

Southern California Bridge News

Deliver by 1st of the Month

August 2009
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



New Board of Directors Officers

by *Bill Schreiber*
ALACBU President

In a word... WOW! Table count, including 30 tables in the Calcutta came in at 1814 tables (exceeding even my estimate of 1800 tables) for the ten days of Bridge Week. Thank you for all those who participated. There were too many winners to list here in this column, so I will just mention one: Marshall Miles, Leo Bell, John Jones and Mark Bartusik won the four-session Marshall Miles Swiss Team Event held on Friday and Saturday, July 10 and 11. It was also great to see Mary Jane Farrell come out and play in the event named after her. Winners of all events are posted on our website, www.acbldistrict23.org, as well as links to all the results of all sessions played.

There were far more positive reactions to the playing site than negative, and the hotel has promised to do something about the lighting (the main complaint) in the International Ballroom for next time.

At our Board of Director's meeting, the following officers were elected: **Bill Schreiber, President; Mark Raggio, Vice President; Betty Jackson, Secretary; Roger Clough, Treasurer.** It was decided that we will go forward with utilizing all four of our allotted regional

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

Election Results

At the ALACBU Board of Directors Meeting held on July 11, 2009, the following people were elected to serve a two-year term:

President - William Schreiber
Vice President - Mark Raggio
Treasurer - Roger Clough
Secretary - Betty Jackson

Congratulations to the new board.

As a reminder to all units: Please provide to ACBL and Betty Jackson the names of all of your Unit Officers and delegates to the ALACBU Board.



Motions for National Board

by *Rand Pinsky*
District Director

I would be remiss if I did not mention first thing that our Bridge Week 10-day Regional at the Pasadena Hilton over 4th of July week was a great success. The Tournament Committee thanks all of our bridge friends for the support.

This month's report will discuss some of the motions that will be before the National Board at the Washington D.C. NABC. Our board meetings are scheduled for July 20 – 24. Next month I will report on what motions

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sanctions in 2010 as follows: February, July Bridge Week (2) and October.

Anyone who might be interested in working on a committee of the Board of Directors should contact me at wlstax@aol.com. You need not have a lot of masterpoints, just a desire to have the game we love become better in the district in which we reside.

Finally, kudos to the members of the Regional Tournament Committee who worked very hard at putting on a great event with very little prior experience. The

committee members are **Ellen Kent, Chairperson; John Killian, Tournament Manager; Penny Barbieri, John Jones, Ellen Anten, and Becky Clough, with able assistance from Diana Schreiber and Bob Kent.**

Thanks again for such a fabulous turnout; we are looking for 2,000 tables next July.



DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

passed and which motions failed.

The most interesting motion, as it concerns our district, is one which asks the Board to designate the Palm Springs Regional as a permanent regional. This would allow District 22 to have five regionals per year. Their intent is to try to provide their members north of our district (the Bakersfield and Fresno areas) an opportunity to have a regional in their own backyard. I have discussed this with Ken Monzingo, the District 22 National Representative, and he has assured me that if our district runs our four yearly regionals they would not hold their fifth tournament. This would make nine regionals in our two districts and we are concerned for our clubs as regionals do takeaway from the club games, and club games are considered the backbone of the ACBL.

Another motion that the board will consider has to be with the ACBL Disciplinary Sanctions Guidelines – Appendix B. These offenses concern conduct and ethics at an ACBL sanctioned game and the guidelines provide recommended discipline. For instance, for a conduct violation of “poor personal hygiene or dress,” the recommended discipline is “reprimand and or up to 30 days probation.” As for an ethics violation, “actively seeking advance information about a board in play or Prearranging a deal or part thereof including one card” can result in a sanction of a two-year suspension to expulsion. Another motion that will come before the Appeals and Charges Committee (of which I am a member) is one to amend the Reporters Regulations. This has to

DIRECTOR *continued on page 12*

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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley By Gin

Our annual Sectional Tournament is just around the corner. Two major changes will be implemented. Starting times for all events on Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3 will be 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Open pairs will be held both days and the Compact Knockout Team event will be on Saturday. A two-session play-through Swiss team event will begin at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 4. Lunch will be available for \$7. The second change is the availability of the spacious all-purpose room located two doors down from the AV Bridge Clubroom. The large restrooms are conveniently located under the same roof; player comfort will be greatly enhanced by using this new facility. Just remember that the location of the all-purpose room is the Convention Center of the former Essex House, now Arbor Court. Ample parking is available. The same directions outlined in the flyer will apply to find this venue.

It is not too early to form you team for completion at our sectional.

The resurgence of Bridge Week at Pasadena was a roaring success. The 1800 tables posted the first profit in three years. Unit 556 was well represented at Pasadena. Tracy Boys made Life Master on Thursday winning her KO event with teammates Glenn Eddy, Lamonte Johnson and Basant Shah. Marlene and Dave Gasper, Brad Ward, and Lola Messiha won the Saturday KO Bracket 2. Virginia Dudley, Leah Levitt, Pritzi Lembi, and Jose Rodriguez won the Saturday Compact KO Bracket IV. Tom and Barbara Jones, Constance Sommer, and John Langer won the Friday Compact KO Bracket III.

Point winners from Unit 556 include John Langer 18.31, Dave and Marlene Gasper 11.16, Lola Messiha/Brad Ward 9.8, Tom and Barbara Jones 8.54, Paula Olivares 7.21, Donna Davidson 7.10, Virginia Dudley/Leah Levitt 6.01, Russ Buker/Mary Ann Shaw 5.91,

Hansford Rowe 4.78, Charles and Mary Anne Self 2.65, Mira Rowe 2.65, George MacDonald 2.19, Ron and Sandi Oest 1.53, and Dan Axtell 47. Mary Ann Shaw won her very first gold point at Pasadena.

It seems that all too often we or our friends are facing a serious illness. Alfred Miller and Brad Ward will be undergoing intestinal surgery. Gloria Robinson is experiencing serious health issues. We also learned of the passing of Gloria Meyer. Gloria was one of our directors in the mid sixties through the late seventies. Our condolences are extended to Jim and all of the Meyer family.

On a brighter side, it is nice to know that Rand Pinsky has begun another term as director of District 23.

Game Winners of the Month

Traditionally this segment has been utilized to recognize the top five scores of the month. We are in an era of change, thus the top winners in the day-to-day schedule will now be recognized in this segment. Unit 556 is now running seven games weekly. The Thursday Novice game is quite competitive and the beginners deserve to be recognized for their efforts. Championship, Unit Games and other special games will be reported in depth elsewhere in this column. In June, the Sunday top score of 66.07% was posted by Brad Ward and Gin. The Tuesday noon game was won by Doris Thompson and Lola Messiha with 64.81%. Tuesday night at Valencia, Phil Rabinow and Richard Plotin won with 66.75%.

Wednesday night's game was a mix of A and C Players and very competitive. Ann Schreick and Pat Juenemann won the top spot with 68.75%. Barbara Thompson and Michele Brucks won top honors in the novice game with 65.1%. Thursday morning at Castaic was won by Lamonte Johnson and Basant Shah with 66%. Nan Newland and Gin closed out the week with a 65% game. June attendance was lower than usual because the two back-to-back regional tournaments in Ventura and Pasadena drew some of this unit's players.

A parting thought... the real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

full convention, not just part. Even if you don't play them, know what they are and when they are being used against you.

Downey - Whittier

By Bernice Crelia

Last month we had no news, so now we can get into something of interest to everyone.

A funny thing happened at the club. I was told a pair was playing "mollen" and I told them that I had never heard of that convention. After asking them about it, they told me that it was 6♦ and 4♠. After we talked awhile, I found out it was Smolen which they had confused with a response of 2♦ after Stayman to show 5-4 in the majors. Come and join us for fun-filled FREE lessons and learn more about this interesting game we love so much.

We want you to mark your calendar for two special games: on Wednesday, September 2 we will have an anniversary potluck game followed by our unit game on Friday, September 4. Then starting every Wednesday we will have free lessons only on conventions. The lessons will be from 9:15 to 9:45 a.m. Lessons will be on Cappelletti – Don't-Dopi, Rope, and Depo-Lebensohl-Reverse Drury- New minor forcing etc., etc. Learn the

Before I close, let me congratulate Marge Barnings and Roy Rodenberg for a really big 75.6% game on July 10. Not that big, but good enough to win our membership game on the 15th were Sankar Reddy and Bob Krause.

Go on enjoying the summer, but don't forget to keep playing bridge.

WEST LOS ANGELES FALL SECTIONAL

KAYNE ERAS CENTER
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SEPT 4 - SEPT 7, 2009



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club
11514 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310) 966-4144

FRIDAY, SEPT. 4th
7:30 pm

BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 5th

10:00 am

STRATIFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS

Flight A/X (approx. 35% of field) 0 - unlimited
Strats B, C, D 750 - 2000, 0 - 750, 0 - 300MP

99er PAIRS

KNOCKOUT TEAMS - 2nd Session

3:00 pm

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

KNOCKOUT TEAMS - Finals

MONDAY, SEPT. 7th

10:00 am and TBA

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS TEAMS

Flight A/X 0 - Unlimited MP
[approximately 35% of field]

Strats B, C, D 750 - 2,000MP, 300-750, 0-300MP

Masterpoint Limits for all Stratified Events:

- Strat A: 2000+
- Strat B: 750-2000
- Strat C: 300-750
- Strat D: 0-300

COMPETE FOR TWO TROPHIES
The West Los Angeles Unit player winning the most master points combined at the two 2009 West Los Angeles Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Jill Meyers Trophy. The 299er player winning the most master points at the West LA Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy. The 2008 winners were Margie Michelin and Charles & JoAnna Kelley.

CARD FEES \$10.00 PER PERSON PER SESSION

Non-Members and Life Masters who have not paid service fees pay \$11.00.

Students under the age of 19 play free!

Tournament Manager - Peter Benjamin
(310) 558-0888 EMAIL ahoneydo@aol.com
(310) 720-6050 (cell Peter Benjamin)
Tournament Director - Peter Knee

SUNDAY, SEPT. 6th

10:00 am

STRATIFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS

Flight A/X (approx. 35% of field) 0 - unlimited
Strats B, C, D 750 - 2000, 300 - 750, 0 - 300MP

199er PAIRS

3:00 pm

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

KNOCKOUT TEAMS

Not handicapped unless only 1 bracket

1st Round	Friday, Sept. 4	7:30 pm
2nd round	Saturday, Sept. 5	10:00 am
Final round	Saturday, Sept. 5	3:00 pm

WEST LOS ANGELES UNIT BOARD

Peter Benjamin	Howard Einberg	Mario Mory
Karen Byrd	Charles Fonarow	Barbara Nusbaum
Jordan Chodorow	Toby Green	Bill Schreiber
Roger Clough	Sam Haveson	Candy Scott
Cecil Cook	Fred Mautner	Carolyn Taff



DIRECTIONS FROM 405

- Exit at Jefferson and go east
- Turn left onto Sepulveda
- Turn Rt. onto Machado from Sepulveda (or left onto Machado from Jefferson)

Glendale Verdugo

By Dorothy LaMaie

Unit Game - 1:00 p.m., Saturday, August 8

12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch

Board of Directors Meeting - 11:00 a.m., Saturday, August 8

The July unit game was pushed forward a week due to ALACBU's Regional Tournament, so it missed the column deadline. Contain your suspense, and just look for old but important news in the September issue. In the meantime, come and vie for results at our sectional during the August 14th weekend: Scottish Rites Temple, 150 North Madison Ave., Pasadena. Partnership Desk: Karen Alpert, 818-441-2424.

But enough of the past and future. Let's focus on present news, i.e. Bridge Week results (!) herewith set forth in chronological order:

Friday, July 3 Open Pairs Overall: A-1 Rae Murdach/Joseph Viola III; A-5 & B-1 Michael Doll/Patrick Cardullo; B-4 Dan Botoaca/Milton Kalikman; C-4 Amr ElGhamry/Mark Hartzell. A.M. & P.M. Sessions: A-4 & B-3 Harold Knowles/Zachary Vedro; A-6 & B-5 Brad Beland/Dennis Semain; A-2 & B-1 Louise; D-6 Nancy Lyon/Sharon Wolf.

Saturday, July 4 A.M. Side Game: B-4 Karen Alpert/Rufus Rhoades. Compact KO II: Daniel Oates, John Villalobos, Brad Beland, and Marel Bates scored a second with 11 tables; III: Tracy Boys and Glenn Eddy's team placed third with nine tables. Swiss Teams: A-2 Karen Alpert, Rufus Rhoades, William Ng, and Samuel Wang. A-3 Mike Doll, Patrick Cardullo, Frances At, and Peter Specs.

Sunday, July 5 Mary Jane Farell Open Pairs Final: After two qualifying rounds, Paul Nason and Lamar Marutni placed 15th overall based on 31 tables. 299er Pairs: Lyle Wiederman/Charles Cordero placed C-8 overall in a.m. and D-1 overall in p.m. Swiss Team: Carol Frank, Matt Klimesh, Elianna Rupin, and Adam Myerson placed ninth with 50 tables.

Monday, July 6 Flighted Pairs: X-4 overall John Villalobos/Paul Nason. B-4 & C-1 & D-1 Tracy Boys/Gary Ansok. Side Game A.M.: A-1 Lyle Wiederman/Charles Cordero. P.M. Session: A-4 Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo. 299er Pairs: D-3 Eva Seri/Fran Cohen; E-5/6 tie Temo Arjani/Alan Dirkin. Swiss Team: William Ng, Howard Liu, Carol Frank, and Sam Wang tied for A-5/6

and won B-2.

Tuesday, July 7 Open Pairs Overalls: B-2 Dan Botoaca/Milton Kalikman; B-4 Louise Reich/Amr ElGhamry; B-5 Maureen Peterson/Shirley Cooper; C-2 Sharon Wolf/Art Chacacias. A.M. & P.M. Sessions: A-3 & B-1 Gerry Belcher/Brad Beland; C-1 Lyle Wiederman/Dan Gormel; A-2 Peter Szecsi/Herman Helber; A-5 Charo Holdo/Lynn Ryan.

Wednesday, July 8 IMP Pairs Overalls: B-2 Carol Frank/Li Chung Chen; B-6 Gerry Belcher/Brad Beland. A.M. & P.M. Sessions: A-1 Charo Holdo/Jeanette Deverian; A-3 John Villalobos/Paul Nason. Open Pairs Overalls: A-6 & B-2 Gerry Belcher/Brad Beland; A-9 Charo Holdo/Jeanette Deverian. A.M. Session: A-6 & B-2 & C-1 Sharon Wolf/Art Chacacias; B-3 Louise Reich/Amr ElGhamry. Swiss Team: A-6 & B-3 & C-1 Tracy Boys/Glenn Eddy, Margaret Mataga/Ioko Kawamura.

Thursday, July 9 Open Pairs Overalls: A-4 & B-1 Dan Botoaca; A-6 & B-2 Gerry Belcher/Robert Tayrien; A-9 Charo Holdo/ Jeanette Deverian. A.M. & P.M. Sessions: A-6 & B-2 & C-1 Sharon Wolf/Art Chacacias; B-3 Louis Reich/Amr ElGhamry; B-4 Maureen Peterson/Arlene Johnson. Side Games: A-1 John Waken/Dennis Semaine; A-5 Jan Wickersham/Teri Atkinson; A-3 & B-2 Ted Maki/Gary Grey. Board-A-Match Teams: Carol Frank's team tied for A-5/6. Compact KO III: Tracy Boys and Glenn Eddy's team won first place.

Friday, July 10 Open Pairs Overalls: C-2 Amr ElGhamry/Bob Dingle. A.M. & P.M. Sessions: A-3 & B-2 Dan Botoaca/Steve Berman; A-3 Charo Holdo/Arlene Johnson. Side Game: A-1 Rae and Jerry Murbach. 299er Pairs: D-1 & E-1 overall Temo Arjani/Alan Dirkin (a 70%er!) Swiss Team: A-5/6 tie & B-2 Jan Wickersham/Teri Atkinson. Compact KO I: F. Katz /Peter Szecsi. Compact KO II: Pat Abbey, Merry Besvold, Sherry Strube, and Tom Wan. Swiss Team: 4th Carol Frank/Dan Oakes.

Saturday, July 11 Open Pairs A.M. & P.M. Sessions: C-1 Carol Lessin/Patrick Tourais; A-1 F.Katz/Peter Szecsi; A-6 Charo Holdo/Jeanette Deverian. Side Game: A-4 & B-1 Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo; A-1 Carolyn Cohen/Tim Lolli; B-3/4 & C-2/3 tie Sixten Ohman/Temo Arjani. 299er Pairs: D-1 Eva Seri/Lyle Wiederman. Swiss Team: A-3/4 tie Jan Wickersham/Teri Atkinson; A-5/6 tie Paul Gelb/Margery Gould; B-6

Mike Doll/Patrick Cardullo.

Long Beach Unit

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org

Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

by Jon Yinger

A rare month with no unit game. The last unit game was June 14, with results reported in the last newsletter. The next unit game is on Sunday, July 19. Y'all come.

Local players' first place wins at the recent **Pasadena Regionals** (all first place awards carry gold points): July 4 Compact KO, Bracket II, each winning 7.64mp: Diane Starbuck, Eddie Gruber, Larry Gordon, and William Carlson. July 6 Side Game: Barbara Frischkorn/Jean Kato, 7.64mp. July 7 Compact KO Bracket II: Vincent Remedios, Sue Fardette, Tybie Becker, and Irene Hirschland, 8.38mp. July 11 Compact KO Bracket

III: Sandy Bernard, Albert Lum, Steve Hirsch, and Gregory Thorpe 7.57mp. July 11 KO Bracket IV: Pritzi Lembi, Jose Rodriguez, Virginia Dudley, and Leah Levitt 5.44mp. July 11 Swiss Team: Gary Paugh, Mark Teaford, Yasuko Shrenzel, and Kimiko Matsumoto 6.37mp. And in the Sunday, July 12 Swiss Team event: Gary, Mark, Yasuko and Kimiko won again, each winning 13.82 gold points. Congratulations to you all!

70+% games 6/16 through 7/15: In the June 22 morning game Lois Perovich/Steve Rowe had a 70.89% game. In the June 26 open game Roger and Sharon Anderson had a 69.68% game (rounds off to 70%), and in the NLM game Yolanda Medina/Cole Sachs had a 74.43% game. Congratulations to you all!

Big master point awards (in the shadow of the Pasadena regionals): Big points for 1st overall in big games: In the June 21st game Bob Lavery/Steve Skinner were 1st overall winning 3.26mp, and in the July 4th game

♦ ♣ Las Vegas ♥ ♠ GLITTER GULCH SECTIONAL

ALL 7:30 Games are FREE
Tuesday Through Saturday.

September 21-27, 2009

Monday, September 21

1:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
(All Monday afternoon events are black points)
7:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Evening KO's Rd 1 of 3

Tuesday, September 22

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO's Rd 1 of 3
2:30 p.m. Flighted Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO's Rd 2 of 3
Stratified Swiss Teams
7:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Evening KO's Rd 2 of 3

CARD FEES: \$10 per session for dues paying ACBL members; \$11 per session for all others. \$100/team on Sunday includes four \$5 snack bar coupons.

Strats: A 2000+ B 750-2000 C 0-750
I/N: 0-20/50/100/200/300
Flights: A/X: 5000+/0-5000 B 0-2000 C 0-750
All Stratified Swiss and BAM events are stratified by
Team's average masterpoint holding.

Wednesday, September 23

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tue-Wed KO's Final Rd
Bracketed Wed-Thur KO's Rd 1 of 3
2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thur KO's Rd 2 of 3
7:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Board-a-Match Teams
Bracketed Evening KO's Final Rd

Thursday, September 24

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thur KO's Final Rd
Bracketed Thur-Fri KO's Rd 1 of 3
2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Thur-Fri KO's Rd 2 of 3
7:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Night/Day KO's "A"
Rd 1 of 3

Friday, September 25

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Thur-Fri KO's Final Rd
Bracketed Night/Day KO's "A" Rd 2 of 3
2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Night/Day KO's "A" Final Rd
7:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Night/Day KO's "B"
Rd 1 of 3

Saturday, September 26

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Night/Day KO's "B" Rd 2 of 3
2:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Night/Day KO's "B" Final Rd
7:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Board-A-Match Teams

Sunday, September 27

10:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs (single session)
Stratified Swiss Teams
(2-session play-through, no break)
1:30 p.m. Stratified Pairs (single session)
ALL SUNDAY EVENTS WILL FINISH BY 5:00 P.M.

KNOCKOUT TEAMS

Evening 7:30 p.m. Mon-Wed
Tue-Wed 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m./10:00 a.m.
Wed-Thur 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m./10:00 a.m.
Thur-Fri 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m./10:00 a.m.
NIGHT/DAY KO'S
Thur 7:30 p.m./Fri 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.
Fri 7:30 p.m./Sat 10:00 a.m. & 2:30 p.m.

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Paul Pettler/Elinor Baratelle were 1st overall winning 3.12mp. Congratulations to you all!

New members and new status: We issue a warm welcome to new members Aaron Jones, Jerry Reid, and Pamela Cole. Status changes: new Club Masters: Jane Reid and Joyce Shuford; new Sectional Master: Cooie Dampman; new Life Masters: Sandy Bernard (won and became Life Master at the Pasadena regionals) and Jay Young; new Bronze Life Master: Douglas Bagdon; and new Silver Life Masters: Diane Sachs and Kay Tseng. Congratulations to you all!!

Upcoming special events at the club: Membership Game Thursday, July 16, 12:30; extra points, no extra fees. Unit Game, Sunday, July 19. Team Game, Monday, July 20 7:00 p.m. Silver Point STaC, July 20-26, card fees \$10. ACBL International Fund Game, Friday, July 24. Membership Games, Tuesday, August 4, 12:30 and 4:15.

Condolences: to Kay Tseng and her family. We were shocked and saddened to learn of the death of Kay's husband, Stan, earlier this month.

Get well wishes: to Betty Gerhardt, Christy Mangum, Frank Bartlett, and Dann Habberfield.

Help the columnist: If I have missed an award or status change, please let me know. If you have any news items you would like to see in the column, my email is jjyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

www.darbonne.com/bridge/

By Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

Unit Game - August 23, San Marino Rec. Center

Having two unit games in the same month is most unusual, but that was to accommodate the Bridge Week Regional. Mark Hartzell pinch-hit for Mike Marcucci and cooked up a great barbecue with all the trimmings. He said, "Never again," so Mike, I guess there is only a one year reprieve. Fred Theurkauf and Herman Helber walked off with the honors of First in A. Jim Erpenbach and Ollie Norsworthy claimed First Place in B top, and Chuck Cordaro and Briget O'Sullivan took the prize for C.

The Regional was a huge success and so nice to have it held in our backyard – again! It was great seeing so many of our members there. Roger Lee earned the

most points from our unit with 81.86, followed by Jeff Goldsmith with 73.09 and Jeff Fang with 66.07. All top players, so it comes as no surprise.

Looking forward now to the Eight Is Enough game. If you don't have your team together yet, this is the time to do so. Everyone likes to win, but that's not really the purpose of this game; it's to give the less experienced members a chance to team with advanced players who can hopefully mentor them and help make it a good learning experience. Because of the unspoken protocols of bridge, could we ask that advanced players approach the newcomers? The game will be held in San Marino on Sunday, August 23. Pizza will be served at 12:30 and the game begins at 1:00 p.m.

The Wednesday night games in San Marino have been holding steady with six or seven tables, and it's always a good game with plenty of competition. It would be nice to see some new faces, though. Please join us.

I (Jan) will be teaching intermediate bridge classes this month on Wednesday, June 22 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the San Marino Club. Come be part of the discussion and bring your partner. Bring a sack dinner and stay for the game.

The San Marino Bridge Club has been awarded a sanction to hold a unit-rated game once a month. That means extra masterpoints and a strong field, but Marie has three flights in the competition, so you will compete against players of your own caliber. Last month's game was won by CC Fang and his long-time partner, Edward Hsi.

Have you ever heard of Splinter Blackwood? There are a couple of variations for this little-known convention, but one method is described here. You open the bidding, perhaps 1♠ and your partner jumps to 4♦ showing good spade support and a singleton diamond with an opening hand. That's the Splinter part. Most partnerships will either sign-off at game or launch a Blackwood bid, asking about aces or keycards. (Some will start a cue-bidding sequence by bidding a new suit.) If you use Splinter Blackwood you can still sign-off at game or ask about aces, but if you bid a new suit, the agreement is that you are treating the splinter bid as an asking bid and telling your partner about your aces (or keycards). The difference between asking and telling is this: with some hands you are rich with queens and jacks and want to know about partner's aces and kings. When

you have this type of hand you can bid 4NT as Blackwood. With other hands you have the aces and kings and expect partner to have a lot of queens and jacks, so you answer the splinter bid by telling your partner about them. Interesting, eh?

See you at the table...

Pomona-Covina

By Vic Sartor

Unit Game - Saturday,

August 16

Game at 11:00, Lunch TBA

With lots of local players having participated in Bridge Week, things

seem ready to settle down to a quieter routine for the summer. As usual, travel plans will be competing with bridge, but we hope all those world-gallivanting tourists will stop in and visit the local tables between jaunts.

In results from Pasadena, Helen Wang led all local players with a total of 26.53 masterpoints, followed by Penny Barbieri (22.78), Lary Alba (18.57), Walt Otto (17.87), Clint Lew (17.87), Dave Ruoff (17.75), Genise Hasan (17.11), Denise Morgan (17.11), Susan Ruoff (16.63), and Milt Kalikman (15.74). Bill Papa and Vic Sartor finished 4th and 5th overall in

two two-session Open Pairs events. Lary Alba, Scott Sameral, Dave Ruoff, and Susan Ruoff took second overall in a B/C/D KO team game. Tom Lill, Roger Boyar, Richard Patterson, and Helen Wang also had a 2nd in a flighted KO event. Susan Emminger, Rosalie Roberts, Penny Barbieri, and Russell Drew took first in C in a Swiss Teams event.

In local play, Roger Boyar and Richard Patterson took first overall in the June unit game, with Hans Hehnke and Vic Sartor winning the opposite direction. Penny Barbieri won the June individual, followed by Genise Hasan, Margaret Merritt, Carolyn Moyers, Dolores Kelley, and Joe Unis. Top game of the month was a 70% effort by Ken Lowenthal and Roger Boyar, who also had a 69% with Tom Lill. Clint Lew and Walt Otto tied for second best with another 69%. Other winners were Linda Ananea, Genise Hasan, Lynne Parker, Ken Bloomfield, Kurt Trieselmann, Sue Rottner, and Milt Kalikman.

This month's hand of the month is a lead problem. You hold: ♠Axxxx ♥KQxxx ♦x ♣xx. In a competitive auction, you have made a Michaels cuebid, your partner has jumped in spades, and the opponents have rolled into 5♦. Your lead? If a little voice in the back of your head told you to ignore partner and lead the heart king or your doubleton club, you set them. If, however, you're a schnook like me, you lead the spade ace and the roof caves in. Naturally, dummy has KQxx of spades and declarer has a void. He ruffs and gets two club pitches, making six. Also naturally, pard has the AK of clubs and declarer has an unavoidable heart loser. Oh, well. 'Til next time...

Antelope Valley/Santa Clarita October 2,3,4, 2009 Sectional Tournament

AV Bridge Club

858 Jackman Street

Lancaster, CA

Friday and Saturday

Open Pairs

10:30 am and 3:30pm



Saturday

Compact KO

10:30 am and 3:30 PM

Sunday

Double Session Swiss Teams

10:30 AM and TBA

Play through lunch \$7.00

Partnerships: Joanne 661 943 6754

Hotel Information: Sandi 661 272 9780

E-mail: nga1071295@aol.com

All sessions stratified: A: 1500+ B: 500-1500 C: 0-500

Entry fee \$10.00 per person, per session

\$11 Non ACBL members and unpaid Life Masters

DIRECTIONS: Northbound-Freeway 14 exit Avenue I, right to 10 Street West (4th light), right to Jackman, left on Jackman (1st light), right into first driveway. Southbound-Freeway 14 exit Avenue I, left to 10th Street West (5th light), right to Jackman, left on Jackman (1st light), right into first driveway.

Director: Peter Knee

Smoking Breaks

Zero Tolerance Observed

Host Unit 556

ACBL Sanction S0910080

Co-chairs: Gin Dudley and Sandi Oest

San Fernando Valley

By Bill Morton

Unit events and news: The Board Members for Unit 561 are: Bill Morton, President; Fran Cohen, Secretary; Eric Heilman, Treasurer; Members at Large, Ray Bush, Jim Gardner, Larry Gordon, Fran Kern and Gloria Malkin. A big thank you to Ray Bush who served as Treasurer for Unit 561 for the past three years.

Upcoming Unit Events: Holiday Party, December 6, location TBA. Elections for the new board will be held at a unit game in January, location TBA.

Member highlights: Congratulations to Larry Gordon who became a Life Master this month! Congratulations to Jill Bornstein who earned 17 points in Las Vegas to become a Silver Life Master!

The top ten masterpoint winners for June: 750 *Bridge Club:* Herb Zweig 3.47, Carol Bloomfield 3.05, Norm Bloomfield 3.05, Jody Lombardo 2.99, Ron Malkin 2.95, Joyce Hart 2.85, Mel Lerner 2.77, Billy Blanchard 2.72, Eric Heilman 2.70, Sue Sarture 2.43.

Bridge Academy 299 Game: Robert Glasser 6.70, Jim Gardner 5.86, Joan Farrar 4.24, Merkie Rowan 4.24, Marge Blumer 4.06, Allan Palansky 3.98, Marlene Brounstein 3.04, Sam Antoun 2.97, Marilyn Gaims 2.84, John Tichner 2.58.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Gilbert Stinebaugh 19.63, Gary Frans 17.35, Armand Szulc 16.30, Tom Wylie 14.39, Dan Kosman 11.54, William Carlson 10.95, Marta Peltz 10.35, Sheila Bozin 10.03, Larry Gordon 9.27.

70% Games for June: Min Xu and Alan Curtis 75.48, Steve Gross and Robert Bass 73.97, Jimmie Swan and Jody Lombardo 72.22, Dan Kosman and Michael Wiener 71.06, Marta Peltz and Gary Frans 70.28, Julia Gosnell and Michael Gosnell 70.26.

Column news: Make sure your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Bill Morton at wbmorton@att.net or call 818-313-9711.

Torrance South Bay Unit

Unit Website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568>

SBBC Website:

<http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>

By Steve Mager

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club:

Club Championship: Monday, August 3, 7:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Friday, August 7, 7:00 p.m.

NLM Club Championship: Thursday, August 13, 10:30 a.m.

Handicapped Swiss: Sunday, August 16, 1:00 p.m.

Club Championship: Monday, August 17, 11:30 a.m.

North American Pairs Qualifying: August 27, 7:00 p.m.

Western Conference STaC: August 24-30

STaC Handicapped Swiss Teams: Tuesday, August 25, 7:00 p.m.

Club Championships: The June 16 Club Championship was Captured by Dick Cheng/C. M. Meaux in Flight A with Gerri and Ron Carlson taking Flights B and C. The North American Pairs qualifier on June 22 saw Barbara Davis/Norm Imberman winning Flights A, B and C. On July 13 Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott won Flight A, with Carol King/Dolores Nawa leading Flight B, and Marty Cooper/Ron Carlson ahead in Flight C.

Team Winners: On June 16 the Swiss teams was captured by Fred Spradlin, Henry Crowder, Betsy Amador, and Winnie Ninneman. On June 23 the quartet of Lorna Wallace, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, and Bronck Felczer were the winners. On June 30 Gabriela Jackson, Harry Wessels, David Peim, and Dann Habberfield finished on top. The July 7 leaders were Jon Szeps, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, and Bronck Felczer. The July 14 winners were Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, and C. M. Meaux.

Bridge Week Heroes: The following TSB unit members distinguished themselves with first overall wins during Bridge Week. John Jones led the way by winning the IMP Pairs with Marshall Miles and being on teams which won the Thursday Board-a-Match (tie) and the 2-day Marshall Miles Swiss Teams. (Appropriately enough Marshall was on that team, too.) Jeff Strutzel was on Swiss teams which tied for first in the first Friday Swiss and the Tuesday-Wednesday Swiss. Lucy Tredennick and Bruce Horiguchi were on a team, which tied for first in the Monday Swiss. Kim Wang and Lutrell Long won the Monday Stratiflighted BCD pairs. The team of Henry Crowder, Bob Bacharach, Masae Kato, and Hank Sheehan won Flight B in the Thursday Board a Match. Alfred Lee was on a team, which won Flight B in the Thursday-Friday Swiss.

GUV Memorial Award: Gerri Carlson played with Mike Marcucci during Bridge Week and they may have gotten the most unusual average result of the week due to a bidding misunderstanding. Gerri opened 1♠ and heard a 3♦ bid from Mike. Mike thought they were playing Bergen Raises and his bid showed a limit raise with four spades. In any case, Gerri thought it was a weak hand with diamonds and passed. Believe it or not, the final result was 3♦ down nine for minus 450!! The opponents were vulnerable and were cold for 5♦ and would have made seven if the defenders didn't take two quick tricks. Around half the field bid 5♦ and received a 600 or 640 score, which meant that Gerri and Mike got about average.

Gerri won the GUV Award tie break with Mike when she told us about a place for dinner that was a short walk away. We walked and walked and were approaching Pasadena's suicide bridge (which due to fatigue, I was contemplating making use of) when we found the restaurant. A couple nights later Gerri said there was a closer restaurant, which was a much shorter walk. Once again we walked and walked and passed the restaurant from a couple nights before. At this point I gave up and we tried that first establishment again.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by candy

I just got word of Gene Freed's passing as I was about to email this. He was this unit's leading masterpoint holder with multiple national and International wins to his name, but I think what will be his legacy was his kindness at the table. He always volunteered for Pro/Ams and then paid for his and his partners' card fees. His secretaries and nurses were all very patient with the frequent calls to Doc from bridge players, who started all conversations with him with the familiar greeting, "You hold...." While the bridge world mourns the loss of this friend, we thank his family for sharing him with us all these years. To his wife Sandy, children Mike and Leslie, and four grandchildren, our thoughts and prayers are with you in this time of grief. We are grieving with you.

August is the month that's too hot to have a holiday. Flocks of Angelenos migrate to Ice Cream and Frozen Yogurt sanctuaries. Marie Antoinette advocated, "let

District 23 Rank Changes 6/1/09 - 6/30/09

Junior Master (5 points)

Eric Alps
Robert Brogan
Donna Eastman
Naomi Goldrich
Aaron Jones
Charles Laine
Stephanie Strong
Harry Worley

Sharon Appel
Sara Dokter
Donna Massman
Abby Triback
R Turner

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Ron Birnbaum
Diane Licht
Manny Weintraub

Club Master (20 MPs)

Jeanne Goss
Judy Hopkins
Lunsford Laverty
Martha Mossawir
Jane Rottenbacher

Life Master (300 MPs)

Irene Hirschland
Dorothy Lipsky
Gloria Malkin
Ronald Malkin
Allan Palansky

Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Diane Bishop
Judi Friedlander
Carol Gillis
Nancy Klemens
Nance Lodge
Elizabeth Morrin
Linda Renkus
Donald Rosen

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Kevin Lane
Dorothy Lipsky
Ronald Malkin

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Jill Bornstein
Roger Lee

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Al Appel

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Janet Wickersham

them eat cake," and we have refined this to, "let them eat brownies a la mode." On Sunday, August 30 the unit will hold a Pro/Am Swiss Team Championship with an Ice Cream Social. Come to the Beverly Hills Bridge Club and beat the heat and the other teams. Registration and pairings 5:30 - 6:00, game time at 6:15. Pro pairs will be put together with Am pairs to form a team. Sign-up sheets are at the clubs or call me at 310-652-6116 or email candysbridgeclub@aol.com. This will be a good chance to practice for our sectional coming up the next weekend. Marie's cakes, Barbara and Beverly's

brownies, and my muffins and cupcakes will share the table with the coffee and tea at the sectional. All of this is free, as is parking at the Kayne Eras Center September 4-7 in Culver City. Friday night at 7:30 the KOs will start and a Stratified Open Pairs at the Barrington Bridge Club. Pair games will be on Saturday and Sunday, and Monday the Swiss Teams will be at Kayne Eras (5350 Machado Rd - between Sepulveda and Jefferson). Game times will be 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The unit members with the most amount of points won in our two sectionals are vying for the Jill Meyers Trophy and the 299ers for the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy.

The MS Charity Game with Eddie Kantar on Sunday, August 9 is filling up fast. So, if you want to be a part of this fun event that's for a good cause call Fern and Bob Seizer at 310-277-7950.

There are three new Junior Masters: Michael Abeles, Doug Green, and Vicky Stevenson, which means this unit now has 114 Junior Masters. Debra Schellenberg left the Juniors to become our 125th Club Master. Leaving the Club and joining the Sectional Masters are Ellis Gusky and Kim Robbins, giving that rank one more than the Club Master. From Sectional to Regional Master, Carol Sherman became our 109th. A lot of players don't stay in the Life Master category long and move on to Bronze Life Master and Patty Sands is our 105th. Roger Clough was acknowledged at Bridge Week for becoming a new Grand Life Master. He is our unit's ninth. This now leaves the Platinum category empty, so if you are one of the three Emerald Life Masters (and you know who you are) we need one of you to step up to the Plat.

This month's 70%ers were Susan Lindenbaum/Gene Willson, Shuli/Effie Katz, Hans (too many vowels) Kraepelien/Michael Nash, Jill Richmond/Gary King, Aram Bedros/Art Zail, and Dov Malkin/Mike Savage.

At Barrington the Club Champs were A Hans Kraepelien, Michael Nash, Gary King, and Don Krauss; B Ken Bishop, Mauricio Epelbaum, and Carol & Bob Sherman; C Joan Grossblat and Sally Kirshner.

Unit winners at Bridge Week were: Kos: Bill Wickham (2x), Adam Meyerson, Ellen and Bob Kent, Phyllis and Mario Mory, Bob and Sandra Carroll, Constance Abell, Herb Erhmann, Brian Rose, and Yvonne Snyder; Side Game Series: Robert Martin, John Stokdyk; 299ers: Diane Bishop and Lidia Epelbaum; Swiss: Joanne Mincken-Levy, Jill Meyers, and Sid

Brownstein. Adam Meyerson and partner won the Calcutta. If I missed anyone's name, my excuse is small print and bad eyesight.

At the ALACBU Board meeting Bill Schreiber was reappointed President and Roger Clough, Treasurer. In one of those out-of-body experiences, I saw myself raise my hand and say the immortal words, "I'm about to do something stupid." After the meeting at the bar, Bill pulled out his mighty scepter and I am now on Ellen Kent's Tournament Committee with Diana Schreiber and Becky Clough. Hopefully I can get the bulletin to be printed larger so we don't have to run to the 99 Cent Only store for readers.

Bob Kerr was mentioned on the ACBL website for turning in old masterpoint slips. Bob kept throwing his points in a brown paper bag and partner, Craig Kavin, kept nagging him to add them up and send them in, even offering to do it for Bob. Bob refused the offer, took them to work and added up his 421.11 points. They went back to the bag while Bob took a couple days off. While he was gone, someone in his office thought it would be nice if they straightened up. When Bob got back, his 14 years of points were missing. We all understand Bob's being enraged, but they had to send in management to keep Bob from scaring everyone. Bob, still mad, yelled at the guy from management, who had left by this time, leaving the others to fend for themselves. The story continues. Bob is now in the process of moving up north, and in going through his office stuff, he found in a plastic bag a brown paper sack. Thrilled, he called the ACBL to find out if they were still good. They said yes. Even though the newest point slip is 18 years old, Bob sent them priority mail. The oldest slip was for coming 5th at the Wild Whist Bridge Club for .20 on June 7, 1976 and the director was Jimmy Prentice.

Ignoring the old adage, "if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen in August," I will be baking your goodies for the Pro/Am and the Sectional, so show up to make me feel good. I was trained by a Jewish mother on guilt techniques; don't make me use them.



West Los Angeles Fall Sectional Also Caters to Beginning Players

By Mario Mory

This year's Fall Sectional will feature a couple of events that are meant to attract beginning players. There is going to be a Pairs Game for 99ers and another for 199ers. The tournament will take place on the weekend of September 4-7. As always, the first session will be held at the Barrington Bridge Club, 11502 Santa Monica Blvd., 310-966-4144 at 7:30 p.m. The Saturday, Sunday, and Monday events take place at the Kayne Reas Center located at 5350 Machado Road in Culver City. Machado Road runs between Sepulveda and Jefferson Boulevards, just north of where these two main arteries intersect. There is ample free parking at this facility, but in the event of an unusually large turnout, the parking lot of the neighboring shopping center will take care of the overflow. Many convenient restaurants are located at this shopping center.

The first session, which takes place on Friday, September 4, at 7:30 p.m. at the Barrington Bridge Club, will feature a Stratified Open Pairs event and the first round of the Bracketed Knockout Teams. The first session on Saturday, September 5 starts at 10:00 a.m. and includes the second round of the Bracketed Knockout Teams and the Stratiflighted Open Pairs. The second session on Saturday starts at 3:00 p.m. and features the third and final round of the Bracketed Knockout Teams, a Stratified Open Pairs, and a 99er Pairs. On Sunday, September 6 the first session starts at 10:00 a.m. and offers a Stratiflighted Open Pairs event. The second session starts at 3:00 p.m. and includes Stratified Open Pairs and a 299er Pairs. Finally, on Monday, September 7 the classic Stratiflighted Swiss Teams event will start at 10:00 a.m. with a lunch break at a time to be announced.

The flights will be stratified according to the following Masterpoint classification: Strat A 2000+, Strat B 750-2000, Strat C 300-750, and Strat D 0-300. In the Stratiflighted events the A/X Strat goes from 0 to unlimited, with 35% of the field classified as the X flight.

As an added attraction to beginning players, 99ers who play in the Saturday afternoon session will play free in the 299er Pairs game on Sunday afternoon.

As always, two trophies are at stake. The West Los Angeles Unit player winning the most masterpoints combined at the two 2009 WLA Sectionals and the 299er player winning the most masterpoints will have their names engraved on the Jill Meyers Trophy and the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy, respectively. The 2008 winners were Margie Michelin and Charles & JoAnna Kelley (tie). The leaders so far this year are: Marjorie Michelin and Jordan Chodorow with 12.07 points, Gary King with 11.50 and Jill Richmond with 8.73. In the 299er race the leaders are Masha Fleissig and Sylvia Hurwitz with 4.28 points and Michael Korney, Ellen Korney and Debora Stein with 3.06 points.

Card fees are \$10 per session, but students under 19 play free. Fees for non-members and Life Masters who have not paid service fees are \$11. The Tournament Manager is Peter Benjamin and he may be contacted via email at ahoneydo@aol.com, by phone at 310-558-0888, or cell phone 310-720-6050. The Tournament Director will be Peter Knee. Free coffee and homemade snacks will be offered on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. This is a non-smoking tournament with one courtesy break at each session.

DIRECTOR *continued from page 2*

do with Player Memos and the process to follow when one is received. Gene White is our District Recorder and I will be meeting with him to discuss the new changes.

One last motion that will come before the Bridge Committee (also a committee I sit on) is one that will eliminate the requirement of a pre-alert to short (5-card weak 2s and 6-card 3 level pre-empts) and undisciplined (less than Q high) pre-empts. These pre-alerts will be replaced with an alert upon occurrence. Management agrees with this concept but will ask that this motion be sent to the Conventions and Competitions Committee with the hope that it would be an item incorporated into their recommendations for the total package of the alert process.

Kathy and I leave for Washington D.C. this Saturday, July 18. We hope to get in some sightseeing during the tournament. I am waiting for my passes to the White House, but I have gotten passes from my congressman for a special tour of Congress. Kathy has never been to D.C. and my last trip was in 1974. Any suggestions of what is great to see, please email me at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panel: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, David Chechelashvili, Mitch Dunitz, Ross Grabel, Jeff Goldsmith, Adam Meyerson, David Sacks, Bill Wickham, and Kit Woolsey.

*This column is dedicated to the memory of Gene Freed,
a great competitive bidder and my partner when I won my first regional.*

"If they have a fit, we have a fit." – Gene Freed

1

Matchpoints
Vul vs. Not

1♦ pass 1♠ pass
2♣ pass ?

You hold: ♠KQ64 ♥T98 ♦A2 ♣7654

What call do you make?

Some panelists see no alternative to raising.

Bartusek: 3♣. I don't understand the problem. The spade KQ rates to be not very useful opposite the likely stiff or void. Change the hand to ♠Axxx ♥1098 ♦Ax ♣Qxxx and prospects would be much brighter.

Wickham: 3♣. In my way of thinking, this is a WTP (What's The Problem?) situation. Pass wins only when 2♣ makes only two and the opponents do not bid over 2♣. A solid courtesy raise to 3♣ gains when a vulnerable game is bid and made. Certainly you might like to bid the 28% game in clubs opposite ♠xx ♥x ♦Kxxxx ♣AKxxx when vulnerable, and partner rates to have more than that. The notrump game will often score opposite the 15-HCP perfect of ♠x ♥AJ ♦Kxxxx ♣AKxxx, and also in many cases where partner's flawed 16-17 points were not suitable to open 1NT. Note that the odds are slightly more in your favor when partner may have properly opened 1♦ holding 4-5 in the minors (or, for that matter, if partner opens 1NT on virtually anything that vaguely resembles a 1NT opener (see last month). The courtesy raise also gains when the opponents are blocked from entering the auction when a part score is available to them in either major, or when you avoid being doubled in 3♣, as may happen if you balance your way into 3♣.

Sacks: 3♣. I keep trying to visualize an alternative, but I fail to see it. I'm too strong to pass and not strong enough for any other call.

Dunitz: 3♣. Right on values, four trumps... hmmm... I could do worse.

Other panelists raise a little reluctantly.

Bare: 3♣. While the hand is in the lower range for the bid, no other bid comes close.

Grabel: 3♣. Sometimes partner has a dead minimum and we'll be too high, sometimes pard only has 3♣ (1-4-5-3), but sometimes he has extras, and I have just too much to pass.

Chechelashvili: 3♣. I owe pard one bid. Even at matchpoints, if pard is minimum and we go down, they are probably making something.

Other panelists make a conservative pass, pointing out the matchpoint scoring.

Woolsey: Pass. This is a classic problem hand in

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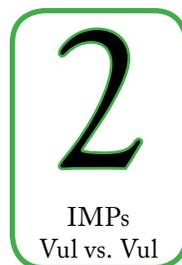
Standard. Partner could have a 16- or 17-point hand on which he couldn't bid anything else, and if we pass, a cold game could be missed. On the other hand, if we bid 3♣, that might be too high or it may provoke partner into bidding a bad game if he is more than minimal. I think this hand is weak enough, so passing is the percentage action. It should be noted that a strong club pair doesn't have this problem. Partner doesn't have that 16 pointer, so passing is easy.

Meyerson: Pass. We might miss a game, but at matchpoint, scoring it pays to stop in the best possible partial. At IMPs, a false preference to 2♦ seems mandatory.

Some like the false preference, keeping the bidding alive without raising the level.

Goldsmith: 2♦. It's reasonable to pass at matchpoints, but there is a decent chance of missing game if I do. 2♦ on the 5-2 won't be much worse than clubs on the 4-4 fit. Given how bad my clubs are, it might even be better if spades provide a pitch or two. Once in a while, partner has only three clubs, so the false preference has another way to work out. If the conditions were IMPs, passing would not be an option. I don't like 3♣, because it raises the level if partner is weak and preempts partner if he is strong. If partner bids this way with 1444 minimums and has one, I did the wrong thing.

I raised at the table, thinking 3♣ was the best bid. I still feel that way, but it did not work well. My partner held ♠2 ♥KQ53 ♦KQ864 ♣KQ3. Even with diamonds breaking 3 – 3, 3NT failed. My expert partner thought my 3♣ bid was a little light and preferred the false preference to 2♦. That works well on this layout, but I hate a false preference with a two card difference; pass is my second choice.



pass	pass	2♥	dbl
5♦*	5♠	pass	?

* fitted, shows a heart fit with good diamonds

You hold: ♠KQ3 ♥K7 ♦K92 ♣AKQJT

What call do you make?

Some panelists go the conservative route.

Bare: Pass. This hand doesn't look as good as it originally did.

Chechelashvili: Pass. I am not sure even 5♠ makes. Pard is a passed hand, although likely to be void in hearts, and could be off two or three diamond tricks.

Dunitz: Pass. Take the low road.

Meyerson: Pass. Partner's under a lot of pressure and the red kings are likely not to be working cards.

Some want to be in a slam from their side.

Sacks: 6♣. OK, I'll bite. Partner is 6-0-3-4 or 6-0-2-5 with AJ empty sixth and out. That seems to be as likely a construct as any other. Heck, we might make 6♣ more often than we make 5♠ because of the opening lead.

Grabel: 6NT. 5♠ is not a dive on this auction. You don't dive over a sacrifice. I'm trusting partner here.

Wickham: 6NT. Partner felt compelled to bid 5♠ in a (semi) live position. (The 2♥ bidder could pass 5♦, but most players do not do so even when it is obviously correct, and the unusual pass would be almost forcing on me.) Partner's 5♠ bid shows more values because it was not bid under as great a degree of duress as it would have been over 5♥, so I find it hard to give him more or less than AJxxx and a side ace, except, of course, he may have found it hard to pass with AJTxxxx or the like. I bid 6NT to protect

PSP continued on next page

PSP continued from previous page

the red king that needs protection. If partner has long decent spades and nothing else, at least he will know in the future that I am capable of (over) bidding my own hand.

Woolsey: 6NT. It is necessary to play the slam in notrump, both to protect my king of hearts if it is the ace of hearts we are missing, and to guard against a diamond ruff if it is the ace of diamonds we are missing. If partner has one ace, we don't want to be in slam. If partner wasn't a passed hand and had three aces we would have a cold grand. There is no way to find out, and two aces look like his most likely holding.

Let's hear from the two players who held this hand at the table (one on a different auction).

Bartusek: 6NT. I held this hand and thought for a long time whether partner rates to have two aces and/or a red suit void. I was considering pass, 6♣, 6♠, and 6NT (6♣ and 6NT to protect my diamond king). Partner did not open a weak 2♠ in second chair, which limited his distribution and HCP.

Goldsmith: 6NT. This is a complete no-brainer. 5♠ is probably going down on a diamond lead, and 5NT isn't natural, so if we are off two aces, that's just too

bad. 6NT is by far the most likely to make contract we can reach. But I think we are not off two aces; partner probably didn't open a weak two bid because he had two aces and lousy spades. With fewer than six spades, a passed hand is not bidding 5-over-5. It's possible we belong in seven vs. ♠Axxxxx ♥--- ♦Axx ♣xxxx, but we can't find out, so go with the obvious. Partner probably has something like ♠Axxxxx ♥A ♦xxx ♣xxx, where we have 12 tricks in 6NT and 10 in 5♠.

Partner actually held ♠ATxxxx ♥A ♦Qxx ♣98x, an opening 1♠ or 2♠ to some players. Note that Sacks' construction works no matter what partner's opening bid style is. 6NT, 6♠, and 6♣ are all decent contracts on the actual hand, but were in trouble when spades went 4 - 0, and diamonds went 6 - 1. 6♠ bidders have no chance on the unlucky break. 6♣ bidders will go down quickly if the opening leader finds ace and a diamond, but 6♣ has no problems on any other lead. Does 6NT have any chance? Yes, despite the nasty spade break. Declarer can play off the heart ace, three spades and five club winners to reduce LHO to four cards. If LHO comes down to two hearts and two diamonds, declarer plays on diamonds. If LHO comes down to one heart and AJx of diamonds, declarer cashes the heart king and leads the diamond king, smothering the singleton 10. I'm certain my astute readership noticed the powerful diamond 9.

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3

IMPs
Not vs. Not

You hold: ♠2 ♥K753 ♦5 ♣QJT9652

What call do you make?

The club spots and the vulnerability are ideal for a preempt, so this problem boils down to two questions. The first question is: does having a four-card major persuade us not to preempt? The second question is: if I preempt, do I bid 3♣, allowing partner to bid 3♥ or 3NT, or do I bid 4♣ (or 3NT if playing Namyats) to maximize the preempt?

First, let's hear from those who don't preempt.

Bartusek: Pass. I believe that Kxxx in a major is too big of a negative for opening 3♣.

Goldsmith: Pass, but this depends on partnership style. I don't like having Kxxx in a major to preempt, so with most of my partners, pass is expected. Some have no qualms about that, and the club suit is so much better as a trump suit than a side suit that they'd preempt 4♣ (or whatever). I'm fine with that, too, as long as partner will expect this as a possibility. I'm pretty much OK with any preempting style as long as it's not too wide a range and I know what it is.

Let's hear from the 3♣ bidders. To some of them it is important that our major is hearts, not spades.

Grabel: 3♣.

Meyerson: 3♣. I'll bite and bid 3♣.

Bare: 3♣. While I have four hearts, I have no defense and good club spots.

Chechelashvili: 3♣. My hand is about clubs, I don't care about losing a major fit, especially hearts.

Preempting is important. If LHO is short in hearts, he will have tough time finding a call unless he has good long spades.

Dunitz: 3♣ I'm willing to do this with hearts, not spades.

The 4♣ bidders speak.

Sacks: 4♣. Style points: 7-4s belong at the four level, especially if they do not contain spades.

Wickham: 4♣. Sure we all would prefer to have Kxxx of the other red suit so we could barrel into 4♣ with a clear conscience. In consideration of the small likelihood that our side might find a huge heart fit, I choose to make the wimpy call of... no, forget all that noise... I bid 4♣ (or 3NT if playing Namyats). Now that my partner knows of my penchant for (over) bidding, he needs to learn that I sometimes have difficulty sorting my hand.

Woolsey: 4♣. 7-4 is like an 8-card suit. Sure, we could miss 3NT or 4♥, but the extra pressure on the opponents more than makes up for that.

This hand was held by Marshall Miles in the four session Marshall Miles Open Swiss. Marshall opened 3♣ and later asked me how I would describe his choice. I answered "wimpy" (I echo Woolsey's comments). However, Marshall's partner Leo Bell disliked any preempt, thinking that the 4-card heart suit made it a poor bet. Regardless of the dissention on this point, Marshall led his team to the title, and suggested this problem to me.



1♠ pass 1NT* dbl

3♠ pass ?

* forcing

You hold: ♠-- ♥K7 ♦KJT863 ♣KT763

What call do you make?

This problem is made more difficult because experts normally play that 4♣ or 4♦ are cuebids in support of spades (frequently a 3 card limit raise).

you won't get all of the blame for that. With all of these hidden possible trick sources, 3NT might even make when it should be beaten.

Some panelists raise.

Some bid 3NT but aren't optimistic.

Meyerson: 4♠. Bad hand for the forcing notrump, which has enabled us to jam our own auction. Anyway, I'll guess that 4♠ is the best game here and try that.

Chechelashvili: 3NT. If I am not making 3NT, I'm probably not making 3♠ either, but it's better to go down in a game than in part score.

Some try 3NT, hoping partner will correct if it is wrong.

Bartusek: 3NT. The HCPs behind me don't bode well for finesses, but 3NT will make opposite six solid spades and an ace. Semi-solid spades with two entries will generally also make. Partner might have diamond fillers. Obviously, broken spades with a poor hand mesh will cause serious problems.

Woolsey: 3NT. What else? I'm way too strong to pass, and I'm not raising on a void - if we belong in spades, partner will get us there. 4♦ is a cue bid.

Bare: 3NT. If partner has the spade spots or a seventh spade he can correct.

Some are even more pessimistic.

Grabel: 3NT. As much as I'd like to bid 4♦, it is a cue bid here. I could bid 5♦ to play, but I have no assurance that it will be any better than 4♠. I have too much to pass, so all I can do is bid 3NT. Perhaps it won't end the auction.

Sacks: Pass. 3♠ shows spades, not extras. (Some pairs play 3♠ as a preempt after the double.) Sure, we might have a better spot, but where?

Dunitz: Pass.

Wickham: 3NT. Unless I am playing some strange treatments, four of a minor should show a slam suitable limit raise for spades. That leaves me with pass, 3NT (adjective bridge, anyone?) and 4♠. Pass is somewhat like shooting a housefly with a howitzer; you will kill the fly almost every time, but you will also have a mess to clean up afterwards. As for 4♠, I strongly prefer to have a majority of the trumps in our two hands. So 3NT it is. With some degree of frequency partner will bury himself in 4♠, but at least

Goldsmith: Pass. If I bid again, I expect to be doubled.

You'll be doubled if you bid again on the actual hand. The takeout double suggests spades aren't breaking. Partner has AQJTxxx, but behind him are K98xx. Spades makes only seven tricks. I passed at the table, but 3NT bidders can actually profit by running from the double of 3NT into 4♦ (natural on this auction), which is down only one, likely without a double.

Thank your unit columnist by sending them news.

5

IMPs
Vul vs. Vul

1NT pass 2♣ pass

2♦ pass pass pass

You hold: ♠KJT87 ♥953 ♦Q4 ♣A82

What do you lead?

Dummy normally comes down weak with short clubs on this auction. A trump is the normal lead, but Qx is unattractive.

One player tries to find a different suit to lead.

Bare: ♠J. This is given as a problem, so I suppose a heart is right.

Some try the low diamond as their opening lead.

Goldsmith: ♦4. This auction almost demands a trump lead, but Qx is really ugly. The advantage of blowing a spade trick is that I'll have something safe to lead thereafter. OK, I've convinced myself: ♦4.

Chechelashvili: ♦4. usually trump leads work on this auction.

Some lead the ♦Q.

Bartusek: ♦Q. (A close second choice is the ♦4.) A trump lead is generally a good lead against these auctions, which show club shortness in dummy. If partner has the ♦K (or ace) then we can get in three rounds of diamonds after I presumably win the second trick with the ♣A.

Dunitz: ♦Q.

Wickham: ♦Q. No second choice at IMPs. Plus scores are good, and this lead could be a big winner and is unlikely to be a big loser. Any other lead is a blind guess. Shoot me only if this is the only way declarer can make eight tricks! (I should be safe.)

Meyerson: ♦Q. Opponents are hoping that they can make more tricks in diamonds than in 1NT by ruffing their losers away, so the auction seems to call for a trump lead.

Some point out the deceptive nature of the diamond queen lead.

Grabel: ♦Q. It's usually right to lead a trump here. Low is the normal lead, but I'm inclined to lead the Q both for the deceptive nature and also because it may help protect partner's holding.

Sacks: ♦Q. Auction generally calls for trump. If I blow a trick, hopefully it comes back by the brilliance of having led trumps in the first place.

Woolsey: ♦Q. On this auction, you can just about lead a trump without looking at your hand. The queen will be more effective if I catch partner with a strong holding.

The readers should take note of how strongly the expert panel feels about leading trumps when the auction calls for it. I led the ♦Q at the table. It is the best chance to beat the hand, but the defense has several more hurdles to cross. Dummy had ♠98x ♥QJ8x ♦T9xxx ♣x, partner had ♠xx ♥KTxx ♦AKx ♣JTxx, and declarer had ♠AQx ♥Ax ♦Jxx ♣KQ9xx. I continued diamonds at trick two. Partner won, and assuming that I was the more likely candidate to hold the diamond jack (which had not yet appeared), shifted to a spade (which is correct on some layouts). Declarer ducked, giving him just barely enough time to score a heart ruff and his contract.

