

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 50, #4

April 2014

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Bridge Ethics

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



*This month I am using my space to reprint a column written by Lynn Berg, a director and teacher as well as a regular columnist for The Bridge Bulletin. Lynn's words help us remember that ethics are an important aspect of our game.*

### Stop!

by Lynn Berg, reprinted from The Bridge Bulletin

When is it OK to break tempo or pause? There are times when you should, times when you must, and times when you may.

It's always legal to pause during the bidding or the play. For example, good bridge players pause when the opening lead has been made and the dummy faced. We often hear that declarer should make a plan, but the defense should have a plan, too. What did you learn from the opening lead? If an honor has been led, you can often place at least four of the top five cards in the suit. Fourth-best lead? Use the Rule of Eleven to locate cards and distribution around the table.

Is the dummy what you expected from the bidding? If not, you should revise your assessment of the opposition's holdings, as well as refine your idea of what partner might hold.

There are also occasions when a pause is required during the bidding. If the bidder to your right skips a level of bidding — weak or strong — you should pause (mentally, a slow count to 10 is about right) while looking at your cards as if interested in them. It matters not whether the stop card is displayed or for how long: You give unauthorized information to your partner with an unduly quick or slow action. The opponents are well within their rights to get the director involved if you

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## Meyers Elected to Hall of Fame

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



It has been a long time in coming, but finally justice has been served as District 23's Jill Meyers has been elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame. As stated in the February Bridge Bulletin, Jill has more gold medals (seven) in world championships than any woman in World Bridge

Federation history including four Venice Cups and seventeen North American Championships. Many of these NABC wins have been in the open category.

Jill will be inducted into the Hall in Las Vegas this summer at the NABC. I hope many District 23 members will attend the ceremony to honor Jill on this well deserved award.

## Grass Roots Fund Results

January was Grass Root Month where each bridge club in the District had an opportunity to hold special masterpoint games to supplement the stipend given to the District teams attending the Grand National Teams competition at the Summer NABC. Below is a summary of the money earned by District.

Funds to be distributed as follows:

District 1	\$3,858.00
District 2	\$2,342.00
District 3	\$6,578.00
District 4	\$4,263.20
District 5	\$934.00

DIRECTOR *continued on page 17*

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# 2014 GNT Qualifying

2 sessions/day  
Starts at 10 am

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

Open and Flight B  
May 3-4  
Barrington Bridge Club

email:  
howardeinberg@yahoo.com  
for more information

## PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

break tempo and partner acts on the information imparted in that way.

Sometimes you really have a problem in the bidding and you want to take some time to figure out what to do. That's 100% legal. You may take the time you need. Once you have "broken tempo," however, you may have limited partner's options, because his knowledge of your difficulty has perhaps given him information about your hand. Your partner must be very careful to bid his hand as if there had been no unusual pause.

If the opponents think your hesitation, rather than your bidding, has influenced partner, they can call the director to have the facts acknowledged. After the board has been played, they can call the

director back to the table if they think they've been damaged by your partner's choices. They may ask to have the outcome reviewed in light of the hesitation.

If you would like to know more about this topic, go to the ACBL website and type "hesitation" in the search box. You'll be led to the many cases of appeals at NABCs.

Outcomes after hesitations are often sources of great controversy. If your partner has had to stop and think, avoid being unusually cautious or unusually daring. It's less likely to happen in a club game, but don't be upset — don't feel threatened or punished if the director has been called when there is a tempo break. There's nothing wrong with taking time to make a difficult decision.

Some hesitation situations come up during the play of the hand. Especially if you are on the dummy's left, try to plan ahead how you will play after declarer leads. You should always strive to play in tempo. Waiting to decide until it's your turn tells the declarer you have a problem — it can be a clear giveaway of the location of a missing honor.

Please remember that bridge is not poker. Hesitating with a singleton or pretending to have a play problem when you don't isn't just unethical, it's illegal.

Audrey Grant is famous for saying, "A card should be played the same day it's dealt." While it's true that on any given play or bid you may take extra time if you need it, remember that generally, seven minutes are allocated for each deal. You should keep in step with the tempo of the game. If you are slow, you create problems for the pair following you. We're all entitled to play without rushing.

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# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

April Unit Game, April 12, 2014  
Lunch at 12:15, game at 1:00

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

Our transition to the Y is going quite well, thanks to the very hard work of Pat Abbey and her minion of helpers. However, because it is shared space, the situation at the Y is somewhat fluid and some of what I wrote in the March column is already outdated:

All Saturday games, including Unit games, will begin at 1:00. We do not have access to the room until 11:30, making a noon start impossible.

There will be a Wednesday night game. It will start at 7:00, downstairs in Conference Room D.

The March Unit game, the first session in our new home, was well attended and very comfortable. Results were as follows:

		N/S
A1		Beverly Weiss & Martin Weiss
A2		John Villalobos & Paul Nason
A3		Caroline Cohen & Tim Lolli
A4		John Barrow & Karen Arase
A5		Hugh Barlett & Nell Schanz
	B1	Alene Friedman & Carol Bell
	B2	Carol Provost & Rufus Rhoades

		E/W
A1	B1	David Rozzell & Temo Arjani
A2		Jack Futrell & Rae Murbach
A3		Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
A4		Roshen Hadulla & Lakdawalla
A5/6	B2/3	Leon Alexander & Adam Barron
A5/6	B2/3	Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
	B4	Nancy Lyon & Betsy Josias

Please join us on April 12 for our next Unit game, which will honor the winners of the 2013 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKinney races.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

**February 16 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Steve Mager/Gerri Carlson, tied for 2/3 Bee Kinman/Verna Burns and Hanefi Erten/Oliver Yildiz, 4th Kaye Amdon/Eileen Niesen, 5th Steve Skinner/Baum Harris, 6th Phyllis Parker/Bob Mault. In the B flight overall: 2nd Paul Pettler/Patricia Ann Jay, 3rd Susan and Kieth Hafen, 4th Simon and Lina Cheng, 5th Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid, 6th Richard and Robert Bakovic. In the C flight overall Fay Beckerman/Sherry Troeger tied with Barbara Shortwell/Ralph Moscowitz for 3rd/4th. Results in the NLM section: 1st overall Nancy Toussaint/PamCronn, 2nd overall Rosalie Storc/Rai Scime. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games** February 16 through March 15: In open games Feb 18 (evening) Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh had 71.06%. Feb 22 Orhan Gurbuz/Hayim Ninyou had 70.83%. March 4 (evening) Ron Lien/Subba Ravipudi had 70.37%. In the NLM game Feb 24 Sally Gordy/Martin Lipman had 73%. And in two evening 15-board NLM games there were big percentage winners: Feb 17 Joyce Henderson/Lynn Danielson had 76.67%, and March 10 Joyce Henderson/Colleen Gardner had 71.67%. Congratulations to all six pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards** February 16 through March 15 were all at the Unit Game February 16. Steve Mager/Gerri Carlson won 4.82mp for 1st, and Bee Kinman/Verna Burns tied with Hanefi Erten/Oliver Yildiz for 2nd, winning 3.17mp each. Congratulations to all three pairs!

**New Members:** Stan Johnson, Louise Seifert. Transfers into the club: Kenneth Branch, Marilyn McClintock, Ron McClintock, Billie Quinette. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New Sectional Master: Mel Kantz. New Regional Master: Timothy Cole. New Life Master: Sy Alban. Congratulations to you all!

**Condolences** to the family and friends of Sue Ayers and Todd Knapp, both of whom passed away last month.

**Upcoming Events at the Club:** April Fool's Day (April 1) brings a unit-rated game at 12:30 p.m. in the afternoon and an Interclub Championship Game at 7:00pm.

Participants can win extra points by competing with players in other clubs all over ACBL Land.

Charity Club Championship Week begins Sunday, April 6 and concludes on Saturday, April 12. Extra points are available to winners all week long at every session. Please be aware that owner Loren Hilf has been supporting our extra point habits during the previous 6 months (October 1 through March 31). Beginning with this event, an extra \$1.00 will be charged for certain special ACBL sanctioned games and STaC's. We thank Loren for his generosity following the card fee increase that took place October 1, 2013.

The April Unit Game will be

held on April 13. The Unit will be presenting its 2013 Masterpoint Awards to Unit Members. Winners will be notified before the event so they can attend. Watch for more news concerning this event.

**News from Leisure World**

*by Judy Carter-Johnson*

**Unit Rated Game Results:**

Feb 20 overall winners: Bee Kinman/Dorothy Favre 1 in A. Eileen Nelson/Bill Linskey 2 in A. Norma Krueger/Carmen Gross 3 in A, 1 in B. Dotty and Lou Guthman 4 in A, 2 in B. Chie Wickham/Sall Fenton 5 in A, 3 in B, 1 in C. Jane and Tom Gibbons 6/7 in A, 4 in B. Ron McClintock/Hashad Vora 6/7 in A. Jeanette Estill/Joe FioRica 5 in B. Donna and Jim Shaffer 2 in C. Joan and Ted Wieber 3 in C. Thuan Gwynn/George Koehm 4 in C, 2 in B.

**Club Championship Results:**

March 13 overall winners: Dottie and Lou Guthman 1 in A, 2 in B. Joyce Henderson/Rob Preece 2 in A, 2 in B. Howard Smith/Bill Linskey 3 in A. Linda and Dick Stein 4 in A. Midge Dunagam/Julie Cunningham 5/6 in A, 3/4 in B, 1/2 in C. Claudette Barrack/Monica Gettis 5/6 in A, 3/4 in B, 1/2 in C. Joan and Ted Wieber 5 in B, 3 in C. Louise Sperr/Cole Sachs 6/7 in B. Jean Byer/Sue McHale 6/7 in B. Thuan Gwynn/Harshad Vora 4 in C. 70%+ game: Mach 6 Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith had a 70.98% game.

**New Club Master:** George Koehm.

**Upcoming Club Championship Dates:** Clubhouse #3 - Monday April 14; Clubhouse #1 : Friday April 11 and Saturday April 19. →



Third Annual Los Angeles County  
Scholastic Bridge Tournament  
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Adrienne Green - director

Barrington Bridge Club  
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LA 90025 310-966-4144

All players welcome. Come represent your school. Signup in one of the following categories:

- |                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Elementary School Student | Middle School Student                 |
| High School Student       | College/ University Student           |
| Staff/Employee            | Fan (Parent/Alumnus/Interested Party) |

Come with or without a partner. The top four scores for the entrants in any category will be added to determine the winning teams in each category. Bring anybody you would like to play with as a partner. No masterpoints will be awarded, but medals will be given.

For more info call: John Jones 562-843-8046, or Carol Frank 818-281-3531

**Upcoming Unit Rated Game:** Clubhouse #3 Monday May 19.

Get the Unit 557 Newsletter via email: Send your email address to [jjyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jjyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

As some of you may know, Bev and I moved to Pasadena on December 13, from Fort Lee, New Jersey. Yes, that Fort Lee, and yes, Bev spent hours mired in traffic when the access lanes to the George Washington Bridge were closed.

We joined the unit shortly after we arrived, and, if you think it takes some "chutzpah" to be writing the unit column after only 11 weeks as a member, I totally agree with you.

However, let me tell you what we have discovered

in our 11 weeks among you in unit 559. You all are extraordinary!!! During the approximately 25 years since I returned to the bridge world, I have never encountered such a group of kind, gracious and welcoming players and directors. You, all of you, should be proud of yourselves and Bev and I are proud and happy to now be a part of this group.

And, if that were not enough, there was yet another bonus in store for us. About a month ago, just before the game began, Bev walked over to me with a woman on her arm. The woman's name was Marilyn Jeshion, who with her husband Mike, have been sitting across the table from us for 20 years in New Jersey. Turns out they spend six weeks here annually, visiting their daughter, who lives in South Pasadena. So now, in addition to wonderful new friends, we also have two old ones for six weeks a year.

Now, I would like to solicit comments and opinions (email: [Martyweiss559@yahoo.com](mailto:Martyweiss559@yahoo.com)) regarding →



# LOS ANGELES REGIONAL

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Brian Russell  
Director-in-Charge  
Sanction 1407029

North/South's bidding or lack thereof, in a board recently played by Bev and I at San Marino. I will not tell you which of us played North and South, as Bev is so much prettier than me, your judgment and opinion would obviously be warped.

The hands:

North: ♠KT7 ♥AT7 ♦8 ♣QT6532  
South: ♠J8542 ♥KJ97 ♦J92 ♣A

West	North	East	South
Pass	Pass	1♦	1♠
Pass	2♦	3♦	Pass
Pass	Pass		

EW is down 1 in 2♦. Most in the room are in 4♠, some in 3♠, virtually all making 4♠. Question: Who owed what to whom?

South claims the pass shows a minimum overcall, and expected North to bid 3♠.

North claims that South's pass showed a minimum overcall, and with North's hand, 3♠ was questionable.

All replies will be held in strictest confidence..... unless they support my position!

I attended the festive Chinese New Year game, playing with a friend who was visiting us from NYC. We enjoyed the feast, and I add my thanks to Marie's, for a lovely afternoon.

### Congratulations

Peter Szecsi and Shiu-Ming Huang were **first overall** in a Flight A Pairs at the Woodland Hills Regional.

### Rank Changes

New Life Master: Dave Solin. New Diamond Life Master: Roger Lee.

Winners of the March Unit Game/ Election Party: Pairs event: Carol and Frank Grant, 1st over all, with a 68.85%

Swiss Pairs: Clinton Lew, Denise Morgan, Timothy Finlay, Eileen Finlay

New Unit Officers are: President - Mary Falvey, Vice President - Peter Szecsi, Treasurer - Miriam Harrington, and Secretary - Mary Downey.

Other Board members are: Bernie Mateer, Sandra Franciscus, Mike Marcucci, Ann Raymond, Frank Grant, Amr Elghamry, Karen Arase and Marie Nimmrich.

Bernie is our Friendship Chairman; Mike is our Tournament Manager; Ann is our Hospitality Chairman; Marie is our Membership Chairman; Peter is our Ethics Chairman; and, although not a Board member, Roy Wilson is our Webmaster.

### April Events

The next Unit Game will be held on Sunday April 6 at San Marino beginning at 1:00 p.m. A free, full lunch is served before the game.

San Marino has a new game Wednesdays at 11.

The Arcadia Bridge Center has beginning Bridge lessons starting Wednesday April 9, 7:30 and Saturday, April 12, 10:30. The first six lessons are free. There is a Beat the House night on Friday, April 25 at 7:15 and a Winners and Losers Sunday on April 27 at 1:00 →

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Monday June 30: 10 am Free 299er Lesson & Lunch  
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For more information & details go to:  
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Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin, [ahoneydo@aol.com](mailto:ahoneydo@aol.com) 310-720-6050

p.m.	5-20	Kiran Kumar	Kiran Kumar
	20-50	Sherman Gao	Sherman Gao
	50-100	Bud Robinson	Claudia Cochran
	100-200	Hanan Mogharbel	Hanan Mogharbel
	200-300	Linda Stuart	Linda Stuart
	300-500	Kurt Trieselmann	Susan Emminger
	500-1000	Clint Lew	Clint Lew
	1000-2500	Vic Sartor	Vic Sartor
	2500-5000	Bill Papa	Jack Chao

**Beyond the Unit**

For or those of you interested in competing beyond our unit, within reasonable striking distance of our area, there is an Oxnard Sectional April 4-6 and a San Diego Regional April 14-20.

Thanks to my computer help desk and literary agent, a.k.a. Beverly.

**Pomona Covina**  
by Tom Lill

Unit Game: Saturday, April 12, 11:00 a.m.

Individual: Saturday, April 5, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne site

The March Individual was captured by Steve Mancini, with Your Correspondent, Margie Hall, Larry Clark, and Pat Radamaker close behind.

Although in theory we could post the results of the March Unit game (it fell early enough in the month), in practice Your Correspondent will be off gallivanting in the tropics instead of taking care of serious business such as writing this article. So you will get a two-for-one deal next month, at the same low, low price. (Hint: how much do you pay to receive the District 23 Bridge News?)

**This just in:** Scoop Sartor, our roving reporter, has just handed me this note: It seems we were able to get the March results after all!

Overall winners were Shiu Ming Huang and Amr Elghamry. They edged out Dave and Susan Ruoff who finished 1st EW. Others winning points NS were Claudia Cochran and Esther Johnson (2<sup>nd</sup>), Hans Henke and Vic Sartor (3<sup>rd</sup>), Vinay Gupta and Umesh Jindal (4<sup>th</sup>). Placing east/west were Karen McCarthy and Richard Patterson (2<sup>nd</sup>), Clint Lew and Pat Radamaker (3<sup>rd</sup>), Kiran and Anand Kumar (4<sup>th</sup>).

**Please note:** the April game is schedule one week earlier than normal, for the second Saturday rather than the third. This is to avoid a conflict with Easter. We will be presenting the annual Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards at the game. This year's winners:

<u>Bracket</u>	<u>Ace of Clubs</u>	<u>Mini-McKenney</u>
0-5	Marty Husted	Anand Kumar

If you won and would like to attend the game, but don't have a partner, contact any Board member and we'll see that you have a partner. Please give us some advance notice, however – it's tough to find someone at 10:45 a.m. on game day.

Promotions this month: Sherman Gao to NABC Master and also to Advanced NABC Master. Sherman is out first member to hold the latter rank. For those of you unfamiliar with this rank, it corresponds to the old Life Master rank, back when 300 points got you there. The top game this month was 68.43% by Clinton Lew – Walt Otto, just edging out Bill Papa – Vic Sartor's 70.24. Other winners were Ann McClelland, Ron Purkis, Richard Patterson, Fredy and Lu Minter, Roger Boyar, Karen McCarthy, Karen Olin, Paul Chrisney, Eileen and Tim Finlay, Barbara Killebrew, Claudia Cochran, Sofi Kasubhai, Herb Stampfl, Susan Ruoff, Gino Barbieri, and Larry Clark.

Our Unit members had some reasonable successes at the recent Woodland Hills Regional. 19 players won a total of 79.46 masterpoints. The top point-getter was Penny Barbieri, with 13.64, followed by Sherman Gao (12.93), Jack Chao (9.55), and Gino Barbieri and Larry Clark (7.06). Among the more notable successes: Penny placed third in a couple of side games and fifth in a charity pairs, Sherman placed second in a Gold Rush pairs event, Larry and Gino tied for third in another Gold Rush event. Ann McClelland placed fourth in the Sunday Fast Pairs. If you did well and don't find your name here... well, 900 players won masterpoints at the tourney, and the type font was pretty small. (Your Correspondent's eyes aren't any better than his bridge play.)

If, like 90% of all bridge players, you usually hold poor cards, here's a hand that will give you hope:

♠T8532 ♥9 ♦T8 ♣87654

No, the hope is not that the board is fouled and →

# Dawson's Bridge Vacations

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

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**Friday, June 27 - *Carmen***

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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](http://www.bridgevacations.com)**

there will be a redeal. Would you believe, this hand took the only two defensive tricks against a contract of 4♥? It's true, Your Correspondent held these cards and took the last two tricks with the ♠10 and the 8♠. Needless to say, it was ... board 12! (Inside story, which those who play regularly at La Fetra or the Individual will get. If not, don't worry, it's a sad story. But something bizarre usually happens on board 12.)

And, here's another one for us poor card holders. Compared to the previous hand, it's practically a 2♣ opener:

♠763 ♥2 ♦742 ♣AKT753

You've picked up the usual rubbish. Outside the club suit, even the intermediates are ugly. And why is it that every time you pick up a long suit, it's clubs? Never, mind, you are in fourth seat anyway. Dealer opens 2NT, partner passes, RHO raises to 3NT, all pass. As expected, partner leads a small heart, won in the closed hand with the 8. Dummy flopped with:

♠QJ95 ♥763 ♦KT6 ♣962

At trick two declarer leads a small diamond to the king and returns the 6, plays the jack from hand, losing to partner's queen. After some thought, partner emerges with... a small club. You win the ♣K, declarer dropping the Jack. Hmmmmmm. You are never getting in again, so you play the ♣A. Christmas is early this year, or maybe it's your birthday, because declarer drops ♣Q, partner following. Don't look now, but the club suit runs. Down three, +300 to you. And partner never did get her ♥A. At every other table, declarer took 10 or 11 tricks, evidently finessing the other way for the ♦Q. Bad luck for declarer, but the question is: how and why did partner eschew the old saw "through strength and up to weakness" and play that club? Helen Sobel ... or Mrs Guggenheim? You be the judge.

Quote for the month: "The best measure of a man's honesty isn't his income tax return. It's the zero adjustment on his bathroom scale." (Arthur C. Clarke)

Until next month ...

## Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Ruth Baker

Bridge at the Castaic Regional Sports Complex is going on its sixth year. The game starts at 10:00

a.m. every Thursday and breaks for lunch. Often, we have entertainment and a catered meal. This gives us an opportunity to socialize and get to know each other better.

A Chuck Wagon Lunch will be catered by Carol Provost on April 3, 2014. Players who wear Western garb, that is, boots, Stetsons, or your best cowboy or cowgirl outfit will receive an automatic entry for the door prize! The prize will be a surprise!

Please join us for fun and an excellent game of bridge. Contact Rita Vannatter at 661 803 2266 if you need a partner.

### Unit News

Results of the Friday, March 7th STaC game: First Place went to Russ Buker and George MacDonald with 68.5%. They were 3rd in District 22-23 and will receive approx. 13.5 silver points.

Second place went to George Lewis and Leah Levitt with 67.7% They were 5th overall.

Third Place went to Nell Schanz and Roshen Hadulla scored 66% and were 10th overall.

### Results of the Sunday, March 9th STaC game

First place went to Sharry Vida and Beth Morrin with 63.33%. They were 7th in District 22-23 and will receive approximately 4.1 silver points. Second place went to Bob Erb and Sylvia Feiman with 59.63% Third place went to Rita Vannatter and Bert Stock with 59.26%, who placed 12th and 13th in the overalls.

### Coming in April

On Sunday April 6, there will be a Unit Game at Joshua Tree Bridge Club at 1:00 p.m. A complimentary lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. and awards will be given to winners of the Mini-McKinney and Ace Of Clubs contests. The Unit 556 Board meeting will be held after the game.

### Future Events

We are planning two pro-am games this year, looking for a location in Santa Clarita for "The Longest Day," (Alzheimer's research fundraiser marathon game, June 21st) and have secured a venue for our **Fall Sectional**. More about these events next month.

→

# Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

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

## Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Monday, April 7, 11:30  
Club Championship, Wednesday, April 16, 11:30  
Club Championship: Saturday, April 26, 2:00  
Friday Night games on April 4 and 18

### Wednesday Evening

The South Bay Bridge Club has started up a Wednesday night game which encourages experienced players to pair up with inexperienced players. I'm not too sure of this but rumor has it that experienced/inexperienced pairings play for free but an experienced pairing pays. The game starts at 6:30 p.m. Call the SBBC (310-325-7222) if you would like a partner at a different experience level than yourself.

### Club Championships

There appears to be no effort at the SBBC in recent months to score as Club Championships events designated as such in this column so winners on these days will not be listed here.

### Team Winners

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

- February 18: Andy Anderson, Jeff Strutzel, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos
- February 25: Gerri Carlson, Dave Elder, Trevor Coolidge, MaryBelle Hoenig tied with CVal Gamio, Luis GAMio, John Jones, Steve Ramos
- March 4: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
- March 11: John Brailliar, Bruce Horiguchi, Steve Ramos, Jeff Strutzel

## TSB Unit leaders in the 2013 Masterpoint Races

Players who led their category in masterpoints won in the Torrance South Bay unit during 2013 are as follows. Leaders in both the Mini McKenney and the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs races are listed.

Mini McKenney	Ace of Clubs
	0-5 Master Points
Laura Gastelum - 28	Sue Gocke - 23
	5-20 MPs
Nancy Karnes - 62	Nancy Karnes - 35
	20-50 MPs
Jeff Grotenhuis - 68	Roberta Brown - 33
	50-100 MPs
Colleen Bilas - 101	Colleen Bilas - 43
	100-200 MPs
Richard Bakovic - 63	Richard Bakovic - 40
	200-300 MPs
Elaine Godin - 115	Jeannette Betts - 79
	300-500 MPs
Alain Fleurot - 82	Anne Andres - 52
	500 - 1000 MPs
Steve Ramos - 348	Steve Ramos - 128
	1000-2500 MPs
Gerri Carlson - 299	Kim Wang - 87
	2500-5000 MPs
Alfred Lee - 269	Fran Israel - 142
	5000-7500 MPs
Gaye Herrington - 268	Gaye Herrington - 94
	7500 - 10000 MPs
Bruce Horiguchi - 577	Bruce Horiguchi - 30
	Over 10000 MPs
John J. McDermott - 715	John J. McDermott - 182

### District 22/23 STAC

Pairs who placed in the overalls of the District 22/23 STAC (March 3- March 9) in games played at TSB Unit Clubs are listed below. Congrats to all.

Monday Morning, SBBC	
1A	Gaye Herrington/Lucy Gellner
2B	Dolores Nawa/Marty Cooper
3B	Carole Mason/Masae Kato
6B	MaryBelle Hoenig/Gerri Carlson
4C	Margaret Yeh/Judith Tomic
6C	Edith Watanabe/Sumi Tokufuji

Monday Evening, SBBC, Veterans Park  
 2A 1B Ed Piken/Michael Piken  
 3A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott  
 4A 2B 1C Frankee Victor/Marilyn Daeshner  
 3B 2C Betsy Miller/Barbara Shortwell  
 6C Violet Young/Katherine West

Tuesday Morning, SBBC

1A 1B Hank Sheehan/Jim Jensen  
 4B Kim Wang/Chein-San Han  
 5B 2C Martin Cooper/Charles LaFranchi  
 6.5B 3.5C Edith Watanabe/Iyoko Kawamura  
 6.5B 3.5C Thomas Robinson/Robert Newsome  
 6C Suzanne Kuuskmae/Fred Swinth

Tuesday Morning, 49er Pairs, SBBC

3B 2C Madge Weinstein/Ann Lewis  
 5B 4C Marie Lynch/Marilyn Skolich

Tuesday Afternoon, Novices, Agile BC

1 Joe Duke/Jim Mercer  
 2 Jean Parks/Arlene Herrick  
 3 Shelly Zirkes/Marcia Siegel

Wednesday Morning, SBBC

4A Robert Rothman/John Brailliar  
 5A Lucy Gellner/John Farr  
 6A Ed Barad/Brian Conley

Wednesday Afternoon, Veterans Park

2A Larry Harris/Dean Kaloudis  
 4A 1B Claire Hulett/Stanley Greengard  
 6C Betty Williams/Susan Hoose

Thursday Morning, 99er Pairs, SBBC

1A 1B 1C Sheila Cottle/Kathy Miller  
 2A 2B 2C Freda Main/Madge London  
 3A 3B Tajie Major/Ellen Tarlow  
 4A 4B Charlotte Lewin/Marie Lynch  
 5A Beebe Moorhead/Ellen Davidson  
 6A Anne Andres/Marilyn Morton

Thursday Morning, 299er Pairs Agile BC

1A Rae Yan/Al Zirkes  
 2A 1B 1C Dona Stevens/Susan Baltmanno  
 3A 2B 2C Valerie Turner/Ann Turner  
 4A 3B 3C Kathy Soltwedell/Mari Jacobson  
 4B 4C Pamela Boyer/Barbara Laier

Friday Morning, SBBC

5B Kim Wang/John Williams

Friday Morning, 100/50 Pairs, SBBC

1A 1B Marilyn Henschel/Valerie Turner  
 2A 2B Nancy Carnes/Ann Igawa  
 3A 3B Kathy Miller/Freda Main

Friday Afternoon, Beach Cities

3A Jeff Strutzel/Bruce Horiguchi  
 17B 3C Sumi Tofukuji/Yori Meredith

Friday Evening, Inglewood Beach

1A 1B 1C Joan Chrishal/Virginia Brewer  
 5A 3B Joe Thomas/Roy Young  
 5B 3C Violet Young/Katherine West  
 4C Barry Simon/Rachel Simon

**GUV Memorial Award**

At times I have been critical of my offtime partner Gerri Carlson's declarer play. However she outdid herself in the declarer play department the other day with a partner other than myself. Well she did have some help from one of the defenders. As the story goes Gerri was in 6HHH making 7. This was especially impressive since she was missing an Ace... the Ace of trumps. Yes, there was a revoke before the defenders managed to cash the trump Ace.

I guess I should have been critical of Gerri's bidding for not getting to seven. I mean, if the defenders are going to defend that way isn't the grand slam the proper spot. For sure it would have made an even better story.

Na Zdrowie

**West LA**  
 by Robert Shore

**An Honor Well Deserved**

She's been called the most titled woman bridge player in the world. Anyone who's faced her at the table knows that she's simply one of the best bridge players in the world. And now we can all call her a Hall-of-Famer. Our own Jill Meyers has been elected to the ACBL Bridge Hall of Fame. And we are also delighted to announce that Jill has graciously given us her →

permission to name in her honor the trophy awarded to the Unit player who wins the most masterpoints at our sectionals in any given year. Congratulations, Jill, and thank you.

### **Eight Days a Week**

We had quite a week at Woodland Hills. By my calculations we had a winner from our Unit every single day of the week. We started things off with a bang Monday afternoon, when S. Peterson, Karen Gidwitz, Cheri Bitar, and Bob Eisenstein tied for first in the 299er Swiss Team event, while your Humble Scribe added his own modest contribution by surviving Jamzilla to win the Monday afternoon Charity Pairs game. Lee Hausner picked up her first win of the tournament in the Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs, and Sheila Bub kept things going Wednesday with a win in the Wednesday morning 299er Pair Game. On Thursday Roger and Becky Clough completed their victory in the Wednesday-Thursday Knockout Teams event, while on

Friday Lee Hausner returned to the winner's circle with another Gold Rush Pairs win.

And that led to the weekend. Top honors in the Saturday Gold Rush Pairs event went to Jodie Rachmil and Peggy Levin, while Nancy Heck and Brana Hall paired with Cecil and Ted Glaessner to win their bracket of the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams event. Nancy finished things off, this time paired with Karen Byrd, by winning her bracket of the Sunday Flight B Swiss. Congratulations to our Unit on a dominating performance.

Your Humble Scribe had a couple of road trips, winning the Sunday Swiss at the El Cerrito Sectional and then picking up another win in the Saturday afternoon Swiss at the San Diego Sectional. Rhoda and Lew Himmell won the Monday afternoon game in the recent STAC, while Aram Bedros paired with Peter Benjamin to win the Monday evening game, and then with Art Zail for the Tuesday afternoon victory.

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## **District 23 Rank Changes February, 2014**

### **Junior Master**

Phyllis Cohen  
Jerrold Felsenthal  
Joanne Goodman  
Joelle Green  
Ruth Lehrfeld  
Daniel McGreevy  
Jim Mercer  
Tony Mirchandani  
Leila Otey  
Gwen Pollyea  
Lynne Rabineau  
Richard Siefert  
Jack Tabbush  
Tim Wright

### **Club Master**

Jane Canter  
David Cheng  
Dennis Forst  
Warren Harris  
Dhana Kaushik  
Vidya Kaushik  
Joanne Meyer  
Glen Musicer

Diane Reynolds  
David Rosak  
Dona Stevens  
Shoreh Toufanian

### **Sectional Master**

Elisabetta Beraldo  
Patricia Bessone  
Pamela Boyer  
Liang Fan  
Paula Nataf  
Eddi Samandar  
Stephanie Young

### **Regional Master**

Monica Fastovsky  
Lillian Grusd  
Dalia Hernandez  
Wesley Idol  
Kiran Kumar  
Larry Kussin  
Gabe Rosenberg  
Paula Rosenfeld  
Rona Schneider  
Jerry Shapiro

Lee Skupen  
John Soldano  
Judith Tomic  
Lawrence Trygstad

### **NABC Master**

Gino Barbieri  
Jodie Rachmil  
Tien Zee

### **Adv NABC Master**

### **Life Master**

Jerry Goodman  
Elaine Keyes  
Charles Shapiro

### **Bronze Life Master**

Linda Ananea  
Elaine Keyes

### **Silver Life Master**

James Jensen  
Thomas Ludwig

## Looking Ahead

This month will feature our District's annual foray into the waters of Grand National Teams. Flights A and C will compete in Long Beach on April 26 and 27 for the right to represent our District at the Summer Nationals in Las Vegas. The Championship Flight and Flight B teams will enter the lists the following week, May 3 and 4 at Barrington. Our District has consistently enjoyed success in this event, so I hope everyone takes the time to put together a team.

We will be holding a week of Unit Games in May, starting May 12. Unit Games will be held Monday, Wednesday, Thursday evening, Friday, and Saturday. The second annual ABA-ACBL game will be held June 8. Be sure to make a reservations — you won't want to miss the fun (or the food). And of course, next month's report will feature our Unit's success stories from the Spring Nationals in Dallas. Last but not least, I hope you'll check out the lecturer at the Beverly Hills Club on April 2. I hear he's both dashing and debonair.

## Welcome Mat

The usual plethora of new members appears in our pages today. Please give a warm welcome to Stuart Felman, Sylvia Jones, Lesly Kandel, M.J. Karmi, Roger Katz, Sin Orensztin, Kathy Preisler, Jane Smith, and Dr. Karen Snyder. Transferring into our Unit from places near and . . .near are Don Adler, Stephanie Lugash, and Jeanne and James Williams. I look forward to meeting you at the table.

## Around the Clubs

Beverly Hills saw this month's club championships go to Brana Hall and Jeri Berger, Alan Chapman and Lou Papp, and Viktor Anikovich and Fuad Khuri. Lew and Rhoda Himmell picked up a 70% game. Nancie Barrier and Dovid Crum won the Unit-Wide Championship.

Barrington is allowing Tuesday nights to lie fallow for a while. Peter Benjamin paired with Ephraim Katz to win a club championship, and Basant Shah and Bob Levy also won a club championship. Notching 70% games were Aram Bedros and Art Zail (three times each), Paul Smith, Adrienne Green, Steven Yaffe, a pair by Rodger Harbin, Susan Somogyi, David Bohnett,

and Wayne Karson.

## Climbing the Ladder

Arnold Green is now a Junior Master. Dianne Bougher, Barbara Federman, Fred Roach, and Ann Turner have reached Club Master status. Our newest Sectional Masters are Douglas Campbell, David Duke, and Michiko Sharp. Reaching the Regional Master plateau are Susan Coggins and Barbara Fisher-Freeman. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments!

Got news? Send it to me at [Bob78164@yahoo.com](mailto:Bob78164@yahoo.com).

**NOW WE'RE COOKING**

In July, 2014 District 23 will be Celebrating  
the 80th Anniversary of Bridge Week.  
In July, 1984 on the 50th Anniversary  
a Cookbook was written  
and given to the players attending.

**"Then And Now"**

A new cookbook is being written to celebrate the  
cooks back then and those now.  
To help support ALACBU Programs these books  
will be sold for \$5.00.  
Players attending the July 2014 Regional  
will be receiving a Free copy.

If you wish to have a favorite recipe included  
Please contact Candy Scott.  
(310)652-6116 or email [candysbridgeclub@aol.com](mailto:candysbridgeclub@aol.com)

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Leo Bell, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Mr. Mealmouth, and Michael Shuster

# 1

MP  
all vul

South	West	North	East
?			

You South hold:

♠732 ♥A642 ♦AK5 ♣743 What call do you make?

No going Al Roth and abstaining on this one!

*The late Al Roth, great bridge theorist, was frequently on the Bridge World panel and would occasionally abstain if he didn't like the conditions, even if it was his first turn to bid.*

**Mealmouth: Pass.** What a sterile hand! I have three defensive tricks, but little offense. Distant second choice: 1♦. However, I will abstain on any problem later in the auction if by some chance I'm filling in for someone who opened 1♣ and then had to run to the Ladies' Room to vomit.

**Bare: Pass,** no playing strength likely.

**Bartusek: Pass.** Obviously partnership agreements might "dictate" that you open this hand, but I believe pass is best. I have no spots and I have the worst possible distribution 4333. Additionally I would have to open 1♣ systemically, which rates to be bad whether or not we buy the contract.

**Kantar: Pass.** I read somewhere that you should never pass AK, A. Well, I just did.

**Shuster: Pass.** Yeah, 3 quick tricks is normally an

opening bid, but don't forget your loser count. This hand has nine losers, and that is too many to open the bidding. We are vulnerable, too, so even unenterprising opponents might collect 200 after passing throughout.

**Bell: 1♦.** I prefer to fire the first salvo at IMPs since I probably can't bid my hand competitively later in the auction.

**Goldsmith: 1♣.** I don't often play "better minor" openings.

*I deliberately switched the club holding and the diamond holding from the original problem. The late Edgar Kaplan and the late Ron Anderson were moderators on a panel when the original hand occurred. The conversation went something like this:*

*Kaplan: "When the good Lord gives you three quick tricks it's a sign he wants you to open the bidding".*

*Anderson: "Maybe he is testing you Edgar".*

*Kaplan: "Maybe he is testing you. He already knows what I will do with that hand."*

**LA Regional | Long Beach, CA | June 30-July 6, 2014**

2

IMPs  
all vul

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	4♣	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠A4 ♥KJ53 ♦KQ5 ♣J972  
What call do you make?

*I sent this out without explaining that 1NT was 15 – 17, which is always the default for this column. The actual hand is a relatively mediocre 14 HCP hand. The Kaplan-Rubens evaluator rates the hand as worth 12.55 points, and Danny Kleinman's hand evaluator shows the hand as being worth 14-points. I deleted some of the comments relating to having the 14 HCP hand for the strong no trump, but it's clear that my failure to state the range caused some problems. The real problem was intended to be two-fold, whether to try for slam, and which slam try to make.*

*Having opened an under strength 1NT, the hearts now look better, and the ♣J may be of more value. Still, some panelists want no part of making a positive move.*

**Bartusek: 4♥.** No slam interest. Can I go “Al Roth” on this one since I would not open 1NT with this hand? It is a bad fit for partner's presumed holding since the ♥J and the ♦Q aren't working (not to mention the under-range HCP).

**Mealy-mouth: 4♥.** If 1NT showed 14-16 HCP, a range that fits some strong-club systems and is consistent with opening 1♦ in Problem (1), then having only 5 of my 14 high-card points in partner's suits and likely wasted diamond strength, I dare not cooperate with partner's slam try, so I will bid 4♥ to attempt to sign off.

*One of the intended issues on this hand is what does 4♦ mean. Is 4♦ a cuebid of the ♦A, a cuebid of the ♦A or the ♦K, or is 4♦ Jeff Meckstroth's Last Train, (named after the Monkees' song “Last Train to Clarksville”) artificially showing interest in going further?*

*Gerry believes 4♦ is a cuebid showing the ♦A or the ♦K.*

**Bare: 4♦.** I don't know why I bid 1NT but it seems to have worked out. I no longer have a 14-point hand. I play a 4♦ cue bid is mandatory with an A or K in this sequence, so I would bid 4♠ over a 4♥ sign off.

*Jeff believes that 4♦ is Last Train.*

**Goldsmith: 4♦.** The real problem is whether to continue over 4♥, not whether to offer up Last Train now. If partner has ♠xx ♥AQxxx ♦x ♣AKxxx, about the worst possible hand on which we'd reach slam, we're still about 50-50 to make.

*My understanding of Last Train is different than Jeff's. I believe that if I bid Last Train, and I am then the one to go on past game, then it converts my Last Train bid to natural. In this case if I bid 4♦, and partner signs off is 4♥ and I continue with 4♠, then I am showing the ♦A and a spade control (either ♠A or ♠K). Thus, I need to decide now if my hand is worth a move past game. If it is worth a move past game, I should make the move now with 4♠. If it's not worth a move past game if partner signoff in 4♥, then I should bid 4♦ Last Train and be prepared to pass 4♥ if partner bids it. With partner likely 5-5 or better, it is important to cuebid aces ahead of kings, because a king opposite partner's shortness is a duplication of values.*

**Kantar: 4♠.** I assume we are playing a 12-14 notrump opening. Anyway, it appears that partner has five hearts and six clubs with a forward going hand. If so, maybe this cuebid will seal the deal.

**Shuster: 4♠.** From the complaint department, this isn't

3

IMPs  
all vul

West	North	East	South
1♦	Pass	1♠	?

You, South, hold:

♠AQ ♥K7542 ♦974 ♣KQT

What call do you make?

*From the land of the brave:*

**Shuster: 2♥.** This is nowhere close to the ugliest 2-level overcall I've made. If partner invites game, I accept.

*And from the conservative party:*

**Mealy-mouth: Pass.** Not 2♥, even against opponents who play Support Doubles. The moths in my closet didn't think this suit nutritious enough to eat.

**Kantar: Pass.** If it has taken me this long not to bid 2♥, maybe it's right not to.

*And those who think their clubs look almost like four.*

**Bell: Double.** I hate to overcall such a meager heart suit.

**Goldsmith: Double.** I'd like to get in, and the heart suit is not good enough to overcall. If a low heart were a low club, double would be obvious, and the suit qualities make it look like my suits are about 4-1/2 versus 3-1/2 long.

**Bartusek: Double.** Seems the indicated way into the auction (must not miss a 5-4 heart fit!). I'd rather pass than offer up my head via a 2♥ overcall. Obviously any of these choices might be best on the given hand.

**Bare: Double,** even with good heart spots it's too dangerous to bid 2♥, double is dangerous enough.

*I'm with the doublers on this one. There are too many HCPs to comfortably pass, and the heart spots are too poor to risk 2♥. Double is the least of evils.*

PSP#2 *continued from page 15*

much of a strong NT. Having chosen to open a strong NT, I made a second error in not super-accepting for hearts. Partner's heart transfer was the best thing that could have happened to this hand! It is a minimum in HCP, but LONG in playing strength. 2♥ was WIMPY, WIMPY, WIMPY. 4♠ for now. I'm driving to slam.

**Bell: 4♠.** I have a good hand for the auction and I think it's essential to show 1st round controls here.

*The actual hand occurred during the 2011 World Youth Congress. The actual contract turned out to be slightly over 50%, and made 6 as played, but neither pair got there. Los Angeles has it's own youth event coming up later this month. The LA Scholastic event at the Barrington is Saturday April 26. Look for a flyer in this issue or email johndjones44 at yahoo to get more information.*

## 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](mailto:howardeinberg@yahoo.com)  
for more information

4  
 MPs  
 NS vul

East	South	West	North
4♥	?		

You, South, hold:  
 ♠K54 ♥A2 ♦A987543 ♣A  
 What call do you make?

*One panelist sees no choice:*

**Shuster: 5♦.** What is the alternative?

*Some panelists go quietly.*

**Goldsmith: Pass.** Acting could work out, but it will turn a plus into a minus way too often. About as often as we have a game against which they don't have a cheap save, we go for a number by bidding.

**Mealymouth: Pass.** I'm a trick short of taking the 5♦ plunge on this vulnerability, especially when I have 3½ defensive tricks.

*Others opt for a double. Double, by definition, is always the most flexible bid. It allows partner to pass, or make any higher bid. But if double doesn't adequately describe the hand, the flexibility of allowing partner the key decision will frequently work poorly. In this case double is generally played as*

*co-operative, close to takeout shape with significant useful high cards. The doublers are converting club bids to diamonds.*

**Bartusek: Double.** This is the most flexible action as we can play 4♥x, 4♠, or 5♦. Even though I do not play "equal level conversion" at low levels, it is practically mandatory at high levels to be able to handle the auction. Sure, I won't like it if partner tries to play 6♣... but, double seems like the percentage action.

**Kantar: Double.** I said to myself, I'm not passing the third problem, no matter what it is. So I'm doubling. *[When I sent out the problems originally, this one was third]*

**Bell: Double.** I suspect my real decision will come next round.

**Bare: Double,** spades are as likely a game as diamonds.

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District 6	\$4,362.00
District 7	\$35,074.00
District 8	\$3,268.00
District 9	\$31,528.00
District 10	\$8,749.00
District 11	\$3,224.00
District 12	\$936.00
District 13	\$5,204.48
District 14	\$1,782.96
District 15	\$1,386.00
District 16	\$16,806.00
District 17	\$5,002.00
District 18	\$2,974.00
District 19	\$2,778.00
District 20	\$2,088.00

District 21	\$874.00
District 22	\$7,550.00
District 23	\$1,555.20
District 24	\$662.00
District 25	\$5,062.45
Grand total	\$158,841.29 (From January 1, 2013 – January 31, 2014)

**Expected Happenings in Dallas**

By the time you read this the board meetings will be completed. But here is what I expect to happen. First, I think the board will adopt a new NABC schedule on a trial basis beginning in 2015. The schedule

adds some new events and moves some of the NABC events to different days or NABCs. There is also a motion dealing with Psychic bidding, Bidding boxes, Skip Bids, and Alert procedures. Another motion deals with forbidding pairing in Swiss team events for the second round before the results from the first round are known.

I will have a complete report next month on motions that were passed. Until then you can always reach me at [pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net).

5

IMPs  
NS vul

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	2♣	2♦
Pass	5♦	?	

You, South, hold:  
 ♠AQ93 ♥AJ3 ♦T ♣KQ643  
 What call do you make?

*We have several options of how much to bid here, depending on how aggressive we would like to be. The most aggressive action would be bidding 6♥, the next most aggressive action is passing and pulling the double to 5♥ (inviting 6♥), moderately aggressive is 5♥, more conservative is pass intending to let partner make the decision, and least aggressive is doubling to discourage partner.*

*We'll hear first from the aggressive bidders. The 6♥ bidders are hoping that 6♥ will make, or that the opponents will sacrifice in 7♦. It's perfectly reasonable to give the opponent's the last guess.*

**Goldsmith: 6♥.** Give them the last guess. Probably they'll guess to save.

**Bartusek: 6♥.** I assume that partner is a reasonably sound bidder; thus, he almost assuredly has the necessary cards for 6♥. He should be either 3=5=3=2 or 4=5=2=2 with a minimum opening bid since he passed over 2♦. Even if he is missing the ♠K it might be onside or be unnecessary with the clubs running. Admittedly on a bad day he could have Kxxxx of hearts (instead of the expected KQxxx).

**Kantar: 6♥.** If like good boys they have the AKQ of diamonds, [*Do your preempting opponents always have what they promise?*] partner must have the ♣A, the KQ of hearts and the ♠K. That's my story and I'm sticking with it.

**Mealy-mouth: 6♥.** I'm trusting East to have his 5♦ bid, [*your opponents always have their bids too? Don't you guys ever play against juniors?*] and preparing to double him when he saves in 7♦.

*Next comes the middle of the roaders. Pass here is forcing and partner must act. If partner doubles and we remove the double to 5♥, it says that the 5♥ bid is invitational to 6♥. This is frequently referred to as "Pass and Pull".*

**Shuster: Pass.** The opponents think we can make slam. If they think we have slam, then so do I, but still, there is no need to do more than TRY for it. When considering between alternatives, here pass/pull versus 6♥, you have to decide whether the alternative will be enough help that partner will get it right often enough. To make slam good, partner needs to cover holes in three of four suits and I think if partner has one of those hands, he'll know to bid on.

*And the conservative on this problem:*

**Bare: 5♥,** tempting to bid 6♥, but with only 8 hearts and not knowing about possible wasted diamonds, 5♥ is enough.

I deleted Leo's answer to this question. He actually doubled, but gave an answer consistent with passing. I strongly suspect that he either misread the problem or that something went wrong.