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 Group.

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.
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.
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 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
club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com


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 Teaford/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 Member: 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!


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.

Pomona Covina
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, September 21, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – Saturday, September 7, LaVerne site
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 Trailling 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 3rd in D (remember, the top flight in 299er games is D, not A); Claudia Cochran 4th and 5th in D; Kurt Trieselmann 1st in C; Anand and Kiran Kumar 1st in E and 3rd in D; Walt Otto-Clint Lew 5th in B; Bill Papa 1st in A; Wendy Wanderman 2nd in D. Over at Pasadena / San Gabriel, we find Gino and Larry 5th in A; Claudia 3rd n D; Ann McClelland 1st and 3rd in A; Kiran and Anand Kumar 1st in D; and a team including Genise Hasan – Clint Lew took 1st 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:

\[ ♠KQT9x ♥AQxxx ♦x ♣K. \]

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

\[ ♠xx ♥Kx ♦AQxx ♣AQxx . \]

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
SBBC: 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.

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

Monday Morning, July 15, SBBC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pair</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 2A 1B 1C Joan Lurie/Gene Goldberg | 2A
| 3A Gerri Carlson/Jerome Drayton (SBBC) | 3A
| 5A 2B Mark Raggio/Stanley Greengard (SBBC) | 5A
| 6A 3B Robert Svensrud/Robert Fieselman (Veterans Park) | 6A
| 4B 3C Chris Freeland/Patricia Westenhuaver (SBBC) | 3B
| 5C Barbara Catino/Jagdish Parasrampuria (Veterans Park) | 5C
| 6C Hal Hichborn/Patricia Wells | 6C
(Veterans Park)

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

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 Bleiwieiss/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 Gastelbum
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

4C  Marsha Wiener/Elaine Godin

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 ofttime 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 →
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 ♦Q5 ♣7432

A ♦ 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 ♣Q752
Declarer: ♠QJ8 ♥98 ♦AT84 ♣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.
Group. He moved to California in 2008 to work for Ardmark, 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!

---

**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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dlr: East</th>
<th>Vul NS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>♠ 93</td>
<td>♥ 875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ Q8652</td>
<td>♠ AKQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ AK8742</td>
<td>♠ T5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ J62</td>
<td>♥ QT4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♦ K97</td>
<td>♦ J43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ QJ6</td>
<td>♦ AT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♠ 7</td>
<td>♠ JT532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>♥ AK93</td>
<td>♦ 9864</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**West** | **North (OC)** | **East** | **South (FU)**
---|---|---|---
1♠ | Pass | 1♠ | Pass
2♦ | Pass | 2NT | 

All Pass

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.

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.

I didn’t give the panelists the conditions on this 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 ♥ vK ♥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 6♠ a longer minor. 5♥ is a slam drive with longer hearts. Possibly it should be two cards longer (7-

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2

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.

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.

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

You, South, hold:
♠K ♥K5 ♦KQ2 ♣AJT843
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♣.
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 AKxxx? 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.
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.

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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.

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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