

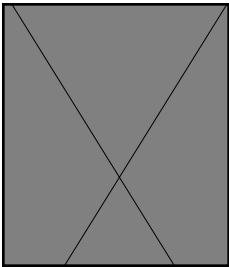
Southern California Bridge News

Volume 45, #11

November 2010

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Marina del Rey Regional is Over

by Bill Schreiber
ALACBU President

The Marina del Rey Regional Tournament is over. A special thanks to the Marina del Rey Hotel staff, especially to Linda Lansdowne, the event coordinator. In spite of this being the first bridge tournament at this site, I would estimate that virtually all of our needs, wishes and desires were met and exceeded. Of course there were long lines at the valet parking, but that happens, and it was FREE. We have also been assured that we will be able to better control the air-conditioning in the future. The biggest complaint was the overcast weather... I don't think we can do anything about that. We are in negotiations to go back to the Marina del Rey Hotel in 2011 and 2012, and perhaps for February in 2012 and 2013.

Upcoming events for ALACBU include the Grand National Teams, scheduled for mid February, for which the winners in all four divisions will receive a stipend to help pay for their trip to the summer NABC in Toronto. Depending on the financial condition of the district, we may be able to provide more for the winners than in the past several years. This will be better known by the next Board of Directors meeting in February.

Our Regional-At-Sea occurs from April 30 through May 7. This rates to be a moneymaker for the district. The more people who go on the cruise, the more money the district makes.

Bridge Week (back to a 10-Day schedule), again at the Pasadena Hilton for 2011, runs from Tuesday, June 28 through Thursday, July 7. There will be many changes to the schedule, which will be published in the near future.

Finally, a fond farewell and a greeting to new blood.

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*



Kent, Wilson, and Seizers Receive National Recognition

by Rand Pinsky
District Director

Every year as District Director I get the honor of nominating candidates to positions on the National Goodwill Committee and National Charity Committee. For the year 2011 I have nominated the following District 23 members for these honors.

ELLEN KENT to the National Goodwill Committee. When Ellen is not involved with bridge, she is a clinical psychologist. She divides her time between Israel, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Currently she serves as our District Tournament Chairman and she is the Vice Chairman of the National Board of Governors. She is a Diamond Life Master and an accredited Five-Star Teacher. She is a regular lecturer at all North American Bridge Championships as well as on the National Seeding Committee. She has over 100 regional wins and has placed 43 times in the top 10 in National Championships.



ROY WILSON to the National Goodwill Committee. Roy is a Gold Life Master. He is the web master for the

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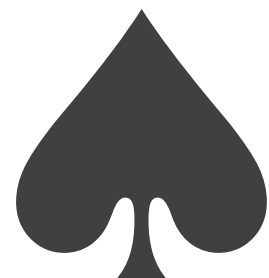
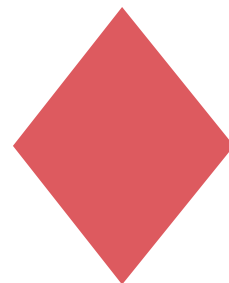
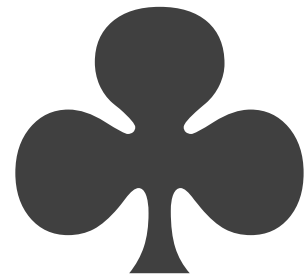
Pasadena website and he writes the Pasadena news column each month along with Jan Wickersham. He specializes in home bridge lessons and is looked up to by all of the members of his district. Roy is a retired professor of mathematics and engineering from Cerritos College. In his spare time, Roy helps seniors with all of their computer problems. I suggest you check out the Pasadena web site.

FERN AND BOB SEIZER to the National Charity Committee. For many years now Fern and Bob have been organizing a yearly charity bridge game to raise money for the research to cure multiple sclerosis. Every August at the Barrington Bridge Club, over 35 tables of bridge come together for a bridge lesson from Eddie Kantar and an afternoon of bridge with lunch and desert. Kathy and I have had the pleasure of attending for the past few years and it is very rewarding afternoon.

I do not have any additional national news to report this month. The deadline for agenda items for the Orlando Board Meetings is later this month, so I do not have that news to report. I will report on agenda items next month. In the meantime, if you want to contact me, please write me at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net.

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John Killian, who serves on the Long Beach Unit Board, will no longer be Tournament Manager. I thank John for his years of service as the tournament, as well as being my predecessor as president of ALACBU, Inc. We welcome Peter Benjamin as both the new tournament and chairman of the Appeals Committee. Peter helped John immensely at the Marina del Rey Regional Tournament and I am confident that he will continue the fine work in this critical position in ALACBU.



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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Gin

September was the month of STaC games. All games are reported in depth in this column. Valencia Bridge Studio reported that Lee Chicoine/Aggie Oschin placed fifth in the district. C.K. Kennedy-Ross/Marguerite Pinkes placed fourth in the C flight in the same event. On Tuesday, Lola Messiha/Doris Thompson came in first in District 23, thereby earning an additional 15 points. There were other winners from the Lancaster Club, but none were reported to me so I am assuming they did not want to be recognized. Congratulations are extended to all winners.

Mini bridge lessons will be held on November 2, 9, and 16 at Valencia Bridge Studio. Lessons will begin at 5:30 and end at 6:30. The Tuesday game will begin at 6:45. John Swanson is the instructor for the aforementioned lessons.

The Eight is Enough team game was rescheduled to October 24 because the original date conflicted with the Regional Tournament at Marina Del Rey. This game was a Unit Game so there were plenty of points to be won. Hope you competed at these interesting games. Upcoming Unit Games are scheduled on November 21 and December 4. Lunch is served at Unit Games and the card fee of \$10 includes the lunch. December's Unit Game is also the holiday dinner, annual board meeting, and general election. Make your reservations early because the dinner will be catered and an accurate count of attendees is appreciated. Note that the December event is scheduled on the first Saturday of December. A request from the membership for a Saturday Unit Game was honored by the board.

The winners of regular scheduled games were Beth and Charles Morrin on Sunday with 65.7%. Tuesday winners were Nora Fincher/Bob Hart with 68.71%. Brad Ward/Dave Gasper took the honor on a Wednesday night win with 63.89%. Thursday night 99er game was a tie between Debbie/Robert Powell and Dr. Murthy/Sonja

Plahn with 68.75%. At the Thursday morning game at Castaic Fabian Fang/Everett Dehn won with 68.96%. Jerry Burrill/Ruth Baker won on Tuesday night at the Bridge Studio in Valencia with 64.09%. The best of the month honor went to Mary Stauf/George MacDonald with a hefty 78.75% game

Unit Game 9/19 overall	A	B	C
Lola Messiha/Doris Thompson	1	1	-
Marlene and Dave Gasper	2	-	-
Brad Ward/Willo Phillips	3	-	-
Bill Brodek/Pat Juenemann	4	2	-
Mary Stauf/Mary Ann Shaw	5	3	-
M.E. Downs/Joanne Freatman	-	-	1
Beth Morrin/Kelly Lightner	-	-	2
Peggy Fleming/Jackie Moor	-	-	3

STaC 9/21 overall			
Lola Messiha/Doris Thompson	1	-	-
Brad Ward/Marlene Gasper	2	-	-
Dave White/Kelly Lightner	3	1	1
Bob Hart/Nora Fincher	4	2	2

STaC 9/22 overall			
Brad/Marlene	1	-	-
Lola/Doris	2	-	-
Sharry Vida/Sonja Plahn	3	1	1
Ron and Sandi Oest	4	2	-
Mary Ellen/Ginn Dudley	-	-	2/3
Dr. Murthy/Rob Kent	-	-	2/3

STaC 9/24 overall			
George MacDonald/Mary Stauf	1	1	-
Nora Fincher/Hal Roberts	2	2	-
Willo/Brad	¾	-	-
Russ Buker/Barb Shuping	¾	-	-

STaC Valencia Bridge Studio 9/21 E/W			
Donna Davidson/Doug Kushner	1	-	-
Paul Mostman/Bruce Bloch	2	1	-

Kristi Kubo/Mira Rowe	3	2	1
Arif Shah/Basant Shah	4	-	-
Lou Ann/Don Vandemore	-	-	2/3
Viviane Dinehart/Bob Cuccias	-	-	2/3

N/S

Rand Pinsky/John Langer	1	-	-
Dan Axtell/Lamont Johnson	2	1	1
Peggy Fleming/Kathy Swaine	3	2	2
Jerry Burrill/Ruth Baker	4	3	3

A parting thought...You have to accept whatever comes along and the only important thing is you meet it with the best you have to give.

Glendale-Verdugo

by Dorothy La Maie

Unit Game - 1:00 p.m., Saturday, November 13 (12:15 p.m. buffet lunch)

**Board of Directors meeting
11:00 a.m., Saturday, November 13**

John Villalobos is becoming a headline-hogger! Yes, he did it again, capturing 1st place each time he played in a late September week at the Regency (accomplished with the stellar assistance of his partners, Paul Nason and Carolyn Cohen). Moreover, John was joined by Paul, Bob Tayrien, and Brad Beland, placing 4th in a Compact KO at the Culver City Sectional. Apparently that "J.V. Strategy" is working...Sharon Wolf needed some strategy to cope with airport procedures in four states (Colorado, Ohio, Kentucky, and North Carolina) all within a two-week stint, applying her area of management expertise to firms in need of some. In spite of some jet lag, all went well, and she was welcomed home by a handsome full-grown Huskie, which she had adopted from a neighbor's brood. Here again, things are going well, and Sharon is being taken for a "strong" walk several times a day now...

A welcome of another kind goes out to new members of our unit, Mary Lou Matagna and Donald L. Zachary. Also, congratulations are in order for H.E. Kraepelien, who has attained the 1000 MP Silver Life Master accreditation.

As for the October Unit Day Game, Merry Besvold

again proved her mettle by delivering those varied tins of delicious lasagna for our buffet lunch, before returning home to where her husband, who has been ailing for some time, needed her very special care. He and we could not ask more from this lady - she is terrific! In following through, board members pitched in, as did director Ron Lifshutz. Vern Vanderpol and Norma Simpson were the overall Unit Game winners; following are the detailed results of the game:

North/South

A1 (A2 oa)	Tim Lolli/Dan Oakes
A2 (A3 oa)	Ann Banta/Ron Moeckel
A3	Steve Licker/Bob Gish
A4	Jake Frankel/Herman Helber
B1	Pat Abbey/Sharon Wolf

East/West

A1 (A1 oa)	V. Vanderpol/N. Simpson
A2 (A4 oa)	Hal Gordon/Tom Wan
A3 (A5 oa)	Amr El Ghamry/Dan Botaca
A4 (B3 oa)	Harold Knowles/Zach Vedro
B4 oa	Esther Tapelband/Bob Hogan

Toasted chestnuts (I know, I know, it seems a little early for toasted chestnuts in late October, but for heaven's sakes, there are already Christmas decorations in all the department stores!) to the above winners - and special kudos to Ron Moeckel. After the unit game results had already been posted and finalized and everyone had gone home, Ron discovered an error in his scorekeeping. He promptly phoned in the correction, even though it moved him (and partner Ann Banta) from first overall to second overall. Ron is a real scholar of bridge and a gentlemanly one as well, *n'est-ce pas?*

Best wishes to all of you for a meaningful Thanksgiving holiday. If you spend any time at the ACBL Nationals in Orlando, be sure to let me know so I can brag about you in next month's column. And here's another "be sure": fast-forward to your December calendar and circle Saturday, the 11th - Christmas party time and Unit Game at the Regency! Take care everybody, and continue to enjoy...

ATU continued on page 6



District 23 Rank Changes 9/1/10 - 9/30/10

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Pamela Cronn
Joan Each
Dianne Edson
Paul Green
Joan Katz
Luda Kuprenas
Genevieve Kyle
Dwight McCormick
Jane Okimoto
Peter Page
Sonja Plahn
Aramis Simion
Peg Thoren
Chang-Huey Wu
Donald Zachary

Club Master (20 MPs)

Renee Dorret
Fabian Fang
Robert Feinberg
Herb Garfinkel
Joyce Klossner
Aggi Oschin
William Purdy Jr
Seymour Stoll
Bob Williams

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Helene Fierman
Sally Gordy
Lillian Grusd
William Raines
Jerome Smith
Elizabeth Voss
Bonny Walsh
Karen Watson

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Lunsford Laverty
Anne Munchow
Nancy Nakanishi
Herbert Rosenthal

NABC Master (200 MPs)

John Bray
Sheila Bray
Norman Imberman
William Inglis
John Langer
Stephen Massman

Life Master (300 MPs)

Laurie Rubin

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Sharon Aronson
Aaron Craig
Neal Kleiner
George MacDonald
Marilyn Smith

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Robert Rothman

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Betty Jackson
Sam Namer
Candace Scott

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Lewis Himmell

Grand Life Master (10,000 MPs)

Mitch Dunitz

Congratulations everyone!

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

Long Beach

unit website: www.acblunit557.org

club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

by Jon Yinger

September 18 unit game: Overall results: 1st in A: Mark Tang/Sankar Reddy, 2nd Bee Kinman/Verna Burns, 3rd Betty McClellan/Jo Daigle, 4th Gloria Sedore/Verna Baccus, 5th Baum Harris/Steve Skinner, 6th Kay Tseng/John Melis. B flight overalls: 2nd Keith and Susan Hafen, 3rd Aaron Jones/Jerry Cassaday, 4th Al and Sharon Appel, 5th Diane Sachs/Fern Dunbar. C flight: 3rd April and John Berg, 4th Alice and Ted Nichols. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master game: 1st Monica Gettis/Tom Cotten, 2nd/3rd Arlene Spatz/Dale Blessing tied with Jerry and Melanie Smith, 4th Kay Hyland/Lynne Finley, 5th Bernie and Laurence Gresko. Congratulations to all!

October 10 unit game: (Eight is Enough team game) results: The first place team, each winning 3.68mp, was Cayce Blanchard/Bob Stoldt and John Killian/Dwight Dorman. 2nd place, each winning 2.76mp: Bee Kinman/Verna Burns and Jay and Connie Young. 3rd place, each winning 2.07mp: T. S. Chernuchin/Paul Pettler and Lynne Finley/Kay Hyland. 4th place, each winning 1.84mp: Jean Matz/Lois Perovich and April Berg/Leslie Williams. Tied for 5th/6th, each winning 1.21mp: Eileen Nelson/Julia Cunningham and Sherry Troeger/FayBeckerman tied with John Melis/Kay Tseng and Fern and Hank Dunbar. Congratulations to you all!

70% games 9/15 through 10/15: Sept 18 Mark Tang/Sankar Reddy had a 70.40% game. Sept 23 Jo Daigle/Doris James had 72.66%. Sept 24 in the evening game Subba Ravipudi/Mark Habashi had 70.37%. That same day at Leisure World Verna Burns/Bee Kinman had 73.75%, and the next day they had a stunning 82.29%. The Sept 27 NLM game Sharon Biederman/Tom Whitsell had 76.19%. Sept 29 John Farr/Jackie Hess had 69.98%. Oct 3 in the NLM again Shron Biederman/Toni Whitesell had 73.75%. And in the open game Oct 6 Mimi and Ron Spain had 72.03%. Congratulations to you all!

Big masterpoint awards: Big masterpoint awards for 1st overall September 15 through October 15: In the instant matchpoint game September 16 BobMault/Jon Yinger won 3.16 gold mp for 1st NS and Steve

Rowe/John Crabtree won 3.16 gold mp for 1st EW. In the September 19 unit game Sankar Reddy/Mark Tang won 4.39mp. October 3 Phyllis Parker/Bob Mault won 3.17mp. October 4 John Farr/Jackie Hess won 5.00mp. October 5 Steve and Charlotte Sturm won 4.00mp in the afternoon game and Bob Mault/Cory Hand won 3.50mp in the evening game. October 6 Kimi Matsumoto/Mark Teaford won 4.33mp. October 7 Jackie Hess/John Farr won 4.50mp in the afternoon game and George Welsh/Bob Mault won 3.17mp in the evening game. October 8 Betty McClellan/Verna Baccus won 6.33mp in the afternoon game and Cory Hand/Mark Teaford won 3.17mp in the evening game. October 9 Bill Hall/Tom Adams won 4.50mp. Big awards for 2nd overall: In the unit game September 16 Bee Kinman/Verna Burns won 3.29mp. October 4 Cecil Cooke/Irwin Bender won 3.75mp. October 6 Steve Sturm/Eleth Fields won 3.25mp. October 7 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger won 3.38mp. October 8 Bob Mault/Phyllis Parker won 4.75mp. October 9 Steve Skinner/Bob Lavery won 3.38. And for 3rd overall, on October 8 Mark Teaford/Earl VanDerVord won 3.56mp. Congratulations to all!

New members: We issue a warm welcome to new members Hugh and Audrey Linden and to new members transferring into our unit, Fenton Gilmer, Brandon Sheumaker, and Joan Tschirki. Welcome to you all (especially our new manager)!

Status changes: New Junior Master: Rhea Scharf. Club Master: Kathleen Pecarovich. NABC Master: William Rawlings. And new Silver Life Master: Martha Schuster. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming events at the club: Sunday, October 31 there will be a sectionally rated Halloween Party game; prizes will be awarded for the best costumes. November 7 there will be a Unit Game—lunch at 12:30, game at 1. There will be no club games Thursday November 11 through Sunday, November 14 while the LBBC hosts the Unit 557 Long Beach Sectional. Y'all come!

Get well wishes to: Al Mastron, Diane Tomooka, Judy Lorber, Merlin Hansen, and Lina Cheng.

Leisure World Bridge news submitted by Gene Yaffee: Bea Kinman/Verna Burns had a 73.6% game on Friday, 9/24, and then scored a 82% on Saturday! Other games of note were Mary Thomas/George Welsh with 69.5%, Bea Kinman/Bill Linskey with 69.8% which round up to 70% games. Results of all games are posted on www.acblunit557.org, click on "Leisure

World Results” on the left hand side.

Leisure World, Seal Beach, has added two more games a week. There are games on Monday and Thursday in Clubhouse #3, Friday and Saturday in Clubhouse #1. Play starts promptly at 12:30 p.m. Players are asked to be there at 12:15 to confirm their reservations.

A “Free Play” lottery is held at the Monday and Thursday games for all players.

Since Leisure World is a secured community, non-residents must make reservations to play in order to get their names listed at the main gate for entrance. For more information and/or to make a reservation call Ruth Kaller, Club Manager, at 562-430-0316.

Welcome back to: Hessel Sikkema after being away from the bridge table for three months recuperating from major surgery. Get well wishes to Lottie Kostar.

Join the board: Elections to the board of directors of Unit 557 are coming in December. If you are interested in serving, email Unit 557 President Diane Sachs:

dianasachs@yahoo.com.

Message from our president: Since a new unit board will soon be elected, this is an opportunity to share with you some of what your unit does for you. Once a month we hold a unit game where we rent the club facilities, hire a director, sanction the game, and supply lunch. We also run a sectional, and this year we are doing it in partnership with the club. Every few years we publish a club directory which is available to all the members. At the annual awards meeting the unit gives out many free game cards, license plate holders and trophy recognition in the various master point ranks. In addition, we donate money to charity. Thank you for your support and we welcome suggestions for enhancing our unit.

Get the Unit 557 newsletter via email: If you miss getting the newsletter by snail mail (it’s been more than two years since the district quit mailing them out), you can have me send you a copy by email. Send me your email address and I’ll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

February 7-11, 2011 Monday to Friday

Las Vegas

Our First Tournament at

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GLITTER GULCH SECTIONAL

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<p>Monday, February 7</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 1 of 3</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams Bracketed Mon-Tue KO Teams Rd 2 of 3</p>	<p>Wednesday, February 9</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams Bracketed Tue-Wed KO Teams Final Rd</p> <p>1:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 1 of 3</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Stratified Pairs Stratified 0-300 Pairs Stratified Swiss Teams Bracketed Wed-Thu KO Teams Rd 2 of 3</p>	<p>Friday, February 11</p> <p>10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 4:15 p.m.) (This is a 2-session event, but single session entries may be sold at the Director's discretion.)</p> <p>10:00 a.m. & TBD Stratified Swiss Teams (2-sessions) Swiss Teams will finish by 5:15 p.m.</p> <p><i>All stratified events are stratified by the average masterpoints of the team or pair.</i></p> <p>Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750 1/N: 0-20/50/100/200/300</p> <p>CARD FEES: \$10.00 per session/per player for dues paying ACBL members \$11.00 per session/per player for all others</p> <p><i>Thank you for not wearing Fragrance</i></p> <p>Bally's Las Vegas Hotel & Casino 3645 Las Vegas Boulevard South Las Vegas, NV 89109-4307</p>	<p>Need a Partner? Need Teammates? Visit our online Partnership Desk at www.LVsectional.com</p> <p>Director-in Charge: Bill Michael Tournament Co-chairs: Barbara Dunkley Tom Shulman 702 301-5856 Tom@LVsectional.com</p> <p>Bally's Room Rate Sunday \$89/night Monday thru Thursday \$49 Friday \$99/night Reserve by January 18 "Mention American Contract Bridge"</p> <p>Reservations 800 634-3434 or book online at LVsectional.com Sanction S1102046</p>
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BALLY'S LAS VEGAS

Pasadena San Gabriel

www.acblunit559.com

by Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

Unit Game - November 7 San Marino Bridge Club

This is going to feel very weird because I'm writing the newsletter but was not present for the last unit game. Mike Shuman and I were up at the Seaside Regional in Oregon, Mike receiving mega-points while I received only a pittance.

Mary Falvey was in charge of the food, so I know it had to have been wonderful. Half of the winners were not unit members this time, but we are always delighted to host visitors. Jeff Goldsmith and Paul Markarian took the first place honors in A, Sharon Wolf and John Villalobos won in B, and David Solin and Clifton Cates finished first in C. Congratulations to you all.

I am writing this before the LA Regional gets underway. I hope we have lots to report for members of our unit in the next newsletter.

Our Holiday Party is just around the corner - December 12 is the date. It will once again be held at the Arcadia Community Center, and the cost will be \$35. Karen Arase is in charge of the event, so nothing more needs to be said. It will be first class. Be thinking now of a really nice gift to bring for the raffle, perhaps something you would like to receive yourself (\$15-\$20 value). This is our means of raising money for our charity, which is the Elizabeth House in Pasadena. They minister to both the homeless and to unmarried, pregnant women. They provide training in life skills to help them re-enter the community, and they give housing for up to six months for the new mothers after the birth of the children.

It's always fun to report winners who have big games... Yosuke and Keiko Fukami had an 80.26% game a few weeks ago at the Bridge Center. That's a great score!

Did you know there's a new game in town? The San Marion Bridge Club is now holding an open game on Wednesdays starting at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome, and the competition is separated into three flights so that players are only scored against other players at the same level. The top players are tough to play against,

but that's a learning experience, right?

A question for you – Your LHO opens the bidding and your partner doubles. You bid your best suit at the one level and your partner then bids 1NT. How many points do you expect partner to hold? A minimum hand? 15-17 points? More than 17 points? The general agreement is that your partner has more. Why? Because your partner could have bid 1NT directly but chose to double and then bid it. When your partner doubles and then bids, you should expect a better hand.

Another question – Your partner opens 2♣ and you bid 2♥, which you have agreed to play as showing no ace nor king. At some point in the bidding your partner jumps to 4NT. Is that Blackwood asking for aces? Hmm... that can't be, because you already said you didn't have any. Talk to your partner and find an agreement! You might decide it asks for queens, or you might find another use for the bid, but you should discuss it.

Third question – You open 1NT and your opponent jumps to the three-level, a preemptive bid. Your partner doubles. Is that a penalty double? Many partnerships agree to double for penalty when the opponents bid at the two-level but to use a double at the three-level as negative, showing support for the other three suits. What have you and your partner agreed to?

Fourth question – Your RHO opens 1NT and you pass. Your LHO bids 2♦, alerted as a transfer to hearts. Now your partner cuebids two hearts! What is she telling you? Yes, of course it's forcing, but what does your partner's hand look like? Here's the answer: your partner has two suits; the other major, spades, and a minor. You can ask about the minor by bidding 2NT. If your partner has both minors she would have bid 2NT immediately.

Last question – Your partner wants you to play DONT as a defensive convention over an opponent's bid of 1NT. (Any bid you make shows that suit and a higher ranking suit. Double is a single long suit.) OK, so your LHO opens 1NT and your partner bids 2♣, which shows clubs and one of the higher suits. You can ask about the other suit by bidding 2♦. Will you ask if you hold this hand?

♠32 ♥KJ9 ♦87432 ♣T96

DONT is popular, but as you can see it has a problem. There are newer and better ways.

District 23 presents...



April 30-May 7, 2011
MEXICAN RIVIERA
Roundtrip Los Angeles
on Princess Cruises' Sapphire Princess

EARN GOLD POINTS • DAILY BRIDGE LECTURES WITH LARRY COHEN

Your Host, Larry Cohen

Larry Cohen has won 26 National Championships and lectures worldwide. He's also the author of many books including the best-sellers *To Bid or Not to Bid* and *Following the LAW*. Two of his four interactive CDs were honored as "best CD of the year".



Larry's Regional at Sea lectures—cover fascinating topics for players of all levels—feature a VuGraph screen, enabling participants to see the hands being played.

District 23 presents...

ACBL Sanctioned Regional

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Everything Included!
Daily Lectures with Larry
Card Fees • Gratuities

Special cocktail party with Larry, and final awards ceremony too.

Accommodations are subject to availability. Alice Travel will be happy to arrange air travel as well as pre- and post-cruise hotel stays.

Tournament Chairman: Ellen Kent - 310-822-2021

Our Regionals-At-Sea are so Popular... We're doing it again.

Next spring we're setting sail for exotic ports along the Mexican Riviera, roundtrip from Los Angeles, aboard Princess Cruises' *Sapphire Princess*, Larry Cohen will be giving morning lectures and there are private events, lots of tournament play, and side games.

Event Schedule (subject to slight changes)

One-Session Pair Games every session.
299er Games, based on attendance.

	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	2:00 PM	8:00 PM
Sat., April 30	9:00-10:00 AM-Daily Free Beginner Lesson with Ellen Kent			Registration Bracketed KO1 Round 1
	Lesson/Analysis with Larry after all Two-Session Open Pair games at 4:30 P.M.			
Sun., May 1	Larry Cohen Lecture	Open Pairs 1st Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO1 Round 2
Mon., May 2	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO1 Round 3
Tues., May 3	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Open Pairs 1st Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 1
Wed., May 4	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 2
Thur., May 5	Larry Cohen Lecture	Open Pairs 1st Session	Open Pairs 2nd Session	Side Game Series Bracketed KO2 Round 3
Fri., May 6	Larry Cohen Lecture	Swiss Teams 1st Session	Swiss Teams 2nd Session	5:00 PM: Awards Program & Party

Flights: C-up to 500; B-500 to 1500; A-1500+

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ATU *continued from page 8*

Pomona-Covina by Vic Sartor

**Unit Game - 11:00 a.m.
Saturday, November 20
Lunch Served**

Our unit column is not exactly going to be hot-off-the-wires news flashes this month, due to the way our unit schedule and ALACBU's publishing deadline worked out. We won't be able to tell you who won the October unit game or give you the unit board election results, for example. We can, however, reveal that the allies won World War II, and that mankind has finally landed a man on the moon.

In slightly more recent news, we do have the results of the September Unit Game. Penny Barbieri/Rosalie Roberts placed 1st overall, followed by Dave and Susan Ruoff and Lary Alba/Cordell Goode. Lynne Parker/Karen Olin won their direction, with Tom Lill/Linda Ananea 2nd. The October individual was popular enough to have a separate 199er section. Clint Lew won the main event, followed by Roger Boyar, and Bob Kakade. Carolyn Moyers won the 199er section, edging out Luan Schirmer and Delores Kelley.

In club results, Ron Purkis/Ann McClelland posted a nice 72% game to take top game-of-the-month honors. Other winners were Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Lary Alba, Dave Ruoff, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Clint Lew, Walt Otto, Lynne Parker, Tom Lill, Ken Bloomfield, Kurt Trieselmann, Pat Radamaker, Janet Rivette, Clarence Rivette, and Gayle Ginsberg.

Away from the tables, best wishes to Lary Alba, who is recovering from quadruple bypass surgery. By the time this reaches print, we hope to see him back playing. We'd also like to thank and congratulate Pat Radamaker for the great job she has done in compiling a comprehensive history of the Pomona-Covina unit. She has pored through piles of records and old photos dating back to the early 1950's. In the process of gathering identifications, she has jogged the memories of many of us. It's been enjoyable for many of us to recall long-forgotten friends and bridge competitors.

Our two hands of the month would have felt right at home in an old episode of the "Twilight Zone."

In a recent evening session, the South hand seemed to be continuously holding ♥AJ10xx or ♥AJ10xxx. On the first of the two hands in question (neither vul), North opened a strong 1♣ (17+ HCP). East innocently stuck in a 1♥ overcall. After all, what could possibly go wrong at the one-level? The answer was: you could find the hand behind you with ♥AJ10xxx and 11 HCP of his own. After South's pass and North's reopening double, East wound up taking exactly 2 tricks, down 1100. The fact that N/S could make a slam didn't matter, matchpoint-wise. On the very next hand, East thought ♠Kxx ♥KQ9xxxx ♦xxx was worth a vulnerable 3♥ bid. Not that night. South, naturally, had ♥AJ10xx and 14 HCP behind him. After another reopening double by North, East found himself down 800. If you come across a man crouched on a sidewalk, babbling, "Never bid hearts, never bid hearts," it's just our friend East. He's been in therapy for a few weeks now, and we hope to see him back at the bridge club sometime soon. 'Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Remember to come celebrate with Mort: Sunday, December 12 at noon, the Bridge Academy is throwing a bash celebrating Mort Nagler's 100th birthday. Mort has been one of our very loyal players for many years and he still plays a great game at "nearly" 100 years of age. There will also be an upgraded club championship with x-tra points. The newspaper will be doing a human interest story on this event. Any food contributions and an RSVP would be appreciated.

Holiday party: Our holiday party will be held on Sunday, December 19. Those of you who attended last year's party will be happy to hear that the Warner Center Marriott will again be the location. The Marriott is at 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, 818-887-4800. Tickets include two sessions of junior and open games, beginning at 1:00 p.m., as well as self-parking, snacks, and dinner. Holiday party tickets will be available November 1 from current board members. Advance tickets are \$35 and tickets purchased at the door, if available, will be \$45. Last year's event attracted a capacity crowd and our limited space behooves players to buy tickets early. Special thanks go to Gloria Malkin for once again arranging a wonderful Party Package.

Board member elections: On November 1, sign-

up sheets will be posted at the Bridge Academy and the 750 Club for candidate names. At the beginning of December absentee ballots will be available from current board members. Each absentee ballot will be sealed in an envelope with the voter's signature across the flap. Voting for New Board members will conclude with the absentee ballots being opened and counted with ballots from the attendees at the Holiday Party. Don't allow your organizational skills and innovated ideas to go unheard. Step up and add your name to one of the candidate sign up sheets.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for September:
750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 6.12, Gloria Malkin 4.23, Jimmie Swan 4.20, James Gardner 4.09, Marcia Lauffer-Rosner 3.76, Vera Mandell 3.75, Don Rosen 3.67, Bob Williams 3.49, and Jody Lombardo 2.78.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game: Allan Palansky 11.08, Carol Stein 5.17, Earl Beer 4.71, Elaine Moore 4.60, Larry Gordon 3.41, Gregory Bpzin 3.17, Wayne (Doug) Beagle 3.10, Sandy Berman 2.86, Norman Berman 2.86, and James Fu 2.78.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Armand Szulc 13.79, Gilbert Stinebaugh 13.56, Ellen Anten 12.64, Tom Wylie 12.32, Allan Palansky 11.08, Dick Lum 10.73, Leda Danzig 10.47, Harvey Witt 9.40, Marta Peltz, and Mary Dougherty 8.74.

70% Games for September: Dick Lum/Carol Diamant 73.63, Jean Mitchell/Norm Bloomfield 72.02, and William Carlson, Jr./Barbara Finchuk 70.09.

In memoriam: The Unit members send heartfelt condolences to Lila Treitel and family as we note the loss of Werner Treitel on October 1. Werner will be remembered as a man with a great love of life, family, and friends.

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.

Torrance-South Bay

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:

A schedule for special events at the South Bay Bridge Club had not yet been received when this article was sent in. Check the above website for special events in November when this info is available.

An early reminder that the Unit Christmas party and game will be on Sunday, December 12 in the afternoon.

Club Championships: On October 2, the Club Championship was captured by Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi in Flight A with Linda and Bill Lama on top in Flight B. The October 7 Club Championship was won by Ernie Frank/Bernie Weinstein in Flight A and David Peim/Steve Ramos in Flight B.

Team Winners: Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games.

September 21 STaC: Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Ernie Frank, and Bernie Weinstein

September 28: Jim Dutton, Broniek Felczer, Luis Gamio and, David Peim

October 5: Arlene and Stanley Greengard, Ernie Frank, and Bernie Weinstein

October 12: Winnie Ninneman, Fran Israel, Barbara Shortwell, and Henry Crowder

District 22/23 STaC Overall Finishers: Pairs that placed in the District 22/23 STaC overalls in games played in Torrance South Bay unit clubs are as follows..

Monday Morning, September 20

3A	2B	Dolores Nawa/Kiyoko Ohtomo
4A		Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott
5A		Lucy Tredennick/Dean Kaloudis
	5B	Harry Wessels/Betsy Amador
	6B	Andy Anderson/Marty Cooper
	2C	Beverly Narahara/Carole King
	3C	Linda Bernard/Robert Van Lone
	4C	Gloria Brown-Cook/Brenda Green
	5C	Dorothy Laird/Carole Mason

Monday Evening, September 20

3A	Luis Gamio/C. M. Meaux
4A	Steve Love/Mark Itabashi

Tuesday Morning, September 21, NLM Pairs

1A	Jamila Malika/Yokuyo Sheehy
----	-----------------------------

2A Suzanne Kuuskmae/Fred Swinth

3A Joyce Klossner/Setsuko Miyasaka

Tuesday Morning, September 21

3A Gabriela Jackson/Shirley Goldenson

5A Richard Cheng/John J. McDermott

2B Charlotte Lewin/Mahin Khadivi

4B Hank Sheehan/Steven Dage

Wednesday Morning, September 22

1A Fran Israel/Ray Mack

3A 2B Harry Wessells/Ed Srenco

5A 4B Dolores Nawa/Hank Sheehan

6B 2C Carole King/Beverly Narahara

3C Jeanette Betts/Yokuyo Sheehy

Wednesday Afternoon, Sept. 22, Veterans Park

13B 2C Robert Fieselman/Ruth Ann Poppa

7C Sam Chang/Chick Thorsell

Wednesday Evening, September 22 NLM

3A Dolly and Bruce Weiner

5A 3C Joan and Robert Stillwell

4B Doris and Robert Fishe

Thursday Morning, September 23 Non Life Master

1A 1B Sheila and John Bray

2A 2B Joanna Wallis/Mary Gillett

3A Kuniko Hiraguchi/Mieko Suzuki

4A 3B S. Kuuskmae/Norma Reynolds

5/6A Elaine Asch/Terry Arnush

5/6A 4B Jamila Malika/Ralph Vidal

2C Elizabeth Voss/David Lyons

3C Cathy King/Elizabeth Biggins

Thursday Evening, September 23

5A Ed Piken/Steve Ramos

6B Marie Willis/Alain Fleurot

4C Karen and Mike McKittrick

Friday Evening, Sept. 24, Inglewood Beach Club

4A 2B Barbara Shortwell/Jeffrey Leyson

4B 2C Joan Chrishal/Carol McKay

4C Margi and Chick Thorsell

Saturday Afternoon, September 25

3B Ron Burke/Ernie Frank

Marina Del Rey Regional: A number of unit members finished first overall in events at the recent Marina Del Rey Regional. These included the following. An apology to all whose names I may have missed.

Tuesday 299er pairs Flights D and E: Fred Swinth, Suzanne Kuuskmae

Tuesday Open Pairs Flight C: Neal Kleiner, Robert Svensrud

Anchor Swiss Teams: Bruce Horiguchi

Marina KO Bracket 2: Masae Kato, Hank Sheehan

Marina KO Bracket 3: Diane Elliot

Bali Way Comp. KO Bracket 2: Kathy Rudolph, Marsha Wiener, Lorna Wallace, Lutrell Long

Wednesday AM Side Game: Dick Cheng (Flight B), Lisa Kuo (Flight C)

Spinnaker Swiss: Alfred Lee (Flight A), Jeanette Betts (Flight C)

BCD Open Pairs: David Peim, Neal Kleiner

Catamaran Swiss Teams Flights B and C: Gerri Carlson

Ocean Front Compact KO Bracket 1: Bruce Horiguchi

BAM Teams Flight C: Alan Fleurot, Marie Willis, Robert Svensrud, Neal Kleiner

Saturday Afternoon Side Game Flight A: John Brailliar, Bea Brailliar

Sunday Swiss Flight C: Lutrell Long, Lorna Wallace, Steve Ramos, Neal Kleiner

Sunday Fast Pairs Flight C: Jeffrey Leyson, Alan Fleurot

Honorable mention to Gary King, who is not a unit member but plays regularly in TSB unit club games. He won Flight A in the IMP pairs, Flight X of the A/X pairs, and Flights A and B of the Wednesday Open Pairs.

GUV Memorial Award: Some people are lucky enough to come out smelling like a rose when their partner forgets a convention they are using. Some are not. Unfortunately, I am in the latter group.

At the recent Marina Del Rey Regional Sunday Swiss in two consecutive rounds my partner (Oregon's own

Cam Meyer) as a passed hand held a stiff in the major I opened and a club suit. On the first one, she forgot we were playing Reverse Drury and bid 2♣ over my spade opener. I leapt to 4♠ and one of the opponents had the temerity to double me. A minus 500 later, I reminded Cam that a 2♣ bid showed Spade support.

The very next round I opened 1♥ in third seat and Cam had a stiff heart and a club suit. Well, she had learned her lesson and dutifully bid 1NT. I leapt to 3♥ and she tried 3NT. Too bad... down 2. However if she had forgotten Reverse Drury this time and bid 2♣ I would have jumped to 4♥ which happens to make with a little luck.

To think of all the IMPs we could have gained or saved if these two hands came in the reverse order.

Na Zdrowie

West L.A. by candy

I was the one who did the food idioms in the MDR Regional bulletins. I thought I'd sprinkle the answers liberally through my column.

Before I spill the beans on the Regional winners let me remind you about the WLA Unit Holiday Party. All you couch potatoes get up, smell the coffee, and go bananas. On Sunday, November 21 at the Beverly Hills Country Club a Mardi Gras Unit Holiday Party will be held 11:30 to 5:00. Brunch, entertainment, announcement of the Player of the Year, and bridge. Invitations were mailed and are at the clubs. Get your reservations in now. Start your holiday season out with a bang!!

I know this is a song not an idiom, but "On top of spaghetti, all covered with cheese, these people won, by the sea breeze." After winning the Tuesday - Wednesday KOs, Roger and Becky Clough with Ellen Anten/Steve Gross came back for the Friday KOs. Starting slow as molasses, they had egg on their faces as they entered the afternoon Swiss, but beat the stuffing out of the field with a perfect 80 VPs out of 80. Nice recovery. Other KO winners were Bob and Ellen Kent, Diane Licht, Sue Ann Simon, Anita Levine, Connie Fishbach, Steven and Joan Little, Joan and Bob Klein, Steven and Donna Massman, Guy Green, and Viktor Anikovich. BAM (board a match, not Emeril): Elianna and Adam Meyerson, David Kempe, and Matt Klimesh. Sunday

Swiss: Mike Savage and Gerry Bare.

Like two peas in a pod Pair Winners: Eli Borok, Gerry Bare, Gary King, Don Krauss, and Phyllis Kantar. Bill Schreiber/Gary King made mincemeat out of the field in the IMP Pairs with a huge score.

Diana Schreiber is celebrating a low score. After a two-year battle with cancer, Diana proved to be a tough cookie and during the tournament found out her markers are all normal!!!

I heard it through the grapevine that Pete Benjamin became a Platinum LM!! For our newest LMs, the world is their oyster: Donna Massman and Marion Tumen. Cool as cucumbers these players are climbing up the ranks: Junior Master: Tamarin Martin, Mary McKenna, Elizabeth May, and Beverly Sturman; Club Master: Michael Frishberg and Stephen Griffith; Sectional Masters: Norma Friedman, Rosalene Glickman, Carole Hamburger, Leah Levin, and Annette Wolos; Gold Life Master: David Raphel, Jordan Chodorow, and Candy Scott; Diamond Life Master: Rhoda Himmell.

These people were happy as a clam as they brought home the bacon with a 70% game: Sam Namer, Zalman Perelman, Fumie Glenney, David Segal, Jill Richmond, Gary King, Art Zail, Gloria Levy, Lou Levy, Sheri Rivera, Paul Smith, Sally Aminoff, Phyllis Mory, Lois Diamond, Bill Sides, Steve Yaffe, and Aram Bedros.

Two long time supporters of the clubs, Trudy Weber and Howard Deshong, passed away this month. They will be missed and our hearts go out to their families.

For these smart cookies, it was a piece of cake becoming club champs this month... Barrington: A: Adrienne Green/Laurie Rubin, Lou and Gloria Levy, Lois Diamond/Bill Sides; B: Joyce Meyer/Jeff Leibowitz, Colin and Nellie Gordon, and Carol Boyd /Richard Newmeyer; C: Gloria Cohen/Joseph Fingerett and Norma Friedman/Leah Levine. BHBC: Ed Feldmann/Richard Weinberger, Ruth Gittleman/David Segal, and Rhoda and Lew Himmell. Swiss champs were Phyllis/Mario Mory, and Sally Aminoff and Marshall Cherkas. You'd be nutty as a fruitcake not to support the Thursday night team games.

In a nutshell this is my column so... "I lost my meatball when somebody sneezed and then my poor meatball went onto the table and fell onto the floor and then me and my meatball rolled out of the door and couldn't write any more." This has been a fine kettle of fish, until next month.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: Leo Bell

Panelists are: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, David Chechelashvili, Mitch Dunitz, John Jones, Eddie Kantar, Marshall Miles, Mr. Mealy-mouth, David Sacks, Mike Shuster, and John Swanson

1

IMPs
EW vul

South West North East

1♦ 2♠

?

You, South hold:

♠J74 ♥K85 ♦QJ6 ♣KJ73

What call do you make?

BARE: 3♦. The least of evils. No call seems close to describing this hand. Double, pass, or 2NT is also reasonable.

BARTUSEK: Pass. The Kaplan-Rubens hand calculator evaluates this hand as 8.45 HCP, so pass is not a huge underbid. Double is out, because I believe a negative double of 2♠ guarantees 4+ hearts since it will usually be impossible to stop partner from playing a 4-3 heart fit with the long trump hand's being tapped. My second choice is 2NT which might work out, but I think it is an overbid. If I pass, partner will reopen with spade shortness, but admittedly my pass may stop us from getting to some making games when partner has extras in an unbalanced hand unsuitable for opening 1NT. On the other hand, we may avoid a minus score if partner does not have extras.

CHECHELASHVILI: Pass. The real problem will come next round if partner reopens with a double. I'll stretch and bid 3♠, which should show a hand similar to mine.

DUNITZ: 3♦. If you pass and then bid, you'll never show these values.

JONES: Pass. Call me a wimp, [OK, "You're a wimp."] but I hate this hand. It is not even close to being worth its 11 HCP. It has no aces, tens, or nines;

the ♠J is suspect; and it has a 4-3-3-3 shape. 2NT is only a small overbid, but Jxx is a poor stopper, and if partner has ♠Ax, ♠Axx, or ♠Kxx, 2NT will wrong-side the contract. 3♣ is a big overbid, but leaves room for partner to bid naturally. 3♠ is worse. What do I do if partner can't bid 3NT? A negative double seems to be the worst of the possible choices, because if partner has four hearts, we will be taking the tap in the incorrect (long) hand. What will happen if I pass?

Occasionally, partner will pass, and we defend 2♠ undoubled, which seems pretty good for us. If partner reopens with a double, I will bid 2NT (scramble) which should show two places to play. (Partner will assume both minors.) If partner is 2-4-4-3, he will bid 3♣, leaving us in a Moysian, but at least one with the tap hitting the short hand. If he bids 3♦ over 2NT, then he will almost always have five or more diamonds, so that should be an OK place to play. The big drawback to this plan is that I will have taken two calls and not shown any values, but I have a good chance of getting to the best strain. I hope that if partner has significant extras, he will come to life, but I understand that we could easily miss a game. Maybe it will go down at the other table.

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PSP continued from page 14

KANTAR: 3♦. Let partner make the last mistake.
MR. MEALYMOUTH: Pass. I'm aiming for a plus score. To bid or make a negative double is to beg for a minus. The real problem may come next turn if partner acts again, in which case the likely solution will be a 3♠ cue bid.

MILES: Pass. If East had overcalled 1♠, I would have doubled, despite my poor distribution, but I think it likely if I double here, we will be minus instead of plus.

SACKS: Dbl. Why lie about a particular suit length when you can lie about them all at the same time! Seriously, double's the only action that comes close to describing my hand.

SHUSTER: Pass. With luck, partner will pass also, and they will go down in hundreds. If partner reopens with a double (yuck), I'll try 3♠, and we'll play either 3NT or 4 of a minor. The ♠Jxx is anti-positional opposite Ax for NT purposes, so bidding NT myself isn't very attractive, although in general, I have no problem with bidding NT lacking a stopper. *[Another Marshall Miles disciple?]*

SWANSON: 3♦. Short a diamond, but after the foolish calls are eliminated it is all that remains.

This hand came from a Bridge World Master Solvers' Club in 1981. The majority call (including current panelists Kantar and Miles) was 3♦. I am inclined to make a negative double even though that shows four hearts. It seems like the most flexible call. If I pass, I get another problem when partner reopens with a double.

2

IMPs
both vul

S	W	N	E
			pass
1♦	pass	1♠	pass
?			

You, South hold:
 ♠4 ♥AK92 ♦K10854 ♣AJ7
 What call do you make?

BARE: 2♥. While the hand is not strong enough for a reverse, all other bids have worse flaws.

BARTUSEK: 2♣. Second choice is 1NT, but I fear missing a game, and I don't want to encourage partner to rebid 2♠ with six spades (and occasionally five). This hand is definitely not strong enough to reverse.

CHECHELASHVILI: 2♣. I don't like bidding three-card suits, but it seems to be the least of evils.

DUNITZ: 2♣. I don't really mind 1NT, but this hand is too good, and if we belong in notrump, we can still get there.

JONES: 2♣. 1NT is an underbid, and the singleton spade is a defect. 2♥ is too much. If partner passes 2♣, it may play well (even if it is a 3-3 fit) with ruffs available in each hand, and with the ♣A to win the trump lead.

KANTAR: 2♣. I wouldn't be in this fix, because

PSP continued on page 16

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PSP continued from page 15

right or wrong, I would open 1♥, even if I am promising five hearts. Now that I have opened 1♦, I'm not sure what the worst distortion is: 1NT, 2♣, or 2♦. I'll try 2♣, since I'm not into rebidding 1NT with a small singleton.

MR. MEALMOUTH: 2♣. Oh, I already bid diamonds? I thought I opened 1♥, in which case I would rebid 2♦. Isn't it crazy to have bid two suits when I have 32.50% of my length and 46.94% of my strength in a third suit? I deserve to catch partner with ♠A9752 ♥10876 ♦A ♣1083 or some other mediocre 5-4-1-3 hand, but they say that playing in a 3-3 fit builds character. I hope that it builds character enough to have the courage to open in a strong four-card heart suit.

MILES: 1NT. I am slightly strong for this sequence. Some would bid 2♣, but that provides little chance to play in hearts. Obviously, I'm too weak to reverse.

SACKS: 2♣. Not strong enough for 2♥ now, but I'll bid 2♥ over a 2♦ preference. Over any other rebid, it's not hard to find a bid that works.

SHUSTER: 2♣. I don't think there is much equity difference between 1NT, 2♥, and 2♣. Of those choices, 1NT is too little (and too likely to get us to spades), and 2♥ is too much. Since I never open 1♦ with longer clubs (unless I have a 5-6 minimum), this is a little safer for me than it is for some other members of this panel.

SWANSON: 2♣. One must decide what misinformation to give partner. My least favorite choice is 2♦. Either an opening bid of 1♥ or 1NT is reasonable, or a 1NT rebid is possible. A 2♣ rebid offers some flexibility without risking a fiasco.

2♣ isn't to everyone's taste, but it does provide a reasonable shot to reach the best strain, unless it's hearts below game. If you're ever going to open a four card major, this is the time. You have a good suit and an easy rebid. Sometimes it pays to think about how the auction will develop when you have a choice of opening bids.



S	W	N	E
		1♣	pass
1♦	pass	1♥	pass
?			

You, South hold:

♠4 ♥AK2 ♦J87542 ♣K63

What call do you make?

BARE: 1♠. I play that this does not promise spades, and partner should not raise spades higher than the 3-level. I like to play 2♠ shows spades. If I hadn't discussed this with partner recently, I would bid 2♥ since bidding 1♦ and then a major is normally game forcing and natural. *[Some play that 1♠ creates a game force if played as Fourth Suit Forcing.]*

BARTUSEK: 3♣. Only if partner promises a distributional hand and systemically would have rebid 1NT with all balanced hands. If so, partner should practically always have at least five clubs (or 4-4-1-4 or rarely 4-4 with very concentrated honors and nothing in spades). Without this systemic agreement, I will bid 2♥, which shows exactly 3-card support (but a hand not quite this good). I can see making 4♥ in a Moysian fit, but it won't be easy getting there after 3♣. A Fourth-Suit-Forcing 1♠ will likely get us overboard.

CHECHELASHVILI: 2♦.

DUNITZ: 2♥. I like to play that 1♥ rebids show an unbalanced hand, so partner is either 5-4-x-x or 4-4-4-1. Given those methods, my choices are the straightforward 3♣ (invite in clubs,) 2♣ (XYZ relay followed by 3♣ to show an invitational hand) or 2♥. Since it's matchpoints, I'm bidding 2♥, but at IMPs, I'd invite in clubs.

JONES: 3♣ (or 1♠ or 2♣). *[This isn't a multiple choice quiz.]* I'll take whatever sequence the partnership uses to show an invitational hand with club support. With my normal methods, partner

PSP continued on page 17

PSP continued from page 16

shows an unbalanced hand, and thus has at least five clubs, unless he is 4-4-1-4. I play XYZ (Joe Kivel's two way checkback idea) in some partnerships; if so, I would bid 2♣ to start an invitational club sequence. As an aside, I think XYZ ought only apply if opener's rebid is 1♠ or 1NT, and that 1♠ is Fourth Suit Forcing if opener rebids 1♥. (So 2♠ is natural and game forcing.) I only have had that agreement in one partnership (with Leo Bell) however, and we have since changed our methods to make that agreement moot.

KANTAR: 3♣. I hope to get hearts in next.

MR. MEALMOUTH: 2♥. This is the classic impossible bidding problem that has been solved for decades in the Master Solvers' Club by raising opener's 1♥ or 1♠ rebid with only three-card support but a high-card maximum (or in this case, super-maximum).

MILES: 2♥. 3♣ would give us a better chance to get to game, but if we play in a partscore, I prefer hearts at matchpoints.

SACKS: 3♠ (splinter). I think this hand is worth a

forcing club raise. We might well be gin for 6♣ (e.g. ♠Ax ♥QJxx ♦x ♣AQJxxx) if (as I prefer) 1♥ guarantees an unbalanced hand or concentration exclusively in two suits. When I have 10 HCP in his two suits, partner cannot have the balanced hand, and with the opponents silent, partner is a huge favorite to have a stiff diamond (because otherwise the opponents have at least ten spades), so this looks like a terrific mesh.

SHUSTER: 2♥. If the making game is a 4-3 heart fit, we will score nearly all the matchpoints for +170. While 2♥ is an underbid, it does at least show a decent hand, since I didn't respond 1♥ initially. At IMPs, I would be torn between 3♣ and 3♥. I'm glad you didn't ask.

SWANSON: 2♥. Shows 10-11 HCP and three hearts. A clear-cut call (although this is a great 11).

The keys to this hand are whether the 1♥ rebid by partner shows an unbalanced hand and, if so, what is this hand worth? Obviously, there are differing opinions about the strength of this hand ranging from a minimum suit rebid to forcing game and trying for slam. This is a good sequence to discuss with your partner.



South West North East

 1♦ 1♥

 ?

You, South hold:

♠8752 ♥-- ♦KQ765 ♣8643

What call do you make?

BARE: Dbl. If you bid 3♦ preemptively, you will probably miss spades, and partner is unlikely to pass the double.

BARTUSEK: Dbl. Imperative to show partner four spades in case of a heart preempt by LHO. I can always raise diamonds later if the level is not too high. A diamond preempt now may lose the spade fit completely.

CHECHELASHVILI: 5♦. The opponents have at least a nine-card fit, and at least one or both rate to be short in diamonds. Let's see if they will bid 5♥. It could be our hand in spades, but the odds are against it, so I prefer to make their lives difficult. Starting with a double gives them an easy route to determining whose hand it is.

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DUNITZ: 3♦. 3♦ lets partner bid 3NT if he has a moose or make the final decision if they bid 4♥.

JONES: Dbl. Seems clear. A jump in diamonds bets that partner doesn't have four spades or that diamonds plays at least two tricks better than spades. In competitive auctions, the hand with shortness in the opponents' suit needs to act aggressively, so I would only consider passing if I had bet on the opponents, something even Pete Rose wouldn't do.

KANTAR: 3♦. I'll suffer throughout the bidding wondering if I have screwed us out of a 4-4 spade fit by not doubling. If I double and partner does not have four spades, and I then bid 5♦ after the inevitable 4♥ from them, won't partner think I have a better hand? The coward in me has won out!

MR. MEALYMOUTH: 3♦. Assuming I play this as weak. I'll stick my five of spades in with my diamonds if playing with a lawyer of "The Law of Total Tricks" school who might ask, "how can you raise to three with only five trumps when I might have opened one diamond with only three?"

MILES: 2♦. I don't want to play in spades unless

partner can bid them. [*He may have to do so at the four-level.*] 3♦ and 4♦ are close alternatives, but they give up on playing in spades.

SACKS: Dbl. My first inclination was to bid 2♦ ("where I live") but every time I bid like that and later bid spades, partner can't figure out my hand type. Double makes it easy to find a spade fit that may play remarkably well, and if I bid 2♦, the auction will likely get to too high a level for me to bid spades comfortably at my next turn.

SHUSTER: 5♦. Why mess around? Partner will be well-placed to judge what to do next, and the opponents will be guessing. Partner might judge to sacrifice against a higher contact.

SWANSON: 3♦. A preemptive diamond raise describes the hand well. Obviously this could lose a 4-4 spade fit but more likely this will become a highly competitive auction, so I'd rather have the opponents than partner guessing.

I agree with John Swanson and Mr. Mealymouth. (I knew there would be a first time.) When this auction reaches the 4- or 5-level, I want partner to know I have a preemptive hand with diamonds.

5

IMPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
		1♥	2♣
pass	pass	dbl	pass
?			

You, South hold:
 ♠AQ5 ♥K8 ♦97532 ♣732
 a) Do you agree with the original pass
 b) What call do you make?

BARE: a) Yes.
 b) 3♣. This shows values with the wrong distribution for bidding on the first round.

BARTUSEK: a) No. I would have bid 2♦, since in Bridge World Standard and a lot of expert partnerships

this does not promise a rebid if partner cheaply rebids his suit, rebids cheaply in NT, or makes a simple raise. The ♥K should be upgraded.

b) 3♦. I'm stuck jumping in diamonds since I

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didn't bid the suit previously. Hopefully, partner is not 4-5-2-2.

CHECHELASHVILI: a) **Yes.** What else? I don't understand the urge to double without four spades and with ♣xxx behind the club bidder.

b) **2♦.** This shouldn't be any worse than a 5-2 fit, and the chances are good we'll be in an eight- or nine-card fit. At matchpoints, I would bid 2♥.

DUNITZ: a) **No.** I would have bid 2♥.

b) **2♥.** Having been burdened with an original pass, I'm forced to guess. I don't want to bid 3♦ with five small and the hand is not really good enough for 3♣. That leaves 2♥ and 3♥. If I bid 2♥ slowly, I will have extra time to write out the apology I will have to give my teammates.

JONES: a) **No.** I don't like to raise on honor doubleton, but I would bid 2♥.

b) **3♣.** Having passed originally, I need to do something to show some values. This seems best unless partner will interpret 3♣ as something close to this hand.

KANTAR: a) **No.** I would have bid 2♥.

b) **3♥.** Please God, let just one other panelist bid this way. *[Eddie, your prayers were answered. John Swanson also voted for 3♥. I also agree that 3♥ is the right second call, but I start with a negative double.]*

MR. MEALYMOUTH: a) **No.** I would raise to 2♥. Playing in a 4-2 fit builds character, and maybe my partner needs to have his character built.

b) **3♣.** I shall force my partner to make the last mistake on the deal, since I've already made the first one.

MILES: a) **Yes.** *[Marshall, I'm shocked! Of all the panelists, I expected you to be the strongest advocate of bidding 2♥ on the first round.]*

b) **3♦.** I have to show some values. If partner bids 3♥, I'll raise to four. I have almost as good a hand as I could hold for not having bid 2♦ last round.

SACKS: a) **Yes.** I don't like it, but other actions are worse.

b) **3♣.** Since any contract ought to be played from partner's side, I will show values outside of clubs without the right hand for a negative double. Ye gads, that is what I have!

SHUSTER: a) **No.** Isn't this hand type one of benefits of 5-card majors, allowing an immediate raise so I don't have to pass and pray to guess right later?

b) **3♦.** Shows some values and a long suit. Partner's reopening double didn't deny four diamonds, did it? Yes, I may have to take a ruff with a high trump opposite KQx, but such is life - I'll probably still take nine tricks. Jumping gives us a shot at bidding game opposite ♠Jxx ♥AQJxx ♦AKxx ♣Cx.

SWANSON: a) **No.** I would have raised to 2♥, avoiding this problem. Why am I always short a trump?

b) **3♥.** The risk of missing a vulnerable game is too great if I bid 2♦, and 3♦ with a hopeless suit is not to be considered. Partner probably has extra values judging from the non-vulnerable opponents' failure to bid 3♣. Partner will know I do not hold three hearts nor would I trap pass at this vulnerability without good clubs.

For a time, negative doubles that promised only three spades were in vogue. While I don't subscribe to those as a rule, I'm not so hesitant to make one here. If partner bids 2♠, I can correct to 3♥, which shows a tad more than I have, but it's in the ballpark. I would like to rename negative doubles to "flexative" doubles. They show values and ask partner to describe his hand. While they normally show four cards in the unbid major or majors, they don't guarantee it.