

# Southern California Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### District 23 Prevails in Atlanta

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



We sent four teams to the Summer National Bridge Tournament in Atlanta to compete in the Grand National Teams. One of our teams brought the championship home. Our Flight C team made up of Fred Upton (Van Nuys), Om Chokriwala (Sherman Oaks), father and son

Nolan and Jack Chang (San Gabriel) and Yichi Zhang (Pasadena) won every one of their matches convincingly, including the last match by triple digits.

Fred Upton learned to play kitchen bridge with his parents when he was a teenager, but it wasn't until college at CalTech that he became more serious about the game. His roommate pulled him into a game when their fourth failed to appear. Jeff Goldsmith ran the CalTech bridge game at that time. Fred earned several hundred points during his college years but bridge was put on hold after graduation for nearly a decade while he studied and passed his actuarial exams.

Fred very nearly did not go to Atlanta in July. His father had been battling cancer and his health had deteriorated during the last weeks in July. Fred warned his team that it would be a last minute decision depending on how his dad was doing on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, the day his flight to Atlanta was scheduled to leave. His father passed away in the early hours of that Tuesday morning. With the support and encouragement of his family, Fred went to Atlanta, thankful he needn't let down his team, but thankful he had done what he could for his dad while he was alive.

Fred's partner, Om Chokriwala, first played bridge as a grad student in Saskatchewan in the 1970's. He stopped playing for 35 years during which time he married, raised a family and earned his MBA from MIT. For most of his working career, Om was a business strategy consultant for the Boston Consulting

PRESIDENT *continued on page 11*

## Board Actions in Atlanta

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Congratulations to the District 23 Flight C Grand National Team that won the national title at the Summer NABC in Atlanta. Our Championship Team and Flight A teams also did very well in their respective competitions.

### Board Actions in Atlanta

The Board took many actions to make our NABCs more appealing towards our general membership. Over the past year, with input from many different bridge disciplines, it was determined that to enhance the NABC experience, more minor NABC events should be established. We recently created the following NABC events:

- 0-10,000 MP Swiss which produced 80+ tables in its initial debut.
- 0-10,000 Mixed Swiss Team event to be held at the Summer NABC
- 0-10,000 Pairs for the Summer NABC
- 0-10,000 Swiss to be held at the Fall NABC
- 0-10,000 KO to be held at the Spring NABC that will start the same day as the Vanderbilt.

The Board also passed a motion creating the NABC+ Victory Point Scale which assigns a victory point value for each IMP difference in a Swiss match.

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An additional motion reclassified the Machlin Women's Swiss and the Wagar Women's KO from Grand Life Master qualification as these events have not in many years met the criteria of 30 tables in the event.

There were also many discussions and motions related to masterpoints, masterpoint "inflation," and enlarging the masterpoint range for GNT and NAP events. I will present this discussion next month and would like to have a discussion regarding these issues at our ALACBU meeting in October.

I would also like to highlight some of the items that were presented to the Board and Board

of Governors from the Management Report. First, membership as of June 30, 2013 stands at 167,232. This is an increase of 824 members. Regional table count is down but there have been less Regionals this year, 59 compared to 67 last year. Sectional count has increased with 11 more Sectional tournaments so far this year.

The progress of our Strategic Plan includes the following:

- Online Learn To Play Bridge. Testers are able to enter content, play hands and robot play.
- Understand why people choose to leave ACBL. A research firm has provided preliminary questionnaires for both populations of interest, lapsed and current Members.

▪ Develop a vision of an ideal new Tournament Director structure. Three focus areas have been identified: effective TD communications, recruit TDs, and develop TD staff.

▪ Implement better web development tools. Ability to read any current game file, mobile capable hand record viewer designed, and NABC pages and NextGen Bridge designed.

▪ Centralization of Data. Empowering headquarters staff to quickly and easily find information. Training headquarters staff to use data screens established for Members, clubs, districts, units, tournaments, NABCs accounting, education and marketing.

▪ ACBLscore+. We are in phase 4 of 6 and working on advanced scoring. We are 2-3 months away from automated testing and getting TDs involved with feedback and testing.

I am interested if our District has any comments on any of the above items discussed. I hope next month's report will generate discussion I can take back to the Board in November.

Until then, you can always reach me at [Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net).

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# Around the Units in District 23

## Antelope Valley by Brad Ward

Our Unit 556 Sectional is coming up on October 5 and 6. Hopefully, everybody from our unit is planning to play at least one day at our grand location across from Magic Mountain. A very,very pretty place. Please check with your local club for directions, partners, game times and car pool arrangements.

The NAP competition has started and many have qualified for the next level of play and the chance to represent the LA area in the National Pair event. Good luck to all that have made it. Remember, character counts, even though many seem to have forgotten that (or in a few cases, never had it to begin with).

Lamonte, Markle, Ted, George, Basant, Bert, Kristi, Carol, Bill, Lola and Doris are all winning a lot at our local games. Congrats and keep it up!

## Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

September 14, 2013  
Board of Directors meeting at 11:30  
Lunch at noon, Game at 1:00

Well, our sectional tournament has come and gone and by all accounts, it was a great success. Attendance was up almost 5% over last year. Congratulations to Jack Futrell and Gerry Belcher, the top-two point earners in our Unit, and to David Rozzell, our top 299er.

Congratulations also to Unit President Merry Besvold and Karen Alpert for the excellent job they did organizing the event. We all appreciate the efforts of Board members Betsy Josias and Nancy Lyon in setting up the room and Gloria Balfour, Adam Barron, Margaret Mataga, and Eva Seri in bringing bagels, doughnuts, deviled eggs, cookies, etc. Additionally, we want to thank non-Board members Pat Abbey, Karen Arase, Joanne Sasaki, and Mike Doll for bringing goodies to

share.

Our next Unit game is on September 14. There will also be a Board meeting that day.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

unit website: [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
club website: [www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

**July 28 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Sankar Reddy/John Petrie, 2nd Ed Barad/Carol McCully, 3rd Lois Abramson/Gary Paugh, 4th Larry and Sibyl Slutsky, 5th Hank and Fern Dunbar, 6th Judith Jones/Wayne Rapp. In the B flight overall 4th Patricia Jay/Paul Pettler, 5th Phyllis Greenstein/Doreen Maes, 6th Kiyo Nagaishi/Renee Hoffman. In the C flight overall Pat and Bob Adam were 3rd, Sue Boswell/Bettyanne Houts 4th, Marlys Haraden/Haroon Sorathia 5th. In the NLM section: 1st Sally Fenton/Mary Lund, 2nd Rick Schaeffer/Dahlia Hernandez, 3rd Rosalie Storck/Jane Okimoto, 4th Martin Lipman/Bill Dilks. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games** in the club July 16 through August 15: In the open game July 16 Walt Schafer/Steve Love had 72.92%. In 199er game; on July 17 Pam Cronn/Sylvia Kaprelyan had 73%, and on July 31 Gil Fisher/Tom Cole had 71.49%. Congratulations to all three pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards** July 16 through August 15: In the evening game July 26 Susan and Keith Hafen tied with John Petrie/Orhan Gurbuz for first over-all, each winning 3.58mp. In the Unit Game July 28 John Petrie/Sankar Reddy won 4.96mp for 1st over-all, and Carol McCully/Ed Barad won 3.72mp for 2nd. Aug 4 John and Jo Melis were 1st winning 3.50mp. Aug 5 George Welsh/Michael Fishman were 1st winning 5.00mp, Marcie Evans/Martin Mack were 2nd winning 3.75mp. Aug 6 in the afternoon game Lina Cheng/Lois Abramson were 1st winning 5.83mp, Chiye Horiguchi/Mark Tang were 2nd winning 4.37mp, Phyllis →

Greenstein/Doreen Maes were 3rd winning 3.28mp, and Bee Kinman/Jon Yinger were 1st in the evening game winning 3.00mp. Aug 7 Mark Teafor/Brandon Sheumaker were 1st winning 5.33mp, Verna Baccus/Bob Mault were 2nd winning 4.00mp, Steve Rowe/Marcus Evans were 3rd winning 3.00mp. Aug 8 John Petrie/Orhan Gurbuz were 1st winning 4.33mp, Lois Abramson/Betty Jackson were 2nd winning 3.25mp. Aug 9 John Farr/Gaye Herrington were 1st winning a record 7.00mp, Kay Tseng were 2nd winning 5.25mp, Betty McClellan/Verna Baccus were 3rd winning 3.94mp. Aug 12 John and Suzie Hand were 1st winning 3.79mp. Aug 13 Om Chokriwala/Neal Kleiner were 1st winning 3.03mp. Aug 14 Wen Lee/Michael Teng were 1st winning 3.47mp. Aug 15 Orhan Gurbuz/John Petrie were 1st winning 3.03mp. Congratulations to all!

**New Memeber:** Randy Frisk. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New Junior Master: Kersten Truelson; New Club Master: John Krafft; New Regional Master: John Galligher; New Bronze Life Master: Dennis Higginson. Congratulations to you all!

**Upcoming Events at the Club:** Monday Sept 2 unit-rated Labor Day Game. Extra points, regular prices. International Fund Week Sept 9-15. Extra points, \$11 fee. Districts 22-23 STaC week Sept 16-22. Extra points, hand records, \$11 fee. Unit Game Sunday afternoon Sept 29--lunch at 12:30 pm, game at 1:00 p.m.

**Condolences** to the family and friends of Gary King and Gloria Sedore who passed away earlier this month. Two delightful people; they will be sorely missed.

No news from Leisure World this month.

**Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via email:** Send me your email address, and I'll put you on the list. My email is [jyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, September 21, 11:00 a.m.  
Individual – Saturday, September 7, LaVerne site →



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- **Partnership**, Betty Jackson, 562-594-4420, [rjackson6277@roadrunner.com](mailto:rjackson6277@roadrunner.com)
- Card fees \$13 for paid members, \$15 for others

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**Gary Zeiger**  
Director-in-Charge  
Sanction 1310019



August (yes, I know you are reading this in September!) is a very slow news month. Fortunately, we have lots of tournament results to report.

The August Individual was captured by Larry Clark. Close behind were Homer Wallace, Paul Chrisney, Roger Boyar, and Bob Kakade. September's game will be at Lois Snowden's place in LaVerne. Remember, this is a gated community, so if you don't have the most recent code, check in first!

Our Unit game was captured Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. Second place went to Kerry Sartor-Margaret Merritt. Trailing them were Cordell Goode – Genise Hasan, Tom Lill – Clint Lew, and Larry Clark – Gino Barbieri. This month's game will be a STaC, so come on down and pick up some silver points.

In tournament news, our Unit was well represented among the top finishers at the two recent sectionals. At the John Waken event, we find the team of Dave Ruoff, Susan Ruoff, Vic Sartor, and Cordell Goode taking the top A spot in an A/X Swiss. In pairs events, we find Gino and Larry with a 3<sup>rd</sup> in D (remember, the top flight in 299er games is D, not A); Claudia Cochran 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in D; Kurt Trieselmann 1<sup>st</sup> in C; Anand and Kiran Kumar 1<sup>st</sup> in E and 3<sup>rd</sup> in D; Walt Otto-Clint Lew 5<sup>th</sup> in B; Bill Papa 1<sup>st</sup> in A; Wendy Wanderman 2<sup>nd</sup> in D. Over at Pasadena / San Gabriel, we find Gino and Larry 5<sup>th</sup> in A; Claudia 3<sup>rd</sup> in D; Ann McClelland 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in A; Kiran and Anand Kumar 1<sup>st</sup> in D; and a team including Genise Hasan – Clint Lew took 1<sup>st</sup> in a B/C/D Swiss.

The top game this month was 71.7%, by Fredy Minter and Tom Lill. Others taking a top spot were Tim and Eileen Finlay, Genise Hasan, Joe Unis, Susan Ruoff, Roger Boyar, Sandy Jones, Lu Minter, Linda Tessier, Richard Patterson, Karen McCarthy, Ken Bloomfield, Kim Horn, Suzanne Wojcik, Kurt Trieselmann, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Amr Elghamry, Madhu Sudan, Clint Lew, Walt Otto, and Penny Barbieri.

### Promotions this month

Steve Mancini and Erika Moore to Junior Master

Dru Em, Douglas Hess, Kiran Kumar,  
and Donald Logsdon to Club Master

Bob Kakade to Sectional Master

Our hand of the month this time is a paired dual, proving that the universe wants to stay in balance. (i.e.,

the bridge gods giveth, and the bridge god taketh away.) Both hands were of course held by the same player in the same session...

In third seat, at favorable vulnerability, it goes pass – pass and you are looking at:

♠KQJT9x ♥AQxxx ♦x ♣K.

The self-described wise-@\$\$ decided to open 4♠. This was doubled by LHO, who was holding:

♠xx ♥Kx ♦AQxx ♣AQxxx.

Dummy came down with:

♠Ax ♥JT ♦JT9xx ♣Qxxxx

and the contract rolled home.

A few rounds later, Our Hero picked up

♠KJT9xxxx ♥x ♦Kxx ♣x.

Feeling frisky from that first pre-empt, Our Hero opened 4♠ again. Only this time, the vulnerability was unfavorable, dummy had tram tickets, and it went for -500. Oh well.

Quote for the month: "Nothing is more fairly distributed than common sense: no one thinks he needs more of it than he already has." (Rene Descartes)  
Until next month ...

## San Fernando Valley by Deborah Levinson

Greetings and Salutations!

### Achievements

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for July 2013

750 Bridge Club

- 1 Ron Malkin - 7.75
- 2 Bunnie Roth - 7.68
- 3 Gary Baxley - 7.40
- 4 Phil Jones - 6.15
- 5 Mil Sidel - 6.02
- 6 Gloria Malkin - 5.99

→

- 7 Paul Endler - 5.92
- 8 Mike Klemens - 5.68
- 9 Norm Bloomfield - 5.36
- 10 Margie Bulmer - 5.29

#### The Bridge Academy (Open)

- 1 Tom Wylie - 13.60
- 2 Gary Frans - 11.49
- 3 Sheila Bozin - 10.14
- 4 Joan Rubin - 8.21
- 5 J Raymond Bush - 8.14
- 6 Barbara Pinchuk - 7.84
- 7 Tammy Purkin - 7.62
- 8 Catharina Hassig - 6.85
- 9 Leda Danzig - 6.59
- 10 Gilbert Stinebaugh - 6.43

#### The Bridge Academy (< 750)

- 1 Deborah Levinson - 5.66
- 2 Jerry Goodman - 3.93
- 3 Sheila Singer - 3.72
- 4 Ron Stewart - 3.08
- 5 Gregory Bozin - 2.62
- 6 Shirley Horowitz - 2.61
- 7 Phyllis Hall - 2.61
- 8 John Van Egmond - 2.46
- 9 James Fu - 1.94
- 10 Coral Goldsmith - 1.81

#### 70 Percent Games

Ron Malkin and Gloria Mslkin 72.39%  
 Millie Polisky and Helene Levine 71.27%

#### Long Beach Regional Winners

Paul Revere Compact KO #2  
 1ST Place - James Gardner - Gloria Malkin - Merkie  
 Rowan, Northridge CA; E. J. (Jim) Lechner, West  
 Toluca Lk CA

Wednesday Afternoon Gold Rush Pairs  
 1st in C – Deedy and Frank Nordyke

Wednesday A/B Pairs  
 1st in B - Kevin Lane, Long Beach CA; Marel Bates,  
 Winnetka CA

Remember - if you are reading this, and you want  
 your name to be here, and you do not see it, it is because

you did not send your “news” to Deborah Levinson at  
 dlevinson@acesupms.com or leave a note in the “Bridge  
 News” envelope at either of our clubs! Remember! New  
 ranks? Life events? Let me know!

#### Other News

Wowsah! **Armand Szulc reached Diamond Life  
 Master!** Quite the accomplishment.

The Bridge Academy will be moving! Keep your  
 eyes and ears peeled for its new location.

Column News: Make certain that your bridge  
 news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by  
 sending it to Deborah Levinson (dlevinson@acesupms.  
 com) with the subject BRIDGE COLUMN.

## Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: [www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568](http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568)  
 SBBC: [www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc](http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc)

#### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Monday, September 9, 7:00  
 Club Championship: Friday, September 13, 11:30  
 Club Championship: Tuesday, September 24, 11:30  
 Handicapped Swiss Teams Every Tuesday Evening  
 Friday Night games on September 6 and 20

There appears to be some confusion between the  
 District 23 and ACBL websites on when the next District  
 22/23 STAC takes place. The ACBL has it taking place  
 September 16-22. The District 23 website has it listed  
 as taking place October 21-27

#### Club Championships

The North American Pair Qualifier on July 22  
 was won by Carol McCully/Ed Barad in Flight A  
 and Calvin Morse/Charles LaFranchi in Flight B.  
 The evening NAOPQ on July 22 was led by Gabriela  
 Jackson/Mike Savage in Flight A with Terri Hane/  
 Chris Freeland taking Flight B. On July 23 the NAOPQ  
 was won by Cecil Cook/Bruce Horiguchi. The July 27  
 Club Championship resulted in a tie between Gabriela  
 Jackson/Ron Carlson and JoAnna Wallis/Ray →

Mack. The Club Championship on August 2 was led by Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott.

### Team Winners

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

July 16:	Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
July 23:	Carol McCully, Lucy Gellner, Ed Barad, Wayne Otsuki
July 30:	Carol McCully, Lucy Gellner, Ed Barad, Wayne Otsuki
August 6:	Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
August 13:	Carol McCully, Lucy Gellner, Ed Barad, Wayne Otsuki

### Milestones

Gary King, a good friend to many of us and oftentimes partner of several TSB unit players passed away in July after a lengthy battle with cancer. Many of you knew Gary, one of the top players in our unit. He was a regular for years in games played at the South Bay Bridge Club and the Long Beach Bridge Center. I could write up several paragraphs of a eulogy to Gary but instead recommend you go to the district 23 website. There you will find a writeup by Ted Gibbs on Gary better than anything I could do. Ted and Gary were a regular pair at the Monday morning SBBC pairs game. We will all miss Gary, even those whose bidding he was sometimes critical of (like me).

### Agile Bridge Club

Following is a note sent by Jeff Grotenhuis describing the success of his 99er duplicate Bridge Club in the South Bay. One of its locations in Hermosa Beach Club is about a block from my home.

Hermosa Beach is now home to the largest weekly 99r bridge game in California. Started only last year, the Tuesday 99r game, 12:15pm at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club, has blossomed from five tables of players to 17!

Founded only two short years ago, Agile Bridge Club has already signed up 100 new ACBL members. It is likely the first club to ever attract 100 new members

in only its second year in existence.

What has caused the resurgence of duplicate bridge right here in the Beach Cities? Teacher Jeff Grotenhuis has made it comfortable for new and returning bridge players. The Tuesday game even features a separate rookie section for players with only five months experience. Not resting on his laurels, Jeff plans to teach not one or two, but three beginning classes starting in mid September. The evening lessons on Wednesdays 7-9pm starting September 11 and the Monday 1-3 p.m lessons starting September 16 will both be held at the Manhattan Beach Joslyn Center. The third beginning class will take place Fridays 1-3 p.m. at the El Segundo Woman's Club. To learn more visit [www.agilebridgeclub.com](http://www.agilebridgeclub.com) or better yet call Jeff at (310) 600-4275.

### District 22/23 STAC

Following is a list of pairs that placed in the recent District 22/23 STAC in games played at Torrance South Bay clubs.

#### Monday Morning, July 15, SBBC

1A	Bea and John Brailliar
3A	Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott
5/6A 1B	Masae Kato/Andy Anderson
5/6A	Lucy Gellner/Jeff Strutzel
2B	MaryBelle Hoenig/Gerri Carlson
3B 1C	LornaWallace/Mike Welsh
4B	Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder
5B	Arlene and Stanley Greengard
6B 2C	Nanci Schultz/Elaine Godin
4C	Yokuko Sheehy/Jeff Grotenhuis

#### Monday Evening, July 15

2A 1B 1C	Joan Lurie/Gene Goldberg (Veterans Park)
3A	Gerri Carlson/Jerome Drayton (SBBC)
5A 2B	Mark Raggio/Stamley Greengard (SBBC)
6A 3B 2C	Robert Svensrud/Robert Fieselman (Veterans Park)
4B 3C	Chris Freeland/Patricia Westenhaver (SBBC)
5C	Barbara Catino/Jagdish Parasrampurua (Veterans Park)
6C	Hal Hichborn/Patricia Wells

## (Veterans Park)

## 4C Marsha Wiener/Elaine Godin

## Tuesday Morning, July 16, SBBC

1A	Nanci Schultz/Fran Israel
2A	Gerri Carlson/Ray Mack
3A	Gabriela Jackson/Elizabeth Weinstein
4A 1B	Kim Wang/Cgein-San Han
2B	Adelia Horton/Ernie Frank
3B	Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan

## Friday Evening, July 19, Inglewood Beach

1A 1B	1C Rachel and Barry Simon
3A 2B	2C Marsha Carry/Kathy Miglin
4B	3C Paul Grant/Joan Chrishal
6B	Roy Young/Joe Thomas
5C	Violet Young/Katherine West

## GUV Memorial Award

If I go for four digit numbers on every board I declare the rest of the year, if I let the opponents make impossible contracts on my legendary bad opening leads on every board I defend the rest of the year, none of these will rank as my biggest Bridge related error this year. My biggest mistake was lending a book to my offtime partner Gerri Carlson. The book was on opening leads versus Notrump contracts and Gerri took it to heart. Generally this book downgrades fourth best opening leads in favor of short suit major suit opening leads against 1NT - 3NT auctions. Bad luck. The first time she put this theory to the test (Against a name player no less) she hit the jackpot. She led the ♥T from Tx, found me with 5 good hearts and set the opponents two while all other declarers made. After her lead the declarer asked about our leads and I honestly told her Gerri had just read this book so expect anything. Since then I tell them that nominally we play fourth best but since she read this book expect anything but. Unfortunately our success on this one board hasn't been duplicated since and I am begging Gerri to try fourth best again at least some of the time. She couldn't quite bring herself to do it however. Holding ♠QTxx against a 1NT-3NT auction. She led the ♠T ten which cost a trick and allowed declarer to make. Sigh.

Na Zdrowie

**West LA**  
by Robert Shore

## Updates

We note with sadness the passing of Gary King, as mentioned elsewhere in these pages last month. We extend our condolences to his friends and family. We gladly welcome Jill Richmond back to the table and →

## Tuesday Morning, July 16, NLM Pairs, SBBC

1A	Marie Lynch/Juanita Smith
2A	Johnny Arceri/Elaine Wagner

## Wednesday Afternoon, July 17, Veterans Park

1A 1B	William Baxter/Margaret Enders
15A 8B	Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder
7C	Luda Kaprenas/Clara Trummer

## Thursday Morning, July 18, NLM Pairs, SBBC

1A 1B	Linda Bernard/Dawn McGill
2A 2B	Elaine Bleiwiess/Barbara Green
3A	Nancy Collinge/Betsy Miller
4A 3B 1C	Chris and Dave Larsen
5A 4B	Jamila Malyikar/Juanita Smith
6A	Ann Andres/Marilyn Morton

## Thursday Morning, July 18, 299er Pairs, Agile

1A 1B	Pamela Boyer/Rob Williams
2A	Gerry Gastelum/Nancy Raiche
3A	Lake Kinney/Jeff Grotenhuis
4A 2B	Brigette Prince/Inga Stoops
5A	Marlene Felix/Kathleen Shinkle
3B	Sandy Rathbun/Rae Yan

## Friday Morning, July 19, SBBC

6A	Lucy Gellner/Fran Israel
7A	Kim Wang/John Williams

## Friday Morning, July 19, 100/50 Pairs, SBBC

1A 1B	Susan Cohen/Gerri Baluch
2A 2B	Judith Tomic/Nancy Guenther
3A 3B	Nancy Raishe/Gerri Gastelbun
4A 4B	Margaret Ota/Darlene Hoy
5/6A	Kathy Miller/Freda Main
5/6A	Bobbi and Myron Mitzenmacher

## Friday Afternoon, July 19, Beach Cities

3C	Sandi Stuart/Susan Hoose
----	--------------------------



look forward to many more opportunities to have her take all of our matchpoints.

### Better Late than Never

By the time this sees print, our Fall Sectional at the Kayne Eras Center will be well under way. I hope that everyone has the opportunity to drop in for at least a session or two. The Board would like to particularly encourage our less experienced players to use the opportunity of our 299er games to get their feet wet in the tournament scene.

Our next major event will be our annual Holiday Party, to be held on November 24 at the Beverly Hills Country Club. Those of you who have attended it in the past know that it's a soiree not to be missed. And if you haven't yet taken the opportunity to check it out, keep an eye on your mailbox for the annual invitation.

### STACKing the Deck

Our Unit truly shone during last month's District 23 STaC, joined by District 22. Leading all masterpoint winners during the STaC was Alyssa Kennedy (in fact, members of our Unit took the first three places). Brian Richardson and your Humble Scribe won the Monday evening event, while Sid Brownstein won on Tuesday afternoon. We decided to let other units join the fun on Wednesday. Winners of the Thursday afternoon event were Sandy and Robert Carroll. Victors on Friday morning were Peter Benjamin and Pete Knee, and Farideh Sigari and Rahim Israel continued the Unit's winning ways on Friday afternoon.

Of course, as always, we had plenty of other players travel to other tournaments as well. At the Eugene, Oregon, Regional, Roger and Becky Clough won the Eugene Skinner Knockout Teams event. Eva Schondorf and Bill Wickham won the Sunday A/X Swiss at the Pasadena Sectional. At the Glendale-Verdugo Sectional, Sue Hunter won the Friday morning 299er game, while Mike Savage won the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams.

We did particularly well at the San Fernando Valley Sectional. Joel Schiff and Alyssa Kennedy won the Saturday morning Open Pairs event at the San Fernando Valley Sectional, and Mike Savage extended the winning streak at that tournament by winning the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs. Mike then teamed with the Cloughs for victory in the Sunday Swiss.

And then there was Atlanta. Bob Kent's team won the Barb Borah A/X Swiss event on the first Sunday. Charles and JoAnne Kelley tasted victory in their bracket of the Tuesday Compact Knockout, while John Herriott (whom you may remember for his victory in the Senior Swiss last year) won his bracket of the Wednesday Compact Knockout. Joe Lieberman won the 299er Swiss held on the second Friday afternoon.

### My Kingdom for a VP

As many of you know, I was invited to join our Unit's GNT Flight B team in Atlanta, where we failed by a single victory point to reach the knockout stage of the event. Any time you come that close to advancing, any one of the four players can make the difference. I thought I'd share with you the hand I'd most like to have back.

All white at IMPs in fourth seat, I held:

♠KJ7 ♥KT3 ♦KQ5 ♣7432

A 1♦ opening on my left was passed around to me, and I balanced with 1NT. After an auction I'm too embarrassed to recount in these pages, I ended up in 3NT facing the opening lead of the club king. Dummy tracked with:

♠A653 ♥-- ♦A9732 ♣A965.

I ducked the first club (RHO following with a small spot) and won the second (RHO showing out). At this point, I hooked the ♠J, losing to the queen. LHO rapidly cashed his remaining clubs and the heart ace, defeating the contract.

This was a very poor play on my part. It costs nothing to test diamonds first. If I had done so, I'd have discovered that RHO started with the stiff ♦T. That discovery makes the hand cold. I should have cashed exactly four diamonds with the help of a finesse (pitching a heart from my hand), and then exited with a club. After LHO finished cashing his club tricks, his forced major suit exit would have presented me with my 9th trick. Why cash only four diamonds? Because the fifth diamond would have squeezed my hand – I need to know which suit is giving me my game-going trick so I can pitch my unnecessary card in the other suit.

## A Little Redemption

I did find one play in Atlanta that I'm rather proud of. White against red at matchpoints in third seat, I played 3NT after the auction 1♣-1♦, 1♥-3NT. I received the opening lead of the club jack and saw the following cards:

Dummy: ♠A97 ♥AK43 ♦6 ♣Q7652  
Declarer: ♠QJ8 ♥98 ♦AT843 ♣AK3

I won the opening lead in my hand and immediately ran the spade queen, which held. Then I cashed a second club and got the good news that they were breaking. At that point, with 10 tricks safely in hand, I decided to exercise some greed. I led the ♥9, ducking.

RHO won with the 10 and continued a low diamond. I grabbed the ace and cashed my remaining winners, learning that LHO had started life with ♥5. On the run of the clubs, he pitched a heart and the ♦Q. Trusting my judgment, I threw him in with the fourth heart and the forced spade return from the king was good for my 11th trick and all the matchpoints. I think that's the second time in my career I've successfully executed a strip squeeze.

## Welcome Mat

Our ranks are growing. Please join me in welcoming new members Diane Anderson, Sharon Azerrad, Nancy Bornn, Betty Johnson, Lila Levine, and Peter McKernan. Transferring into our Unit from points near and far are Michael Dubois, Brian Jersky, Robert Leavitt, Kenneth Selden, John Soldano, and Robert Williams.

WEST LA *continued on page 13*

## District 23 Rank Changes July, 2013

### Junior Master

Gloria Butman  
Zu Ming Cheng  
Abraham Cohen  
Tadeusz Galardos  
Laura Gastelum  
Vinay Gupta  
Lynn Harvey  
Linda Hedden  
Doris Jacobson  
Anand Kumar  
Lawrence Mann  
Michael McGory  
Beverly McLeod

Marianne Montgomery  
Meressa Naftulin  
Eddi Samandar, Sue Tewksbury

### Club Master

Lynn Evans  
George Kay  
Benjamin Kuschner  
Carole La Caze  
Sri Nagesh  
Sandra Price  
Brenda Rosin  
Michael Schiff  
Mary Ellen Schubel  
Ira Thierier  
Rae Yan

### Sectional Master

James Christiansen  
Susan Frank  
Jeff Grotenhuis  
Nancy Guenther  
Audrey Hill  
Sylvia Kaprelyan  
Carol Levin  
Nishan Odabashian  
Nancy Raiche  
James Rozzell  
Bruce Schelden  
Dan Spector  
George Tien  
Gary Trenda

### Regional Master

Beatrice Aron  
Pamela Cronn  
Frances Every  
Nathan Gittleman  
Suzanne Kuuskmae  
Steve Shanker  
Juanita Smith  
Seymour Stoll  
Rita Vannatter

### NABC Master

George Alemshah  
Lee Axelrod  
Ellen Carrier  
Susan Cohen  
Marsha Kerns  
Robert Krause  
Kristi Kubo  
Dawn Lee  
Rochelle Lotto  
Robert Novell  
Marilyn Pink  
Sid Pink  
Ann Trygstad  
Robert Verhoef

### Adv NABC Master

Jim Brunet

### Life Master

Reva Alban  
Paul Gill  
Kiyo Nagaishi

### Bronze Life Master

Carol Bloomfield  
James Fu  
William Inglis

### Silver Life Master

Richard Glatzer  
Sudershan Sood

### Gold Life Master

Robert Bass

Group. He moved to California in 2008 to work for Ardmak, a major uniform company, and to be closer to his daughter and son-in-law who were expecting his first grandchild. When the economy tanked, Om was forced into semi-retirement. Not all bad, because now he had the time to return to bridge. In many ways he felt he had to relearn the game since so much had changed in the 35 intervening years.

Om joined the team a mere six weeks prior to the event. He rearranged his schedule for Long Beach to establish his new partnership with Fred.

Om was added to the team as the fifth member because Nolan Chang, aged 17, was scheduled to play the World Youth events which overlapped the GNTs in Atlanta. When the team reached the finals, Nolan was able to suspend play in the World Youth events so the entire team could play in the finals.

Nolan, a senior in high school, has played bridge for about four years, often partnering with John Jones, his mentor. John told me that he and Nolan had already won two regional events – a Knockout Team event in Pasadena in 2012 and a pair event in Long Beach in 2013. Nolan had a very special time in Atlanta. Not only was he a member of the winning Flight C Grand National Team event but he also placed fourth in a World Youth Knockout event and eighth in a World Youth pair event.

The fourth member of this team was Nolan's father, Jack Chang. Jack also gave up bridge for 30 some odd years to raise his family and pursue his career. He works in Information Technology for the City of Hope. Jack also raised two bridge playing children – Nolan and his sister Sophia, age 13. Sophia also competed in the World Youth events and placed 17th.

Nolan feels strongly that we need to do more to bring young people into our game. We take our children and grandchildren to work, why not bridge?

Yichy Zhang the final member of the team is beginning his junior year at CalTech in Pasadena. He plays regularly at the CalTech bridge club where John Jones and Matt Klemish have been helping to develop talented new players.

I asked the team the secret of their success to which they answered: steady play and good defense.

I hope the success of this team is inspirational to other new players. We need their ideas and enthusiasm to keep our game fresh.

Well done guys! Congratulations!



The winning team (from left to right): Yichi Zhang, Om Chokriwala, Nolan Chang, Fred Upton, Jack Chang

### A Deal from the Tournament

On this deal (rotated) from the first quarter in the contest, Upton found the right line as declarer to make his contract.

Dlr: East

Vul NS

♠ 93  
♥ 875  
♦ Q8652  
♣ AKQ

♠ AK8742  
♥ J62  
♦ K97  
♣ 7

♠ T5  
♥ QT4  
♦ J43  
♣ JT532

♠ QJ6  
♥ AK93  
♦ AT  
♣ 9864

West	North (OC)	East	South (FU)
1♠	2♦	Pass	1♣
All Pass		Pass	2NT

A low spade lead will hold declarer to seven tricks on this layout, but West tried to beat the contract by cashing the ♠AK and clearing the suit, as low diamonds were pitched from dummy and the East hand.

Upton could count seven tricks --- one spade, two hearts, one diamond and three clubs --- and

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Mark Bartusek, Leo Bell, Rick Roeder, David Sacks and John Swanson.

# 1

IMPs  
NS vul

West	North	East	South
3♠	pass	pass	?

You South hold:

♠-- ♥AK853 ♦AQT9843 ♣A

What call do you make?

*These hands are from Atlanta Nationals, August 2013.*

**Roeder: 4♠.** Some guesswork will be needed later. After partner's expected 5♣ reply, I will need to choose between 5♦ and 6♦. I choose caution, because partner may well have four spades, which I infer from the lack of a spade raise from East.

**Swanson: 4♠,** to be followed by 6♦ over the expected 5♣.

**Bartusek: 4♠.** I think the only hope to get to a grand is by initially cue bidding spades. Thereafter it seems practical to bid 5NT showing two places to play, then correcting 6♣ to 6♦. I don't think I can accurately distinguish between the red-suit lengths. The only other option seems to be to cue bid 4♠ then jump to 6♦ over partner's expected 5♣.

**Sacks: 4♠.** This shows a strong two suiter. It's tempting to double as at this vulnerability partner will have at least 4 spades most of the time (right hand opponent did not raise). But double will be left in with too many hands that have better prospects in a red suit. (BTW, if you double, what do you bid over partner's 5♣?)

**Bell: 4NT.** This shows a two-suited hand, so when partner bids 5♣, I can correct to 5♦ to show a big hand with both red suits. There is a danger that partner will bid 5♥ with two small hearts and a stiff diamond, but I'm willing to take that chance.

*hand because the panel would have been restricted the same way I was at the table and I wanted to see what they would bid assuming an expert partner. The hand actually occurred while I was filling in during the Midnight Swiss. I had already figured out that my partner was an absolute beginner and that any attempt at a scientific auction would be foolish. I jumped to 6♦. Partner had ♠Q9xxx ♥x ♦K ♣KQT8xx. The 4♠ bidder had 7=1=0=5 shape. I ruffed the opening spade lead, cashed the ♣A, crossed to the ♦K to play the ♣K, and saw it get ruffed. What looked like a decent slam was down two. (West misdefended; he needed to throw away his singleton ♥9 to beat me three tricks.) Teammates doubled 6♦ on a far different auction and beat it three tricks for a nice pickup.*

*If we are going to show a two-suiter, which two-suiters should bid 4NT and which should bid 4♠? Normally, we think that cuebidding spades shows hearts and a minor and 4NT shows minors or reds, but that can't be theoretically best. There is definitely no standard in this situation. Jeff Goldsmith suggests that with 4♠ and 4NT both available, 4♠ ought to include the two cases, so possibly 4♠ should be hearts and a minor and 4NT is either minors or 5-1/2 hearts. Over 4♠, partner can bid 4NT to find your minor and 5♣ can be a real suit or maybe a cue bid in support of hearts. Over 4♠ then 4NT, we have lots of room if we are willing to drive to slam, which means 5♠ should be equal length with a spade total control, 5NT equal without, and 6m a longer minor. 5♥ is a slam drive with longer hearts. Possibly it should be two cards longer (7-*

*I didn't give the panelists the conditions on this*



2  
 MPs  
 no vul

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♣	pass	?

You, South, hold:  
 ♠QT32 ♥QJ8 ♦AT943 ♣6  
 What call do you make?

*This hand was in the Life Master Pairs First Qualifying*

**Roeder: 2NT.** A guess. Pass could be right, but when on a guess, go for the option with the most upside.

**Swanson: 2NT.** The most descriptive call here is 1NT, *[That's two months in a row that a panelist has deliberately suggested an insufficient bid. Hmm, maybe they think they'll catch me napping!]* but, for me, these values are too good to pass. Some pairs are using a 2NT response to a two-level minor suit overcall as a force with partner's being expected to remove to 3♣ with minimum values. That would not affect my decision to take the aggressive action.

**Bell: Pass.** We have a misfit and no other appropriate call. 2NT is an overbid because of the misfit.

**Sacks: Pass.** 2NT is a touch too rich.

**Bartusek: Flip a coin.** Pass on Monday/Wednesday/Friday, bid 2NT on Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday, and mull over your mistakes on Sunday. *[With all the mistakes I made in Atlanta, it will take me more than one day to mull over them all.]* The singleton club detracts from your hand's value for notrump.

*Partner had ♠AK4 ♥A2 ♦52 ♣KQT974, and opener had ♠5 ♥K654 ♦QJ86 ♣AJ53. Partner played 2♣ nicely to make five, but we were still below average*

WEST LA continued from page 10

Don't forget to say hello when you meet them at the table.

### Around the Clubs

Club champions at Beverly Hills were Charles Fonarow and Marshall Wengrow, Sylvia Shallon and Allan Chapman, and Danny Kleinman and John Lu. Winning Unit Championships were Sandy and Sam Haveson and Charles Fonarow and Sam Namer. Racking up 70% games were Rhoda and

Lew Himmell, John Jones and Alyssa Kennedy, and Rahim Israel and Farideh Sigari.

Gloria Frankel and Dorothy Lank were club champions at Barrington. Sandy and Robert Carroll scored a pair of 70% games at Barrington. Joining them last month were Aram Bedros, Art Zail, Wayne Karson, Rodger Harbin, Sid Brownsteein, Ed Davis, Peter Benjamin, Pete Knee, Sally Karbelnig, and Danny Kleinman. Jim Brunet and Ken Okel added a 70% game at Cyma's Game.

### Climbing the Ladder

A number of us have taken that first step on the ladder of bridge achievement. Our newest Junior Masters are Elaine Caplow, Gayle Dennis, William Phifer, Robin Rosser, Jessie Sullivan, and Mary Williams. Frank Neiman is now a Club Master, while Keith Miller and James Perkins have reached NABC Master status. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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



Torrance, CA | October 14-20



East	South	West	North
1♠	2♣	2♠	3♣
pass	?		

You, South, hold:  
 ♠K ♥K5 ♦KQ2 ♣AJT8643  
 What call do you make?

*This hand was in the Life Master Pairs Semifinals*

**Roeder: 3NT.** The Viagra card (a.k.a., stiff king) is almost always more valuable in notrump. If partner has ♠Qxx or ♠Jxx, it may be very important to play from my side, and if he does not have any spade help, who is to say that I will not score the Viagra card at Trick 1 and then ram seven rounds of clubs down their gullets? *[At which point they will, of course, claim with good spades and two red aces after a very easy discarding problem.]*

**Sacks: 3NT.** I do not want to defend 3♠ and do not feel confident about 4♣. A spade lead rates to give me a trick that I would not get in 4♣ *[If RHO has the ♠A, you are unlikely to get a spade trick]*. Easier call at IMPs.

**Bell: 3NT.** This is likely to work if my LHO has the ♠A and fail miserably if not. At IMPs, I would bid 3♠ to try for 5♣.

**Bartusek: 4♣.** Seems like the normal bid despite the wasted ♠K.

**Swanson: 3♦.** It's borderline whether or not to bid game or to accept 4♣ if partner can't make a forward going noise. Either is fine by me. I notice there is no "Life Master Pairs Finals" problem, so I assume that, at worst, I have done as well as the player who had these problems at the table. *[How astute of you to notice that I exited the LM Pairs on Day Two, despite that my partner and I played reasonably well. I exited early in two other events due to decidedly poor play.]*

*Partner had ♠875 ♥A9874 ♦74 ♣KQ2. 3NT will fail, but 5♣ is easy. I passed at the table, but think I ought to have bid. I like John's 3♦.*

## District 23

### Top 95 Masterpoint Leaders 2013

1	Leo Bell.....	798
2	Steve H Gross.....	699
3	Ellen S Anten .....	689
4	Roger Lee .....	665
5	Mitch J Dunitz .....	575
6	Rebecca L Clough.....	546
7	Roger L Clough.....	508
8	Steve Mager .....	395
9	Jim V Looby.....	389
10	Gilbert D Stinebaugh .....	283
11	John W Petrie .....	253
12	Mark Tang .....	252
13	Aram I Bedros.....	249
14	B Horiguchi .....	242
15	Andrew J Vinock.....	238
16	Robert M Shore .....	233
17	Mike Savage .....	227
18	Aaron J Jones.....	225
19	Peter E Benjamin.....	216
20	Steve L Ramos .....	209
21	Dr Martin Blain.....	206
22	Jill J Meyers .....	202
23	Om P Chokriwala.....	193
24	Rahim Israel.....	190
25	Sara Wilson.....	190
26	Viktor Anikovich .....	180
27	John D Jones .....	175
28	Xingping Kang.....	171
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30	Danny Kleinman.....	168
31	Joyce Lelah.....	168
32	Ed Davis .....	166
33	David J Segal.....	165
34	Neal B Kleiner .....	163
35	Jeffrey M Goldsmith .....	160
36	John R Melis .....	158
37	Mrs Rhoda Himmell .....	149
38	Gaye W Herrington.....	147
39	Dr Lewis C Himmell.....	147
40	Frances S Israel .....	146
41	Michael J Mikyska .....	146
42	Donald Crum.....	146
43	Alfred C Lee .....	144
44	Mrs Sandra Carroll .....	143
45	Stephen P Skinner .....	140
46	Kim Wang .....	139 →



4

MPs  
NS vul

East	South	West	North
2♠	pass	4♠	double
pass	?		

You, South, hold:  
♠x ♥KQJxxx ♦xxx ♣Jxx  
What call do you make?

*Opponents and partner are top flight.*

**Swanson:** 5♥. Not even enough to bid 4NT then 5♥ as a slam try, because I have too many potential losers. Is this a more difficult problem if the other players are low flight?

**Roeder:** 5♥ with some trepidation. Both 4♠ and 5♥ may well go set. Bidding 5♥ to take out insurance is sometimes expensive. What helps tip my choice is that partner might have a moose and be able to bid on. He should know that I am not bidding at the five-level out of total fright.

**Bartusek:** 5♥. Holding a stiff spade and such great hearts, this seems to be the indicated action. It could be wrong, but it could also allow partner to bid a making slam. When in doubt, bid one more. Might they save in 5♠ at this vulnerability?

**Sacks:** 5♥. I have too many losers to bid anymore and not enough anywhere else to sit for the double.

**Bell:** Pass. I held this hand and bid 5♥, but I'm now convinced I was wrong even though it takes double dummy defense to beat 4♠X. What would you continue

after leading the ♥K and seeing this dummy: ♠Axx ♥x ♦Kxx AKxxxx? Partner plays the ♥9 and you hold the trick. (See below for the answer.)

*Leo was playing with Billy Miller. Billy likes to play his double is mostly for penalty. Most partnerships play it is somewhere in between penalties and takeout, and shows values useful on both offense and defense. Leo told me he would bid 5♥ if he was playing that the double showed convertible values. On the actual hand, Leo bid 5♥, was doubled, and went down two. 4♠ doubled would have made without strong defense. Unfortunately for Leo and Billy, their teammate who declared 4♠ doubled was not their strongest player, and he went down even though the hand could have made on the defense he got.*

*Leo's answer to the winning defense to 4♠ doubled: Partner's ♥9 at Trick 1 normally asks for a diamond continuation. In this case, however, you need to ignore that and continue hearts, forcing declarer to ruff in dummy. This removes a late entry to the dummy. If you don't force dummy, declarer can set up clubs and cash them.*

47 Gerri Soffa Carlson .....	137
48 Dr Sidney Brownstein .....	136
49 Charles Fonarow .....	135
50 Mark R Teaforde .....	134
51 Deborah Levinson .....	134
52 Peter Szecsi .....	131
53 Robert C Bass .....	129
54 Dr Robert Carroll .....	128
55 Joseph A Viola III .....	126
56 Richard Gliksman .....	125
57 Sam Namer .....	124
58 David Raphel .....	123
59 Marcus L Evans .....	122
60 Herman Helber .....	122
61 Paul C Smith .....	121
62 Mark Leonard .....	121
63 Marel K Bates .....	121
64 Maria C Pendergast .....	120
65 Amr O Elghamry .....	120
66 Cecil Q Cook .....	119
67 M Hanefi Erten .....	115
68 Sheri Rivera .....	113
69 Mrs Lucy Gellner .....	113
70 Albert L Stock .....	112
71 Pamela K Cole .....	111
72 John W Bralliar .....	110
73 Mrs Jill Richmond .....	110
74 J Baum Harris .....	109
75 Fuad J Khuri .....	109
76 Jon Yinger .....	108
77 Mrs Rae Murbach .....	108
78 Mrs Marcie Landry-Evans ..	106
79 Louis Papp .....	105
80 Dr Edward P Piken .....	105
81 Bruce J Altshuler .....	103
82 Carmela Chiurazzi .....	103
83 Mario Mory .....	102
84 Reese Milner .....	102
85 Robert L Mault .....	102
86 Mrs Joan H Rubin .....	101
87 William F Rogers .....	101
88 Patrick Cardullo .....	101
89 Michael L Klemens .....	100
90 Mrs Constance J Fishbach ..	100
91 Tom B Wylie .....	100
92 Karen Schwartz .....	99
93 Robert K Kent .....	99
94 Dr Theodore S Glaessner .....	99
95 Bill M McClean .....	98

5  
 MPs  
 NS vul

West	North	East	South
1♣*	1♠	2♦#	pass
pass	double	pass	2♥
3♦	3♥	pass	?

\* Could be as short as one  
# Not forcing

You, South, hold: ♠x ♥T97xx ♦8xx ♣KJ8x  
What call do you make?

**Bell: 4♥.** This is a "just in case it makes" bid. It's hard to evaluate my club honors, but I'm not broke, partner is short in diamonds, and I have a five-card heart suit. I'm tempted to bid 4♣, because there are hands where slam has decent play.

**Roeder: 4♥.** I have an extra heart and a nice club holding. Partner's distribution could be 6=4=1=2.

*Bartusek abstained because he knows the hand.*

**Swanson: Pass.** With a game try, partner would have doubled 3♦. This is a Maximal Double situation.

**Sacks: Pass.** I love my hand but respect the fact that he could have made a game try double over 3♦. Hand might be worth a bit more versus traditional (3+ clubs) opening opponents.

*John and David both play that double is a game try in*

*this auction. That certainly has some merit, but I don't play double is a game try because we aren't assured an eight card fit. I play double as cooperative, a hand with three hearts, full values, and useful on offense or defense. When I posed this problem, I intended it as a competitive bidding decision. However, I spoke to some experts about the discrepancy in what double means, and they aren't in agreement. Regardless of what double would mean, I think that bidding 3♥ must show four hearts. It doesn't make sense to unilaterally compete in what could easily be a seven card fit. Partner held ♠AKQJx ♥A8x ♦QT ♣9xx and was trying to push a weak pair to bid enough that we could beat them. 3♦ made but 4♥ was down three, fortunately undoubled.*

*If you have a problem that you would like answered, or think might be a good panel problem (they might try an insufficient bid for you, too) please send it to johndjones44@yahoo.com.*

GNT continued from page 11

finding an eighth is tricky. The 6-2 spade division meant that West could no be allowed to regain the lead, making a low diamond to the queen unattractive. Upton instead decided to see if clubs or hearts would split 3-3, but the order of doing so is important.

Declarer crossed to dummy with the ♣A and cashed the ♠K, too, discovering the 5-1 split. The only chance at this point is to find hearts 3-3 and that East is forced to win the third round of the suit. That means

that if East is clever enough to try and unblock the ♥Q early, declarer must duck and allow it to hold.

On a low heart from dummy, East followed low, so declarer won the ace, returned to dummy with the ♣Q and played another heart. East again followed low, so declarer went up with the king and crossed his fingers. East had to win the third round of the suit, so all was well for declarer. After winning the ♥Q, East cashed two good clubs, but had to return a diamond to declarer's ace and the long heart.

PSP#1 continued from page 12

5), because partner has already suggested playing in the minor? Jeff is offering these agreements as a suggestion, there is more to this set of agreements than this paragraph covered. One of the difficulties is that this won't occur often and both partners will need to remember the agreements, whatever you agree on.

What do you think?  
Send letters to the the editor to:  
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org