

# Southern California Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**NABC National**  
*by Bill Schreiber*  
ALACBU  
President

Again, thank you to all who participated in Bridge Week at the Pasadena Hilton. It was a resounding success, both in terms of numbers of players and financially for the district. It was refreshing to see black numbers at one of our regionals for the first time in a while.

Most of the remainder of this month's column is devoted to reporting of players in our district who placed 5<sup>th</sup> or higher in nationally rated events in the NABC recently completed in Washington DC... and there were a lot of them! Basically in order they came in the tournament were: GNT Flight A champions: **David Kempe, Matt Klimesh, Chien Yao Tseng, and John Ramos**; GNT Flight B Runners-up: **Robert Wang, Shiu-Ming Huang, Eric Tan, and Frank Shih**; GNT Open Flight, tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>: **Jill Meyers, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Walter Schafer**; Bruce 0-5000 Life Master Pairs, 5<sup>th</sup>: **Bill Schreiber** (yep... that's me); Wagar Womens' Teams, 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall: **Renee Mancuso and Pam Wittes**; Wagar Womens' Teams, tied for 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>: **Jill**

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## National Board Results

*by Rand Pinsky*  
District Director

Washington D.C. was a wonderful site for the Summer NABC. As always, I use my first report after the national board meetings to report on motions passed and items of interest to District 23.

**Membership:** It is reported that for the first half of 2009 we have gained 1,421 members. June 2009 vs. June 2008 shows an increase of 1,297 members. With the amnesty program and the incentive for new members to join before January 1, 2010, management projects a possible total increase of membership for 2009 of 2,500.

**Tournaments:** Through June, regionals are down 5,000 tables but there have been seven fewer regionals. Sectionals are flat with a +4 table count per sectional. STaCs with eight less sanctions than 2008 will likely exceed 100,000 tables.

**Bridge Amnesty:** We all know people who have dropped out of ACBL. Starting immediately and going through December 31, 2009, former ACBL members with unrecorded masterpoints can reinstate their membership and all masterpoints won during the time they were inactive will be credited to you at **no charge**. To take advantage of this offer, visit the ACBL website and click "renew." You can also call ACBL at 800-264-2743. Postcards are being mailed out to former members.

As a special bonus offer, if a former member reinstates by September 30, 2009 for a three-year term, ACBL will send you a complimentary deck of ACBL tournament-quality playing cards.

**World Bridge Federation:** Save the dates October 1-16, 2010 for the next World Bridge Series to be played in Philadelphia. It is the first time in

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**DIRECTOR** *continued from page 1*

16 years the competition will be held in the United States. Watch for more details as they become available.

**News from the ACBL National Board:** First, Richard DeMartino from Connecticut was elected president for the 2010 year.

**Stratiflighted Pair and Team Event:** On a 15-10 vote, the board approved a resolution that allows the sponsoring organization, once the flight of the pair or team is determined, stratification within each flight may be based on the average masterpoint holding of the team or pair. The effective date is as soon as it can be implemented.

This provision now complements the prior resolution passed by the board, which allows masterpoint averaging in stratified pair and team events.

**Ex Quota Regional for District 22:** District 22 was granted an additional one-time regional to be held north of Los Angeles in 2010, with the understanding that a motion requesting a permanent

regional for Palm Springs/Rancho Mirage (Coachella Valley) will be brought to the Spring 2010 meeting.

A committee will be appointed by the president to review the process for approval of permanent regionals and allocations of regionals.

I am working along with the ALACBU Board with District 22 to ensure there will be sufficient spacing between regionals so as to not create any conflicts between the two districts.

**It is a Different View from Dummy**

I do not know how many have read in the Bridge Bulletin about the adventures of Bob L. It seems that Mr. Head has left ACBL headquarters in Memphis (soon to be Horne Lake) and is making his way across the country planning to end up in San Diego for the Fall NABC. Bob L. was in Washington D.C. and he had an opportunity to kibbutz Kathy for a session of bridge. A report of her adventure with him can be found at the ACBL website

or <http://www.acbl.org/bobL/index.php/2009/08/bob-in-dc/>.

I will report next month on new guidelines for recorders and other happenings at the board meeting. 'Til then, you can reach me at [pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net).

**PRESIDENT** *continued from page 1*

**Meyers;** Mini-Spangold I (0-5000), 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup>: Paul Nason; Fast Pairs, 3<sup>rd</sup>: **John Herriot;** Mixed Board-A-Match Teams, 3<sup>rd</sup>: **Jill Meyers** (seems I have mentioned Jill a lot in this column – nice going, Jill) All in all, a pretty decent showing by our district. If I missed anyone, I humbly apologize.

Finally, a few words about Washington and San Diego: re: Washington – the weather was hot and sticky (when it wasn't raining), but the hotel was great and the sponsoring district (District 6) is to be commended on running a great tournament with fabulous attendance (over 14,000 tables); re: San Diego – this NABC is being sponsored by our neighbors, District 22, and I hope that many from our district will attend and place highly so that your names can get in my column for the January Bridge News. The tournament starts the day after Thanksgiving.

**Southern California Bridge News**

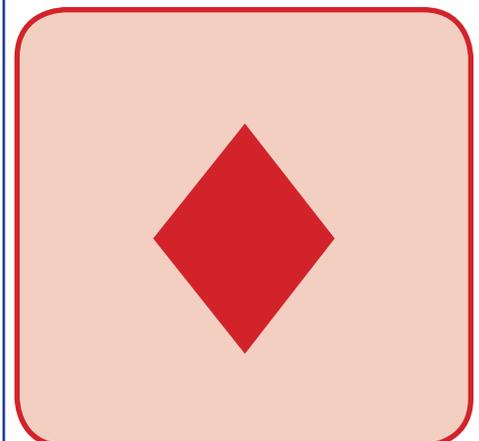
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# Around the Units in District 23

## Antelope Valley By Gin

Our Sectional Tournament is just about six weeks away. It will begin October 2 and conclude on Sunday, October 4 with a play-through Swiss Team event. The Swiss Team event is \$25 per person, including lunch. All other events are \$10 per person, per session. ACBL mandates the non-members pay an extra dollar per session. Friday and Saturday events feature open pairs as well as 99er games at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Compact Knock-Out teams begin on Saturday at the aforementioned times and will conclude at the afternoon session. It is now the time to solidify your partnerships and teams. If you need a partner or another pair for a team event, let Joanne know. You may call her at 661-943-6754. All sessions will be stratified.

On October 18, the Unit Game will be a special Eight Is Enough Swiss Team. This means the sum of all must be eight or less based on the following rating: A players having 1250 MPs or more are rated three, B players having 500 to 1249 MPs are rated two, and C player having 0 to 499 MPs are rated one. Handicaps will apply. If the difference between two teams is four, the lower team will have a handicap of five IMPs. Check out the scale on the north side white board in the clubroom. Dave White is in charge of this special unit game. It promises to level the playing field, thus making it a very competitive event.

Because so many of our regular players are not aware of the Novice Game on Thursday nights, it behooves to us encourage our 'party' bridge playing friends to experience duplicate bridge at our clubroom. Ron Oest is the director and a very successful bridge teacher. He provides an extremely friendly environment to all players at this game. Ron has built up this game to an average of five tables and has a goal of seven or more tables. Some of the players are new to bridge while others have years of social bridge experience. Many of the Novice Game players extol the competency of the director. This writer was invited to substitute at a

social game where several of the players credited the improvement in their game to their experiences at the Novice Game. Spread the word and help our club grow. Ron will begin bridge lessons on September 21. The class will be held on Monday afternoons and lessons are free and open to everyone.

By the time you read this column, Brad Ward will have undergone colon surgery. The pre-surgery prognosis was that he would require ten days of post-operative hospital care followed by three or four more weeks of recuperation. Brad hopes to be back playing at the club by mid-September and is looking forward to participating at the October sectional. Brad is in great spirits and he knows our thoughts and prayers are with him during this ordeal.

As you well know the Top Five has given way to the Winner of the Month in the seven games played in Unit 556. Unit Championships are reported elsewhere in this column in depth. Marlene and Dave Gasper were the Sunday game winner with 63.54%. Valencia's game of 68.26% was won by Jim Fu and Basant Shah. Wednesday's game 72.95% was won by Brad Ward and Dave Gasper. Honorable mention goes to Rob Kent and Dr. Murthy who posted their first overall win ever with a 54.76% at a Wednesday game. Castaic's game winners were Arif Shah and Nazareh Saghbazanam with 68.76%. Michele Brucks and Barbara Thompson continue their winning ways with 68.75% on Thursday night at AVBC. Meanwhile Marlene and Dave finished their monthly wins with a Friday win of 66.07%.

<b>Unit Game July 19</b>	A	B	C
Brad Ward/Willo Phillips	1	-	-
Hansford/Mira Rowe	2	-	-
Dave and Marlene Gasper	¾	-	-
Bill Brodek/at Juenemann	¾	-	-
George MacDonald /Russ Buker	5	1	1
George Lewis/Earlene Dehaas	6	2	-
Charles Morrin/Don Crozier	-	3	-
Gin and Joan Adams	-	-	3
Rita Vanetter/Vibeke Gilbreath	-	4	2

Barb Shuping/Sid Zalk	-	5	-
<b>Unit Championship August 2</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
Sterrett Harper/Elaine Moore	1	1	1
Barbara/Tom Jones	2	2	2
Russ Buker/George MacDonald	3	3	-
Ron & Sandi Oest	4	4	-
Marlene/Dave	5	-	-

A parting thought... The latest sport is solo wrestling for people who need to get a grip on themselves.

## Downey – Whittier

By Bernice Crelia

This year is really flying by. We have had such great weather that we could really enjoy ourselves and still find time for bridge.

Since we have had so many special games lately, I will only list the top winners of some of them for you.

Last month's Junior Fund game was won by Subba Ravipudi/Sankar Reddy, very close to 70%. Second were Chunky Hilton/Terry Binns. Our August unit game winners were Larry Bolls and Len Beck followed by Mary Williams and Millie Graybill. Then we held a back-to-school luncheon and game to say goodbye to our grade school teacher, Avis Osmundson, who will go back to work very soon. The game was won by Renalda Rippi/Beverly Pokershing with Avis and me one half point behind.

Don't forget our special games next month, the anniversary pot luck September 2, and the unit game September 4, followed by free lessons every Wednesday at 9:15 a.m. on the various conventions you need to know about to improve your game.

## Glendale-Verdugo

By Dorothy LaMaie

**Unit Game - 1:00 p.m., Saturday, September 12  
12:15 p.m. Buffet Lunch**

In reporting our unit's results from Bridge Week, we didn't notice any dangling participles, but we did leave a certain "Louise" dangling in mid paragraph, and we hasten to give "Weezie" Reich and good partner Linda Carter their "B.W. due:" A2 & B5 in Friday's open pairs.

Also lost in our shuffle was the B2 earned by Joanne Sasake /James Erpenbach; an A7 & B3 by Maureen Peterson/Lynn Ryan, as well as a C1 in a 299er game by Eva Seri/Fran Cohen. Two teams registered in the Flighted Swiss on the last day: Tracy Boys, Glenn Eddy, Elaine Moore, and Sterrett Harper at C3 (OA), and Sharon Wolf, Joanne Sasake, Brian Petrunich, and Robert Driskell with a C4 (OA).

The July unit game missed our deadline, so herewith the noteworthy results in the eyes of some of you beholders:

### North/South

A1			John Villalobos/Karen Arese
A2	B1		Pat Abbey/Sherry Strube
A3	B2	C1	Sharon Wolf/Mike Doll
A4			Steve Licker/Bob Gish

### East/West

A1			Tim Lolli/Brad Beland
A2			Bob Tayrien/Gerry Belcher
A3			"Weezie" Reich/A. Elghamry
A4	B1		Arthur Chacanian/D. LaMaie
	B2	C1	Harold Knowles/Zach Vedro
		C2	Betsy Josias/Temo Arjeni

As for the Pasadena Sectional, Sharon Wolf did well scoring an A2 with Phil Dessert, a C1 and a B2 (OA) with Art Chacanas. In a Compact Knock-out John Villalobos, Gerry Belcher, Brad Beland/Marel Bates placed second. Gerry also had a sectional A3 with Bob Tayrien, and an A6 with Carolyn Cohen who also placed A4 with Tim Lolli. (Apparently, those rounds proved useful to Carolyn because she proceeded to take three-in-a-row first places subsequently at the Regency!)

Many of us were saddened to learn that Frances Katz had passed away. Now and then a false eyelash may have been askew, but seldom were her bridge brains, as evidenced by her successes only a month earlier at Bridge Week, and she couldn't have been feeling all that great at the time, n'est-ce pas? Our condolences to her very dear Peter Szecsi and other family members and friends, bridge or otherwise.

Pat Abbey and Norman really headed north over there on the west coast of Norway. Their ship took them within 11° of the Arctic Circle. Amongst the usual, there was cruising up around the northernmost reaches of Norway into the warm water port of Murmansk in

Russia. Since it never freezes, many a country sought its advantages, but the Russkies ultimately prevailed.

Merry Besvold's mother, Betty Stenbon, finally made the move east to west, but at this writing all her household belongings are still somewhere between Florida and California. She's looking forward to rooms of her own as well as a change of clothing!

Sixten Ohman has proven that blood is thicker than airline scheduling to Sweden and back. After last year's ghastly experience, he vowed "never again." But time healed his ire, and away he went for his summer month's visit with family memories. We hope good luck was with him and his blood pressure...

As duly reported in the Glendale Press newspaper, our unit's ACBL charitable contribution was directed to City of Hope this year, much needed and appreciated.

Paul Nason has turned into our ambassador of good bridge by attending all the NABC National Tournaments around the country. He doesn't count mere section wins and scratches, but goes for the stellar events and their stiff competition. Returning from the Washington, D.C. tournament, he was not too pleased and cited only two performances: placing 10th in the 0-5,000 MP Bruce Life Master event, and reaching the quarter finals of the Mini Single 0-5,000 MP event. Sounds pretty good to me, as do the results of the August unit game, with the following winners undoubtedly bolstered by that cool sandwich spread and salad bar courtesy of Merry, Betsy, Nancy, and Eva with pie and cake to match:

**North/South**

A1			C. Cohen/Melina Stevens
A2			Mike Marcucci/Charo Holdo
A3	B1	C1	Eric Tener/Dennis Teng
A4			Ann Banta/Ron Moeckel
A5	B2		Sharon Wolf/Mike Doll
	B3		B. McKissick/Sherry Strube
		C2	Alene Friedman/Carol Bell

**East/West**

A1			Xialu Gu/Sam Wang
A2			Eva Seri/Arnie Lier
A3	B1	C1	Harold Knowles/Zach Vedro
A4	B2	C2	Betsy Josias/Nancy Lyon
A5			Gerry Belcher/Bob Tayrien
	B3		Cathryn Martin/Brad Beland
		C2 (OA)	Esther Tapelband/Bob Hogan

Plums and apricots to all of the above and to all those winners above the above! Take care, everybody...

**Long Beach Unit**

Unit website: [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)

Club website: [www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

by Jon Yinger

**July 19 unit game:** Overall results in the open game: 1<sup>st</sup> in A: Irma Johnson/Cory Hand, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed Barad/CarolMcCully, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sam Wang/Robert Gish; 4<sup>th</sup> Sherry Troeger/Sue Sood; 5<sup>th</sup> Baum Harris/Bee Kinman; 6<sup>th</sup> Jerry Cassidy/Aaron Jones. Overall winners in the B flight included: 3<sup>rd</sup> Lucille Hovland/Cathy Bauer; 4<sup>th</sup> Kim Wang/Chien-San Hun; 5<sup>th</sup> John and Suzie Hand; 6<sup>th</sup> Betty Barton/Dolores Nawa. Overall winners in C included: 3<sup>rd</sup> Susan and Keith Hafen, 4<sup>th</sup> Curtis and Lynn Johnson; 5<sup>th</sup> Sharon and Al Appel. Overall winners in the non-Life Master game: 1<sup>st</sup> in A: Renee Hoffman/Anne Munchow; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lynne Finley/Kay Hyland; 3<sup>rd</sup> Mike and Bert Nielsen; 4<sup>th</sup> Carlene Bailey/Joyce McLearn; 5<sup>th</sup> Carnell Wingfield/Carlos Jones. Congratulations to all!

**August 9 unit game:** Overall results in the open game: 1<sup>st</sup> in A: Marcus Evans/Steve Skinner; 2<sup>nd</sup> Steve Sulzby/MarkTang; 3<sup>rd</sup> Bea and John Bralliar; 4<sup>th</sup> Sankar Reddy/Sa Wang; 5<sup>th</sup> Gabriela Jackson/Ray Mack; 6<sup>th</sup> T S Chernuchin/Bam Harris. Overall winners in the B flight included: 1<sup>st</sup> Kevin Lane/Rod Kerr; 2/3 tie: Skip Genebach/Fay Beckerman and Chien-San Hun/Kim Wang; 4<sup>th</sup> Pat and Bob Adam; 5<sup>th</sup> Carol Murakoshi/Tom Ludwig. Overall winners in C included 5<sup>th</sup> Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth. Overall winners in the non-Life Master game: 1<sup>st</sup> in A: Steven Alt/Flora McDonald; 2<sup>nd</sup> Kathleen and Doug Preble; 3<sup>rd</sup> Anthony and Miranda Reddy; 4<sup>th</sup> Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson; 5<sup>th</sup> Tsu Jan/David Hwahe; 6<sup>th</sup> Sue Blom/Joanne Van Sandt. Congratulations to you all!

**70+% games 7/15 through 8/15:** In the July 15 evening game Keith Hafen/John Melis had a 75.0% game. In the July 20 morning game T S Chernuchin and Marcus Evans had a 70.25% game, and in the afternoon game Michael Daley/Earl VanDerVord had a 71.63% game. In the July 22 evening game Earl VanDerVord/Sean Lui had a 70.43% game. In NLM games on July 17 Monica Gettis/Carl Lasher had a 69.96% game (rounds off to 70%), on August 10 Tom Harris/CindyFirnett had a 70.14% game and in the 99er game on August 13 Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson had a rousing 78.60% game.

Congratulations to you all!

**Big master point awards:** Big points for 1<sup>st</sup> overall in big games: In the July 16 game Al and Sharon Appel were 1<sup>st</sup> overall winning 5.83 MP. In the July 19 unit game Cory

Hand/Irma Johnson won 5.38 MP. On July 24 Janet Ju/George Wang won 3.83 MP. On Aug 2 Sharon and Al Appel won 3.67 MP. On August 3 Sharon and Al were first overall again, this time winning 5.17 MP.

Aug 4 John Wong/Lina Cheng won 6.00 MP in the afternoon game and Bee Kinman/Jon Yinger won 3.50 MP in the evening game; Aug 5: Fay Beckerman/Tom Ludwig 4.67 MP; Aug 6: Bev Shafer Betty McClellan 4.67 MP; Aug 7 afternoon Sankar Reddy/Yas Takeda 6.67 MP and in the evening Yesenia Cabrera/Aaron Jones 3.33 MP; Aug 8 Al and Sharon (for the fifth time) 1<sup>st</sup> overall winning 4.00 MP. Aug 9 Marcus Evans/Steve Skinner 5.53 MP; Aug 10 Doris Richardson/Roger Farmer 3.25 MP; Aug 11 Aaron Jones/Walter Rothstein 3.79 MP; Aug 12 Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle 3.36 MP; Aug 13 John Farr/Jackie Hess 3.25 MP; Aug 14 Diane Starbuck/Stephen Goldstein 4.66 MP. Congratulations to you all!

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## 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

Partnerships: Joanne 661 943 6754  
Hotel Information: Sandi 661 272 9780  
E-mail: nga1071295@aol.com

Sunday  
Double Session Swiss Teams  
10:30 AM and TBA  
Play through lunch \$7.00

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

**New members and new status:**  
We issue a warm welcome to new members Alma Kirkland and Gary Watkins. Status changes: New Junior Master: Aaron Jones. New Sectional Master: Linda Renkus. New Life Master: Irene Hirscland. New Bronze Life Master: Kevin Lane. Congratulations to you all!!

**Upcoming special events at the club:** National Potato Day Wednesday, Aug. 19, 12:30. Unit-rated game with a free potato bar for lunch. District 23 STaC Aug. 24-30 Silver Points. Regular prices, extra points.

Starting last June all 9 a.m. Monday Morning Games are sectionally rated, pay extra points and include a very nice breakfast. All for \$10. The club is trying to build up the Monday morning game. Y'all come.

**Get well wishes to:** Marcus Evans, Peggy Waite, Joy Rosenthal, Christy Mangum, 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](mailto:jjyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

[www.darbonne.com/bridge/](http://www.darbonne.com/bridge/)

By Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

August left us with a very sad occasion in our club. We lost Frances Katz on August 6. She was so much a part of us, and it will never be the same without her. Peter says they met at bridge; he was a pro and she was taking lessons, but that relationship didn't last very long as Peter considered her an apt pupil and a wonderful companion and asked her to marry him. That was 24 years ago. She loved the game of bridge and earned 3,565 Masterpoints. She was number 11 on the list of top players in our unit. We will miss you, Frances. A Remembrance Gathering for Frances will take place at the San Marino Bridge Club on Monday, September 14 at 11:00. All of her friends, and she had many, are invited.

The John Waken Sectional was another huge success. So many members of our unit came forward to provide yummy goodies each day. The participants were: Susan Rhoades, Lynn Ryan, Kathy Helber, Karen Arase, Dominique Moore, Sandy Rucker, Charlotte Brackmann, Cheryl Loggins, Barbara Baeskins, Joanne Sasaki, Beverly Scholes, Rae Murbach, Carole Collins, Margie Hall, Margery Gould, Weezie Reich, Nancy Nakanishi, Frank Jones, Mary Downey, Gitta Earll, Ana Williamson, Mary Falvey, Ann Raymond, June Harwell, Carol Schwartz, Shirley Betz, Rita Corwin, Sofia Pineda, Pat Lile, Shiu-Ming Huang and Jan Wickersham. Our Sunday deviled egg providers were: Margie Hall, Shirley Cooper, Miriam Harrington and Mark Hartzell. A million thanks to all of them, and especially to those volunteers who did double duty. Table count was down a bit probably due to the nationals in Washington D.C., but it is still one of the top sectionals in Southern California. Amr Elghamry managed to win the John Waken Trophy. That's quite an accomplishment, Amr!!!! Congratulations! As for John, he arrived at a table where there was only one pencil and when he reached for it, the lady grabbed it away. "You can't hog the only pencil on the table," he said. "Yes, I can!" She replied. "Well, is your name on

it?" Doctor John Waken asked. She never knew.

There was a lovely basket that was raffled off. Karen Arase had put it together with her usual flair. Millie Garrison from Riverside was the lucky winner. The proceeds from the raffle will go to La Salle High School to be used toward a scholarship for one of their students. The two writers of this column managed a first overall in the Open Pairs on Friday in the afternoon session. That doesn't happen very often.

The September unit game will be held September 6, the day before Labor Day. It will not conflict with the regional in Orange County. Hope to see many of you there.

I was delighted to see so many of the 299ers competing in both the John Waken and the Glendale sectionals. Keep up the good work, and keep earning those Silver Points. Sue Rottner, playing in the Glendale sectional with Rita Corwin, finally won the last bit of silver she need to become a Life Master. Congratulations, Sue!

Have you discussed your bidding with your partner after an opponent makes a lead-directing double of a Stayman bid? You might consider this: redouble when you have four very good clubs or five headed by an honor or two and invite partner to pass with moderate support. Pass with any hand where you do not have a club stopper, but bid your normal response if you do have one. If you pass, denying a club stopper, your partner can redouble as an extended Stayman, again asking if you have a four-card major. This is a good basic agreement, but a regular partnership can add other possibilities if they wish. However, be careful about how complicated you make it as you might not remember them since this auction occurs so seldom. Talk to your partner and see if she likes it!

See you at the table...

## Pomona-Covina

By Vic Sartor

**Unit Game – 11:30 a.m., September 19**  
**Lunch at 11:00 a.m.**

With half of our members galavanting around the country on summer vacations, attendance at local games has had its usual summer dip. In case any of you still like to get out for an evening of bridge, the LaFetra club's Thursday night game is the best entertainment bargain in the area at \$4. Rides can be arranged for

those who no longer drive at night. Roger Boyar is also offering free plays for any players who haven't stumbled out of bed for the Tuesday 8:45 a.m. game in the past three months. Wednesday lessons are continuing at the Knights of Columbus clubhouse in Glendora, and the Lafetra Friday 8:45 a.m. game is always a good way to spend a morning. You can call Roger at 626-335-1985 or 626-214-6354 or check the La Fetra Bridge Club website for more information.

As to the aforementioned gadabout tourists, I can don my other hat as the Unit 551 travel editor and report several items. Gino and Penny Barbieri tell us they had a great time in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, including an open-air tour of the island where the famous wild herds of Spanish mustangs roam freely. Clint Lew spent two weeks on a 2,000-mile auto tour of New England, New York and Pennsylvania. He brought back great memories and some awful new jokes to add to his room-clearing collection (ask him about his new

Amish joke). Tom Lill visited his childhood stomping grounds around Niagara Falls for a family get-together. Roger Boyar celebrated his birthday at a Shakespeare Festival at Lake Tahoe. He had the honor of having 1,000 theater lovers sing "Happy Birthday" to him— each in his own key, of course. Hans Hehnke just returned from a Mediterranean cruise and reports that France, Italy, and Greece are still there.

In recent bridge results, Genise Hasan/Denise Morgan took first in the August unit game, followed by Hans Hehnke/Vic Sartor and David and Susan Ruoff. In the July unit game, which missed last month's column, Russ Drew/Susan Emminger took first overall, with Sue Rottner/Rita Corwin winning their direction.

August Individual was won by Margaret Merritt, followed by Richard Patterson, Charlotte Capelle, Wendy Wanderman, and Luan Schirmer. Top game of the month was a 69.9% posted by Lulu and Fred

# ♦ ♣ 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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Minter. Other winners included Clint Lew, Walt Otto, Richard Patterson, John Tyner, Kurt Triesselmann, Ken Bloommfield, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Edwin Kelly, Marj Rubinfeld, Charles Rubinfeld, Dave Ruoff, Vic Sartor, Linda Ananea, Kathy Helber, Herman Helber, Lary Alba, Hans Hehnke, Norma Appley, and Albert Lax.

There were several worthy candidates for hand of the month, with distributional freaks popping up all over the place. For instance, how would you respond if your pard overcalled 1♥ on a 1♦-1♥ -2♠-? auction and you hold ♠x ♥KJxxxxxx ♦-- ♣Axxxx ? If you adjust your point count slightly (say by adding 10 or 12 HCP) and make a 5♦ void showing splinter, you'll reach a nice slam. Or what if you hold ♠AKx ♥-- ♦KQxx ♣AKJxxx and your pard opens 4♥? Do you try for 6? If you do you'll be pleased that your super-sound partner has AKQxxxxxx, and 6 is cold. But these mundane hands lost out to our auction of the month. Tom Lill, who was a kibitzer directing the game, reports the following really creative bidding sequence: It seems the pair in question were using 1NT-2♣ as 4-card Stayman and 2NT-3♣ as 5-card Stayman. The bidding proceeded: 2NT pass 2♣! pass (accepting 2♣ without batting an eye) 2NT!!! pass 3♣!!! pass (again calmly accepting the situation as normal). Opener, who apparently had never discussed this particular sequence with his partner, now went into the tank. Was pard asking for a 5-card major after he had denied a 4-card major? Was he trying to sign off in clubs? Was this a slam try? Eventually he settled on 3NT, which proved to be a standard spot. Everyone passed without a question being raised. But Tom says he's very glad no one asked him for a director's ruling. 'Til next time...

## San Fernando Valley

by Terry Morton

**Unit events and news:** There will be an election in December for new board members. If you are interested in running for the board, please put your name on the form at the Bridge Academy or at the 750 Bridge Club. According to the by-laws for Unit 561, you must be a member in good standing of the ACBL, have no financial interest in a bridge club affiliated with ACBL, and only one member of a family may serve as an officer at any given time.

**Upcoming unit events:** Holiday Party, December 6,

Location TBA. Elections for the new board will be held at the Holiday Party.

**Member highlights:** Congratulations to Allan Palansky who became a Life Master this month! Congratulations to Unit 561 Masterpoint winners from Bridge Week - Ellen Anten (109.91), Steve Gross (105.14), and Mitch Dunitz (68.70).

**The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for July: 750 Bridge Club:** Ron Malkin 5.24, Samy Antoun 3.28, Marcia Broderick 2.89, Ilene Feinstein 2.81, Billy Blanchard 2.43, Jody Lombardo 2.39, Joyce Hart 2.29, Gloria Malkin 1.97, Ed Berliner 1.93, Phil Swan 1.92.

**Bridge Academy 299 Game:** Samy Antoun 5.78, Joan Farrar 5.67, Myrna Kalman 3.71, Robert Glasser 3.41, Sheila Singer 3.27, Paul Fuson 3.09, Patricia Shellog-Seal 3.07, John Tichner 2.84, Leonard Popowitz 2.77, Rochelle Popowitz 2.77.

**Bridge Academy Open Game:** Andy Vinock 18.96, Gilbert Stinebaugh 17.52, Gary Frans 16.13, Dan Kosman 13.55, Leda Danzig 13.27, Sheldon Levitt 13.11, Armand Szulc 12.48, Joan Rubin 12.42, Barbara Levitt 12.16, Marta Peltz 12.01.

**70% Games for July:** Bill Taylor and Bill Morton 81.25%, Bob Williams and Charles Kennedy-Ross 70.63%

**Column news:** Make sure your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at [fkern818@aol.com](mailto:fkern818@aol.com).

## Torrance South Bay Unit

Unit Website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568SBBC>

Website:

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

By Steve Mager

**Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club:** As of now I have not received the schedule at the South Bay Bridge Club for September. I would suggest looking at the SBBC website shown above to see the September schedule. I do apologize for some discrepancies between the schedule included last month and the actual August schedule. There were some changes made after I submitted the column and took off for Washington.

**Club Championships:** Winners in club championships recently are the following: *July 15*

*NLM Club Championship:* Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson, Flights A & B; Karen and Mike McKittrick, Flight C. *July 18 NAOP Qualifier:* Gary King/Ted Gibbs, Flight A; Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu, Flight B. *August 3 Club Championship:* Joan Chrihal/Clara Trummer, Flights A, B & C. *August 7 Club Championship:* Lorna Wallace/Ron Carlson, Flights A& B. *August 11 Club Championship:* Lucy Tredennick/C. M. Meaux, Flight A; Gerri Carlson/Neil Kleiner, Flight B. *August 11 NLM Club Champ:* Mary Overby/Arthur Rue, Flight A. *August 13 NAOP Qualifier:* Lucy Tredennick/Dean Kaloudis, Flight A.

**Team winners:** Teams that won the Weekly Tuesday Night Handicapped Swiss recently were as follows: *July 21 STaC:* Winnie Ninneman, Bruce Merchant, Henry Crowder, Fred Spradlin. *July 28: (tie)* Mary Ann Coyle, Jackie Hess, John Farr, Bo Bogema, Jon Szeps, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, and Bronek Felczer. *August 4:* Jon Szeps, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer. *August 11:* Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott.

**District 22/23 STaC Overall finishers at TSB Clubs:** The following lists overall finishers in games played at Torrance South Bay clubs during the recent District 22/23 STaC.

**Monday Morning, July 20 SBBC**

3A	Ted Gibbs/Gary King
4A	Richard Cheng/John Brailliar
3B	Booth Tarkington/Jim Jensen
5B	Adelia Horton/Lise Cote
6B	Robert Rothman/Mike Welsh
3C	Barbara Davis/Norm Imberman
4C	Beverly Narahara/Carole King

**Monday Evening, July 20, SBBC**

1A	Mary Ann Coyle/Jackie Hess
6A	Dick Jones/Ray Mack
3B	Mark Raggio/Stanley Greengard
6B	Lorna Wallace/Lutrell Long
3C	Joan Chrishal/ClaraTrummer
4C	Carol McKay/Natasha Bomeister
5C	Carnell Wingfield/Carlos Jones

**Wednesday Afternoon, July 22, Veterans Park**

13A	2B	2C	Carole King/Beverly Narahara
	8/9B		V. Takahashi/Sumi Tokufuji
		4C	Ron Prando/Tom Barna

**Wednesday Evening, July 22, NLM Pairs, SBBC**

2A	1B	1C	Mary Ann McNeal/M. McIntyre
6A			Harold Karp/Ron Prando
	5B	6C	Marie and James Lynch
	6B		Karen O'Neil/Jeanine Shamaly
		5C	Linda Barnard/Elaine Mannick

**Thursday Morning, July 23, NLM Pairs, SBBC**

1A	1B		Alain Fleurot/Neal Kleiner
3A	3B	2C	Madge Weinstein/Ann Steinberg
4A	4B	3C	Elizabeth Biggins/Lynn Evans
5A			Effie Jones/Christine Uriu
	5B	4C	Billie Kelly/Marie Lynch
		5C	Johnny Arceri/Karen Tucker

**Thursday Evening, July 23, SBBC**

4A			Bea and John Brailliar
5A			Winnie Ninneman/Fran Israel
	3B	1C	Bill Lama/Linda Henson
	5B		Mark Raggio/Charles LaFranchi

**Friday Morning, July 24, SBBC**

4A			Gabriela Jackson/Fran Israel
6A	1B	1C	Beverly Narahara/Peg Woiwod
	5/6B		Luis Gamio/Jon Szeps
	5/6B		John Williams/Kim Wang

**GUV Memorial Award:** Claudia Valerie Gamio (CVal) saved a KO match in a rather unique manner at the Washington D.C. NABC. CVal held something like this, ♠xxx ♥Kx ♦AKQJxx ♣Kx non vul vs. vul opponents. Her partner passed and RHO opened a club. CVal overcalled 1NT and was doubled by LHO. Her partner, trying to escape, bid redouble. The more timid amongst us would bid a quiet 2♦, but not CVal. She decided her side needed a board and passed 1NT redoubled.

A spade came out, won by RHO and a heart was returned. CVal put in the king, but LHO produced the ace. Eight more major suit tricks were cashed by the opponents and when yet another major suit card was played, CVal had come down to ♦A ♣Kx and had to find a discard. She threw the ♦A, which was correct since the opps cashed the ♣A at trick 12 but had to give CVal the ♣K at trick 13. Down 6 for minus 2800.

It turns out her teammates actually bid and made 6♥ on this hand. They probably weren't expecting to lose 16 IMPs for their effort, but that they did. However,

despite this debacle CVal saved the day by making the right discard at trick 11 and saving one trick. Her team would have lost 18 IMPs if she had gone down 3400 losing all the tricks. Would you believe her team won by 2 IMPs? So I guess CVal lost her goat horns and was a heroine of sorts.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by candy

The labors of our tournament committee will start on Friday night, September 4 with a full moon and end on Monday, Labor Day. While celebrating with bridge and free goodies this weekend has nothing to do with octomoms and other weird family rituals. Come join us at the Barrington Bridge Club and the Kayne Eras Center for a weekend of Team and Pair Games.

September has holidays for all kinds of moods. Grandparents Day is a day of bragging, the Vernal Equinox gives us a chance to reach that inner Druid in all of us and ask the God of Bridge for better odds on finesses. Topping this off with the High Holidays, where I dust off that list of things I did just to make Yom Kippur interesting. I do try and keep this list fresh by coming up with new things to be forgiven, but there are always some things I do tend to repeat.

Dorothy Lipsky is the newest WLA Unit Life Master and Bronze Life Master!! Judy Hopkins and Lunsford Laverty are new Club Masters, Diane Bishop and Judi Friedlander are new Sectional Masters, New Regional

Masters are Donna Massman and Rick Turner, Ron Birnbaum and Diane Licht and Manny Weintraub new NABC Masters. Keep up the good work.

Keep getting better wishes go to Ed Troth, Paul Gelb and Denny Seltzer.

In hearing of Dick Ryder's passing you think of what a terrific player this unit has lost. What was so amazing was how effortlessly he played the game and made winning bridge an art form. As his partner, you were in for a smooth ride. I intentionally put this right before the 70% games because of all the times his name has been there with many different partners. We will all miss him.

Harvey Katz and Aram Bedros were fighting it out to see who could win the most 70% games. The one they had together canceled each other out. So Aram's three with Pete Benjamin and Harvey's two with Jordan Chodorow and once with Barbara Hamman... it's a tie. Pete, one more and you could have been a contender. Some of these were during the STaC. Other 70%ers were Art Zail/Rodger Harbin, Jill Richmond/Paul Smith, Diane Licht/Sue Ann Simon, and Joy McGeary/Gail Haller.

Barrington had a Club Championship and the winners were: A: Aram Bedros/Harvey Katz; B: Sandy/Roger Carroll; C Suzanne Bornstein/Mary Lee Guise.

The "when pigs fly:" I am writing this column while undergoing treatment for bird flu and oinkment for swine flu. Doctors are telling everyone to stay home 'til they feel better are trying to keep away from all these sick people. So I am literally putting this column to bed.

## Want to place an ad in the Southern California Bridge News?

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large (7.5 x 6) \$60

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medium-h (7.5 x 3) \$40

small (3.6 x 2.75) \$20

## District 23 Rank Changes 7/1/09 - 7/31/09

### Junior Master (5 MPs)

Jeanne Bader  
Kathy Campbell  
Charles Dillon  
Alice Edelen,  
Malka Fogel  
Gloria Frankel  
Elaine Godin  
Stephen Griffith  
Christine Hilger  
Thomas Hilger  
Inger Hogan  
Xingping Kang  
Donald Light  
Nishan Odabashian  
David Peterson  
Marie Peterson  
Matthew Riklin  
Zanda Leah Schirn  
Sara Seeley  
Nancy Spelke  
Virginia Teller  
Elaine Wagner

### Club Master (20 MPs)

Michael Abeles  
Ruth Baker  
Elisabetta Beraldo  
Joan Bixler  
Nathan Gittleman  
Nancy Hinds  
Aaron Jones  
Mike McKittrick  
Karen Schwartz  
Barbara Wellisch

### Sectional Master (50 MPs)

Agatha Angelides  
Janet Bennett  
Jerry Burrill  
Nolan Chang  
Nick Gao  
Fay Hsu  
Kelly Lightner  
Susanne Menck  
Meredith Murad  
Phyllis Schroeder  
Joan Stillwell

### Regional Master (100 MPs)

John Brant  
Chein-San Han  
Michael Korney  
Hsi-Chun Liu  
Robert Novell  
Jodie Rachmil  
William Rogers  
Yann Shen  
Thomas Stephenson  
Madhu Sudan  
Howard Taubr

### NABC Master (200 MPs)

Bob Dingle  
R Gasway  
Michael Horn  
Dorothy Lazar  
Bruce Merchant  
Roland Pineda  
Sherry Royce  
Maryanne Shaw  
Graetchn Torres

### Life Master (300 MPs)

Sandy Bernard  
Tracy Boys  
Larry Gordon  
Philip Swan

### Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Russell Buker  
Larry Gordon

### Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Cecil Glaessner  
Bruce Gordon  
Marta Peltz  
M Scott

### Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Jerry Murbach

### Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Andrew Vinock

### Emerald Life Master (7500 MPs)

John Jones

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

Panel: Jeff Goldsmith, Paul Ivaska, John Jones, Eddie Kantar, Tim Lolli, Mr. Mealy-mouth, Jill Meyers, Marshall Miles, Michael Shuster, Jon Wittes

# 1

IMPs  
Both Vul

1♣*	pass	1♠	pass
2♠	3♣	pass	?

\* may be doubleton

You hold: ♠A876 ♥A9642 ♦3 ♣752

What call do you make?

**Goldsmith:** 3♣. I'm planning to force to 5♣. Tough choice, but I prefer it to 4♦, which might be the winner if partner has, say ♠x ♥Kx ♦Axx ♣AQJxxxx. At the table, I thought 3♥ was a good idea; if we catch a 5-3 fit, the 10-trick game may be easier, but, upon reflection, I think committing to clubs is the right approach. In hearts a spade lead will leave partner's high trumps open to the tap. It wouldn't take much to talk me into 4♦... one more club, and it's a no-brainer.

**Ivaska:** 5♣. Even opposite something like ♠x ♥x ♦Kxxx ♣AQJ10xxx (and partner is probably stronger), 5♣ is an excellent contract. 3NT is also likely to make but might be a fiasco if partner doesn't have the club ace.

**Jones:** 5♣. This seems about right on values. I'd splinter with 4♦ if I had one more club.

**Kantar:** 3♣. I love my hand for clubs and don't want to confuse the issue by bidding 3♥.

**Lolli:** 5♣. I'm chicken since we could be missing 6♣ if partner has ♠x ♥x ♦Axxx ♣AKQxxxx. I'd like to bid 4♦ (splinter), but partner may not be on the same wavelength, though it would be illogical to think I have diamonds.

**Mr. Mealy-mouth:** 4♣. Inviting game and leaving room for partner to bid a four-card heart suit on the way to 5♣. If I had a fourth club or a club honor, I

would would make the stronger bid of 3♠.

**Meyers:** 3♠. Partner could not bid 2♣, since that would have been Michaels, so this is the first real opportunity to overcall. My hand is way too good (two aces and a stiff) to bid less, although I would have preferred a fourth trump.

**Miles:** 4♣. Partner should not have four hearts, since he didn't overcall 1♥ with a good hand (and short spades), and he didn't double 2♠. If he has only three hearts, I think clubs is our best chance for game.

**Shuster:** 4♦. This hand is too good for a direct 5♣ call, so the choice is between 3♠ (followed by 4♥) and 4♦, which is a more accurate immediate description, as splinters should deliver controls in both off suits.

**Wittes:** 3♠. It's hard to conceive having a better hand in support of clubs on this auction. Give partner as little as ♠x ♥xx ♦Axxx ♣AQJxxx, and we have an excellent play for 5♣.

*It seems pretty timid to just invite game. Can partner really envision a stiff and two aces? I think the only real question should be whether you try for a heart game or just clue partner in on the powerful club support.*





1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♦	pass	3♣**	pass
3♦	pass	3NT	pass
pass	dbl	?	

You hold: ♠A743 ♥32 ♦KQT ♣KQJT

**Goldsmith:** 5♦. It sounds like West has ♠KQJ10x and an ace. If it's hearts, we can probably wrap this around his neck. If it's diamonds or clubs, he's probably beating us. I'll run, but I would not have bid 3NT in the first place since I think we have a great shot at 6♦. Give partner ♠x ♥AKxxx ♦AJxxx ♣xx and 6♦ looks pretty good.

**Ivaska:** 5♦. This is a bit strange. West surely has something along the lines of ♠KQJ109 ♥Axx ♦x ♣Axxx, but she/he would be taking the considerable risk of steering us into the proper contract. After all, from his point of view, I could have substantial extra values, as I actually do. I'll take LHO at his word, but I don't want to bid just 4♦ since I don't think it's forcing and I don't want to risk missing a vulnerable game at IMPs. Partner has a stiff spade (as well as the jack of diamonds), please god.

**Jones:** 4♦. West should have KQJTx or better in spades with a red ace, maybe a little more. If that's the case, he's got it right, so let's bid something we can make. Pard can still bid 4♥ if his hearts are good enough.

**Kantar:** 4♣. That double is the best news I have heard in a long while. So West has good spades and an outside ace. We, on the other hand, should be able to make 6♦ if partner has a stiff spade. ♠x ♥AKxxx ♦AJxxx ♣xx or ♠x ♥AKxxx ♦Jxxxx ♣Ax. I think 4♣ says I have something like this. If I could be sure partner had a stiff spade, I would be tempted to jump to 6♦. By the way, I would have started with 2♣ with this hand. I much prefer using 2♠ as the fourth suit as opposed to 3♣ these respective holdings. What about missing a 4-4 spade fit? Possible, I guess, though I play Flannery so it is not going to happen to me.

The main reason I play Flannery is so I don't have to respond 1♠ on lousy 4 card suits. If partner has 4 spades, he has a reversing hand and his next bid will be spades.

**Lolli:** 5♦. I believe West. He has 5 or more strong spades and a red Ace. If partner has ♠x ♥QJxxx ♦AJxxx ♣Ax we're making 3NT with an overtrick, but with ♠Jx ♥AKxxx ♦J98xx ♣A, 3NT goes down while 6♦ has a play and switch the black suits, 6♦ has an excellent play.

**Mr. Mealy-mouth:** 4♦. I believe West. Facing ♠xx ♥AKxxx ♦AJxxx ♣x I have only eight tricks in notrump; facing ♠x ♥AKxxx ♦Jxxxx ♣Ax I have even less. But why, oh why, did I bid a weak-suited 1♠ instead of a strong-suited 2♣?

**Meyers:** 5♦. If a redouble indicates I'm worried about spades, I would do so. I would like to play the 5-2 heart fit if partner's hearts are good but I can't determine that so I feel endplayed into bidding 5♦ and play that 5-3 fit. If the doubler has very good spades and a red ace it was a very stupid double removing us from an unmakeable game.

**Miles:** 5♦. That's what I would have bid the round before. Partner probably needs the AKQ of hearts to make 3NT with a spade lead.

**Shuster:** 5♦ against a straight shooter. I'd prefer a redouble to show doubt - a treatment that I believe is best whenever the double calls for a specific lead. West surely has long spades and an outside ace and I can't see nine tricks unless partner holds both minor aces. I talked myself into this, as I'd previously written

PSP continued from previous page

a decent case for passing.

**Wittes:** 5♦. With a spade lead, we may have no play for 3NT, when 5♦ is ice cold. Thanks for the double, West.

*Assuming you believe West isn't crazy, I think you should expect good spades and TWO aces on your left. If so, game could be in jeopardy. 4♦ may, in fact, be forcing but I think that's the correct bid, since, as John Jones points out, partner could still bid 4♥.*



1♣ 1♠ 2♥ pass

?

You hold: ♠J54 ♥Q6 ♦AT8 ♣KQ964

What call do you make?

**Goldsmith:** 3♥. Ick. This is not a good hand for my favorite methods, because I like to play 3♥ forcing, and there really isn't any other rational choice.

**Ivaska:** 3♣. Less misleading than 3♥ (my second choice). 2NT might work out (and might even be better if played from my side, e. g., if partner has the spade ace), but I don't wish to risk a ludicrous result should North have a small doubleton spade, and there will usually be less dangerous routes to notrump, if that's the proper spot. I understand that some pairs play that 2♠ in this situation is not a cuebid but merely shows that South has no clear-cut bid. That would be ideal, but I don't think such an understanding is in general use.

**Jones:** 2NT. No call is correct here. 2NT, 3♣ and 3♥ are all plausible lies. I'll try 2NT which at least right sides NT if we belong there.

**Kantar:** 2NT. This is a sticky sequence. The question is: Is 3♣ forcing? If we play it as forcing, I would rebid 2NT which is definitely not forcing and take my chances. East did not raise spades so there is a reasonable chance partner has three spades. If we play 3♣, not forcing, I would do that instead.

**Lolli:** 3♣. I'd rather lie about the clubs rather than bid

2NT or 3♥. Maybe I shouldn't have opened?

**Mr. Mealy-mouth:** 3♣. Least of evils. Did I count two points for the HQ and one point for the doubleton? I erred initially by opening, and now I am hoisted by my own petard. Who taught me to open a balanced hand with a bad 11 HCP and only 2+ Honor Tricks?

**Miles:** 3♥. We probably belong in hearts, and if I don't raise right away, I can't show heart support without greatly overbidding my hand. 3♥ should be non-forcing when partner bid 2♥ in competition.

**Shuster:** 2NT. Accurate on shape and values and possibly even necessary opposite Kxx or Axx in spades. The lack of a spade raise greatly increases the chance that partner has length there.

**Wittes:** 3♣. Although my Qx of hearts is a reasonably good holding, I have a dead minimum with poor distribution, so I want to slow things down. I can always take a heart preference later on, if appropriate.

*Since I chose to open this hand, I want to end this auction as quickly as possible. I think 3♣ should be forcing and I'm not bidding notrump without a spade stopper, so that leaves 3♥.*



<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>	<u>RHO</u>
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1♣	pass	1♥	pass
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You hold: ♠AK3 ♥AK4 ♦2 ♣JT8654

What call do you make?

**Goldsmith:** 2♥. Make the ♣J the ♣K and it'd be a real problem, which many would solve with 1♠, but this hand is not quite strong enough to plan on three bids.

**Ivaska:** 3♦ (a minisplinter showing at least the values for 3♥ and a singleton diamond) or 3♥ if not playing minisplinters. I rarely jump raise with only three trumps, but I think it's reasonable here. 2♣ is an egregious underbid which suppresses the strong heart support to boot. 1♠, though, is a close second choice. It will be best if partner doesn't raise or pass, since I will then be able to show my strength and heart support without misleading North about my trump length. 3♦, however, will almost always be the best bid whenever partner has five (or more) hearts, since I'll be able to leave most of the rest to him, and a 4-3 heart fit may also play well when he doesn't, particularly if his diamonds are weak. (Even a 3-3 fit may play well if North has missorted his hand and the opponents are kind enough to never lead trump.)

**Jones:** 2♥. I'm maybe a jack heavy, but 2♣ has the same problem without supporting pard, and 1♠ is just too offbeat to be successful frequently.

**Kantar:** 1♠. It's one of these again. Hands like this always worm their way into a panel quiz. I'll go with the pack and bid 1♠ and then hearts. The alternative is to bid a loud 2♥ or a soft 3♥.

**Lolli:** 2♥. Last hand I had five clubs and bid them twice. Now I have six and bid them once. I realize this is an underbid, but I'm trying to sound more positive by raising partner rather than rebid my suit. A 3♦ minisplinter is lunacy with only three hearts.

**Meyers:** 2♥. What other choice is there? My club suit is ridiculous to rebid and this may be the only way to get to a game if partner has five hearts.

**Mr. Mealy-mouth:** 2♥. The Bridge World Death Hand. Close between 2♥ and 3♥ (despite the lack of a fourth heart). Third choice: 2♦, "manufacturing" a reverse and stopping West from leading a diamond against 3NT. Had partner responded 1♠, however, I would have raised to 3♠ (partner will have a fifth spade for a 1♠ response to 1♣ much more often than a fifth heart for a 1♥ response).

**Miles:** 1♠. Partner is less likely to pass than if I rebid 2♣, and when I support hearts next round, partner will know that I have a good hand with only 3 hearts. The only risk is that partner may insist upon spades with four. However, he may not have four, and it is possible that we can still play it in hearts if he raises to 2♠ and I bid 3♥.

**Shuster:** 2♥. This aims at the most likely game and is a reasonably accurate description of my enthusiasm for hearts.

**Wittes:** 2♥. A decided underbid, but any bid will not be a true description of this hand, and 2♥ should provide the most flexibility. With most of my partners, I play 2NT now by partner would be an artificial game try, over which I can show three trumps and a maximum. I don't like rebidding 2♣ with extra values, most of which are outside my suit, and 3♥ or 3♦ would be overbids with only three card support.

*I'm with the 2♥ bidders. If partner makes a move after that, then I can show my extras. I don't think the hand is quite as good as some panelists believe.*



1♦ 2NT\* pass ?

\* hearts & clubs

You hold: ♠QJ754 ♥K ♦QJ8742 ♣J

What do you lead?

**Goldsmith:** 3♣. I never pass unlimited artificial bids. I once passed Landy with QJ109xxx and out, and that was wrong. Of course, partner forgot to overcall 3NT for the majors (or 2NT and rebid 4♥ if you don't play 3NT for the majors) with his 11-trick hand, but it never occurred to him.

**Ivaska:** 3♣ (with an air of confidence, I hope). Passing 2NT would alert the opponents that we're probably in trouble, and my mediocre spot cards would make 2NT (likely doubled) a poor contract. Furthermore, partner is more likely to be 5-6 than 6-5, and I'd like to give West as much room as possible to bid. I've certainly done the wrong thing if North has a good hand, but that won't usually be the case. West's potential double of 3♣ is normally played as takeout, and East may not have enough in partner's suits to double for penalties, especially since he didn't double 2NT.

**Jones:** 3♣. I hate to pass forcing bids, and that warns LHO that I am weak. I'll redouble if I get doubled.

**Kantar:** Pass. This bid may end my invitation to the panel, not to mention the partnership, but I can't think of anything else. Of course, it might be amusing to raise to 3NT and watch.

**Lolli:** Pass. Am I allowed to do that? *[At the risk of ridicule and scorn from the rest of the panel]* Partner would need a very good hand to make 3NT with this misfit. If my LHO doubles, partner can bid his longer suit, pass or redouble for rescue. If partner passes 2NTX, that's where he plays it. If he redoubles, I bid 3♣ and judge what to do over DBL P P.

**Meyers:** 3♣. I hope I would bid very fast and confidently. If partner is 6/5 in her suits I would think she (or he) would be likely to be longer in clubs or she might have overcalled 2♥. I don't think this is a very good problem because I don't think there is a good answer. *[Yes, but it was a real hand and we're often faced with difficult situations that require finding the best "bad" bid.]*

**Mr. Mealy-mouth:** 3♣. Better to play in our 1-7 club fit than our 1-6 heart fit. Sorry if I've undervalued my ♥K and ♣J. If partner has ♠-- ♥AQJxxx ♦-- ♣KQxxxxx and we miss a slam, I'll explain that I "didn't fancy my hand" and feared a 4-1 club split and a 5-1 heart split.

**Miles:** Pass. (Second choice is 3♣, which partner is less likely to raise than if I had bid 3♥.) I think if I bid hearts or clubs, we won't make it unless he has extra values, and then he might raise so that we still wouldn't get a plus score. I'd rather risk undoubled undertricks that risk a disaster if partner bids too much, either to make or as a save.

**Shuster:** 3♣. I'm sure that pass is NOT the right answer - partner could have ♠-- ♥AQJxxx ♦-- ♣KQTxxx for all you know. I could live with 3NT, but 3♣ gives us a little more wiggle room. Partner will assume my clubs are at least xx, but so what?

*It seems like the passers are assuming partner has a bad hand. If partner has an extremely distributional hand, the ♥K & ♣J are extremely valuable cards. On the actual hand, partner held ♠x ♥JTxxxx ♦-- ♣AKTxxx. 3♣ will make if you guess the play whereas 2NT is down 3.*

