

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 50, #6

June 2014

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How to Schedule a Tournament

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



During my tenure as president of ALACBU, District 23 of the ACBL, I've strived to better our tournaments. Part of this has been evaluating where the tournaments are held and your experience while you are in attendance. Another part is the schedule of the events.

How do we determine a tournament schedule? The Tournament Committee works hard to come up with a schedule that will please everybody, but you know what Abraham Lincoln said about that.

We have many different constituencies to be considered:

- The pros who love lots of knockouts to play with their clients.
- The non Life Master players who need gold points.
- The rest of us in between.

So, we plan tournaments with lots of knockouts and lots of Gold Rush Pairs. We hope we have lots of entries in the knockouts so that we can have many brackets and no handicaps, but, we are not Gatlinburg. We feel lucky when we have four brackets so that everyone has the opportunity to compete against other players at their level.

Having the same schedule at every tournament is old hat. Players want some variety, so we add different events now and again. The Long Beach Schedule has two different events: A Board-a-Match two session team game on Friday and a four session Board-a-Match Swiss Team on Saturday and Sunday.

The Friday Board-a-Match Team Game is played just like a regular match point event. At the end of the session you compare your scores with those of your teammates who played the boards against the teammates of your opponents. Every board has just three possible

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

LA Regional

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



Last month when I reported the top 50 Bridge Clubs for 2013 I forgot to mention that the Arcadia Bridge Center was the 47th largest bridge club in the ACBL.

Our Los Angeles Regional begins on the last day of this month.

The schedule has afternoon and evening schedules, as well as morning and afternoon schedules. The morning and afternoon schedules will be from Friday July 4 through Sunday July 6. For a detailed schedule, go to LosAngelesRegional.com.

The schedule for our junior players is very exciting. Beginning on Monday, June 30, we will hold a free two-hour bridge lesson on slam bidding by Teri Atkinson. There will be a light lunch followed by a pro-am (or mentor-mentee) game. For the bridge lesson, please make a reservation with Jan Wickersham at janwickersham@version.net or call her at 626-355-2666.

To sign up for the Pro-Am, contact Ellen Anten at ellenanten@aol.com or call her at 818-634-3231. As a guideline, a Pro is over 1500 masterpoints and an Am is under 300 masterpoints.

Also, there will be special Intermediate speakers every day before the first session of bridge.

National News

The Summer NABC is just around the corner. It begins July 17 and will be held at the Las Vegas Hotel in Las Vegas. As our room allotment is filling up fast, I

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

Inside This Issue

Around the Units	page 5
District 23 Regional	pages 7, 11
Problem Solvers Panel	page 13
Rank Changes	page 4

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

scores: one, half or zero. So at the end of the usual 26 boards, average would be 13. If you go down 1100 in 5♦ doubled, it is just one board, not the whole game as it might be in a knockout event.

In the Board-a-Match Swiss Team game, the scoring is the same. You will play eight seven-board matches on Saturday and if you qualify, you will play eight seven-board matches on Sunday in the finals. Each match will be worth seven points: again one, half, or zero per board with 28 average for the day. Boards will be duplicated for the finals.

I hope many of you will be willing to try some new events to spice up your tournament experience.

For those of you who are happy with the status quo, there will be new knockouts beginning every day but Sunday and Gold Rush events scheduled Tuesday through Saturday. In addition to the Board-a-Match finals on Sunday there will be regular Swiss Team events.

So come and join us June 30 - July 5 in Long Beach. If you have some suggestions please come talk to us at the Hospitality desk or when we meet you at the bridge table. For those of you who prefer the 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. schedule please note that Friday, Saturday and Sunday are on the earlier schedule.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

suggest going on line to the ACBL website and making a reservation now.

North American Pairs

June is the beginning of qualifying for the NAP. I encourage all clubs to hold qualifying games in June, July, and August. Each club may hold two NAP games per sanctioned session, during each of the months of June, July and August. Fees are \$4.00 per table and masterpoints are 50/50 Red/Black sectional rated. Our District Coordinator is Mike Marcucci. He can be reached at nstarmgm@att.net.

Also information can be found at http://web2.acbl.org/documentlibrary/play/NAP20142015/Club_Information.pdf

As always, if you want to reach me, write me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net.

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier
REALTORS
Your Real Estate Partners for Life



COLDWELL BANKER
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Relocation, Seniors, Luxury Properties and First Time Buyer Specialists Representing Buyers and Sellers in Probate & Trust Transactions; Estate, Condo and Investment Properties; Complex Real Estate Matters; Referrals; and Executive Transfers

Carolyn 310-871-5051
Marion 310-721-7782
2444 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90403
DRE # 01074069 / 00413050

Southern California Bridge News
Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.
11033 Barman Avenue, Culver City, CA 90230 Phone: 310-836-1235
email bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Editor/Designer.....Jennifer Einberg
Managing Editor.....Rebecca Clough
Contributing Editor.....John Jones

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

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to:

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Bridge Stories

These are short bridge stories from District 23 players who earned a new rank last month, as collected by Rand Pinsky



Bridge has become my passion in retirement. It has helped me to continue my love of learning with making new friends. My teacher and director, Rand Pinsky, gave me the tools to begin. He and his wife have provided a great club. They are always there to encourage us and celebrate our "bridge milestones." The picture attached is of me in Las Vegas. Lifemaster achieved 4/2/2013!

*Ruth Baker
Life Master*



I guess I got to this level by playing a lot of Bridge and doing pretty well a lot of the time. After a while, all those fractions added up. I play three and sometimes four times a week. Most of the time, I play at the 750 Bridge Club. I have played some at the Valencia Bridge club, and some at Paula's game on Mondays, and a few times in Thousand Oaks. Also played bridge last year at the San Fernando Regional where I got many points playing the 299er game, and once won overall at a 750's Bridge Club championship.

In college, I knew Bridge was a game that I wanted to learn. However I was afraid learning the game would interfere with my university studies. So I waited to learn bridge until after I graduated college. I played some in Chicago, though never duplicate, and soon after moved to Los Angeles.

My first residence was at the at the South Bay Club on 3rd and Vermont, and there was a bridge game every Friday evening. I started playing there regularly, and then started playing at the clubs. I played mostly at Edinburgh and the Kingsley Bridge Clubs. Neither one exists anymore. I also attended some regional, sectional, and once a national game in Las Vegas. After about six or seven years, I just stopped playing and did not play duplicate again for 25 five years. Then for a number of

years, I played bridge fairly regularly at work during the lunch period.

Four years ago, I retired and started playing duplicate on a regular basis. Bridge had changed enough that I took online lessons via ACBL and rejoined. I have been playing bridge again ever since.

*Shari Elias
Regional Master*



Thank you for recognizing my Junior Master Status. I am so excited that all those tenth of a percent have finally added up to something.

I got into bridge when a friend of mine called and said Jeff Grotenhuis was starting a new class April 2013 in Hermosa Beach and she thought I might be interested. I signed up and fell in love with bridge. If I had known how hard and how much work it was going to be, I wouldn't have signed up. But the more I learn, the more I want to learn, and now it is too late. I'm hooked!

I am amazed how popular bridge is and not just in the US. My husband's sister lives in Hamburg, Germany and she said many of her friends are just as dedicated to playing bridge as I am.

I appreciate the ACBL and, especially, how much help they give to beginners. I have used their free learn to play software and commonly used convention materials to help advance my playing.

*Rose Marie Tashima
Junior Master*

I started playing competitively approximately two and half years ago and have played with over 30 different partners

I am constantly learning. While mostly I play at 750, at least once a week, I play at The Bridge Academy for higher challenge and learning. I can play with people that play nothing to people that play everything and the learning continues.

*Dennis Hill
Regional Master*

BRIDGE STORIES *continued from previous page*

I'm actually quite excited about reaching this first (hopefully of many) milestones.

My story is quite simple – to get here, I am obsessed with bridge and play for several hours every day both in person and online. I began playing on Cape Cod two years ago and had an excellent teacher who helped make Bridge easy to understand and fun. Since then, I take lessons at Barrington Bridge and play there as often as possible.

The combination of excellent teachers and determination are very important for my advancement. I have always been most comfortable learning through experience so this combination supports my growth.

*Peg Burkhardt
Junior Master*

GNT Qualifying Results
May 3-4 at Barrington Bridge Club

Open Flight

1st
Mitch Dunitz, Roger Lee, Jill Meyers, Ed Davis

2nd
Leo Bell, William Wickham, John Jones,
Jeffrey Goldsmith

Flight B

1st
Nolan Chang, Frederick Upton, Nima Badizadegan
Jack Chang, Sankar Reddy, Eric Chenteh Tang

2nd
Robert Shore, Steve Ramos, Jr, Bruce Altshuler,
Kevin Lane, Michael Piken, Marel Bates

District 23 Rank Changes
April 2014

Junior Master

Christine Anders, Nima Badizadegan
Harris Blumenthal, Peg Burkhardt
Deedie McCarthy, Ron Patterson
Delores Pendergast, Pamela Risinger
Jerold Rose, Rita Schneider
Rose Marie Tashima

Club Master

Marsha Carry, Patti Eisenberg
Fredrick Nelson, Sandra Stewart
Esther Zacks

Sectional Master

Jerry Athans, George Henderson

Regional Master

Shari Elias, Dennis Hill
Frank Nordyke, Madge Weinstein

Life Master

Ruth Baker
Robert Krause
Melanie Smith

Silver Life Master

Richard Glikzman
Pamela Kirkner
Philip Leung

Emerald Life Master

Andrew Vinock



Around the Units in District 23

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

June Unit Game, June 14, 2014
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

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

We are finally comfortably ensconced in our new quarters downstairs. We are in a fairly large, well-lit room, with a complete kitchen and plenty of storage space. No more daily moving of furniture or covering of mirrors - hooray!

All Saturday games, including Unit games, will once again begin at noon. In addition to Tuesday and Thursday at noon, there is a Wednesday night game starting at 7:00.

Results of the May Unit game were as follows:

N/S

- A1 Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
- A2 Ann Banta & Ron Moeckel
- A3 Caroline Cohen & Tim Lolli
- A4 B1 Adam Barron & Leon Alexander
- B2 Art Chacantias & Steve Shanker

E/W

- A1 B1 Paula Olivares & Bill Brodek
- A2 B2 Ann Raymond & Margie Hall
- A3 Brad Beland & Amr Elghamry
- A4 B3 Temo Arjani & Robert Novell

Please join us on June 14 for our next Unit Game.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org

Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

May 8 Unit-rated game: Overall results: 1st in A: George Welsh/Brandon Sheumaker, 2nd Sankar Reddy/Steve Mager, 3rd Mark Tang/Ron Lien, 4th Jackie Hess/Bob Mault, 5th Baum Harris/Al Beebe, 6th Robert and Richard Bakovic. In the B flight overall: 2nd Steve Ramos/Kiyo Nagaishi, 3rd Suzy and John Hand, 4th Ralph Beazley/Pamela Kirkner, 5th Lavone McQuilken/Elinor Baratelle. In the C flight overall: 2nd Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman, 3rd Cooie Dampman/George Alemshah. Congratulations to all!

May 9 Largest game of the month: Overall results: 1st in A: Ron Lien/Wei Pei, 2nd Richard and Robert Bakovic, 3rd Thad Mikols/Les Rawitt, 4th Lois Abramson/ Jo Daigle, 5th Louis Shen/Samuel Wang, 6th Brandon Sheumaker/Om P Chokriwala, 7th Earl VanDerVord/Michael Daley. In the B flight overall: 1st Phyllis Greenstein/Doreen Maes, 2nd Mike Ullman/Janet Logan, 3rd Fay Beckerman/Sherry Troeger, 4th Eleth Fields/Marie Takacs, 5th Kevin Lane/Cliff Goodrich. In the C flight overall: 1st Nancy Karl/Sandy Lex, 2nd Mike Welsh/Lorna Wallace. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: In open games April 16 through May 15: Friday April 25 John Galligher/Christine Frumen had a 71.73% game. And on Thursday May 14 John Crabtree/Bill Wilson had a 70.71% game. Congratulations both pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards April 16 through May 15: In the unit-rated game May 8 Brandon Sheumaker/George Welsh won 4.67mp for 1st, Sankar Reddy/Steve Mager won 3.50mp for 2nd. Congratulations to both pairs!

New Members: Carol Welsh, John Ionescu, Charles Raffle. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Marcy Weigand. New NABC Master: Richard Schaeffer. New Bronze Life Master: Phyllis Greenstein. Congratulations to you all!

Upcoming Events at the Club: Unit Game May →

25. Lunch at 12:30, game at 1 p.m.

Future Unit Games will be played on June 22, July 27, August 31, September 28, October 26, November 23, and December 21 (Christmas party at the LBBC).

Unit-rated game Memorial Day Monday, May 26. Game at 12:30 p.m., picnic lunch at 12 noon, game at 12:30. Extra points will be awarded after the game. Let's make it a Red, White, and Blue Day!

The World-Wide Bridge Contests will be held Friday night, June 6, at 4:15 p.m. and Saturday afternoon, June 7 at 12:30. Points will be awarded as 50/50 red and black at sectional rating. The Friday and Saturday games are separate events. Each participant receives a souvenir booklet for each event containing commentary by Eric Kokish. The WBF will award prizes based on world matchpointing.

North American Pairs Qualifying Weeks will be June 9-16 and June 23-29. You can earn many extra points and maybe even qualify for next year's North American Pairs competition. There will be more information next month. **Remember NAP qualifications happen in two different weeks in June.** Put these events on your playing calendar.

Unit Game June 22. Lunch at 12:30 p.m., game starts at 1:00 p.m. Future Unit Games will be played on July 27, August 31, September 28, October 26, November 23, and December 21 (Christmas party at the LBBC).

The Long Beach Bridge Center will continue to hold games during the Los Angeles Regional Bridge Tournament at Long Beach which starts Monday, June 30.

News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Results: April 19 (Clubhouse #1) overall winners: Verna Burns/Joan Tschirki 1 in A. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 2 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Marilyn McClintock/Diane Sachs 3 in A. Christine Frumen/Howard Smith 4 in A, 2 in B. Judy Carter-Johnson/Cooie Dampman 5 in A, 3 in B. Joyce Newton/Ron McClintock 4 in B. Betty Scharf/Bill Robinson 2 in C.

70% Games: April 21 Bill Linskey/Larry Slutsky had a huge game—78.21%!! April 25 Joan Tschirki/Betty Witteried had a 73.06% game. April 28 Joan Tschirki/Bill Linskey had a 71.79% game. May 2 Bee Kinman/Joan Tschirki had a 71.53% game.

Congratulations to all of you.

Upcoming Club Championship Dates: Clubhouse #3—Thurs June 12 and Thurs June 17. Clubhouse #1—Friday July 11 and Saturday July 19.

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

If you have any news for next month's column please email me: jjc90740@gmail.com. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Get the Unit 577 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 Marty Weiss

In May or June, 1995, some 4-5 years after I had resumed playing serious bridge, I met Michel, who had only been playing at our club for a few weeks, and with whom I soon began a partnership that lasted almost 10 years. One day, playing against him, I had bid, and made, 4 spades, when he leaned over and, unheard by anyone else at the table, said, "You can make 5...can we talk later?" "OK", I whispered back. We did meet later, and he showed me how I could and should have played, to make 5, and it was obvious that he was a brilliant and very experienced player. We quickly agreed to begin playing together, and soon were playing twice weekly, in addition to occasional forays into local tournaments. Almost immediately, we were very successful, save for an occasional stumble as I adapted to some new systems and Michel's style of play, and we were regularly among the leaders at our club. I also discovered that he had been a member of both the Turkish and the Israeli international teams, and it was clear to me that I could, and would, learn a great deal about bridge from him. In addition, he and his wife, Fanny became my very good friends. We were all good cooks, so food became our second interest.

Michel, some 5-6 years older than me, was a most interesting man with a very unusual background. He was born in Turkey, of French-Jewish parents who had emigrated from France and were part of a French-speaking community in Turkey. In fact, in their home, he and Fanny spoke only French. Michel was completely fluent in French, Turkish, Hebrew, English, and →

Italian, and spoke German passably. He had been an officer in the Turkish army, highly unusual for someone Jewish, and had owned and run a successful business. There came a time, however, when the political environment in Turkey led Michel, Fanny and their two children to leave Turkey for Israel, where he lived for 5-6 years, after which Michel and Fanny followed their children to the U.S.

Our partnership remained successful and rewarding for almost 10 years until, sadly, Michel's physical and mental health began to deteriorate. He stopped playing bridge, and, not long thereafter, he and Fanny moved to an elder care facility some 200 miles away. Our contact with each other ended, save for my occasional telephone call to Fanny.

One of the many things he taught me is this system for 'super acceptance' in major suit transfers over 1NT. Most (15-17 pt) 1NT bidders, when their partner transfers them to hearts or spades, will jump to 3 of the

major to show 17 points and 4 of the major. Michel (& I), with that holding, will cue-bid our lowest biddable ace, e.g., if the transfer is to hearts, my lowest biddable ace would be the ♠A. Thus, if my partner bids 2♦ (transfer to hearts) and I respond 3♣, my partner now knows I have 17 points, 4♥, the ♣A. And, I do **not** have the ♠A. That's a lot of potentially valuable info my partner now has, that he would not have known had I simply jumped to 3♥. (BTW, a subsequent diamond bid is a re-transfer).

Urgent Bulletin!

The money is just waiting: The Jackpot for the Wednesday afternoon (11 a.m.) game at San Marino is over \$130. But it cannot be awarded unless there are at least six full tables. We need players for Wednesday afternoon. Please call Cathy or Bill Martin to reserve your table.

Congratulations to the following who achieved →



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

new milestones in the past month:

Junior Life Master

Marvin L Robbins

Club Life Masters

David Donahue

Marcia Hoffman

Sectional Master

Zu Ming Cheng

William Suter

Regional Master

Claudia Henry

Andrew Rottenbacher

NABC Master

Jorg Rottenbacher

Gold Life Master

Xingping Kang

Travels and Events

Margery Gould and Barbara Swan (sister of Joan Mesias) went on a 16-day bridge cruise to the Panama Canal that included a regional bridge tournament. Although they did not like the Royal Caribbean ship, they had a great time, binging on bridge, two lectures a day by the best pro, John Mohan, and three games each day. They won 48 points! Congratulations!

Jack Futrell will be taking an Alaskan cruise, starting June 11, then going to Vegas for pleasure, and then to the summer Nationals in July. Over the past month, he and Rae Murbach placed 1st overall in the May 4 unit game, and he had a 70%+ game with Jim Rogers at the San Marino club on Wednesday, April 30.

Brad Beland is moving to Palm Desert, California in July.

District 23 GNT

Several of our members did quite well in the District 23 Grand National Teams:

Flight A: Bob Johnson- Joseph Viola - David Kempe - Gerard Geremia - Mathew Klimesh

Flight B: Nolan Change, a teenager from our unit and Nima Badizadegan, a Cal Tech student with fewer

than 5 masterpoints and their teammates placed first overall in Flight B!

June Events

Arcadia Bridge Club. Beat the House on Friday, June 27 at 7:15. Winners Losers Sunday on Sunday, June 29, 1:00.

San Marino Bridge Center: Two unit games in June on June 1 and 22 at 1:00 p.m. This includes the July game—but moved forward so as not to conflict with the Los Angeles regional. Please note that parking will be limited because of work on the parking lot. There will be some spots, and there is limited street parking, but please try and carpool if you can!

Kudos to Jack Futrell, who won the April unit game raffle and donated his winnings back to the unit!

Other tournaments:

Santa Barbara Sectional: June 5-7

Riverside Regional: June 9-15

Big Bear Lake Sectional: June 20-22

Escondido Sectional: June 27-28

Long Beach Regional: June 30-July 6

Again, if you had any big games, or travel news, please contact me at martyweiss559@yahoo.com

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, June 21, 1:00 p.m.

Individual – Saturday, June 7, 9:30, Claremont site

Back again from another trip, although this time the scenery wasn't so great (hint: visit to home town)... well, it didn't rain every day.

First off, you will notice some oddities in the game schedules above. The Individual will be at the home of Clint Lew this month. And the unit game falls on Longest Day, so we are moving the unit game two hours, starting at 1:00 p.m. There will also be a pairs game at 9:00 a.m., and a third session at 5:00-ish p.m. Depends on when the unit game finishes up, and how confused the Director gets. (Nah – never happens, does it?) And who knows, if enough people want to hang around, we'll have a fourth session, starting – well – whenever. Pairs, Individual, Team, who knows? →

Fast Pairs, anyone? All games will be at the Knights of Columbus in Glendora.

As we did last year, we will have box lunches available for between-sessions caloric intake. If you want a lunch, please sign up with Penny Barbieri (or any other Board of Directors member) no later than Wednesday, June 18. We are taking pre-orders because we had a lot of sandwiches left over last year, and that cut into our donation to the Alzheimer's Association. Don't want that, do we? There will be some breakfast goodies before the first session – semi-potluck, don't be shy.

The May Individual was captured by Pat Radamaker, narrowly edging out Richard Paterson. Trailing along were Clint Lew, Sofi Kasubhai (first in C), and Steve Mancini.

The May Unit game was captured by Amr Elghamry – Shiu-Ming Huang, with Dave and Susan Ruoff second, Mike Brennan – Bill Papa third, Eileen Finlay – Timothy Finlay fourth (but first in B). Hanan Mogharbel - Charlotte Capelle took top honors in flight C.

Only one promotion this month, but a nice one. Tim Finlay is now a Bronze Life Master.

The race for the top game this month was a runaway. Herman Helber and Fred Theurkauf posted an amazing 73.51% game. No one else topped the magic 70%, although there were some scores in the high 60's. Other first place finishers were Fred and Lu Minter, Dave Ruoff, Roger Boyar, Pat Radamaker, Richard Patterson, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Denise Morgan, Don Naf, Hanan Mogharbel, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, Gayle Ginsburg, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Paul Chrisney, Claudia Cochran, Hans Henke, and Sandy Jones.

Know anyone who wants bridge lessons? In addition to Roger's lessons at the K of C on Wednesdays, our unit has two new certified teachers. (Only one of them is certifiable, fortunately.) Penny Barbieri and Your Correspondent have now posted their credentials on the League web site. Novices and intermediates alike have no excuses for not improving their games.

Because Your Correspondent has been goofing off away from the bridge table quite a bit this past month (oh, heresy!), our hand-of-the-month is again just a little different (i.e., fewer hands to choose from ...) You are in second seat, no one vulnerable, and pick up: ♠A9 ♥AQJTx ♦KT8xxx ♣--.

The bidding goes like this:

RHO	You	LHO	Pard
3♣	3♥	3♠	4♥
4♠	?		

Well, no one at this table is timid! Be that as it may, what is your call? You will certainly be competing to 5♥, but considering that you are probably going to be defending 5♠, how about 5♣ as a lead director? Yes, yes, you are going to make the opening lead, we have not forgotten, but partner's got to have an entry somewhere! Probably the ♥K, but could easily be the ♦A.

How did that work out at the table? Don't know. Wasn't there. The supplier of this gem omitted that little detail. Presumably, though, it worked out well.

June is the month for weddings, so our quote for the month is this little wedding-related gem: "By all means marry; if you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, you'll become a philosopher." (Socrates)

Until next month... here's hoping the sofa is comfortable.

Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 held its first Mentor Game of 2014 on Sunday, May 18 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club. The purpose of the game is to help aspiring bridge players to have a positive transition into regular duplicate games. It was a great success and the next one is planned for the evening of Tuesday, August 19 in Santa Clarita at the Senior Center. The N/S winners of the first game were Rosalee McEntyre and Leah Levitt with 66%. Second place went to Carol Provost and George MacDonald with 64% followed by Anita Walker and Nell Schanz with 52% and Cookie Fessler and Kathy Swaine with 51%. With the E/W pairs there was a tie for first place shared by Joanne Freatman - Rita Vannatter and Aggi Oschin - Rand Pinsky with 60%. Third place went to Prushottam Tennarangam and Basant Shah with 52% and fourth went to Meressa Naftulin and David White.

The Joshua Tree Bridge Club held two Western Conference STaC games during the week of May 5-11. The winners of the Tuesday game were Sharry Vida and Henry Roediger won with 58.93%. A close second was Barbara York and Dan Spector with 58.33% →

followed by Rand Franklin and George Lewis with 55.95%. On Friday, Sharry Vida and Henry Roediger won with 59.72%. Second place went to Joanne Freatman and Charles Morrin with 57.87% and third place to George Lewis and Beth Morrin with 57.41%.

Upcoming Events

Unit Games: Thursday, June 12 in Castaic; Friday, June 20 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club and Monday, June 23 at the Friendly Bridge Club

The first NAP qualifying game in our unit will be held on Tuesday, June 17 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita at 6:45 p.m.

The Joshua Tree Bridge Club will hold the World Wide Bridge Game on Saturday, June 7 at 12:30 p.m. in Palmdale, CA.

Congratulations to Paula Olivares who recently achieved the rank of Silver Life Master.

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568

SBBC: www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship, Friday, June 6, 11:30

Club Championship: Monday, June 16, 7:00

Club Championship: Tuesday, June 24, 11:30

There will be Friday Night games on June 6 and June 20.

Club Championships

The NLM Club Championship on May 15 was won by Marianne David/Beebe Morehead in flight A with Joanna Wallis/Mary Gillett taking Flight B and Neal Hudson/Greg Gallagher on top in Flight C. On May 16 the Club Championship was headed by Kim Wang/Rocky Williams in Flight A and Stan Greengard/Robert Rothman in Flight B.

Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent

Tuesday night handicapped Swiss games at the South Bay Bridge Club.

April 22: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

April 29 : Gabriela Jackson, Mark Raggio, Masae Kato, Robert Rothman

May 6 (STAC) : Carol McCulley, Ed Barad, CVal Gamio, John Jones

May 13: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

Western Conference STAC

Following is a list of pairs that placed in the overalls of the Western Conference STAC in games played at the South Bay Bridge Club

Monday Morning, May 5

8A 4B Stanley Greengard/Claire Hulett

Monday Evening, May 5

14A Fran Israel/Steve Ramos

Wednesday Morning, May 7

13B Carol McCully/Cal Waller

Thursday Morning, May 8, 499er Pairs

3A 3B 2C Sheila Cottle/Kathy Miller

5A Suzanne Kuuskmae/Shameem Rahimtoola

Friday Morning, May 9

7A Gaye Herrington/John Farr

11A 4B Cal Waller/Betsy Amador

22B Bob Bacharach/Setsuko Miyasaka

Saturday Afternoon, May 10

16A Gabriela Jackson/Adelia Horton

GUV Memorial Award

Some number of years ago I was playing on a KO team at the Las Vegas Regional. I was playing with my late wife Jan Nathan and my teammates were Lucy Tredennick and John Farr. We were lucky enough to make it to the final. On the very last board one of the opponents only had 12 cards. The card was nowhere to be found. Lucy and John had already finished but were finally flagged down. Nobody could find the →

card around their table. Finally by some stroke of luck Lucy opened her purse and there was the missing card. Happily we finished the match on a winning note.

The scene shifts to a recent Monday afternoon game at the South bay Bridge Club. During an early round, one of the opponents was missing a card. Nowhere to be found. I looked at the next table pard and I were going to and guess who was sitting in the seat with the missing card. Thats right, Lucy herself. I said out loud, almost as a joke; "Look in Lucy's purse." Director Mike looked around and found no missing card. I tried another "Look in Lucy's purse." No one did and everybody else kept looking around. Finally after one more "Look in Lucy's purse," someone did and guess what? Am I a genius or what.

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Hi, Neighbor!

Hot on the heels of last year's wildly successful event, we bring you the second annual edition of the ABA-ACBL Game. The ABA will host this month's game at its Inglewood location on Sunday, June 8. Lunch will begin at 12:30 and game time is 2:00 p.m. Last year's game was a sell-out, so make your reservations early. And look forward to the ACBL's turn to host in August.

Tickets to the Nationals

Once again we have selected the teams that will represent our District at the Summer Nationals in the Grand National Teams. Jill Meyers and her team survived a nail-biter to earn a berth in the Championship Flight, and the team including Bill Schreiber, Mike Mikyska, and Alan Meyerson won the Flight A event. We'll see them and the District's other representatives in Las Vegas next month.

Also on the agenda is the first stage of the North American Open Pairs event. Qualifying games will take place at our clubs in June, July, and August. Play one and get eligible for the next stage in the event. It's a great opportunity to have the ACBL write you a nice, big check to help pay your way to New Orleans.

On the Road Again

We'll start our review of this month's tournament action on the East Coast. Reese Milner headed over to the Ft. Lauderdale Regional and came back with a win in the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event. Much closer to home at the San Diego Regional, Viktor Anikovich's team won its bracket of the Wednesday-Thursday Knockout Teams event, while Joyce Lelah, Richard Gliksman, Nancy Heck, and Brana Hall won their bracket of the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams event. Wrapping things up, Mike Savage brought back a win in the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams event at the Oceanside Sectional.

Welcome Mat




LOS ANGELES REGIONAL
June 30-July 6, 2014

*Sandy Beaches, Ideal Weather
& July 4th Fireworks!!*

\$94 single/dbl.
Free in-room
Wi-Fi

Hilton Long Beach
701 W. Ocean Blvd. Long Beach, CA

Reduced-rate parking \$5.00/day
\$94 rate available until 5pm May 29 or until block is filled

Reserve Now! Rooms will sell out!
Reserve online at LosAngelesRegional.com or
call 800-445-8667 (code So.Cal.Bridge)

0-750 GOLD RUSH, KOs, Fast Pairs, 299ers
New 4-session Board-a-Match Swiss
Aft/Eve schedule Mon-Thu. Daylight games
10:00 am/3:00 pm, Friday thru Sunday

Monday June 30: 10 am Free 299er Lesson & Lunch
1:15 pm Pro-Am game. *Registration required for both.*

For more information & details go to:
LosAngelesRegional.com



Tournament Manager: Peter Benjamin, ahoneydo@aol.com 310-720-6050

As always, we extend a hearty welcome to new members Diana Courtney, Margaret Reitzel, and Charlotte Weinstein. Transferring into our Unit are Gerri Frye. Ashok Hargunani, Gordon Hubbard, Lisa Karako, Basant Shah, Hilary Sutcliffe, and Sara Wetherbee. Please say hello when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Winning club championships at Barrington last month were Steven Yaffe and George Wagner, Aram Bedros and Paul Smith, and Mike Mikyska and Daniel Hugh-Jones. Scoring up 70% games were Janice Ronci, Don Sloan, Danny Kleinman, and Evan Krantz.

David Segal picked up club championships at Beverly Hills with Farideh Sigari and Marty Gelfand. Alyssa Kennedy and Om Chokriwala also won a club championship. Ringing up 70% games were Becky and Roger Clough, Pete Benjamin and Aram Bedros, Anna Corea and Mike Savage, and Om Chokriwala and Aram Bedros.

Climbing the Ladder

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

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Jan and Thea Drayer and Peter O'Keeffe. Reaching Club Master status are Bob Becker, Joan Oliver, and Bette Treiman. Barbara Holman and Irwin Salk are now Sectional Masters and Yehudit ("Call me Judy") Hasin-Brumshten and Michael Lo have become NABC Masters.

Our Unit's newest Life Masters are Lidia Epelbaum and Patricia Shellogg Seal. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL
Long Beach, CA
June 30 - July 6, 2014

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Leo Bell, David Chechelashvili, Ed Davis, Eddie Kantar, Roger Lee, Rick Roeder, John Swanson, Bill Wickham, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
NS vul

West	North	East	South
3♦	3♠	5♦	?

You South hold:

♠AJT3 ♥KQ ♦A54 ♣Q864

What call do you make?

Some panelists make a move towards a grand slam.

Wickham: 6♦. I have to express my interest in a grand slam. Partner is not likely to have less than ♠KQxxxx ♥Axx ♦x ♣Axx for his vulnerable 3 level overcall. That hand will most likely produce slam. A similar hand that includes the ♣K will let us take all the tricks. Only partner knows which hand he has.

Davis: 6♦. I want to give partner a chance to bid 7♠. I acknowledge there is no guarantee of making 6♠ but I think we are at least around even money. Also, if East thinks that I think we have at least 12 tricks he might lead a club from ATxx to try to beat 6♠ with a club ruff and that could be the only way we can make 6♠ (barring a defensive failure to unblock with Jx of clubs) if partner has ♠KQxxxx ♥Axx ♦x ♣Kxx.

Chechelashvili: 6♦. I have to try for the grand.

Lee: 6♦. It seems right to make a move towards 7 with this much stuff, especially since 6♥ is available to partner as a last train step.

Wittes: 6♦. Partner almost surely has a diamond void. It might be too much to ask for the ♠KQ (likely), ♥A, and the ♣AK. I'm too good not to give it a try. The question is, would partner bid the grand with those cards, or bid 6♥? I would like to think the grand should be bid with all those cards, since I'm missing an awful

lot of keycards to try for a grand.

Bell: 6♦. My diamond ace might be useless, but if partner can bid 6♥, I'll chance the grand.

One panelist settles for slam.

Roeder: 6♠. Since partner probably has a diamond void, your hand is not quite as stellar as it appears. I would like to have the ♣K instead of the ♣Q to invite 7 via a 6♦ bid. Partner can still kick the extra point with some hands where the grand is cold. The worst experience in bridge is to be in 7, failing by a trick, when the other table is not even in a small slam. Most recent example: One of the reasons we won this Spring's District 22 GNT's: Our esteemed opponents failed in a 52% grand. Our teammates boldly bid to game.

Two panelists go low and don't try for slam.

Swanson: Double. I don't have a slam try available and I'm not willing to commit to slam on my own. That leaves double or 5♠. It's possible that we can't make at the five-level and it's possible that they are off more than the value of our game.

Kantar: 5♠. Hope I don't miss a slam.

PSP#1 *continued on next page*

2

IMPs
NS vul

North	East	South	West
1♥	Pass	1NT*	Pass
2♣	Pass	?	

* Forcing NT, 2♦ would have been GF

You, South, hold: ♠A4 ♥Q ♦QJ9863 ♣QT82
What call do you make?

Several panelists stab at 3NT, the cheapest game.

Kantar: 3NT. I can't even imagine another bid. I'm definitely looking at any name who bids something else.

Bell: 3NT. This is about right on values and I see no reason to introduce my suit here.

Chechelashvili: 3NT.

Roeder: 3NT. You are paying the price for not playing one of the few methods that I feel really strongly about: a natural, invitational 3♦ bid over 1♥. If that is not in your tool kit (as it should be – Bergen, be damned), the range of a 3♦ bid at your second call is as wide as the Grand Canyon (or, for those Hollywoodphiles, the gulf is as wide as the gap between the two front teeth of Vanessa Paradis). I would bid 2NT if forcing but I do not believe that is standard treatment. Would 3♦ be forcing? Sometimes, the sins of the past cannot be buried forever.

Yes Rick, many partnerships now play that over reverses, that only the cheaper of fourth suit or 2NT (in this case 2NT), is negative, and all other calls force the partnership to game. Thus, 3♦ is natural and forcing.

Lee: 3♦. This should be forcing, and I have to bid them at some point. This is a reasonable auction to play transfers starting with 2NT.

Wickham: 3♦. I need to establish a game force and try to keep the dialogue open. The best contract will be either 3NT, 4♥ or 6♦. If I don't bid my six card suit

now, one of those alternatives is gone. If I had a hand that was so poor I wanted to get out below game, I would bid 2NT (Lebensohlish). 3NT would seem to rule out 4♥ unless partner had a seventh.

Davis: 3♦. I can afford to bid 3♦ in case it gets a very encouraging bid from partner such as 5♦ or a club cue bid which would make our prospects of making 6♦ pretty good. If this directs a club lead against a continued auction of 3♥ Pass 3NT, I have enough that we should make 3NT (or 4♥ if partner should correct.)

Wittes: 3♦. Tough problem. Once in a while partner has a club void and a diamond fit, in which case 6♦ should be easy. If partner bids 3♥, I have another tough problem, whether to bid 4♥ or 3NT. I think I'd opt for 4♥, since the Q of hearts is a huge card. If partner bids 3NT over 3♦, I'll sit, since partner probably has diamond shortness and a club card.

Swanson: 4♥. Does anyone have a conventional call available here?

The singleton queen is a huge card for hearts, but it seems strange to insist on what could be a 5 – 1 fit without further investigation.

PSP#1 continued from previous page

I held the hand and bid 6♣, which was down one when the opening leader cashed the ♥A and ♣A. Partner had overcalled ♠KQ98xxx ♥JTx ♦void ♣KJT, which wouldn't be everyone's cup of tea, but the auction was identical at both tables. Amazingly, neither player on lead with both round aces doubled, so the board was a push. Despite going down in 6♣ at the table, I now believe that 6♦, trying for a grand, is best.

3

MPs
no vul

East	South	West	North
1♣	Pass	2♠*	2NT**
Pass	?		

* Alerted as a Weak Jump Shift

** No discussion

You, South, hold: ♠T2 ♥J974 ♦AJT6 ♣Q98
What call do you make?

This problem is based on a question from a reader, Ed Barad. Ed asked several good players what 2NT meant (without giving an exact hand) in this auction. The answers he got were mostly two suited. I have never seen this auction at the table, but I think natural is correct. The opponents can really push you around with WJS, and leaving options for strong hands is always good. One of my regular partners disagrees, let's here from him.

Wickham: 3♠. If I think we might have a misunderstanding here, I would punt with 3♠ and pass 3NT with mild some trepidation. If I was sure that we both understood that 2NT showed both red suits, I would bid 4♥. 2NT as a natural bid here is a terrible treatment, primarily oriented toward determining if 2NT is the correct final contract, if it is at all possible to do so.

Unlike the panelists on Barad's poll, the rest of this panel believes 2NT should be natural.

Swanson: 3NT. 2NT is natural, discussed or not. Partner could be a little light, but East is going to have problems defending all by himself.

Wittes: 3NT. I'm going to take partner's bid as natural. If East held 3♠ and shortness somewhere, I would expect them to bid 3♠ non vulnerable most of the time. If partner had a distributional 2 suiter, I would expect a 3♠ bid.

Kantar: 3NT. 2NT should be natural after a weak bid and 3♣ should be Stayman, but confusion might rear it's ugly head. It always does.

Lee: 3NT. Not sure what the alternative is supposed to be. 2NT is definitely natural on this auction, and we have way too much to pass.

Davis: 3NT. I would be surprised if this was something other than a balanced hand in the 14+ to 18 HCP with a semblance of spade stopper.

Roeder: 3NT. The only pitfall is if pard meant 2 No Trump as minors...The lack of a spade raise and my robust minor suit holdings suggest this is not the case.

Bell: 3NT. 2NT should be natural and missing honors will be finesse-able through opener.

Chechelashvili 3NT. I think with or without discussion, 2NT in this sequence should be natural 1NT overcall 16-108 balanced.

I think I should have made the weak hand a little more distributional, so that if we assume that if 2NT is natural, the issue of strain is less clear. In an effort to try to cater to both possibilities, 3♣ would be unlikely to get passed no matter what interpretation partner had of 2NT. However, I remain firmly in the camp that believes 2NT should be natural and strong.

4

IMPs
NS vul

East	South	West	North
Pass	Pass	3♦	Dbl
Pass	?		

You, South, hold: ♠963 ♥A93 ♦JT6 ♣AJ63
What call do you make?

The last two problems in the set come from the District 23 Grand National Teams and were given to me by Matt Klimesh. I have heard 7 different calls discussed on this hand: pass, 3♥, 3♠, 3NT, 4♣, 4♦, and 5♣. We'll start with the panelists that are converting the double.

Bell: Pass. John Mohan and others have convinced me that it's right to defend with balanced hands and scattered values.

Yes, Mohan is strongly convinced that even experts don't convert enough doubles.

Chechelashvili: Pass.

Swanson: Pass. I have sympathy for 3NT but my teammates may not.

Kantar: Pass. I'm tired of getting pushed around. (I just erased my 4♣ bid.)

Lee: Pass. It's unlikely to be optimal, but anything else is a worse guess.

Wittes: 3NT. Either I'm getting old or this is a diabolical set of problems (maybe both). Partner probably has a diamond honor. If not, maybe the suit blocks. Neither vul, I might sit for 3♦ doubled. It could be right anyway.

Davis: 3NT. It might be right to pass but the payoff will be greater for 3NT if right.

A couple of panelists were channeling the former editor/moderator of this column, but they don't agree on what Marshall would do. Marshall loved 3NT with marginal stoppers, but Marshall converted more doubles than anyone I ever played with.

Roeder: 3NT. In honor of the late, great, beloved Marshall Miles... For him, this would have been a no brainer. For me, not so much. With my sterile distribution, I believe the likelihood of the parley of catching a diamond honor in dummy and getting to 9 tricks is a bit more likely than making an alternate game contract. Your hand is good enough that I would reject a pusillanimous 4♣. Those, with any serious medical issues, should bid 4♦ diamonds or 5♣.

Wickham: 4♣. Marshall Miles would pass 3♦ doubled, and he would be right sometimes. [*I'm with Bill, I think Marshall would have passed.*] I would need a two trick set to cover a partscore, and sometimes 3♦ will make. Some brilliant person might take a stab at a major hoping for a fifth piece in the dummy, but that resembles poker. When I only buy three trumps playing in 4♣ at least I will be ruffing in the short hand.

One hand proves little, but on the actual hand, the doubler had ♠AKQx ♥KJ8x ♦9xx ♣Qx. David Kempe held the problem hand at the table. He bid 4♦ for the majors, and the doubler (Klimesh) tried 4♠. The layout was very favorable and 4♠ played like a charm. But a perfect defense nets +800.

5

IMPs
all vul

West	North	East	South
2♠	4NT	Pass	?

You, South, hold: ♠KQ75 ♥86 ♦95 ♣AQ852
What call do you make?

A significant issue here is what does 4♠ show? Is it a stronger bid for both minors, or does it show a specific minor being longer? One panelist isn't certain partner should have both minors.

Kantar: 6NT. The first question is: How would North ask for aces? The second question is: How would North show a balanced hand with 22+ to 24 HCP? Without discussion you have to guess. I am guessing it shows the strong balanced hand.

Wickham: 6♣. Anything less would be a yellow-belly-bid. Sure, I will go down occasionally, but we should have ten solid trumps and a side suit to build a pitch for the major not led at trick 1. I am more worried about missing a 7 level contract opposite a hand like ♠void ♥Ax ♦AKxxxx ♣KJxxx and if partner has that perfecto, he may bid the grand.

Wittes: 6♣. Another devilish problem. We could surely be missing a grand, but I have no way to realistically investigate, and my KQ of spades are wasted. Partner could easily have ♠Void ♥A ♦AKQxxx ♣KJ10xxx or maybe ♠x ♥A ♦AKQxx ♣KJ10xxx.

Roeder: 6♣. A basic rule: One does not preempt over a preempt. Trust partner to have an excellent hand.

Bell: 5♣. Most would play 4NT for the minors. I like my hand somewhat despite the wastage in spades, but I don't have quite the guns to bid a slam.

Swanson: 5♣. Do we have an agreement about 4♠ in this auction? Does 4♠ show a very good minor suit hand or one with a two-card difference in the minor suit lengths?

Lee: 5♣, maybe slam makes (either on power or a bad lead), but partner had 4♠ available to show a huge hand with the minors, so I'm inclined to go low and not punish him.

Davis: 5♣. I would expect partner to bid 4NT on ♠x ♥x ♦AKQxxx ♣KJTxx or something similar so I will bet against us having 12 tricks. In my current methods, partner could have bid 4♠ over 2♠ to show a stronger two-suited hand with the minors.

Chechelashvili : 5♣.

This problem was also given to me by Matt Klimesh, who bid only 5♣. He thought it was close to a 6♣ bid, and I agree. Six made on the actual hand.





LOS ANGELES REGIONAL

Long Beach, CA

June 30 - July 6, 2014