

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 50, #3

March 2014

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Success!

by *Becky Clough, ALACBU President*



Hooray! Our most recent tournament at the Woodland Hills Marriott was a success. Our table count increased by 100 over last year and everyone I have spoken with had good things to say. I heard positive comments about many things. Among them were:

Gilbert Stinebaugh, our photographer. He took pictures of the winners of all events and prints were available at the Hospitality Desk the following day. Pictures not picked up will be available at our Long Beach tournament in July.

The candy bowl. Always available, but not enough chocolate. We will increase the chocolate for Long Beach.

Betty Jackson, partnership. Many people used the on line partnership desk as well as the live one at the tournament.

The directing staff. Brian Russell is our new head director and his leadership and positive attitude were well received.

Saturday and Sunday coffee and pastries.

The hotel staff. Everyone went out of their way to help us put on a successful tournament. Our worst problem was the ice cream bar melt down on Tuesday night.

Fast Results. Scores emailed to you immediately

PRESIDENT *continued on page 3*

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2013 Masterpoint Report

by *Rand Pinsky, District Director*



It is always interesting to review the yearly masterpoint report to learn who is playing bridge and where. I think that the most interesting fact from last year is that 147,119 members earned masterpoints out of a membership of 167,000 members and that 142,000

members earned masterpoints at clubs. Following is the data for the year.

Points Won in 2013

# of Members	# of Points	Where
147,119	6,072,594.83	At any level of play
13,866	562,347.97	Online clubs
53,859	246,892.58	NAP games at clubs
6,933	27,249.89	Other NAP games
13,737	46,000.98	GNT games at clubs
4,043	30,782.65	Other GNT games
141,998	2,945,529.42	Club games
75,237	332,488.40	STaC Games
64,422	546,139.82	Sectionals
54,138	1,051,786.14	Regionals
10,431	127,700.25	Regional NABC events
2,076	36,025.42	NABC events (Not NABC+)
2,948	119,651.31	NABC+ Events
2,339		Online clubs only
64,475		Face-to-face clubs only
80,305		Sectionals or higher
56,548		Regionals or higher
4,106		NABC events only

The Dallas Report

For anyone still thinking of going to Dallas for the March NABC, I have been advised that the host hotel is sold out and that management has secured additional

DIRECTOR *continued on page 3*

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Without detracting from the winning line described in Roy Wilson's Pasadena Unit Report in the January Southern California Bridge News ("Board 26"), it is worth noting that making the grand does not require the good fortune of finding South with either top heart honor, much less both of them.

Assuming East's thirteenth card was the missing spade deuce, declarer can win trick one with the diamond king and then play the spade king, ace, queen, ten and seven (pitching dummy's three low hearts), followed by the ace-king of clubs and a ruff of the club five. If this establishes dummy's club eight, that is the thirteenth trick. Otherwise, if North has shown out of clubs, declarer can squeeze South in the minors by playing her last trump (pitching the heart jack) followed by the heart ace (jettisoning a card from whichever minor suit South continues to guard). If instead South has shown out of clubs, declarer can execute a nonsimultaneous

double squeeze: Her last spade squeezes South in the red suits (dummy's pitch should be a diamond if South retains his diamond guard and a club otherwise); when she next leads to dummy's diamond ace, that squeezes North in the rounded suits (either establishing dummy's club eight as the thirteenth trick or enabling declarer to take the last two tricks with her ace-eight of hearts). If both defenders follow to all three rounds of clubs, declarer will have to guess who has the thirteenth club (after South plays to trick ten) and then decide accordingly between the minor suit squeeze and the nonsimultaneous double squeeze.

This line will succeed no matter who holds the missing heart honors. Declarer has to guess only in the unlikely event that one defender was dealt exactly four clubs headed by a quack and neither defender chucks a club on the run of the trumps.

Bill Weingarden
West LA unit

Roy's Response

Thanks to Bill for the interesting analysis. I thought the declarer did very well since she only became aware of the proper mechanics of a squeeze play within the last year. We have tens of thousands of players in our game who have not the slightest idea of what even a simple squeeze consists of, and it's always a delight to see one of them find a good line of play, and not by accident. Bill, your analysis is excellent and if you do this at the table my hat is off to you!

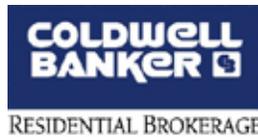
Roy Wilson
Pasadena Unit

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What do you think?

**Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org**

District 23 NAP Finals Finalized

Last month's Southern California Bridge News mistakenly left out the pictures of the Flights B and C 3rd place NAP qualifiers. They are pictured here.



B3: Carol Frank & Judith Hasin



C3: Jack and Nolan Chang

2014 Grand National Teams Qualifying

**2 sessions/day
Starts at 10 am**

**April 26-27: Flights A & C
Long Beach Bridge Center**

**May 3-4: Open and Flight B
Barrington Bridge Club**

**email: howardeinberg@yahoo.com
for more information**

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

after the game.

For the core group of volunteers, Ellen Anten, Penny Barbieri, Peter Benjamin, Roger and Becky Clough, Steve Gross, Betty Jackson, Bob Shore, Joan Rubin, and Jan Wickersham it was a long and tiring, but satisfying week.

We have renewed our contract with the Woodland Hills Marriott and will return next February.

We want to continue to improve the tournament experience for all of you. If you see one of us, please don't hesitate to give us your ideas or opinions on things to add or improve, and if any of you would like to be part of the tournament committee, please let me know.

We know that many of you would like more 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. games and we try to do some for every tournament. The schedule in Long Beach features the 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. schedule for Friday, Saturday and Sunday. So make your plans and join us in Long Beach June 30 – July 6, 2014.

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

housing at the Hotel Indigo at a rate of \$119. As I am writing this on February 17, I hope there are still rooms by the time you read this. If you want to go and do not have reservations, let me know and I will see if I can assist you in finding space.

Odds and Ends

Some final notes. Unaudited financials for 2013 show that we were fairly close to our forecast. It is estimated that our net change in assets will be \$191,161 vs. a forecast of \$222,982. Our investment gains were forecasted at \$374,782 but came in better than expected at \$411,713.

NABC Information Fair.

In Dallas there will be a two-hour open forum to allow members, teachers, club owners, and unit officials an opportunity to drop in and ask in an informal setting questions related to clubs, marketing, education, technology, and rulings. If you happen to attend, I would like to have your feedback on this new concept.

I hope everyone had a good regional tournament in Woodland Hills, and remember you can always reach me at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net.

Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley by Ruth Baker

Friendly Bridge Club News

The Friendly Bridge Club had three rank changes of members this month. Bob Kofnovec began playing bridge in 1968 while in the Navy stationed in Japan. He earned master points during that year which he still has on many individual slips of paper. Then last summer after an absence of 44 years he came back to bridge at the Friendly Bridge Club. Eager to become a good bridge player he has taken classes to learn the new bidding style and in January he earned the rank of Junior Master.

Aggi Oschin is determined to become a good bridge player, taking lessons and playing several times a week. Her patience and perseverance have paid off as she earned the rank of Sectional Master in January and came in 1st overall twice in the Woodland Hills Regional.

Finally, Roshen Hadulla, a faithful and dedicated bridge player who never misses a chance to play bridge be it tournament, club game or online, earned the rank of Gold Life Master.

Unit News

The next Unit Board Meeting will be on March 11 at 5:15 p.m. at the Senior Center on Market St in Newhall. The next Unit Game will be on April 6 at the Joshua Tree Club in Palmdale when the winners of the Unit Ace of Clubs and Unit Mini McKinney Awards will be honored. Game time is 1:00 PM with a light lunch at 12:30.

District 23 STAC game week is March 3-9. Joshua Tree will hold games on Friday March 7 (12:30) and Sunday March 9 (1 p.m.). Cost is \$8 which includes refreshments).

ACBL Charity Game on Thursday March 13.

LA Regional Highlights

Carol Provost and Aggi Oschin 1st in 299er pairs with a 66% game. Ruth Baker, Tracy Boys, Carol Ashbacker and Mira Rowe 1st in "C" swiss team. Anita Walker and Aggi Oschin 1st in 299er with a 64% game. Rand Pinsky and Bill Harlan 1st overall in the A/X Wednesday.

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

March Unit Game, March 8, 2014
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

The first game in our new digs will be the Unit game on March 8. After that, we will have games at noon on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. There will no longer be a Wednesday night game. Please remember that all Saturday games, including Unit games, now begin at noon instead of 1:00.

Our new address is the YMCA at 140 North Louise, Conference Room B, Glendale, CA 91206. The phone number remains the same: 818-500-8669.

February results

N/S			John Villalobos & Gerry Belcher
A1/2			Shiu-Ming Huang & Bill Papa
A1/2			Caroline Cohen & Tim Lolli
A3			Hugh Barlett & Nell Schanz
A4			John Barrow & Karen Arase
A5			David Rozzell & Phil Dessert
A6/7			Peter Szecsi & Bernie Mateer
A6/7			Steve Shanker & Sharon Wolf
	B1	C1	
E/W			
A1			Jack Futrell & Rae Murbach
A2	B1	C1	Mary Jo Burpee & Chuck Burpee

A3 B2 C2 Sandra Rucker & Ann Raymond
 A4 B3 Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
 A5 B4 C3 Bill Brodek & Paula Olivares
 A6/7 Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
 A6/7 Roshen Hadullla & Carol Ashbacher
 C4 Nancy Lyon & Betsy Josias

3rd John and Jo Melis, 4th Gaye Harrington/Ted Gibbs, 5th Lisa Kuo/Murat Veysoglu, 6th John Petrie/Orhan Gurbuz. In the B flight overall: 4th Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid, 5th Kevin Lane/Bruce Altshuler, 6th Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein. In the C flight overall Usha Bansal/Rob Preece were 4th. Results in the NLM section: 1st overall Joyce Roberts/Michiko Sharp. 2nd overall Colleen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez. Congratulations to all!

Please join us on March 8 for our inaugural Unit game at the Y.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

January 19 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: John Bralliar/Steve Ramos, 2nd Keith and Susan Hafen,

70+% Games January 16 through February 15: In open games Jan 16 Steve Ramos/Cecil Cook had 72.60%. Jan 17 (evening) John and Jo Melis had 73.24%. Jan 29 (evening) John and Jo Melis had 71.99%. Feb 2 Betty McClellan/Kay Amdon had 70.24%. Feb 4 (evening) Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh had 75.23%. In NLM games Jan 24 Joyce Roberts/Michiko Sharp had 69.86% and Jan 28 Bonny Walsh/Julie Osborne had 71.99%. Congratulations to all seven pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards in open games January 16 through February 15: Jan 17 Mike Ullman/ →



LAS VEGAS

GLITTER GULCH SECTIONAL

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FREE PARKING

Monday, March 31

9:00 AM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs

1:15 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Mon-Tues KO Teams Rd 1 of 3

7:00 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tues KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Tuesday, April 1

9:00 AM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Tues KO Teams Rd 3 of 3

1:15 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Tues-Wed KO Teams Rd 1 of 3

7:00 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tues-Wed KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Wednesday, April 2

9:00 AM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Tues-Wed KO Teams Rd 3 of 3

1:15 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Bracketed Wed-Thur KO Teams Rd 1 of 3

7:00 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Wed-Thur KO Teams Rd 2 of 3

Thursday, April 3

9:00 AM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams
Bracketed Mon-Thur KO Teams Rd 3 of 3

1:15 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams

7:00 PM Stratified Pairs
Stratified 0-300 Pairs
Stratified Swiss Teams

Friday, April 4

9:30 AM & 1:00 PM Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 3:45 PM)
(This is a 2 session event, but single session entries may be sold at the director's discretion.)

9:30 AM & TBD Stratified Swiss Teams (2 session) (finish by 4:45 PM)

All stratified events are stratified by the average masterpoints of the team or pair.

Strats: A: 2000+ B: 750-2000 C: 0-750
I/N: 0-100/200/300

*KO events may be handicapped

Thank you for not wearing fragrance

Non-Smoking Tournament with Hospitality Breaks

LVsectional.com
Sanction S1404027

Lynn Johnson won 4.44mp for 1st, Dick Sands/Stephen Licker won 3.33mp for 2nd. Jan 18 Sean Lui/Earl VanDerVord won 3.14mp for 1st. In the Unit Game Jan 19 John Bralliar/Steve Ramos won 4.25mp for 1st, Susan and Keith Hafen won 3.19mp for 2nd. In the big afternoon game Feb 4 Patricia Ann Jay/Ralph Beazley won 6.33mp for 1st, Steve Sturm/Wei Pei won 4.75% for 2nd, Carol Murakoshi/Diane Sachs won 3.56mp for 3rd. Feb 10 Marcie Evans/Bettyanne Houts won 3.38 for 1st. Feb 11 Wei Pei/Steve Sturm won 4.43mp for 1st, Richard and Robert Bakovich won 3.32mp for 2nd. Feb 12 Bob Santen/Paul Pettler won 3.50mp for 1st. Feb 14 Baum Harris/Larry Slutsky won 4.32mp for 1st, Carmela Chiurazzi/Walt Schafer 3.24 for 2nd. And Feb 15 Bob Mault/Sherry Troeger won 3.27mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

New Bronze Life Masters: Sharon Biederman, Joyce Henderson, Carl Schiermeyer, Dennis Schultz. New Silver Life Master: Christine Fruman. Congratulations to you all!

Condolences to the family and friends of Mark Teaford—Director, teacher, partner, friend. He will be sorely missed.

Upcoming Events at the Club: March 3-9 Districts 22-23 STaC week. Extra points, hand records, regular prices. March 23 Unit Game. Lunch at 12:30, game begins at 1pm.

New Member: Ed Janik. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Club Masters: George Koehm, Ruby Luke. New Regional Master: Ruth Roe.

January 12 overall winners: Bobbie and Brent Johansson 1st in A, B and C. Betty Jackson/Larry

News from Leisure World
by Judy Carter-Johnson.

Club Championship Results



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL

Long Beach, CA

June 30 - July 6, 2014

Hilton Long Beach
701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach CA
Reservations: 800-445-8667,
or reserve online at
LosAngelesRegional.com

Reserve Early - Rooms will sell out!!!

- Room rate **\$94** single or double (incl. free in-room Wi-Fi) (code: So. Cal. bridge)
- Reserve by 5:00pm May 29, 2014
- Discounted Self Parking \$5



- Tournament Manager, Peter Benjamin, 310-720-6050 ahoneydo@aol.com
- Partnership, Betty Jackson, 562-594-4420 rjackson6277@roadrunner.com
- Card fees \$13 for paid members, \$17 for others

- Five days of **GOLD RUSH** Pairs! Gold Point awards and no player will have more than 750 masterpoints!
- New **KO's** start every day, Monday-Saturday!
- Friday, Saturday, & Sunday main event games are on a **Daylight Schedule - 10am & 3pm***! (Sun. aft. time TBD).

Need a Partner? Need Teammates?
Try our online partnership desk at LosAngelesRegional.com

Brian Russell
Director-in-Charge
Sanction 1407029

Slutsky 2nd in A. Bee Kinman/Bill Linskey 3rd in A. Bobbi Vann/Chuck Cutchshaw 4th in A, 2nd in B. Sue Fardette/Vince Remedios 5th in A, 3rd in B. Jane and Tom Gibbons 4th in B. Tied for 2/3 in C Lottie Kostar/Ron Yaffee and Jean Byer/George Koehm.

January 17 overall winners: Jane and Tom Gibbons 1st in A. Joan Tschirki/Bee Kinman 2nd in A. Betty Jackson/Lois Abramson 3rd in A. Ron Yaffee/Richard Harris 4th in A, 1st in B and C. Sue Fardette/Judy Carter-Johnson 5th in A. Joan and Ted Wieber 2nd in B. Cookie Pham/Cuck Cutchshaw 3rd in B, 2nd in C. Jane and Jerry Reid 4th in B. Audrey Healy/Joyce Newton 3rd in C.

January 25 overall winners: Judy Carter-Johnson/Howard Smith 1st in A and and B. Joan Tschirki/Jeanette Estell 2nd in A. Bee Kinman Verna Burns 3rd in A. Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw 4th in A, 2nd in B, 1st in C. Betty Scharf/Bill Robinson 5th in A, 3rd in B, 2nd in C. Chie Wickham/Stan Blitz 3rd in C.

70+% game: Feb 10 Verna Burns/Judy Carter-Johnson had a 70.03% game.

Upcoming Club Championship Dates: Clubhouse #3—March 6; Clubhouse #1—Friday April 11 and Saturday April 19.

Upcoming Unit Rated Game: Clubhouse #3 Thursday February 20.

If you have any news for next month's column please email me: jcj90740@gmail.com. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via email: Send me your email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jjyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marie Nimmrich

Unit Election Party
Sunday, March 2, noon

It is time once again for our Unit 559 Election Party. Last year I wrote that it isn't really an election party because there are no ballots nor voting. However, there is a reason for that. It is difficult to persuade people to serve on our Board of Directors. Admittedly, the Board provides services to keep the unit, and the bridge players therein, in good running condition. And this

entails some amount of effort. But all Board members work together in complete harmony and make the tasks easy. The unit is always looking for new people to join the Board of Directors. Please consider it. Unit Board members are behind the scenes at unit games and unit parties to provide pleasant conditions for the players. Let's take a look at what these Board members do. Ann Raymond, our Supply Chairman, makes sure that the closet is stocked and the cabinet filled with all those coffee accoutrements; plates, napkins, etc. for the lunches; she makes the coffee at all the unit games. She does all the shopping for these items. Mike Marcucci is our Unit Manager. He schedules the unit games; communicates with San Marino Recreation Department to make sure the site is available; keeps statistics for our trophies and awards. Miriam Harrington, our Treasurer, "keeps the books" and always presents a comprehensive review of the unit financial situation at each meeting. She collects money at all unit events. Peter Szecsi, our President, oversees all unit activities and coordinates unit events and unit board meetings. Mary Falvey, Unit Secretary, takes the minutes at each meeting and presents the written version of her efforts to all Board members. She is also in charge of the raffle at unit games and the Holiday Party. Speaking of the Holiday Party, Karen Arase hosts this event and uses her many creative skills and talents to ensure a beautiful setting for this special event. Frank Grant, our Election Party Chairman, is efficient and organized and will make our party a resounding success. Bernie Mateer is always helpful and dedicated to providing assistance wherever and whenever needed. This is a sample of our Board. These are some of the people you, the membership, have elected to serve you. They deserve our thanks and praise.

The Election Party will be held on Sunday March 2 at the Arcadia Community Center and the pairs game will start at noon. Tickets are \$35.00. The cost includes the pairs game in the afternoon, dinner and the awards ceremony following the game and a swiss team in the evening. The dinner will be catered by the Chef's Restaurant in Arcadia. Tickets are on sale from any current Board member.

Silver Point Games: District 23 is sponsoring their Sectional Tournament at Clubs games the first week of March. Here is your chance to earn silver points. If you place overall in the entire district, the points are immense. San Marino will hold these games on Monday afternoon 3 March (12 noon), Wednesday →

morning 5 March (11 am) and Wednesday evening 5 March (7:15 pm). Also the Bridge Center will have silver point games on Thursday morning 6 March (11 am), Friday evening 7 March (7:30 pm) and Saturday afternoon 8 March (1:00 pm). All games are stratified and there are overalls throughout the district for each stratification. Hand records will be available after each game.

New Members: Welcome to new members of Unit 559: Gabriel Foster, Lisa Gonzalez, Daniel Humphreys, Bret Schaefer, Marty and Bev Weiss. We hope to see you at unit events and at club games, too.

New Life Masters: We have several new life masters since 2014 began. Congratulations to Fredy Minter, Dave Solin, Margie Lee and Don Garner. You will be honored next year at our Election Party and will be given a Life Master pin for your accomplishment.

Awards: The Election Party is also an awards party. We acknowledge those who have earned special recognition. The life master being honored for 2013 is Ann Raymond. The John Waken Trophy, for most points earned during our unit sectional in 2013, will be given again to Jeff Goldsmith. This is the second year in a row that he has won this trophy. Honors will go to Bernie Mateer and Peter Szecsi for winning the most points at the Holiday Party and the Election Party in 2013. The Mini McKenney and the Ace of Clubs medallions will be issued to winners in several categories. Thanks will be given to outgoing Board members and the new Board for 2014 will be introduced.

Mini-McKenney Awards

There are several categories, based on points achieved up to the end of 2013 in tournament play. The winners of these categories are the following:

0 to 5:	Zu Ming Cheng
5 to 20:	Carl Chang
20 to 50:	George Tien
50 to 100:	Dwight McCormick
100 to 200:	Donald Garner
200 to 300:	Ann Raymond
300 to 500:	Nolan Chang
500 to 1000:	Sandra Franciscus
1000 to 2500:	Connie Kang
2500 to 5000:	Roger Lee
5000 to 7500:	Peter Szecsi
7500 to 10,000:	Jeff Goldsmith

Ace of Clubs Awards

Same categories but now it is points won in club games only:

0 to 5:	William Renter
5 to 20:	Ellen Schubel
20 to 50:	Ann Macklin
50 to 100:	Dwight McCormick
100 to 200:	Stan Majcher
200 to 300:	Ann Raymond
300 to 500:	Madhu Sudan
500 to 1000:	John Barrow
1000 to 2500:	Amr Elghamry
2500 to 5000:	Herman Helber
5000 to 7500:	Peter Szecsi
7500 to 10,000:	John Jones

It is hoped that all of above persons will attend the party and receive the honors given to them.

February Unit Game: Our unit game was held today and behold, we had 20 tables. It was so nice to see new faces, as well as the regulars. The 20 tables were there despite the absence of many unit members who could not attend. Just think; if everyone was present, we might have had 30 tables.

Anyway, enough of speculation. Rae Murbach and Jack Futrell had a +69% game to win the event and receive free plays for their efforts. Second overall were Connie Kang and Liang Fan; third were Bob Riechmann and Michael Lo; and fourth were Frank and Carole Grant.

We had a presentation to an Elizabeth House representative, who graciously received \$1,000.00 raised at our Holiday Charity Party for this worthy establishment.

Sandra Franciscus and Jimmy Rodgers collected money at the game in place of our Treasurer, Miriam Harrington (who is currently on a bridge cruise). Not an easy task but they handled it well.

Travelers: Dennis Semain is in Kenya on a safari. Steve Shanker is soon to leave for the South American cruise. He and his wife are planning to go around the world in 2015. Just imagine such a voyage. The ship leaves Los Angeles and returns to Los Angeles and is away for 111 days. What a dream! Ronald and I just returned from Hawaii (The sun didn't appear until the next-to-last day before our cruise ended.) and we met a couple on the ship who had actually been on the world cruise. They loved it. →

Dawson's Bridge Vacations



Santa Fe, NM - June 26-30
Hotel Santa Fe Hacienda & Spa

Come for opening night of the Santa Fe Opera!

Friday, June 27 - *Carmen*

Saturday, June 28 - *Don Pasquale*

Do you play bridge to have a good time? Then this is for you! Nice people, a relaxed atmosphere, an incredible area to visit, classes for intermediate and advancing players with world-class instruction, and bridge for ACBL masterpoints. We guarantee a partner. Play as much or as little as you like.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday Schedule:

Breakfast	7:00 – 9:00 am
Class	9:30 – 12:00 noon
Lunch	12:00 – 1:00 pm
Class	1:30 – 2:30 pm
Duplicate	2:45 – 5:00 pm
Dinner	on your own
Duplicate	7:45 – 10:00 pm

For Thurs & Mon Schedule Visit Our Website.

Future Vacations Include:

Williamstown, MA - Jul 7-10 & Oct 14-17

Lake Arrowhead, CA - Sept 14-17

Naples, FL - Dec 14-17

Dennis is a Grand Life Master of the ACBL, a National Champion, and a Bronze Medal winner at the World Championship. He has won more than 14,000 masterpoints and over 200 regional events.



For full schedule & more info visit:

www.bridgevacations.com

Chinese New Year (Year of the Horse): Our Chinese friends at the Monday bridge game are celebrating the new year and are treating all of us to a Chinese luncheon. Thanks go to Jeanne Dea, C C Fang, Edward Hsi, Fay Hsu, Connie Kang, Shiu-Ming Huang and our dear Rita Corwin.

Until next time, Pax Vobiscum

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game - Saturday, March 15, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – Saturday, March 1, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne

Having had such spectacular success last year, our Unit has once again decided to participate in the Longest Day event. This year June 21 falls on a Saturday. In fact, that's the day of our regular unit game. We'll be playing all day long at the Knights of Columbus. Plans so far are for a morning game (9:00-ish), the Unit game at 1:00-ish, and a late afternoon game around 5:00-5:30. Shoot, if enough people want to hang around, we'll have a late night game too. Watch This Space for more information.

The February Individual was captured by Al Lax, Your Correspondent, Richard Patterson, and Claudia Cochran not really very close behind. Bob Kakade and Paul Chrisney tied for the lead in flight C.

The February Unit game was won by Hans Hehnke - Vic Sartor with their 66.37% effort. Next in line were Amr Elghamry - Shiu-Ming Huang (first in B), Karen McCarthy - Lynne Parker, and Peter Szecsi - Bernardine Mateer. Next month's game – note that it is on the Ides of March – will be ably directed by Roger Boyar, since the regular director will be goofing off somewhere else.

Promotions this month: Barbara Killebrew to Junior Master, Linda Hedden to Club Master, Anand Kumar to Sectional Master, and Bill Papa to the rarified heights of Diamond Life Master.

The top game this month was 68.43% by Clinton Lew – Linda Tessier. Others who found themselves in the winner's circle (no, Your Correspondent does not get paid by the word) were Ann McClelland, Ron Purkis, Norma Appley, Sandy Jones, Richard Patterson, Fredy and Lu Minter, Denise Morgan, Hans Hehnke, Amr Elghamry, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Genise Hasan, Joe Unis, Roger Boyar, Youngie Achenbach, and Hanan

Mogharbel.

Ya know, some months the deals all seem to be run-of-the-mill, making it difficult to find an interesting hand for our hand-of-the-month. Well, not this month. The problem this time was choosing among all the candidates. Oh well, we can put them in the archive for a dry spell.

We'll start with a real monster. If you attended our unit game last month, and sat North, you were treated to the following incredible deal:

♠742 ♥643 ♦732 ♣7532

Two sevens and one six! Not to mention the 4-3-3-3 shape. This has to be one of the worst hands ever dealt. At least, no one present could remember ever picking up something this ghastly. Just how bad is this thing? Let's mirror the cards, changing deuces to aces, threes to kings, and so on. We would find ourselves holding

♠AQ9 ♥KQT ♦AK9 ♣AKJ9

Just your run-of-the-mill 26-count, with the smallest card being the three nines. If my arithmetic is correct (hey, it happens!), you will pick up 26 HCP roughly 1 in 8,570 deals. Add in the probability of the smallest card being a nine-spot, and it makes the head hurt just thinking about it. Meanwhile, the odds against a 7-high hand are ... let's see ... carry the 9 ... about 240,000 to 1 against.

Our other deal is just as remarkable, maybe even more so. To get the full flavor, you have to see all four hands:

Dlr: East Vul: N-S	North ♠ AK976 ♥ --- ♦ KJT32 ♣ AK2	East ♠ JT4 ♥ AKQJ976 ♦ 5 ♣ 87
West ♠ 8532 ♥ T85432 ♦ 8 ♣ 54	South ♠ Q ♥ --- ♦ AQ9764 ♣ QJT963	

That's right, E-W have a 13-card fit. As you can well imagine, the auction was spirited at all tables. This was a typical one:

North	East	South	West
	1♥	2NT (1)	pass
6♦	pass	pass	6♥
pass (2)	pass	7♦	pass
pass	7♥	double	all pass

(1) two lowest unbid suits – as if you needed to be told that!

(2) forcing, implying first round heart control and willingness to play the grand

7♥ goes down 5 for 1100 to N-S, while the diamond grand is colder than a well-digger's feet. 1100 was just another average board. The top score for E-W was -600 when someone elected to double 6♥. Best for N-S was 2470 (or thereabouts) for 7♦ doubled. Evidently, someone expected the ♥A cash.

Easy game, Bridge.

Quote for the month: "Do, or do not. There is no 'try.'" (Yoda)

Until next month ...

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

District 22/23 STAC: March 3-8

Club Championship: Tuesday, March 11, 11:30 a.m.

Club Championship, Friday, March 14, 11:30 a.m.

Club Championship: Monday, March 24, 7:00 p.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams, Tues Evenings \$2/player

Friday Night games on March 7 and 21

Club Championships

The February 12 Club Championship was led by Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott in Flight A with George Stinson/Nancy Collinge winning Flights B and C. The NLM Club Championship on February 13 was

headed by Tom Barna/James Blaha in Flight A with Joyce Klossner/Roberta Brown leading Flight B and Lake Kinney/Sue Jones on top in Flight C.

Team Winners

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

January 21: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

January 28: John Brailliar, Steve Ramos, Jeff Strutzel, Andy Anderson

February 4: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

February 11: Gabriela Jackson, Harry Wessels, Mark Raggio, Stanley Greengard

GUV Memorial Award

The last board of the Las Vegas Regional proved to be the highlight of the tournament for both Bruce Horiguchi and myself. Up to that point our tourney results might be termed soft at best. Bruce was my teammate in the final day Swiss sitting at the other table. Bruce proved that he had learned about striped tail ape doubles on the hand in question.

As I once learned it the striped tail ape is a very cowardly animal. Assuming you have a suit of your own to run to a striped tail ape double involves doubling the opponents at a level below the slam they are headed for and likely to make. If they redouble the striped tail ape doubler cowardly retreats to his suit hoping he has scared the opps enough so they won't bid slam.

A situation like this came up in the final hand of the LV Swiss. In a close match Bruce belted the opponents when they got to 5♥ on their way to 6. If redoubled he could have retreated to 5♠ which wouldn't be all that bad. One overtrick was plus 750 for the opponents. As Bruce's teammate I risked 6♥ and was doubled in a cold contract. Plus 1210 for a 10 IMP pickup and a win for the good guys which I'm sure added significantly to both Bruce and my point winnings for the tourney. Striped tale apes all over the world did high fives.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Unit Game: March 24

Charity Begins at Home

We are the Unit that keeps on giving. Cyma asked me to pass along the news that, thanks to late-arriving contributions, her charity game in Jerry's memory has now generated more than \$2,000 in contributions to Alzheimer's research. She is overwhelmed, although not at all surprised, by our community's generosity, and conveys her thanks.

The Show Must Go On

Although Cyma has now retired her game, Tuesday nights at Barrington have not come to an end. The Barrington Bridge Club has decided to resume Tuesday night play starting this month. So for those who don't want to make the trek to the Marina, there's still a Westside bridge option available to those of us who are jonesing for a fix on Tuesday nights.

Farewell

Last month also imposed upon us a sad and premature farewell. Jill Richmond's battle with her illness has now ended. I'm sure many of us have favorite memories of Jill's kindness and sense of humor, as well as rueful recollections of the many, many times she cleaned our clocks at the bridge table. Our deepest condolences to Jill's family and friends.

From Sea to Shining Desert

This month's tournament action runs the gamut from Orange County to Texas, with a stop in between at the Las Vegas Regional. Starting in the desert, Marsha Bocan paired with Susan Shane Schwab to win the Friday morning 299er Pairs event in Las Vegas. Bill Wickham also made the trip, and his team won the Saturday Compact Knockout event. Continuing to Texas, we visit the Lone Star Regional, where Reese Milner's team won the Friday-Saturday Gore & Thomas Knockout Teams 5 event. Returning closer to home, Ifti Baqai's team won the Sunday Swiss at the

Laguna Woods Sectional, while Mike Savage's victory in the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams event helped propel him to the top of the masterpoint leader chart for that tournament.

A Tip of the Cap

As dealer red against white at matchpoints, you hold the following:

♠QJ7 ♥KJ876 ♦QJ2 ♣K4.

You open 1♥ and partner bids 2♦, not game forcing. Your agreement is that a 2NT rebid would show extras, so you rebid 2♥. Partner jumps to 4♥ (3♥ would not have been forcing) and you have nothing more to say.

The opening lead is the ♠2 and you see the following:

Dummy: ♠AT ♥A92 ♦A8654 ♣Q97

Declarer: ♠QJ7 ♥KJ876 ♦QJ2 ♣K4

The opening lead pretty much forces you to take the spade hook, which loses, and RHO now returns the ♥10. Plan the play.

Your spots aren't good enough to avoid a diamond loser absent a miracle and you're going to lose the club ace, so you need to bring in the trumps for no losers. Fortunately, the lead of the 10 has exposed the position, so when the heart jack holds, you lead another heart to the 9.

Disaster ensues. RHO wins the Q and returns her third heart, having been dealt QTx in the slot all along. You end up losing a trick in each suit for a bottom, since the rest of the room is making 4, 5, or even 6. My only consolation is that I've now shown the position to two different experts, and each of them fell into the same trap that ensnared me. Congratulations to Andrea McNichol, whose brilliant defense brought her a well-earned top.

Things to Come

Next month's column will feature results from Woodland Hills and other tournaments— I hope everyone had a great time there. Our regionals have been steadily growing the last few years. If you haven't been recently, be sure to check it out. District 23 will hold a STAC the week of March 3-9, and we will →

hold a Unit game at Beverly Hills and Barrington on March 26. Don't miss these events, or if you do, don't say you weren't warned.

Welcome Mat

The game must be growing. We welcome new members Elizabeth Bowen, Julia Hackner, Harry Levitt, Madeleine Rongey, Herb Seymour, Tim Wright, and Albert York to our Unit. Transferring in from other units are Doug Kuschner and Les Rawitt. Please be sure to say hello when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Barrington held no club championships last month, but a lot of people rang up 70% games. Art Zail hit the mark three times and Aram Bedros did it twice. Also picking up 70% games at Barrington were Hans Kraepelien, Michael Nash, Paul Smith, Pete Benjamin, Danny Kleinman, Alan Wollman, Larry Margott, Cyma Aronow, George Wagner, Steven Goldsmith, Michael Shaw, Adrienne Green, and Mim Spertus.

Winning club championships at Beverly Hills were Danny Kleinman and Nancy Heck, Sydell Aronson and Rion Porter, and Rahim Israel and Miche Brand.

Climbing the Ladder

Ann Ach and Phyllis Wolf have begun their climbs up the ACBL ladder by reaching Junior Master status. Mark Buchman, Bob Eisenstein, and Robert Williams now are Club Masters, while Helen Cooksey and Susan Shane Schwab have become Sectional Masters. Lee Hausner has become a Regional Master.

Bill Weingarden has reached Gold Life Master status. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

District 23 Rank Changes January, 2014

Junior Master

Peggy Collier, Betty Gifford
Arnold Green, Herb Koch
Janice Mangerind, Dorene Ross
John Sellers, Kathy Soltwedell
Valerie Turner

Club Master

Donna Bauer, Patricia Bessone
Dianne Bougher, B Gayle Burrow
Carl Chang, Bonnie Cox
Barbara Federman, Carole Hugunin
Jennifer Macfarland, Linda Mackenzie
Norma Nicolson, Connie Raabe
Fred Roach, Ann Turner

Sectional Master

Douglas Campbell, David Duke
Mel Kantz, Michiko Sharp

Regional Master

Susan Coggins, Timothy Cole
Barbara Fisher-Freeman
Dale Johnson, Dick Johnson

NABC Master

Linda Eagan, Sherman Gao, Carole Noreen

Adv NABC Master

Sherman Gao

Life Master

Seymour Alban, Virginia Dudley, David Solin

Bronze Life Master

Virginia Dudley, Fredy Minter

Silver Life Master

Om Chokriwala, Sheldon Levitt, Roy Young II

Gold Life Master

Marel Bates, Kim Wang

Diamond Life Master

Roger Lee, Susan Somogyi

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Ifti Baqui, Leo Bell, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Paul Ivaska, Jill Meyers, Adam Meyerson, and Bill Wickham

1

Rubber
all vul

East	South	West	North
Pass	1♥	Dbl	Pass
1♠	?		

You South hold: ♠AQ ♥KJT74 ♦QJT65 ♣K
What call do you make?

First let's hear from the lone passer.

Dunitz: Pass. We won't miss a game if partner can't bid, and I won't lose sleep if the opponents get 30 below the line. Bidding carries some risk.

Ivaska: 2♦. This hand obviously doesn't have nearly enough playing strength for 3♦, to say nothing of the fact that the black suit honors have little offensive value, but may be useful defensively. On the other hand, pass seems too conservative, though 2♦ certainly could incur a substantial penalty. (After all, we can probably make 5♦ opposite as little as ♠xxx ♥Qx ♦Axxx ♣Txxx.) For me, anyway, a clearcut underbid rarely works out. It's as if the bridge gods make it a point to punish me for any undue pessimism. I consider pass to be such an underbid, particularly in view of the red suit tens, which considerably improve the playing strength of this hand.

Wickham: 2♦. 2♦ protects the spade tenace. Double followed by 2♦ shows a much stronger hand, for example ♠Ax ♥KQJTx ♦KQJTx ♣x, which has the same number of HCP as the problem hand.

Baqai: 2♦, the spot cards and the distribution are compelling, but ♣K is likely a wasted card, and, on a

bad day, partner will have 4=1=2=6 distribution.

Meyerson: 2♦. It is still conceivable that it's our hand for a partial or even a game.

Bell: 2♦. The hand is not worth a double followed by diamonds, so this seems pretty easy.

Meyers: 2♦. What else?

Davis: 2♦. It will be interesting to see why this warrants the status of a problem.

The panel almost unanimously thinks 2♦ is rather obvious. This hand comes from Play Bridge with Reese (1960). Reese played 4♠ and made it by playing and guessing well. This is mostly a book about play problems and card reading, but Reese was very critical of the 2♦ bid. He subtitled the hand "They Talk Too Much", stating that "One lesson from this hand is it silly to talk for the pleasure hearing one's own voice.... (The) bid of 2♦ could only help the opposition". I agree with the panel, that 2♦ is the normal call on the hand. On the actual hand partner is 1=3=3=6 with the ♣J as the only high card and 9 tricks are available in either red suit.

2
 IMPs
 all vul

West	North	East	South
2♥	3♣	4♥	?

You, South, hold:

♠KQJ652 ♥-- ♦AKQJ84 ♣Q

What call do you make?

Davis: 5♥. Partner will think I have better club support, but that is okay since the point of 5♥ is to get partner to cue bid the ♠A. Over 5♠, I will bid 7♦ and risk losing two IMPs versus a making 7♠ at the other table to guard against losing 15 IMPs when partner has cue bid a spade void.

Ivaska: 5♥. My first reaction was 6♦, which is roughly what this holding is worth. Upon sober (and some not so sober) reflection, I feel that the cue bid, to be followed by removing the almost certain 6♣ to 6♦, is an improvement. If partner has both black aces, perhaps she/he will possess the presence of mind to raise to seven. After all, I could have bid a direct 6♦, so this approach should be a grand slam try. I certainly hope North views it in the same way.

Meyers: 5♥. Over 6♣, I will bid 6♦. I hope that will get the message across.

Bell: 6♦. I HOPE the opponents take the 6♥ sacrifice so I can bid 6♠, though partner may not figure out I have a void in hearts.

Dunitz: 6♦. I don't think 5♥ followed by 6♦ will clue partner in. So I'm bidding a practical 6♦.

Baqai: 6♦. We could be cold for a grand slam, but how do I find out about partner's "key card" holdings? I suspect 4NT is best used as a key card ask in clubs. 5♥ also promises a club fit. I opt for a practical 6♦ and will be prepared to apologize to my teammates.

Meyerson: 5NT. 5NT asks partner to pick a slam. Most likely he will bid 6♣, and I can then clarify my hand type with 6♦.

Wickham: 4NT. 4NT is correct in my established partnerships. Without agreements, I will bid 5NT intending to correct 6♣ to 6♦ or pass a direct 7♣.

This hand occurred at a recent CalTech practice session. My partner, Matt Klimesh held this hand. Matt, who is my candidate for the world's best bridge teacher, started with 4NT. Matt knew that I teach that non-jump 4NT over 4 level competition are two-suited (not RKC) unless we have previous suit agreement. I bid 5♣ and Matt (citing my conservative overcalls against preempts) bid 7♦ (intending this as choose between 7♦ and 7♠. I held ♠A ♥xxx ♦xx ♣AKTxxxx. A heart lead at the other table held 6♣ to making exactly.

2014 Grand National Teams Qualifying

2 sessions/day Starts at 10 am

April 26-27: Flights A & C at the Long Beach Bridge Center

May 3-4: Open and Flight B at the Barrington Bridge Club

email: howardeinberg@yahoo.com
 for more information

3

IMPs
all vul

West	North	East	South
2♠	Pass	Pass	3♦
Pass	3♠	Dbl	?

You, South, hold:
 ♠T963 ♥J75 ♦AKQ85 ♣A
 What call do you make?

Davis: 3NT. With a singleton small spade, partner might not have chosen to try for 3NT, so I think 3NT is the percentage call.

Ivaska: 3NT. I have a very good hand for my 3♦ balance. Indeed, if my hand were slightly better (say the ♦J substituted for the eight), I would have reopened with a double, planning to bid diamonds if partner responds in clubs (reopening doubles being a little lighter in the passout position). I feel I must make an aggressive bid now, and so I'll take a chance that partner has a stiff (or possibly doubleton) spade

honor or that the opponents will block the spades, if they aren't already blocked to begin with.

Dunitz: Pass. I might have tried 3NT without the double, but that dog won't hunt anymore. Therefore pass seems free. I will pass 4♥ and bid 5♦ over other calls.

Baqai: Pass. I don't have a descriptive bid available, and I appreciate my RHO's taking me off the hook by doubling. I still will have a decision if partner bids 4♦; I will explore game by bidding 4♥, playing partner for something like ♠x, ♥KQxxx, ♦Jxx, ♣Kxxx [*Wouldn't he have bid 3♥ with that hand, not 3♠?*]

Bell: Pass. I treat this as forward going. Partner could have enough cards to make a slam, so if partner next bids 4♦, I'll try for one with 5♣.

Meyers: Pass. I play that redouble by partner here shows a partial stopper, otherwise partner does something else.

Does redouble by you show half a stopper?

Meyerson: Pass. This shows a half stopper in my methods Redouble shows the worst possible hand with three small spades. 4♦ shows a small doubleton spade.

Wickham: Redouble. Seems that redouble must be a partial stopper in spades. [*Without express agreement, this is probably "consensus expert standard."*]

3NT will fail on the actual hand. The weak-two bidder has ♠AQJ72 and his partner has ♠K5. Think they might lead the ♠Q and block the suit? Maybe a mere mortal might block the suit, but Bob Hamman led low and took the first five tricks.

Ventura "Spring into Action" Sectional in Oxnard April 4-6, 2014

All Events at:
 Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center (PACC)
 800 Hobson Way (H Street) (Corner of 7th & Hobson Way) 805-385-8147

Exit 101 Fwy at Oxnard Blvd. From South, turn left; from North, turn right. At 7th St, turn right. Pass G St, go left on Hobson.

Events and Stratifications subject to adjustment based on attendance:
 (0-749, 750-1999, 2000+ // Separate 299er games: 0-49, 50-99, 100-299)
 Fees per person per session: \$10 ACBL members // \$13 unpaid & non-members

Friday, April 4
 10:00 A.M. & 2:45 P.M.
Oxnard Stratified Open Pairs
Camarillo 299er Pairs
 2 Single Sessions each
 * 299ers: Win your section & earn a (\$10) FREE PLAY *
 Also at 2:45 P.M.
Montalvo 1-Session Barometer Stratified Swiss Teams

Saturday, April 5
 10:00 A.M. & 2:45 P.M.
Ventura Stratified Open Pairs
Channel Islands 299er Pairs
 2 Single Sessions each
 * 299ers: Win your section & earn a (\$10) FREE PLAY *
 Also at 2:45 P.M.
El Rio 1-Session Barometer Stratified Swiss Teams
 Unit 547 Sanction # S1404069

Sunday, April 6
 10:00 A.M. & TBA
Ojai Stratified Swiss Teams
 6 matches of 8 boards
\$100/team – includes lunch
Oak View 299er Stratified Swiss Teams
 2 Single Sessions, each 3 matches of 7 boards
 Each Session \$50/team, including lunch with
\$10 discount for teams playing both sessions

Director In Charge: Dave White
 Tournament Chair: Bob Gruber
 (805-983-7178; vubrltc@aol.com)
 Partnerships: Mike Gaddis 805-644-4081
 (and Susan Lang)

Host Hotel
 Holiday Inn Express
 805-986-5353
 3.3 miles from site
 Ask for ACBL BRIDGE rate!
 Reference Group Code ACB

Complimentary Continental Breakfast
FREE coffee and snacks all day
 Hands for Pairs & Barometer Events Are Pre-dealt



North	East	South	West
1♣	3♥	?	

You, South, hold:
 ♠J65 ♥J ♦AQ932 ♣AQ87
 What call do you make?

Dunitz: 4♦. I sometimes double with these hands, hoping partner can bid 3NT and have enough tricks or get to 4♠ with a 4-3 fit. With RHO's being vul vs. not, RHO should have a pretty good suit. Therefore, I'm going to try a mundane 4♦. It's natural, forcing, and what can possibly go wrongggggg?

Baqai: 4♥. I vote for a descriptive 4♥ and plan on next bidding clubs cheaply.

Bell: Double. I like to make the most flexible bid. A double here can produce a pass from partner, which wouldn't upset me too much. After 3♠ from partner, I'll correct to 4♣. If partner jumps to 4♠, I'll sit it out.

Davis: Double. Not close. Over 3♠ by partner, I like 5♣. One advantage of 5♣ is that it avoids the 3-3 spade fit when partner has ♠Axx ♥xx ♦KJx ♣KJxxx. Won't 3♥ get raised if partner has that hand?

Ivaska: Double - Our most likely game is 3NT, and the (admittedly risky) negative double is almost certainly the only route to that contract. If partner doesn't oblige by bidding 3NT, I'll have to do some good guessing. Right now, here are my guesses: (1) pass 4♠; (2) cuebid 4♥ over 4♣; (3) raise 3♠ to 4♠, hope that the spade split isn't 5-1 (or worse, God help us), and that North plays well. Do not try this at home (very often). Finally, if partner has a heart stack (which admittedly is unlikely, given the vulnerability), we'll collect a substantial penalty.

Wickham: Double. Lacks a fourth spade, but anything else goes past 3NT. Hopefully partner will choose 3NT with the dreaded 4=4=2=3 pattern unless his hearts are weak and his spades strong. [Hopefully he could pass with four strong spades!]

Meyers: Double. I can't commit to 5♣; partner could be 4=4=2=3. I will probably bid 4♠ over 3♠, and will be very happy to pass 3NT.

Meyerson: Double. Double seems like the least of evils, despite the three-card spade holding. On a good day, partner passes or bids 3NT. If partner tries 4♠, it might even make.

This is an old Eddie Kantar and Billy Eisenberg problem. Eddie reported the problem in The Best of Eddie Kantar (1989). If you can get a copy of this book, read it - it's available used on Amazon. It's absolutely hilarious. Eddie and Billy encountered this hand in a British invitational KO. Eddie held this hand and doubled. His LHO bid 4♥, and Billy, holding ♠AK3 ♥62 ♦K5 ♣KT6532, passed. Eddie bid 5♣, which was passed out. 6♣ was cold, and Billy told Eddie that he should bid 4♥, over which he would have bid 6♣. Nine months later, Eddie and Billy were bidding hands from the British magazine "Bridge." This hand was in the bidding set, and fate had them holding the same hands. Eddie bid 4♥ this time. Billy cue bid 4♠, and Eddie continued with 5♣, which ended the auction. Billy was worried that Blackwood might get them too high.

5

IMPs
no vul

North	East	South	West
Pass	Pass	?	

You, South, hold:
 ♠T3 ♥743 ♦AKQJ63 ♣75
 What call do you make?

Ivaska: 1♦. I'm not sure that I'm the one to ask about this, since I don't like IMP pairs events and rarely play in them. Most hands matter very little, so it's rather like playing in a 12-deal pair game. I have, however, strong feelings about this problem. I feel that a diamond preempt, especially 3♦, is decidedly losing bridge. It incites the opponents to compete on marginal hands, which I probably don't want, and if they do, they'll guess every card. Moreover, if the outstanding strength is more or less evenly divided among the other three hands, I've probably just volunteered for an unnecessary minus score, since I don't have a singleton. So, I'll simply open 1♦ and rebid diamonds until the cows come home unless partner bids notrump. After all, we might even be able to make 3NT (not that we'll necessarily get there after this start), particularly if North is a conservative opener. As far as 2♦ or 3♦ is concerned, as Sam Goldwyn famously said, "include me out!"

Wickham: 3♦. I like 3♦ (or 2♦ if weak). 1♦ gives the opponents too much room.

Bell: 4♦. I hope I'm not playing Namyats. [Leo has nothing against the convention; he just hopes this bid shows diamonds.] Perhaps the opponents will overbid or end up in the wrong suit. I doubt that I'll be doubled for penalty with my diamond strength. I believe strongly in making it as difficult as possible for the opponents.

Meyerson: 3♦. In first chair, I would open 1♦, but opposite a passed hand, game is very unlikely, and I want to pressure the opponents as much as reasonable.

Dunitz: Who is my partner? 1NT if playing with Baqai (for old time's sake), Abdou (he has a sense of humor), or Lee (youth has spirit). 3♦ with Davis or Meyers. You need to keep your partners happy!!

Does Mitch know his partner's preferences? Let's keep score.

Davis: 3♦.

Score one for Mitch, 1 for 1.

Meyers: 3♦. Methods are too sophisticated these days to psych 1NT. Let them sort it out over a preempt.

Score another for Mitch, 2 for 2.

Baqai: 3♦. It's either 1♦ or 3♦. Opening 1♦ is safe, directs the lead, and is unlikely to get us in trouble. On the other hand, it leaves room for the opponents to find their best fit for a potential game. I go for 3♦. I know Mitch in his younger days would have opened 1NT!

Mitch is on target again, 3 for 3.

This hand attracted significant discussion at the 1983 Cavendish Invitational. On the actual hand, fourth chair holds a 3=3=3=4 15 HCP hand. Second chair holds a 5=5=0=3 5 HCP hand and game in either major is cold. With the exception of an Australian pair playing a strong pass system who opened 1NT showing 8 to 12, all third chair non-vul got to choose their bid-box poison. Steve Burgess for the Aussies raised his partner's 1NT to 2NT, all pass, making exactly. Ron Rubin opened 3♦, raised to 4♦, down one. Fred Hamilton opened 1NT (15-17) which was raised to 3NT, down one. Do you think those were pretty good results with a choice of games available? Zia Mahmood opened 1NT (12-14), which was doubled. Everyone passed and Zia made 8 tricks for an overtrick. Zia said "a clear triumph for weak notrumps!"