

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 47, #11

November 2011

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bridge Today

by Becky Clough
ALACBU President



People are always talking about the “good old days,” when life was slower and less complicated. In the “good old days” of bridge, we dealt the cards ourselves, spoke our bids out loud, waited 30 minutes or more to see our results and many often had to draft the closest warm

body so we could have a game.

I have played duplicate for more than 50 years and have seen a myriad of changes and innovations. Not only is the bidding different today with the mind boggling number of conventions, but how we play the game has changed as well. Do you remember when bidding boxes were first introduced? There was a hue and cry because we humans don't like change. But soon we all adapted and realized how helpful they were for the hard-of-hearing and the rest of us – the hard of remembering.

Technology has greatly impacted our game. Directors who could add quickly and accurately were needed in the “good old days.” With the advent of computers and ACBL Score, we valued directors who could enter the scores accurately, post burners at the end of round 12, and display the final results within 10 or 15 minutes. Today's directors have to contend with Bridge Mates, those little machines at every table that produce the scores instantly, as long as they don't go on

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ACBL Leadership Change

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



On November 7, Robert Hartman takes over as CEO of the ACBL and with that Jay Baum, our current CEO retires. Jay has served as our CEO for the past ten years and in this position provided leadership to our membership and was an excellent goodwill ambassador

promoting bridge in any way he could. Under his direction, membership of the ACBL has grown and the ACBL is now close to 166,000 members.

I first met Jay during the 2003 Summer Long Beach Nationals. I was president of ALACBU at that time and I worked with management in the organization of the tournament. What I remember most was his ability to find a solution to any problem that may occur.

It was announced in the Daily Bulletin of the tournament that the first person to become a life master at the tournament would receive a life master pendent. My wife Kathy was a fraction away from achieving this goal. I remember that we played in every pair game that was offered from the start of the tournament beginning in the morning and ending with the midnight game. After not meeting our goal, on the second day we decided to play in a Swiss event. We got our match win and at the end of the session went to the Tournament Office to claim her prize. When we got there we were told that someone else had just reported that they had become a life master and Kathy was the second to report and therefore no pendent.

Somehow, Jay was made privy to the situation, and he came over to Kathy and told her that the other person who reported actually became a Bronze Life Master so therefore she was the first Life Master reporting and that she would also get a pendent. I remember that Kathy got her picture in the Bulletin and was proud of her achievement. And if memory serves me right, the Bronze Life Master was Mary Stauf from the Antelope

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Valley Unit.

This act of goodwill by Jay made two people happy and prevented one of them from being very disappointed. Of course, if I would have been smarter at the time, Kathy and I would have played in a Swiss event instead of a pair event from the beginning and this situation would have never happened.

It's a Different View From Dummy

Every year I get to nominate two people to be members of the ACBL Goodwill Committee. This year I have chosen Becky Clough and Kevin Lane for this honor. Becky is the current ALACBU President and Kevin is our long standing webmaster for our district website. These two individuals have volunteered many hours of their time devoted to making bridge better in Los Angeles and are deserving of this acknowledgment.

Finally, on a sad note, Diana Schreiber passed away last month. Diana was very active on the ALACBU board serving in many capacities including head of the Disciplinary Committee. Our condolences go out to Bill her husband, and the entire Schreiber family. She will be missed.

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the fritz.

Bridge clubs too have seen changes. Hand shuffling and dealing are quickly becoming obsolete. Many clubs now have dealing machines and hand records for at least some of their games. Scores are transmitted electronically to the ACBL and to websites for people to access online whenever they choose. Gone are the Rating Point Slips passed out to players who had placed in a previous game. I remember recording each fractional point I earned and sending them into the League in packets of at least 10 points. My grandmother also played duplicate bridge in those days and she proudly showed me her stack of pink slips for all the points she had won.

Finally, the partnership desk has greatly expanded as we play with people all over the world on BBO, OKbridge and other live bridge sites. It is not unusual to kibitz a table where the players come from four different countries. We find night owls on every continent because although it might be 5:00 p.m. Los Angeles, it is midnight in Iceland, 2:00 am in Poland, 4:00 am in Dubai, and 11:00 am in Sydney. Partnerships needn't travel over long distances to practice, they just need to find a time convenient for them both. You can arrange games with your friends or random opponents, or even play against robots. What a game!

I don't know what tomorrow will bring, but I'm looking forward to playing this game as long as I can.

See you at the bridge table.



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Southern California Bridge News

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

11033 Barman Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230 Phone: 310-836-1235
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Subscription Rates: \$12.00 per year, private; \$2.00 as portion of District 23 dues; \$3.00 Units outside District 23 if subscribed by entire unit. Copy deadlines: advertising and editorial material by 10th of month; unit columns by 15th of month. Classified ads are payable in advance and only for a 6-month period or more with no changes in content. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

The results are in... Unit 556 loses several hundred dollars on its 2011 Sectional. However, we sincerely thank **all** the District 23 members that did attend our event and hope that the positive comments circulated about the venue and the hospitality and the food reflect the experience had by everyone, even if you did not walk away with all the points you wanted. Our desire was to create a positive experience for those that chose to come. We think that we achieved our objective. Thanks again for playing!

Bridge, at your local club, not on the Internet, is most certainly a social event. A competitive contest for sure, but when you travel a moderate or a significant distance to attend such a contest, you expect a pleasant social experience. This is why good behavior at the table is so important.

Our tiny sectional was incident free, so again, a big thank you to all that came and behaved so well. The only thank you missing is, of course, to the ACBL. Allowing a competitive sectional in the same area is not good business! And make no mistake, regardless of the lovely .org tag and the not-for-profit status, the ACBL is a very sweet business! Their product is... **masterpoints**. Starting with local clubs, the selling of masterpoints is a good business and the ACBL has been the only game in town for decades. The continued development of some great Internet sites may see that situation change in the near future. Shrewd Internet entrepreneurs could easily exploit their advantages and deploy their superior user-friendly attitude against the gruff and intractable ACBL. Please do not look for an ACBL attitude change soon, so it would seem that an acquisition of a great Internet bridge-playing site is their best defense in maintaining their tyranny. Watch and see what they do in the Horn Lake caverns.

The Saturday Morning Open Pairs was won by Mitch Dunitz and Wafik Abdou with a 75% game! Gary Grey and Ted Maki finished second overall and first in the B group and Paula Olivares and John Langer were third overall and first in C. Mitch and Wafik mercifully passed on the Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs and a couple of our wonderful C group players took first and third overall! Winning the Saturday Afternoon game was Tom and Barbara Jones with almost a 61% game. Second overall and first in B was Hansford Rowe and Michael Marcucci and third overall were Charles Self and Mary Anne Self.

We also conducted a Compact Knockout on Saturday and winning the seven-table event was Marlene-Warren Gasper, Dave Gasper, Bill Brodek and Brad Ward. Second in the knockout was the team of Glenn Eddy, Tracy Boys, Donald Vandemore and Lou Ann Vandemore.

The 13-table Sunday Swiss event was won by the team of John Swanson, Sid Brownstein, Mitch Dunitz and Wafik Abdou. Marshall Miles, Leo Bell, Jeff Goldsmith and Paul Markarian finished second. The team of Brad Ward, Bill Brodek, Marlene Warren-Gasper and Dave Gasper were third. Finishing fourth overall and first in B were Peter Menotti, Richard Vincent, Garth Greene and Berry Wilkinson. Winning group C were Elaine Moore, Tom Shudic, Betty Pavey and Everett Dehn.

Congratulations go out to Marguerite Pinkers and Hugh Bartlett as well as Marlene Warren Gasper and her husband Dave for their outstanding performance in the ACBL instant matchpoint game. Everett Dehn and Roshun Hadulla won twice last month at the Castaic weekly game as did Jerry Burrill and Rand Pinsky (each with different partners) at the weekly Valencia game.



Glendale Verdugo

By Ron Lifshutz

Unit Game November 1
Lunch at 12:15, game at 1

The October Unit Game was a memorial for Dorothy LaMaie. Dorothy was our columnist for the Bridge News for many years. We are having a difficult time replacing her. The results of the game were:

		NS
A1		Gould - Gelb
A2		Helber - Frenkel
A3		Moeckel - Banta

		EW
A1		Reich - Elghamry
A2	B1	Vedro - Knowles
A3		Moore - McClelland

The Glendale Unit Board is a hard-working group. For the unit games, our president Merry Besvold is also the cook. She is assisted by Betsy Josias, Nancy Lyon and Sharon Wolf, salad makers. Margaret Mataga and Eva Seri provide desserts. During the week Gloria Balfour surprises us with fruit, veggies and/or cookies. Eva makes special treats on Tuesday and Thursday.

Many of our players are great travelers. Brian Petrunich and his wife were gone for seven weeks to Germany. They returned in time for the birth of a grandson. His regular partner, Bob Driskell is now traveling in Eastern Europe. Steve Licker has filled in to help Brian continue his winning ways. Sri Nagesh and his wife spent two weeks in Bora Bora. This is football season and Gerry Belcher attends every USC game, no matter where. Margaret Mataga travels frequently to Las Vegas to oversee her aunt. Margaret held a 90th birthday party for her on her last visit. While in Las Vegas she often sees Gary McGough and Jill Toth, former Glendale players. Joe Hasencamp and his wife took a cruise up the California coast.

Glen Durlinger is back at the bridge table after a botched nose surgery. Nancy Lyon is recovering from a more successful nose operation. Temo Arjani and Gloria Balfour have had successful eye surgeries.

Merry Besvold hosted a birthday party for her mother Betty Stenbom. Betty is the best looking

90-year-old around. Merry's brother Bob, his wife Linda, and his son Jeffery came from Minnesota for the occasion. They were joined by other relatives, friends from Belmont and bridge club friends.

November 12 is the next unit game. Reservations are helpful. (818) 500-8669.

Long Beach

by Jon Yinger

unit website: www.acblunit557.org
club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

October 9 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Cayce Blanchard/John Melis, 2nd Bob and Pat Adams, 3rd John and April Berg, 4th Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan, 5th Bee Kinman/Verna Burns, 6th Betty Jackson/Judith Jones. In the B flight overall Mike Daley/Jon Yinger were 5th. And in the C flight overall Anne Harrington/Hanefi Erten were 3rd and Carmela Chiurazzi/Cory Hand were 4th. Congratulations to all.

70+% Games in the Club Sept 16 Through October 15: In the open game Sunday, Oct 2 Jo and John Melis had 70.83%. In the NLM evening game Oct 3 Kiyoo Nagaishi/Pamela Cole had 72.30%. And in the afternoon game Oct 4 Steve Mager/Gary King had 70.12%. And in the NLM game Oct 11 Richard and Robert Bakovic had 69.97% (close enough). Congratulations to all four pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards: In-club over-all big point awards Sept 16 through Oct 15: Sept 19 Jackie Hess/Shirley Carroll won 4.96mp for 1st over-all; Sept 24 Cayce Blanchard/John Melis won 4.17mp; Sept 24 Murat Veysoglu/Lisa Kuo won 3.00mp; Sept 26 Irwin Bender/Ralph Beasley won 4.33mp; Sept 27 Mark Teaford/Cecil Cook won 4.67mp; Sept 29 John Bralliar/Cecil Cook won 4.50mp; Sept 30 Baum Harris/Larry Slutsky won 6.00mp in the afternoon game and Earl VanDerVord/Mike Daley won 3.33mp in the evening game; Oct 3 Bob Mault/Norma Krueger won 5.67mp; Oct 4 Steve Mager/Gary King won 6.00mp in the afternoon game and Sankar Reddy/Bruce Horiguchi won 3.00mp in the evening game; Oct 5 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger won 4.67mp in the afternoon game and Aaron Jones/Bruce Horiguchi won 3.00mp in the evening game; Oct 6 John Petrie/Ron Spain won 4.50mp; Oct 7 Greg Tapia/Lucy Gellner won

6.51; Oct 8 Sherry Troeger/Bob Mault won 4.33mp; Oct 9 John Melis/Cayce Blanchard won 3.26mp for 1st over-all in the unit game; Oct 10 Suzie and John Hand won 4.82mp. Winning big points for 2nd over-all: Sept 19 Mark Tang/Len Beck 3.72mp; Sept 24 Gerri Carlson/Steve Mager 3.13mp; Sept 26 Mark Tang/Len Beck 3.25mp; Sept 27 Larry Slutsky/Phil Schuster 3.38mp; Sept 28 Toni Morford/Margo Coffman 3.50mp; Sept 29 Baum Harris/Jackie Hess 3.38mp; Oct 3 Janet Logan/Larry Topper 4.25mp; Oct 4 Steve Rowe/Irwin Bender 4.50mp; Oct 5 Bob Mault/Verna Baccus 3.50mp; Oct 6 Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi 3.38mp; Oct 7 Betty McClellan/Verna Baccus 4.88mp; Oct 8 Randy Hamlin/John Petrie 3.25mp; Oct 10 Charlotte and Steve Sturm 3.60mp. And winning big points for 3rd over-all over the past month: Sept 29 Ralph Beazley/Irwin Bender 3.07mp; Sept 30 Toni Morford/John Crabtree tied with Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger, each winning 3.07mp; Oct 3 Kathy Batson/Bob Ballack 3.19mp; Oct 7 Phyllis Parker/Bob Mault 3.66mp. Whew! Congratulations to all of our big-mp winners!

New Member: John Kraffts. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: Club Master: Gayle Knapp; Sectional Master: Richard Dickens. Congratulations to you both!

Upcoming Events at the Club: Oct 31 through Nov 6 STaC week: Hand Records, overall awards, card fees \$11. Nov 11 through Nov 13: Long Beach Sectional here at the LBBC. Nov 14 through Nov 19: Educational Foundation Week: Extra points, regular prices. Nov 20: Unit Game: Lunch at 12:30, game at 1pm. Nov 24: the club will be closed for Thanksgiving. Nov 25, Black Friday unit-rated game: Extra points, regular prices. Nov 28, 7pm: ACBL-wide charity game: Extra points, regular prices.

News from Leisure World from Gene Yaffee

Big Games--Bee Kinman & Dorothy Favre with a 70.5% on Sept. 15 and Joan Tschirki & Verna Burns with a 69% on Sept. 30.

Results of the Unit 557 Game played on September 18: Overall winners were Gary Paugh & Lois Abramson with 69.13% followed by Charlotte & Stephen Sturm, third were Bee Kinman & Verna Burns. First in B Strat were Fern Dunbar & Janet Logan; 2nd--Ruth Kaller & Christine Frumen; First in C Strat were Dixie Albright

& Roger Farmer.

Club Championship Game on October 10--Overall winners were Connie & Jay Young with 64.1%; second in Strat A--Dorothy Favre & Verna Burns; second in Strat B--Betty Scharf & Bill Robinson.

Annual meeting will be held on Monday, November 14, at 11:45 a.m. in Clubhouse #3. Three board members are to be elected. If you can't attend, please give your proxy to a member.

Get well wishes go to Sylvia Kaprelyan.

Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org For more information, please call Gene Yaffe at 562-430-7040.

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via Email: Send me your e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley by Chuck Cordaro

How's This for a High Game?

Mike and Marianne Newman scored an 82.5% in a recent newcomers game. When I asked Art Gulbrandsen how often he sees a score that high, he said it's very rare. "It's unheard of--easily the highest score of the year," he said.

I suspected as much. A couple of years ago I was called to substitute in the newcomers group and we scored an 81%. I asked Art to print me out an extra copy of the results, intending to frame it after cropping out "newcomers," but he refused.

Our Newest Life Master

Congratulations to Mary Falvey, my old classmate from Muir High, on reaching this plateau. She's been flirting with it for a while, just missing by one point in September. This month she teamed up with Karen Arase, Susan Jones, and Miriam Harrington and reached her goal.

Long Time No See

Mitch Popick: I was leaving the dog park last month when I heard a familiar New York accent. It was Mitch Popick, whose dog was doing a good job of ignoring him. I was leaving in disgrace after Cosmo had tried to give another pooch an Eliot Spitzer, so Mitch and I couldn't talk long. Coe Wilkins tells me that he Mitch

sometimes play at the Assistance League; Coe says that although some of the players are seniors—some 90 years old and up—many are quite sharp.

Betty Middleton: Sue Rottner, Anne Campbell and I try to keep track of Betty. She is living in an assisted living condo in Moscow, Idaho, near her daughter. I know she would be pleased to hear from some of her old friends. You can reach her at (208) 882-5219.

Pomona Covina by Vic Sartor

Unit Game Saturday, November 19
game at 11:00, lunch served

This month's column will be an example of light journalism: light on news, light on results, and probably light on reader interest. Since the results from last month's unit game were already reported and results from the Marina Del Rey regional weren't available as of deadline, unit members will have to be satisfied with public notice of their local club wins.

The October individual game was won by Luan Schirmer, followed by Richard Patterson, Kathy Helber, Hanan Mogharbel, Roger Boyar and Ray Malki. Top game of the month was a 70% effort by Milt Kalikman and Joe Unis. Kalikman was on a hot streak, achieving several wins with a variety of partners. Other winners included Hanan Mogharbel, Cordell Goode, Herman Helber, Kathy Helber, Charlotte Capelle, Dwight Blackwell, Richard Patterson, Lary Alba, Dave Ruoff, Clint Lew, Walt Otto, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stamfl, Georgiana Bierman, Paule Ford, Penny Barbieri, Sandy Jones, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Mary Miller, and Karen Olin.

The only hot news this month is the announcement of the winners in the election for the 2012 unit board. Since the election will have taken place at the October 22 unit game, which occurs well past my column deadline, one might presume I'd need psychic powers to name the new board. That might be true in some units, but not good old Unit 551. I can confidently predict that the winners will be Clint Lew, Penny Barbieri, Roger Boyar, Tom Lill, Charlotte Capelle, Richard Patterson, Gail Ginsberg, and a certain disreputable scrivener. As insurance that they will all agree to serve another term, several of their relatives are currently being held

hostage in an undisclosed remote location until the election results are certified.

Our hand of the month comes from the Abbot and Costello file of bridge comedy. It seems one of our esteemed colleagues was having one of those nights when nothing seemed to go right. This hand made his night complete. With 20 HCP and 4-2-2-5 distribution, he saw RHO open 2♥, alerted by RHO as Flannery. He doubled, and saw RHO pull out a 2♠ bid. After two passes, he doubled again. RHO now bid 3♥. When the bidding got back to him for a third try he was afraid to double for fear of hearing 4♦, so he he bid 4♣, making. It was only after the hand was played out that he found the opponents had accidentally psyched his side out of a cold game in spades. It seems RHO had forgotten that he didn't play weak two bids with this particular partner. LHO's alert and bidding had been perfectly honest, but RHO had 5 HCP and six hearts.

Non-vulnerable, he had decided it was worth tossing in a weak 2♥ bid to stir things up. As the man said, "If I didn't have bad luck I wouldn't have any luck at all." Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Congratulations to Leda Danzig who has crossed the 5,000 Masterpoint threshold to become the Bridge Academy's newest Diamond Life Master. Leda is deservedly featured on the Bridge Academy's web site home page this month .

Upcoming Unit Events

Our Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 4 at the Warner Center Marriott Hotel located at 21850 Oxnard Street, Woodland Hills, CA (818-887-4800). Tickets include two sessions of bridge for stratified and intermediate pairs beginning at 1:00 p.m. Also included is self parking, dinner, and snacks. Holiday Party tickets will be available from current board members. Advance tickets are \$35.00 and tickets purchased at the door, if available, will be \$45.00. The Marriott is a great party venue. Join us for a wonderful day. Special appreciation to Gloria Malkin for arranging our wonderful party package.

At this time of the year, we always send out a call

for those players who are interested in joining the Unit Board. If you want to bring your skills and efforts to the Unit Board, please contact Board President Mike Fierman.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for September 2011

750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 8.82, Paul Endler 7.59, Larry Kussin 6.51, Janet Cooper 5.26, Alene Friedman 5.21, Bonnie Roth 5.06, Jim Hoose 3.98, Samy Antoun 3.86, Frona De Covnick 3.83, Dan Strauss 9.78.

Bridge Academy Under 750 Game: Carol Stein 3.78, Douglas Timmer 2.41, Jerry Goodman 2.20, Michael Weiner 1.70, John Van Egmond 1.67, Lamonte Johnson 1.67, Phillip Calloway 1.65, Ron Stewart 1.64, Marforie Romans 1.59, Martin Hurwitz 1.48

Bridge Academy Open Game: Leda Danzig 9.35, Ellen Anten 9.20, Sheila Bozin 9.08, Tom Wylie 8.98, Gilbert Stinebaugh 8.81, William Carlson Jr. 7.60, Andrew Vinock 6.99, Seymour Zemlyn 6.74, Robert Rice 5.95, Joan Rubin 5.73.

70% Games for September: At the 750 Club Rochelle Blumenfeld & Val Romoff had a 72.81%. At the Bridge Academy's Tuesday night novice games Marion Weis & Russell Weis had a 73.84% game and Marjorie Romans & Kousi Pathi had a 70.0% game.

In Memoriam

The Unit members send heartfelt condolences to Fran Cohen and family on the loss of Fran's husband Jerry Cohen. Jerry was a friend to many and a competitive bridge player.

Column News

Make sure that your news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com by the 10th of the month.

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit website:

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

SBBC website:

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club
District 22/23 STAC: October 31 thru November 5
Club Championship: Monday, November 7, 11:30 a.m.
Club Championship: Saturday, November 12, 3:00
NLM Club Championship: Thursday, Nov 17, 10:30
Club Championship: Friday, November 18, 11:230 a.m.
Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening

Club Championships

The September 27 NLM Club Championship was led by Jeanette Betts/Setsuko Miyasaka in flight A with Ron Smith and Juanita Smith capturing Flight B. The October 3 Club Championship was won by Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio in Flights A and B with Ron Prando/Paul Green on top in Flight C.

A series of club appreciation games were recently held at local clubs. On October 10 at Veterans Park Neil Kleiner/David Peim were first in Flights A and B with Joseph Nyomarky/Joan Lightfoot on top in Flight C. On October 12 at Veterans Park Joyce Nakasaki/David Cheshire topped Flight A with Jane Tourino/Fenton Gilmer ahead in Flight B and James and Judith Scott leading Flight C. At Anderson Park on October 14 in the afternoon game Joe Packey/Chuck Thorsell won it all. The October 14 evening game was led by Mike Welsh/Joe Thomas.

Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games at the South Bay Bridge Club.

September 20: Masae Kato, Kim Wang,
Jeff Strutzel Andy Anderson
September 27: Luis Gamio, Lorraine Hohn
Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
October 4: Carol McCully, Ed Barad,
Jeff Strutzel Andy Anderson
October 11: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton,
Bronek Felczer

Milestones

Sadly we report that Paul Mason recently passed

away. He played rarely at the South Bay Club in recent years but was a regular over a decade ago when he played with Pat Bradford. I always considered Paul a friend. Years ago he and Pat hosted home IMP team games which I thoroughly enjoyed. We all pass on condolences to his wife Carol.

GUV Memorial Award

Well you are sitting first seat and hold:

♠-- ♥AKQxxxxx ♦x ♣Axx

Would you believe your only bid in the auction is pass. At the recent Westlake Sectional the poor lady on my right held this hand and heard her partner open 1♠... Out of turn. So she was required to pass throughout the auction. Her partner stood by her 1 Spade opener which was passed out...down 1. Of course 6♥ was stiff.

As long as we are talking about wild hands there were two amazingly similar hands that occurred on rounds during a recent game at the South Bay Bridge Club. My pard Maurice Suhre held :

♠-- ♥K ♦AKJTxxx ♣AKQxx

After a third-seat 1♠ opener on his right Maurice decided to double. It went 4♠ by LHO-pass-pass-5♦ by Maurice-5♠ by LHO-pass-pass-6♣ by Maurice, pass, 6♦ by me, all pass. The good news was that I had the ♦Q. The bad news was that clubs were 4-1 and dummy had three small.

I swear a couple rounds later I picked up:

♠x ♥- DAKQJTxx ♣AKQxx.

The bidding was much simpler this time. 1♠ by LHO-pass-pass-6♦ by me, not knowing how to check who had the ♠A. Too bad, pard had ♠A and ♣J. Making 7.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

I'd Like to Thank the Academy . . .

This month marks a milestone in my stewardship of this column. I received my first piece of fan mail. I am glad for the opportunity to use my talents to give back to the bridge world, and I hope to continue entertaining you with my contributions for the foreseeable future, so it's good to know that these efforts are appreciated. Thank you for writing, and to everyone who has taken

a moment to let me know you enjoy my column.

A Cultural Proposal

I've been giving some thought recently to what we can do, as a community, to encourage more bridge players to make the jump to duplicate. It seems to me that one of the scarier moments for a new player is when an irregularity occurs and the call of "Director, please!" booms across the room. I'm guessing that this call brings back uncomfortable echoes of having someone "tell" on them. Perhaps there's another way. After all, the point of summoning the director isn't to assess punishment or penalty, it's to get a ruling on an out-of-the-ordinary occurrence. So I propose that we teach our junior players to call, "Ruling, please." And the more experienced players could start to cultivate that habit as well.

News from the Unit

There's been a change of personnel on the Unit Board. After many years of service, Mario Mory has left us to contribute to the bridge world in a different capacity. Our thanks to Mario for his service to the unit, and we wish him the best of luck in his new position. The new ~~sucker~~ board member is David Raphael, and we welcome David to the board.

By the time this column sees print, the Halloween Individual will have occurred. Our final event of the year will be the Holiday Party, making a return appearance at the Beverly Hills Country Club. The food is great, the bridge is a Unit Championship, and the entertainment, headlined by our own Loree Meyers Frazier, is not to be missed, all for a bargain price of \$40. The invitation should already be in your hands, but if not, look in the clubs or ask a Board member.

Passing

Diana Schreiber lost her long battle with illness. My predecessor in this space, Candy Scott, passes along her thoughts:

I met Diana in the mid seventies, when a bridge game spilled over to the nearest bar and we discussed hands until closing. With Sandy Rink we wrote the Culver-Marina Unit column under the pseudonym the "Lunchboxes." Under that cover we could make fun of

the bridge world, and while we complained it's that time of the month again, we always enjoyed our time together. At that time Diana described herself as a Professional Kibitzer. A lucky kibitzer is worth her weight in gold points. When she married Bill, she became his faithful lucky charm.

I was her partner in many one-session events. The four-session event was saved for lifelong friend Madeline Kelly. While there were others who played with her, it's the friend we will remember and cherish.

When Diana married Bill, she added Robyn and Mark to her heart. She even enjoyed the teenage years. Bill was on the West L.A. Unit Board for many years and later became ALACBU President. Diana's time as First Lady of District 23 was active and unrelenting. Bill knows he couldn't have done half of what he accomplished without her. Bill became the West L.A. Player of the Year with Diana by his side.

Diana's long battle with cancer was a miraculous testimony to her inner strength. She amazed everyone!

To Robyn, Eric, Michael, and Amy, nothing I can write will fill that void. To Bill, you were her Knight in Shining Armor.

Things to Come

The district semifinals for North American Open Pairs took place last month. I hope that everyone who was eligible showed up for one of the semifinals. The prize for the district winners is a trip to the Spring Nationals, and in each flight the points of a full fledged regional event are up for grabs. Also, it's not too soon to start making your plans for Grand National Teams. Lately, only a handful of teams have attempted to win the big prize. In fact, our Flight B team (0-2000 points) this year picked up 26 gold points for prevailing in a three-team round robin! Winning the Flight C District Final, which is limited to non-life masters, is worth 15 points, some red and some gold. Show up, and grab your fair share of the points.

The Tournament Trail

First and foremost, the good luck to the U.S. Teams, and particularly to the Venice Cup squad featuring our own Jill Meyers, as they compete for the Bermuda Bowl, the Venice Cup, and the Senior Bowl in the Netherlands.

A couple of nearby sectionals warmed us up for

the Marina del Rey Regional. Sid Brownstein was on the winning team at the Sunday Swiss in Antelope Valley. At the Thousand Oaks game, Carolyn Mitchell scored a victory in the Saturday afternoon 299er game, while Rhoda and Lew Himmell prevailed in the Sunday Swiss.

I have my own story from an earlier Thousand Oaks Swiss. In second seat, all white, holding ♠A87652 ♥-- ♦64 ♣Q9763, I heard my opponents (a good pair) conduct the following auction: 1♦-1♥, 2♦-3♣, 3♦-3♠*, 4♣-4♦, 5♦-6♦. I decided that this sounded an awful lot like a partnership that didn't have a spade stopper, but did have a stiff spade. Of course, if they didn't have a spade stopper, then partner probably had the king. So knowing full well I was on lead, I made a lead-directing double, and then put a lead-directing spade 8 on the table, praying that partner would produce the king. He didn't. He played the 10. It held. After I resumed breathing, I noticed that partner had come through with a heart for me to ruff, beating the slam by a trick.

Fred Zhang led the unit's contingent at the Marina del Rey Regional with three victories, claiming top honors in the Admiralty Way Compact Knockout, the Marvin Grabel Pairs, and the Buccaneer Pairs. Fred carried our Peerless Leader Howard Einberg to two of those victories, in the Compact Knockout and the Buccaneer Pairs event, ably assisted by Roberto Scaramuzzi in the team event. Roger and Becky Clough also scored a pair of wins, prevailing in the Privateer Compact Knockout and the Second Evening Compact Knockout. Our unit made it a clean sweep in the Privateer Compact Knockout when Steven and Joan Little teamed with Carol and Robert Sherman to take the victory in their bracket of the event. Robert and Sandra Carroll added to the unit's victory totals by winning the Voyage Open Pairs. Diane Audeon, Ruth Shayne, Eleanor Levine, and Clay Levine won their bracket of the Bali Way Compact Knockouts. The team of Richard Gliksman, Kris Sommer, Richard Stevenson, and Karen Schwartz won its bracket of the Marina Knockouts, as did Colin and Nelly Gordon in their bracket of the Fiji Way Knockouts. Gary King's team won the Anchor Compact Knockout while Jordan Chodorow and Jill Richmond closed the tournament by winning Sunday's Catamaran Fast Pairs.

Around the Clubs

Club champions at Beverly Hills this month were

UNITS *continued on page 11*

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

This month's panelists:

Leo Bell, Mitch Dunitz, Mark Itabashi, Roger Lee, and David Sacks

1

MPs
both vul

South	West	North	East
	3♦	dbl	pass
3NT	pass	4♦	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠965 ♥K ♦AT84 ♣AKT73
What call do you make?

Sacks: 7♣. I have no way to make a forcing bid in clubs or to ask for aces. I'll take the bull by the horns and bid what I think I should be able to make opposite a typical 4♦ bid.

Lee: 5♦. I'm going to see what happens, but I plan on playing something at the 7-level.

Itabashi: 5♦. I want to show some interest in a grand, so rather than jumping to 6♣, I'll cue bid 5♦ and continue on to 6♣ over partner's expected five of a major. Bidding 7♣ directly would not be the worst shot in the world.

Dunitz: 5♦, and correct 5♥ to 6♣. The likely patterns for partner are: 5-4-0-4, 4-5-0-4, and possibly 5-3-0-5. I expect to miss a grand much of the time, but suits could be splitting poorly.

The 5♦ bidders are not completely on the same page. Roger is cue bidding to help select the strain for a grand slam, and Mitch and Mark are using it to invite

a grand slam.

Bell: 6♣. Partner probably wants me to pick a major, but my hand is just too good to stop short of slam here. My ♦A might be wasted, but my other ace and two kings should be golden. If partner corrects to 6♥, I'll bid 6♠.

This hand was sent to me by a reader. He was playing with a more experienced player against an international junior player (the 3♦ bidder). Neither of them liked his 5♣, claiming he should bid 4♠. Our reader was surprised when I told him I would bid 6♣. I'm now convinced that even 6♣ was conservative, that inviting a grand is better. The reader took flak for bidding even 5♣, but our panel is bidding at least 6♣, and most try for or bid a grand slam. His partner's actual hand was ♠KQJ8x ♥JT98x ♦Q ♣72, nowhere near strong enough for his first double, much less his subsequent cue bid. An initial 4♦ for the majors is closer, but is still a big overbid.

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org



South	West	North	East
?	3NT*	4♠	pass

* Gambling, solid 7 card minor, little outside

You, South, hold: ♠A8 ♥AQ97 ♦QT8643 ♣6
 What call do you make?

Sacks: Pass. We are probably safe at the five-level, but it is hard to construct a minimum consistent with partner's bidding that produces a laydown slam. I think that is called Culbertson's rule. We know we have a club loser, and it is too much to ask partner to have the singleton ace, a void, or the ♦AK. Even if he has the ♦AK, and he cue bids 5♦ over my 5♣, how would I know when to bid on?

The rule David refers to is to make a try for game or slam if a perfect minimum for partner will make game or slam laydown. Some credit the rule to Ely Culbertson, instead of his wife Josephine, but I first saw the rule in print in Jeff Rubens' book "The Secrets of Winning Bridge." It's a very good rule. (The book is very good, too.)

Lee: Pass. The opponents have stuck it to us, and suits may be breaking poorly. Partner doesn't need a mountain to bid 4♠, and I don't intend to punish him for it. To be honest, I don't really think this is a problem.

Itabashi: 4NT. I'll take a shot at 6♠, if we have the

required keycards.

Bell: 5♠. Partner could have a wide range of hands from a minimum such as ♠KQJTxxx ♥Kx ♦Kxx ♣x to a perfecto such as ♠KQJTxxx ♥Kxx ♦AKx ♣--. In either case, the 5-level is probably safe, so I'll risk it. After all, I have two aces and a ruffing value.

Dunitz: Pass. Since I love to play with overbidders, I must cut them some slack here. The key questions are 1) will there be safety at the 5-level, and 2) how can I get partner to accept an invite with the right hand, and not accept with the wrong one? Answer 1: The 5-level is probably safe. Answer 2: I don't have a good answer for this, therefore I'm going low; Robison would be proud.

Mitch has the right two questions, but I think the answer to the second question is to cue bid 5♣. (I had the advantage of playing with a sound bidder.) 5♣ shouldn't be natural in this situation. I bid 5♣, and partner drove to slam. Slam was good even though the defense got an early trump lead, and was makeable on a double squeeze.

UNITS continued from page 9

Mike Mikyska and Marty Blain, Nancie Barrier and Marshall Wengrow, and Dorothy Lipsky and Audrey Pauley. Cracking 70% at the club were Fran Malina and Michael Billow, Mike Mikyska and Marty Blain, and Ryan Wessels playing with your humble scribe. Peter Benjamin had a pair of 70% games at Barrington, playing with Aram Bedros and Tom Lesser. Club champions at Barrington were Pete Benjamin-Tom Lesser, Aram Bedros-Art Zail, and Mark Peters-Ron Stewart.

It looks like Marcia Fisher finally prevailed upon Barrie to find out what all the fuss is about – Barrie Fisher joins Judy Freeman as new Junior Masters. Marilyn Blank and Stephanie Young have reached Club Master status, while Eleanor Goldman, Kitty Keck, and Mahin Marjani are all Sectional Masters. Norma Friedman is now a Regional Master.

Edward Victor has become a Bronze Life Master. Brana Hall and Bill Malcolm are now Silver Life Masters, while Harvey Katz is now a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

3

MPs
no vul

S	W	N	E
	1♦	dbl	pass
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠A943 ♥-- ♦AQ932 ♣JT42
 What call do you make?

Lee: Pass. We're probably not going to get to play it here, since the opponents have a heart fit, but I intend to jump in spades after they run, which should describe my hand more efficiently than will cue bidding.

Passing will lead to 1♦ doubled down one or two. Down one is a good board; down two is a top. Although passing works out here, I believe most experts would like better diamond spots to pass.

Sacks: 2♦. I hate to bid 2♦, but I must show strength, and as unlikely as it seems, this is the best way to prepare for partner's strong jump overcall in hearts. 2♠ jams the auction; partner is forced to bid 3♥. Since I promise another bid with 2♦, partner can bid 2♥, I can bid 2♠, and then we might get to clubs, spades, or notrump intelligently.

Dunitz: 2♦. Then 4♠.

Itabashi: 2♦. Follow with 2♠ over partner's probable 2♥. I won't pass, as game or slam are possible, depending on how strong partner is and how the hands fit.

Bell: 2♠. I'm at the top of the range for this, but my diamonds aren't great on offense. Passing 1♦ is just too speculative for me, though with another spot card or two in diamonds that would be my choice.

Maybe Leo knows too well my tendency to have light shaped takeout doubles. My partner chose 2♦ at the table. I subsequently misbid my hand, but I suggested to my partner that 2♠ is the best start with this hand. Upon reflection, I think Roger's pass is worthy of consideration.

District 23 Rank Changes August, 2011

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Barbara Fisher-Freeman Karen Gidwitz
 Gerald Ketz, Claudia Mirkin
 Kathleen Pastre, Joan Sade

Club Master (20 MPs)

June Collins-Cowgill, Park Cowgill
 Pamela Cronn, Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten
 Jaelyn Hatfield, Lois Rawitt
 Gary Trenda

Sectional master (50 MPs)

Richard Dial, Linda Eagan
 Joyce Klossner

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Carole King, Jerome Smith
 Robert Stillwell
 Karen Watson

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Reva Alban
 Temo Arjani
 Estelle Baron
 April Berg (Adv)

Life Master (300 MPs)

Margy Sievers

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Martin Cooper
 Barbara Jones
 Vincent Remedios

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Keith Hafen
 Genise Hasan
 Judith Jones
 Charles Kelley
 Calvin Waller

Diamond Life Master (5000 MPs)

Don Krauss



South	West	North	East
1♦	2♣	dbl	2♥
4♠	5♥	dbl	pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠K8765 ♥void ♦AKQJ975 ♣9
 What call do you make?

Opponents are Eddie Wold (West) and Roger Bates.

Dunitz: 5♠. I know the hand and still bid 5♠. Furthermore, I would bid 5♠ against Wold and Bates, or even against two opponents who never have their bids. (Baqa-Dunitz in the early '80s?)

Not the 2011 version?

Sacks: 5♠. I cannot make myself sit for the double with a two-loser hand. [Two spade losers and one club loser make this a three-loser hand for a less optimistic player.] Since our esteemed opponents were always going to play me for heart shortness, why not let partner know I am void by bidding 3♥ on the previous round (intending to bid 5♣ next)? If instead my goal was to buy the hand as cheaply as possible, then walking the dog (albeit a pure bred one here) might well have been the better strategy. Perhaps 4♥ should have been exclusion keycard?

Lee: 5♠, but I don't really understand why I bid 4♠ last round with an easy 4♥ available. I haven't really described my hand, I have little defense, and I have an offensive mountain, so bidding one more seems normal to me.

Itabashi: 5♠. Partner could easily have his double and still be wrong, as he will never picture this hand.

Bell: 5♠. The fifth spade makes this hand all offense and no defense.

I held this hand at the table. Partner's double of 2♣ didn't have to have spades; he only needed to

have one major. I think the double of 5♥ should mostly be used on hands that do not contain four spades. I passed at the table and partner had 4423 with 6 HCP including the ♣K, which unluckily did not prove to be a trick on defense. Neither 5♥ nor 5♠ are great contracts on the actual deal, but 5♥ made with careful play.



District 23

Memphis - HERE WE COME!




North American Pairs

D23 Finals

15 JAN 2012, 11:00 AM

Barrington Bridge Club
11514 Santa Monica Blvd

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks ☉ Sodas ☉ Coffee ☉ Gold/Red Points

5

IMPs
both vul

South	West	North	East
pass	pass	1♠	4♦
?		dbl	pass

You, South, hold: ♠97 ♥K83 ♦A86 ♣QT653
What call do you make?

Bell: Pass. I'm short in partner's suit with an otherwise balanced hand. I think pass is clear-cut.

Sacks: Pass or 5♣...5♠ or pass. Good problem. My bid probably depends on my feelings about East's play.

Itabashi: 5♣. Might make six, but suits don't rate to be splitting too well.

Dunitz: 5♣. This is a close decision. After staring at this for five minutes, I confess to being seduced by the ♣10. I bid 5♣ with it and pass without it.

Lee: Pass. I held this hand at the table and bid 5♣, but I'm ashamed of it now. If East had bid 4♥ and our red suits were reversed, we would all pass 4♥ in a flash and wait for our number. I think people have an irrational aversion to defending 4m doubled, but all the ingredients are here: lots of random defense, no guaranteed fit, no idea if we can make game, and no idea what the best strain is even if we can.

On this hand, I kibitzed Roger and Mitch in the GNT. Roger tried 5♣ and had no chance on a 5-0 club break. Notice the partnership aspect. Roger is convinced his bid is wrong, but Mitch is supportive of his partner's action. Good partnership skills! I like pass, and it was the winner on the actual hand.

-

November includes Thanksgiving and is a time to be thankful. This is an appropriate time to express the thanks I have for those who help me make this

column successful. First, a thank you for my readers and their kind words of encouragement. It's always nice to know that someone has read the column and has something good to say. Maybe most importantly, I wish to thank my panelists. The problems in this column are deliberately difficult, yet we get quick and well-reasoned answers from them. Thank you panelists: without you, this column wouldn't exist. Next, I want to thank my proofreaders. My most frequent proofreaders are Miriam Harrington and Jeff Goldsmith. Jeff works proofreading into his busy schedule. He looks at everything from the spelling and grammar to whether the panelists' answers make sense. He looks at answers to see if other conventions that weren't used have an effect on the auction and sometimes suggests comments which make the column more interesting. Miriam also drops what she is doing to proofread. She corrects grammar and prose. She is quick, accurate, and appreciated. Gene Smith, Fara Kaufman, and Judy Fox also help out with some of the proofreading. I owe a huge thank you to my co-moderators David Sacks and Leo Bell. Creating a column turns out to be about ten times more work than any of us imagined when we took over the job in 2008. Neither David nor Leo has ever complained; they just keep turning out entertaining columns and tough problems. I also want to thank my guest moderators, Roger Lee and Marshall Miles, who have also done an excellent job. Finally, I need to express my appreciation for my editor, Jennifer Einberg. I think I must have set some kind of record for the number of times I have missed a deadline. Still, Jennifer keeps getting this column edited, formatted, proofed, and in the newspaper on time. Thank you Jennifer!

- John Jones

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