Lier 5/6 in A. George Alemshah/Martin Lipman 4 in B, 2 in C.

THANKS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

After Monday's game on 1st of July MIDGE DUNAGAN was given a Thank You party for her many, many years of taking reservations AND her many years of shopping for snack table, setting up and taking down the table, and always 'being there' for her fellow players. We wish Midge many happy years at her new home in Arizona.

CONGRATS: Many of our players attended

the near-by Long Beach Regional. Top winner was Sylvia Kaprelyan who earned 8.72 master points. Other winners listed highest to lowest number of master points were Joan Wieber, Betty Jackson, Sherry Troeger, Pricilla Cailloutte, Jeanette Estill, Sharon Beran and Ted Wieber.

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



"There isn't room at the bridge table for four good hands. If everyone at the table is bidding his head off, someone is lying. Let's hope it isn't you!" (Edwin Kantar)



Pomona –
Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Unit Game: Saturday August 17 20,
11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, August 3, 9:30 a.m., Claremont

The top finisher in the July Individual was Linda Stuart. Clint Lew tied with Paul Chrisney for second.

The July Unit game was a real squeaker, with Bill Papa – Vic Sartor edging out Penny and Gino Barbieri by just ½ matchpoint. Hanan Mogharbel - Roger Boyar placed third..

Again this month, the games were quite competitive. Four pairs did manage to reach the magic 65% mark. Richard Patterson – Esther Johnson had the best score, 70%. Roger Boyar – Steve Mancini were next, 67.5%. Then we find Hanan Mogharbel and Vic Sartor, 66.67%, followed by Fredy and Lulu Minter, at 65.98%. There were several scores in the 63-64% area, but so sorry, it takes 65% to make the Honors list. Others winners: Penny Barbieri, Kurt Triesele, Ken Bloomfield, Claudia Cochran, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, and Yours Truly.

33 players won a total of 63.98 masterpoints in club games within the Unit. This total does not include the STaC games, which is why the total is a bit low this month. The top 5 masterpoint earners in July were Penny Barbieri (6.34), Fredy and Lulu Minter (4.82), Gino Barbieri (4.56), and Yours Truly (3.67).

Unit representation at the Long Beach Regional was, well, let's just say it's been better. 10 Unit members brought back 136 masterpoints. Topping the list was Amr Elghamry, with 38.20. Randy Howard was second, with 26.97. Next we find Your Correspondent with 23.57. (Don't be impressed. It took 14 sessions – that's 340 boards, folks – to accrue those points. Perseverance triumphs over skill once again.) Then we find Harrish Singh, 14.88; Hanan Mogharbel, 13.88; and rounding out the double-digit winners, Penny Barbieri, 12.25.

No promotions to report *again* this month. Three in a row! However, to be announced officially

next month: Hanan Mogharbel brought home that last bit of gold she needed to get the Gold Card. Congratulations, Hanan. The sky's the limit, now.

Turning to the Las Vegas NABC, a few Unit members attended. Nine, if I didn't miss anyone in the results list. (If I did, please forgive me: nearly 6,000 people won masterpoints in Las Vegas.) Clint Lew, Sandy Jones, Bill Papa, David Ochroch, Linda Stuart, Amr Elghamry, and Your Correspondent were all spotted. Also attending, although we didn't meet, were Kai Liu and Don Nakasaki. David and YC managed a third place (only 4 VP out of first, how frustrating!) in the "B" Swiss (don't ask which bracket), followed by a first, the next day, in the same event. The win was convincing, 21 VPs, which would have been 31 VPs had not YC made a totally bone-headed call in the last round. Well, a win is a win! Fortunately, my teammates picked up the slack. The top point getter in Vegas was Amr, with 14.66. Amr's best result was a section top in A/X pairs. David and YC were right behind with 14.29. Bill Papa did well, racking up 7.59, and finishing second overall in the Wednesday-Thursday side game series. Overall, Unit members brought home 56 points.

For our hand of the month, we have an entry from that same NABC. It's matchpoints, none vulnerable. East is the dealer, You, North, pick up this so-so hand:

♠ AK752 ♥ 764 ♦ 10 ♣ 10843.

So what, you say? Wait!

After two passes, LHO opens 1♥. Partner calls 2♦, thrilling you to no end. RHO raises to 2♥. Pass, pass, partner now sticks in 3♣. Pass, pass, 3♥ by LHO. Pass, pass, over to you. Well?

You'd be delighted to play 4♣, not seeing a lot of defense to 3♥. How about 3♠, instead? Why not!? Partner might have a couple of spades, and probably does, given all the heart bidding by the opponents. Better still will be the look on partner's face! After a short huddle, partner figures out what's going on, passes, and 3♠ rolls home. 4♣ is also a make, but +130 isn't as good as +140, is it? If you found this bid, you got 87% of the matchpoints. And a discussion with partner, informing him that OF COURSE your BOON (Bid Out Of Nowhere) showed not just a preference for clubs, which your pass of 3♣ indicated, but quality support and a willingness to play 4♣, in addition to a decent 5-card spade suit. Bridge is *such* a simple game, isn't it?

In case you are interested, here is the dummy you caught if you bid 3♠:

♠ 63 ♥ 109 ♦ A7652 ♣ AKQ6.

Spades were 3-3. So if the opponents play on trumps to kill your heart ruff, you win a diamond, four clubs, and four spades. If they don't play spades, you get a heart ruff and might even make a tenth trick. Even if spades are 4-2, you're OK so long as they don't ruff one of your club winners.

Quote for the month: "When a true genius appears in this world you may know him by the sign that the dunces are all in confederacy against him." (Jonathan Swift)



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

This year's **Magic Mountain Sectional** will be held on September 21st and 22nd at the Friendly Valley Auditorium, 19345 Avenue of the Oaks, Santa Clarita, 91321. For more information, contact either of the tournament's co-chairs, Gay Gipson (gegipson@gmail.com) or Roy Ladd (royr.ladd@gmail.com).

For Reservations, contact Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net).

The Saturday game will be Stratified Open Pairs and Limited MP Pairs at 10:00 AM and 2:30 PM. The Sunday game is a play-through Stratified Open Swiss Teams and Limited MP Swiss Teams at 10:00 AM. Lunch is included in card fees on both days.

An ACBL number is required or the player will be charged \$8 one-month membership fee.

Instant Matchpoint Game Results, Friendly Bridge Club, Monday July 8th:

Section A, North/South:

First with 62.54%	Bob McBloom – Bill Brodek
Second with 57.88%	Bernard Seal – John Vacca
Third with 52.67%	Fran Franklin – Esin Parikh

Section A, East/West:

- First with 64.63% Ruth Baker – Kathy Flynn
- Second with 62.71% Karkirat Randhawa – Alan Nueman
- Third with 53.79% Bob Brothers – Sam Khayat

Section B, North/South

- First with 62.29% Carol Reukauf – Paul Reukauf
- Second with 61.33% Roy Ladd – Bert Stock
- Third with 53.33% Carol Ashbacher – Kathy Swaine

Section B, East/West

- First with 54.25% Melisse Benson – Anita Walker
- Second with 49.79% Mira Rowe – Ron Oest
- Third with 49.74% May Ho – Gay Gipson

District 22-23 STaC Results:

**Thursday Morning, July 11th,
Valencia Bridge Studio (Castaic):**

- First with 63.7% Richard Stark – Lamonte Johnson
- Second with 60.0% Ted Maki – Roshen Hadulla
- Third with 57.78% Barbara Jones – Tom Jones

**Friday Afternoon, July 12th, Strat. Aux. Pairs,
Joshua Tree Bridge Club:**

- First with 69% Carol Reukauf – Paul Reukauf
- Tie for 2nd/3rd with 57% Carol Underwood – Hal Underwood
- Kay – Aiken – Rosalee McEntyre

**Sunday Afternoon, July 14th, Strat. Aux. Pairs,
Joshua Tree Bridge Club:**

- First with 55.95% Rand Pinsky – Kathy Swaine
- Second with 54.76% Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin
- Third with 53.57% Carol Reukauf – Paul Reukauf

**Change of Address and Time for Tuesday Night
Game (Valencia Bridge Studio):**

Starting August 6th at 5:00 PM
Castaic Sports Complex (same place as Thursday AM)
Call Kathy for more information and reservations: 661-253-1105

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

2747 West Avenue L, Lancaster, CA 93536
Phone: 661-285-1779 or 760-505-3491

Change of Address for Friendly Bridge Club:

Santa Clarita Senior Center
27180 Golden Valley Road, Santa Clarita
Phone: 661-755-8543



**San Fernando
Valley
by Linda Silvey**

“Longest Day Games” Games

The 750 Club, in cooperation with Unit 561, held three games of bridge on Thursday, June 20, for a total of forty-seven and a half tables. All card fees, directors’ fees (Terry Morton, Doug Beagle, and Herb Zweig), and additional individual donations resulted in a generous contribution of \$8,845 to the Alzheimer’s Association. The Unit 561 paid the ACBL sanction fees, and provided extra snacks. U561 Board Members contributed desserts.

The following energetic players were awarded special certificates for playing in all three games: R. Gasway, Michael Klemens, Sin Orensztstein, Ray Primus, Susan Raphael, Jojo Sarkar, Karyn Shatzkin, Sheila Singer, and John Van Egmond. This represents a “three-peat” performance by Susan Raphael, who also played in all three games on the Longest Day in 2016 and 2018. Winners in this year’s individual games were as follows:

Morning Pairs: NS – Noel Purkin-Tammy Purkin 63.94%, Michael Klemens-Leila Greenfield 62.65%, Linda Katz-Brenda Rosen 60.94%, Jeffrey Hartmann-Beverly McLeod 59.02%, and Martin Hurwitz-Anne Hurwitz 58.06%; EW – Ilene Feinstein-Harold Kahn 62.80%, Carol Levin-Susan Raphael 62.03%, Samantha Macdouglass-Susan Morse-Lebow 62.03%, Claude Le Feuvre-Dwight Hunt 57.52%, and Elaine Keyes-Janet Cooper 56.72%.

Afternoon Pairs: NS – Jeffrey Hartmann-Beverly McLeod 69.33%, Michael Klemens-Leila Greenfield 57.83%, and Karyn Shatzkin-Mort Shatzkin 49.58%; EW – Carol Levin-Susan Raphael 55.83%, Sheila Singer-Mark Gould 54.25%, and Helle Wengrow-Ravnesch Amar 51.67%.

Evening Pairs: NS -- Michael Klemens-Dwight Hunt 61.01%, Monica Fastovsky-Beverly McLeod 55.32%, Elaine Robinson-Diana Menzer 53.15%, Ruth Fleisher- Marilyn Gaims 53.11%, and Sheila Singer-Ray Primus 52.93%; EW – R. Gasway-Susan Raphael 60.46%, Ronald Malkin-Irving Klasky 59.40%, Nancy Klemens-Robert Moest 55.06%, Bunnie Adler-Don Adler 54.97%, and Freddie Jacobs-Ed Wilson 52.98%.

September 21: Unit 561 “Fall Festival” Luncheon/Game

Unit 561 will host a “Fall Festival” Luncheon and Game on Saturday, September 21, at The 750 Club, 5700 Rudnick Ave, Woodland Hills. A catered lunch will be provided and served buffet style at 12noon, followed by an Open, Stratified game at 1 p.m. This is a special, free luncheon and game honoring all duplicate bridge players. Reservations will be required. In September, a sign-up sheet will be available at The 750 Club and email instructions for making reservations will appear in the September newsletter article.

Special Congratulations

July Top Ten Masterpoints (for regular Club games) at The 750 Club were Susan Raphael 11.09, Ray Primus 9.66, Mike Klemens 7.93, Alan Golden 7.84, Dwight Hunt 7.55, A.D. Shah 7.10, Jerry Rose 6.83, John Tickner 6.60, Shoshana Blemenfeld 6.26, and Tammy Purkin 6.00. The following pairs achieved 70% games: Jeff Hartmann-Tony Mirchandani 73.31%, Susan Raphael-Shoshana-Blumenfeld 70.93%, and Mikie Alpert-Ray Primus 70.24%.

The Top Winners in the Alzheimer’s (Longest Day) games were Mike Klemens 8.27, Susan Raphael 6.21, Noel Purkin 5.69, Tammy Purkin 5.69, Leila Greenfield 5.06, Beverly McLeod 4.84, Ilene Feinstein 4.27, Harold Kahn 4.27, Jeff Hartmann 3.49, and Dwight Hunt 3.21. The Top Winners in the North American Pair Games were Larry Kussin 12.36, Susan Raphael 9.34, Noel Purkin 9.10, Tammy Purkin 9.10, Lynn Edelson 8.10, Arlene Newman 6.18, Vera Mandell 5.78, Beverly McLeod 5.06, and Jojo Sarkar 5.06.

August Events at The 750 Club

North American Pair Games will be held Monday-Friday, August 5-9. Card fees will be \$11

and half red and half black points will be awarded to the winners. Players who qualify will be able to compete in the District Level North American Pair Games. Great Western STaC Games will be held Monday-Friday, August 19-23. Card fees will be \$11 and silver points will be awarded to the winners.

Calendar

Monday, August 5 – Friday, August 9, North American Pairs Games will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Monday-Friday, August 19-23, Great Western STaC Games will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Monday, September 2 (Labor Day), The 750 Club open for the day game, closed for the night game.

Tuesday, September 17, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Saturday, September 21, “Fall Festival” U561 luncheon and bridge game will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Saturday, November 30, Unit 561 Election for 2020 Board Members and Holiday Bridge/Dinner Party will be held at The 750 Club. **Please save the date and plan to attend!**



**West LA
by Robert Shore**

Bridge Week: The Summer’s Best Regional

This month saw Bridge Week in Long Beach, which I am firmly convinced is the summer’s best regional. As usual, our Unit featured a long parade of people marching to the winner’s circle to pick up their laurels. Susan Morse-Lebow, John Ramos, and Dan Hugh-Jones get pride of place by virtue of their back-to-back wins, finishing on top of their brackets in the 4th of July Swiss and the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams. Sid Brownstein and Jill Meyers won the 4th of July Swiss, while Pete Benjamin and Bill Schreiber

won their bracket of the Swiss. On Sunday, Nancy Heck, Alex Wiles, Dawn Lee, and Jill Thesman won their bracket of the Sunday 0-2500 Bracketed Swiss, and Jerry Smith, Doron Shouly, Seymour Stoll, and Rochelle Blumenfeld also won their bracket of the same event. Rounding out the month's winners, Aram Bedros and Wayne Karson won the Thursday afternoon contest in last month's STAC, while Roger and Becky Clough won the Sunday afternoon game.

There's a Reason for All the Fuss

This is the last month of qualifying for next year's North American Pairs event. This is an event that's been steadily growing in popularity in our District for the last few years. Participation starts at the club level, by playing in (and finishing above average) in a red-point qualifying game at the club. After club qualifying concludes, the next step will be a Unit Final. There will be two this year during the fall, and again at least half of the field will qualify. The District will select its qualifiers for the national event (to be held in Columbus) at a District final, tentatively scheduled for the late autumn.

There are three flights, so inexperienced players can compete (at the Unit, District, and national levels) exclusively against other non-Life Masters. ACBL provides a generous subsidy to the winners in each flight, and there are no card fees at the national finals. All in all, it's a great introduction to tournament play. If you haven't already tried the event, I heartily recommend it.

Around the Clubs

Club champions last month at Beverly Hills were Paul and Elizabeth Ryan. Patrick Cardullo and Richard Weinberger combined for a 70% game.

At Barrington, Susan Somogyi and Basant Shah paired up to win a club championship, as did Roger and Becky Clough.

A Fond Farewell

This will be my last column on behalf of the Unit, at least for a while. As you know from other parts of the paper, I've now taken on the responsibilities of being District President. Those responsibilities include a monthly column informing the membership of the state of the District, and I've concluded that one column per month is my limit.

I want to thank all of the people who have read my column over the last eight years, particularly those who have taken a moment to comment. It's been a

privilege to spend time with you sharing the news of the Unit, and I hope that you'll continue to enjoy my work as it's published on the paper's front page. No word yet on who will fill this space in my stead, but I hope you'll find my successor's work as entertaining as you found mine.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are Phil Clayton, Ed Davis, Mark Itabashi, Tim Lolli, Jill Meyers,
Rick Roeder and David Sacks.

1		South	West	North	East
			1♥	1♠	pass
		Pass	2♥	3♣	pass
		???			
		You, South, hold: ♠A9 ♥7653 ♦Q4 ♣Q10852			
		What call do you make?			

Matchpoints
E-W Vul

[The Bridge World magazine has a Master Solver's Club column which is similar in structure to this column. A major difference is that the Master Solver's Club imposes the Bridge World Standard bidding system (a collective expert system voted on by their readership) on their panelists. This column, under my editor/moderator tenure, (and I believe all of those who have preceded me) has allowed panelists to interpret auctions as they would in their own partnerships. Panelists are encouraged to use conventions and understandings they find logical and effective. This problem delves into to agreements about the direct cuebid, 2♥ over 1♥, and why a cuebid wasn't used. A direct cuebid is Michaels in all of my partnerships except one in which we play Top and Bottom cuebids, and a few in which we play Overcall Structure. However, Michaels enthusiasts are divided in their treatment. Some players require that Michaels be bid only with weak or strong hands; with intermediate (roughly minimum opening bid) strength hands they overcall instead. Other Michaels players allow Michaels with any hand strong enough to act, not excluding the intermediate range hands. I am firmly in the camp that believes the superior treatment is to use the unlimited or continuous range version, not the split range version. This problem, and what version of Michaels each panelist prefers, creates different interpretations of why partner didn't use Michaels and what he or she has instead.]

[One panelist objects because he is unsure of which Michaels treatment is being used.]

Sacks: 3♥. I want to abstain because we should know what 1♥ - 2♥ is. If it is, as I play it, Michaels with either a bad hand or a very good hand, then partner has the middle strength hand or good hand but with flawed high card placement. If I were playing with myself *[what an X-rated thought]*, I would know there is no game likely and either pass or bid 4♣. Without any particular agreement, I would bid 3♥ as a strong club raise.

[Our newest panelist, Phil Clayton, adopts the theory of previous moderator Marshall Miles, who believed in overcalling canapé style when his major was shorter than his minor.]

Clayton: 4♣. Partner must be 4-6 here; otherwise Michaels. Furthermore, he shouldn't have a great hand nor good clubs but nice spades because he would overcall 2♣ initially. ♠KQJx ♥Qx ♦x ♣Kxxxx seems to fit. LHO didn't reopen with a double because he has very short clubs, something like 3=6=3=1 or so. Our opponents can make a lot of hearts or diamonds because of their double fit, so I need to raise the pot. 4♣ seems just right.

Lolli: 5♣. I thought about 4♣ for a while, but I think I have to get to game.

I'm not sure partner would bid with ♠Kxxxx ♥x ♦Kx ♣AKxxx. *[That would come into the intermediate range for some split range Michaels advocates.]* A negative when I bid 5♣ is passing by 4♣ when it is right. If partner has ♠KQJTx ♥x ♦xx ♣AKxxx, then 4♣

makes with the magic ♠Ax, but I've scuttled that with my 5♣ call.

[Several panelists cuebid, which keeps spades in the picture. Matchpoint scoring makes it important to play the higher strain, and partner may well have 6 spades. They don't all agree on how high to bid, though. Some will pass 4♣ if partner bids it, but others allow for possibly bidding a slam.]

Davis: 3♥. Too much to settle for a partscore. I will bid 4♣ over 3♠, 5♣ over 3NT and 6♣ over 4♦ or 4♥.

Partner shouldn't get too excited about my exuberant

bidding over 3♣ as I am unlikely to have two aces since I passed his 1♠ bid.

Roeder: 3♥. If partner can rebid spades, great. I will pass a 4♣ rebid. 10 tricks may be the limit in any denomination.

Meyers: 3♥, and then probably will bid 4♣. At matchpoints going for the major suit game, I am cue bidding in case partner has a good enough hand to cue bid back or jump to 5♣, in which case I will raise.

Itabashi: 3♥. Great cards for partner and too good for just 4♣.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">IMPs None Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♠	pass	1♦	pass
	2NT	pass	2♣	pass
	???	pass	3♠	pass
	<p>You, South, hold: ♠AQ84 ♥QJ7 ♦J753 ♣J2</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>			

[The partnership has had a scientific auction, and North has shown extras. How much extra is not clear because South showed extras by bidding 2NT. North might have as little as a 3=1=5=4 14 HCP hand (just enough to be out of the minimum opening bid range), or as much as 18 HCP not quite worthy of a jump shift. 3♠ is clearly forcing because if North didn't have extras he or she would have either raised spades on the second bid, or passed 2NT. 3NT, 4♦, 4♠ and 5♦ could all be best depending on the actual cards partner holds.]

Clayton: 5♦. 3♠ is obviously forcing and minimum 3=1=5=4 hands raise spades in my partnerships, so I expect 15-17 and 3=0=5=4 plus one [non-spade] card. ♠Kxx ♥x ♦AKxxx ♣KQxx looks like the baseline and he could be better. Here, 5♦ and 3NT need the same thing, but 5♦ has slightly less downside risk. Could 6♦ be on? Sure: ♠Kxx ♥void ♦AKxxx ♣Axxx and I think he should boost to 6♦.

Itabashi: 5♦. I don't like 3NT although it would be 2nd choice. Odds are partner may lose the lead once and go down on a heart lead.

Meyers: 5♦. I think I am making 5♦ and not sure about 4♠.

Davis: 4♦. Partner's minimum hand is something like ♠Kxx ♥x ♦Axxxx ♣AKxx. If he has an extra card that will make game a favorite, he can bid on.

Roeder: 4♦. Partner's advertised heart shortness does not bode well for 3NT as you will need 8 fast tricks after a heart lead. Bidding 4♠ is 90% as your 4 card suit has 2 top honors.

Lolli: 3NT. If partner has a typical hand for this auction, it should be the right spot. I'm thinking ♠Kxx ♥x ♦AKQxx ♣Axxx. 5♦ could fail if partner tables ♠KJx ♥x ♦AKQxx ♣QTxx.

Sacks: 4♠. Guessing as so much depends on what the prior sequence is agreed to mean.

[I like 4♠. This was an actual table hand, although I never got the North hand. I do know that the auction had proceeded this way at both tables. Both South experts chose 4♠ at this point. The good news is that it was the best contract. The bad news is that spades and diamonds were both breaking terribly and the doubling began (I believe that one pair ran to 5♦ which was also doubled, while the other pair sat it out in 4♠, but both pairs were down 2 on the horrid layout.)

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs E-W Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
		1♠	double	2NT*
	???			

* Limit raise or better for spades

You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥K73 ♦Q986543 ♣83

What call do you make?

[3♦, 4♦, 5♦? How high should we bid?]

Sacks: 4♦. The value bid.

Meyers: 4♦. The way I play, my partner does not promise length in diamonds when he or she doubles, and in any event I see no reason to save. 4♦ should be long diamonds and this kind of hand.

Lolli: 5♦. 4♦ or 5♦? I'm a 5♦ bidder, trying to apply the most pressure. I feel we have a cheap sacrifice (make?), so let's make them guess.

Itabashi: 5♦. Bid now and be done with it; partner will get the message that you are long and weak.

Clayton: 5♦. It's 50:1 against the opponents' stopping in 3♠. While it's possible 4♠ and 5♦ are both down, it's aiming for a narrow target, and 5♦ only needs either game to make. The key decision is probably 6 over 5, but I don't know how to tell partner I have a defensive trick.

Davis: 5♦. The opponents have 10 plus spades between them. They are a big favorite to bid and make 4♠. My 5♦ bid will make it tougher for them to make the best five-level decision (as I don't even know what it is).

Roeder: 5♦. If you give as many 5 level guesses as possible to the bad guys, you will profit in the long run.

[I am a firm believer in taking advance sacrifices if the opponents are likely to make game. Don't wait, save before they bid it. It's losing bridge to be the last guesser. Let the opponents have the last guess. I made this problem up and believe 5♦ is best.]

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">IMPs Both Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♠	2♦	1♥	pass
	???		dbl*	pass
	* three card support for spades			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠KJ65 ♥K9 ♦QJ65 ♣1032</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

[Here we have several possibilities. Pass, 2♥, 2♠, and trying for game with 2NT all have merit. This is another problem I made up. I like pass. Renowned expert John Mohan has been trying to convince players that they need to be passing part scores more often at IMPs.]

Clayton: Pass, and prepare apologies in advance. Every action (pass/2♥/2N) might be wrong. This is the toughest problem of the set.

Itabashi: Pass. No guarantee we have a game and risk reward says you have a lot more upside potential.

Sacks: 2♠. Semi trapping. *[If I weren't going to pass, this would be my choice. It avoids overbidding, and if the opponents (who are not warned like 2NT would do) make the mistake of trying 3♦, Mr. Courageous can come to the party with a penalty double.]*

Meyers: 2NT. My diamond spots are not good enough to sit for 2♦ doubled.

Davis: 2NT. Without a singleton in partner's suit and with my vulnerable opponent probably having more than five diamonds, I am not interested in passing for penalty. 2NT may be too aggressive. I'd be happier if my diamonds were QJ9x, and the limit of the hand might be 2♠. We are vulnerable at IMPs with a big bonus for making game. Partner is unlikely to bid again over my 2♠ bid with a number of minimum range hands with something extra, where I want to be in 3NT (e.g., ♠Qxx ♥AQJxx ♦x ♣AJ9x).

Lolli: 2NT. Show a useful hand with a diamond stopper. Pass is tempting, but I'm inclined to save that for matchpoints. For IMPs, I'd rather have better diamond spots.

Roeder: 2NT. Despite my possible double stopper, I cannot offer up 3NT with "slow" cards.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">5</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints Both Vul.</p>	South	West	North	East	
					3♣
	???				
	You, South, hold: ♠A ♥J863 ♦AK109873 ♣A				
<p>What call do you make?</p>					

Roeder: Double. Then bid diamonds over a spade response. This is not fool-proof. If it goes 5♣ by lefty, then 5♠ by partner, I will throw up. *[Attendant! Bring this man a barf bag. He may need it!]*

Clayton: 3NT. Requires very little from partner, and if I'm guessing I might as well get paid off when I'm right. Partner knows this is a wide-ranging action.

Davis: 3NT. Hope we will be entering +600 on our scorecard rather than -600. *[No, Ed, you wouldn't misplay it. If diamonds didn't run, you could cash the ♠A and get out for only -500.]*

Itabashi: 3NT. Out there, but I like other choices less. 4♦ would show a two-suiter here the way I play, so 5♦ would be second choice. Pray partner has some sort of diamond fit!

[4♦ is about right if the partnership plays it as natural. Many expert partnerships play it as two-suited with diamonds and a major. A superior version, written by Jeff Goldsmith and published in the Bridge World, plays 4♦ as both red suits, with 4♣ being spades and either red suit. Either treatment negates the ability to make an immediate strong 4♦ bid, but some partnerships don't use the two-suited treatment.]

Lolli: 4♦. Obviously shows a powerful hand, and that's what I have. I grant you it slows down partner from bidding a major, but that's what I want him to think. If one thinks he or she can find a heart contract on this auction, it might not be the correct spot anyway.

Sacks: 3♦. Simple bid for a complex problem

Meyers: 3♦, what I have.

[I'd bid 3♦ too, but without much conviction.]

Editor's Note:

For those of you who were confused by Problem 1 in the May PSP ... the 1♦ call by North was spurious, left over from the previous month's PSP. NORTH was the dealer, opening 1♣. My apologies!