

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 50, #11

November 2014

Published By ALACBU

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### End Plays

by Becky Clough, ALACBU President



This month I decided to write about bridge again and tackle end plays. End plays are one of a group of strategies employed by the experts that are reasonably easy to do once you understand the basic steps. Broadly speaking, the end play is the act of throwing an opponent into the lead when any card he leads gives away a trick. A true end play gives your opponents no chance of protecting themselves because you have thrown them in when they can only lead to your advantage.

Here is an example:

♠ J3	♠ 8652
♥ KJ93	♥ 432
♦ 864	♦ J10932
♣ K1097	♣ --
♠ KQ109	♠ A7
♥ 7	♥ AQ1086
♦ K75	♦ AQ
♣ 8543	♣ AQJ6

The ♠K is led against 6♥ by South. Declarer will

PRESIDENT *continued on page 12*

### Inside This Issue

Around the Units.....	page 5
Los Angeles Regional.....	page 4
NAOP Qualifying.....	page 10
Problem Solvers Panel .....	page 14
Rank Changes .....	page 3

## ACBLScore+

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



For the past few months there has been many comments made concerning the termination of the ACBLscore+ program. As I reported a few months ago, I believe that if you asked one hundred people as to why the project was terminated, you would get one hundred and one different answers. To date, only one side of this issue has been expressed, that of the consultant hired to develop this new program. Following is a fact sheet prepared by the management in Horn Lake regarding this matter.

### Background

After extensive study by the ACBL Board and recommendation to ACBL management, on April 2, 2012, the ACBL entered into an Agreement with an outside consultant to develop, test and provide to the ACBL new code to replace the 1993 ACBLscore program. The Agreement provided for six specific milestones to be completed and tested by the consultant within stated time frames and for stated fees. The new program was called ACBLscore+.

### Program Work

During August, 2013, the fourth milestone time frame was missed by the consultant and the ACBL agreed to combine the fourth and fifth milestones to help the consultant get back on track. Then in February, 2014, it was determined by ACBL management that the project was further behind in completing several of the milestones, despite payment of the entire \$1.4 million consulting fee to the consultant. As a result, the ACBL CEO organized an advisory group of computer programming experts from the business community, the ACBL Board and ACBL staff to make an independent judgment and recommendation to the CEO as to the

DIRECTOR *continued on page 3*

**Bridge News Copies Needed**

**Ron Garber, 1937 – 2014**

Anyone who attended the recent LA Regional in Torrance may have noticed the large print-outs on the wall outside the playing area. These contained lots of information related to the history of District 23, some of it going back to 1935. This history is a work in progress and is in need of a favor from some unknown, kind bridge player in LA. We need issues of the District 23 Bridge News that are, so far, hard to find. The very first issue of the Bridge News was in June 1964. If anyone knows of the existence of any issues from #1 through December of 1972, we would like to borrow them for a short time as part of our history research.

If you know of anyone who can help on this matter, please contact Mike Marcucci. 818 903-2471. Thanks from ALACBU.

Ron Garber passed away August 21, 2014 at Loma Linda Hospital in Murrieta California.

Ron was born in Illinois, but spent most of his adult life in California. Ron attended UCLA and lived in the West LA area for most of his bridge-playing career.

For several years, Ron wrote a column for this paper in which he reviewed and rated bridge books with letter grades. He impressively rated several books a month. He was never shy about his opinions and annoyed some authors who felt their books deserved higher ratings and that Ron was biased. His columns were always entertaining. He was also an occasional panelist for the paper's Problem Solver's Panel.

Ron was a good bridge player and was very competitive and feisty at the table. He was among the

young players who adopted some of the Walsh methods very early. He played much of his bridge during the 70's and 80's when LA bridge was very tough. His partners included: Maury Genud, Jeff Morris and David Sacks.

Ron was a chemistry professor at Cal State University Long Beach. He taught Introductory Chemistry classes and averaged about 125 students per class. In 2008, Ron was awarded the prestigious Mayfield Award for Outstanding Teaching in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. "I was stunned by the announcement that I had won the Mayfield," Garber commented. "I tend to polarize my students, and there are enough of the disaffected around at the end of any semester that I never expect to win a popularity contest."

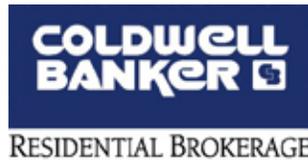
Ron married one of his students late in life. He was in his sixties when he married and played almost no bridge after he married and became a father. He is survived by his wife, his three children, and his sister. There were no services.

*- by John Jones, with contributions by Anna Abolymov, Doug Blagdon, David Sacks and John Swanson:*

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**Southern California Bridge News**

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

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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. 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.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

viability of continuing the ACBLscore+ project.

The advisory group unanimously recommended that the ACBLscore+ Agreement be immediately terminated and the program halted because: (1) the Personal Web Server concept was too difficult to install and ensure functionality; (2) The software did not meet ACBL expectations for responsiveness and usability; (3) the software was largely incomplete and untested; and (4) user interface was completely foreign, and would require a significant investment for user training.

In April, 2014, the Agreement was, in fact terminated. terminated.

### Ownership of Rights

The Agreement provided that: "ACBL shall own all code developed specifically for this project," and that "ownership of the domain [name] shall reside with the ACBL." It was further provided that: the consultant "shall be provided with a free license-to-use and free license-to-distribute for all code developed during this project."

### Copyright Issues

Had the ACBLscore+ program been completed and published, the ACBL would have obtained copyright protection by using the copyright symbol and terms of use language similar to those developed by outside copyright counsel for the recently published "Learn to Play Bridge" program. Since ACBLscore+ was not completed or fully tested or published, the copyright symbol and terms of use language could not be integrated into the final program.

I hope this information was helpful in understanding the basics of this issue. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to write to me at [Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net).

## District 23

### Rank Changes September 2014

#### Junior Master

Diana Campuzano  
Hsuehching Chang  
Thomas Grove  
Susan Louiseau  
Bonnie Okamoto  
Vincent Vilker  
Grant Zimmerman

#### Club Master

Jane Barna  
Jeanne Bernstein  
Edward Blahut  
Yuriko Bonds  
Karen Comegys  
Gayle Dennis  
Lynn Harvey  
Heather Ho  
Edward Pearson  
Fay Riedel  
Marilyn Rohlin  
Janice Ronci  
Judy Rosenberg  
Karen Sterling

#### Sectional Master

Sophia Chang  
S Peterson  
Joyce Pratch  
Carol Provost  
Roger Rasmussen  
William Renter  
Ellen Tarlow  
Izydor Wilchfort  
Lucy Zhang  
Hanna Zhuang

#### Regional Master

Zu Ming Cheng  
Audrey Hill  
Carol Levin  
Lawrence Newman  
Marianne Newman  
Ylia Ross

#### NABC Master

Nolan Chang  
Sally Fenton  
Kay Hyland  
Kiran Kumar  
Robert Moest  
Ernest Ross

#### Adv NABC Master

William Raff

#### Life Master

Nancy Collinge  
Robert Novell  
Jodie Rachmil

#### Bronze Master

Jodie Rachmil

#### Silver Life Master

D Geffner, Linda Stein

#### Gold Life Master

Michael Nash

For the latest  
District 23 news:

[www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)

# Los Angeles Presidents' Day Regional Woodland Hills !

## WHAT ?

- ♠ **GOLD RUSH PAIRS** every day -Tuesday through Saturday !
- ♥ **New KO's** start every day - Monday through Saturday !
- ♦ **299er** games twice a day !
- ♣ **Daylight** schedule Saturday and Sunday!

## WHEN?

**Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup> to  
Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015**

## Need partner or team mates?

**Betty Jackson** 562-594-4420  
rjackson62777@roadrunner.com  
or try partnership desk at  
**LosAngelesRegional.com**

## WHERE?

**Warner Center Marriott**  
21850 Oxnard Street Woodland Hills CA 91367  
**Reserve at 1 (800) 228-9290 or at  
LosAngelesRegional.com**

**Reserve early, rooms will sell out!**

- ♠ Room rate \$134 (single or double)
- ♥ Reserve by Friday Jan. 31<sup>st</sup> 2015
- ♦ Overnight self parking \$10
- ♣ Card fees \$14 for paid members,  
\$18 for others. *10% discount in Breeze restaurant*



**Tournament manager Peter Benjamin**  
310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com  
**Director-in-Charge Brian Russell**  
Sanction number R1502030

### Monday, February 16, 2015

**10:15 AM**  
299er Free Lesson  
**1:15 PM**  
Stratified Charity Pairs  
299er Pairs  
**7:00 PM**  
Charity PM Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 Session

### Tuesday February 17, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 1 of 5  
First AM Stratified Swiss Teams 1 of 2  
299er Game  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game  
**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Game

### Wednesday, February 18, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 2 of 5  
First AM Stratified Swiss Teams 2 of 2  
299er Game  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 2 of 5  
*Robert Chui memorial Open Pairs*  
(0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 3  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game

### Wednesday, February 18, 2015 (continued)

**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 3 of 5  
*Robert Chui memorial Open Pairs* (0-1500/-3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Abraham Lincoln KO Session 4  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 Session  
299er Game

### Thursday, February 19, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Second AM Stratified Swiss Teams 1of 2  
299er Pairs  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Thursday Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 3  
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/- 3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
Mark Shreiber *GOLD RUSH PAIRS* (100/300/750) 1 of 2  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game  
**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Thursday Compact KO Sessions 3 & 4  
Thomas Jefferson KO Session 4  
Open IMP Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
Mark Shreiber *GOLD RUSH PAIRS*(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Game

### Friday, February 20, 2015

**9:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Second AM Swiss Teams 2of 2  
299er Game  
**1:15 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game

### Friday, February 20, 2015 (continued)

**7:00 PM**  
PM Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 2  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Game

### Saturday, February 21, 2015

*Jill Myers day !*  
**10:00 AM**  
AM Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 3  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 1 of 2  
Saturday Compact KO Sessions 1 & 2  
299er Lecture (12:15) & Pairs Game  
**3:00 PM**  
Midday Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Theodore Roosevelt KO Session 4  
Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2  
GOLD RUSH PAIRS(100/300/750) 2 of 2  
Saturday Compact KO Sessions 3 & 4  
Stratified Swiss Teams 1 session  
299er Swiss Teams 1 Session

### Sunday, February 22, 2015

**10:00 AM & TBA**  
Flight A/X Swiss Teams (0-5000/5000+)  
Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (0-2000)  
Stratified Fast Pairs

**Stratified games: 0-750/750-2000/2000+**  
• **Open Games 0-1500/3000/3000+**  
(stratified by average points of pair or team)  
• **Gold Rush: 0-100/100-300/300-750**  
(stratified by average points of pair, no  
player can be over 750)  
• **Bracketed Flight B Swiss: 0-2000**  
(stratified by average points of team, no  
player can be over 2000)

# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

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

Please note the new phone number for the Regency: 818-869-4386. It will make things so much easier for the directors and smoother for all of us if you let us know when to expect you (and for regulars, when you will miss a game).

The October Unit game was held in honor of Pat Abbey. Results of the game were as follows:

N/S			
A1			Tim Lolli & Carolyn Cohen
A2	B1		Rufus Rhoades & Carol Provost
A3			Patrick Cardullo & Ann McClelland
A4			Merry Bezvold & Art Chacania
E/W			
A1	B1	C1	Teresa Thurman & Om Chokriwala
A2			Janet Wickersham & Teri Atkinson
A3	B2		Betsy Josias & Nancy Lyon
A4			Hugh Bartlett & Amr Elghamry
	B3		Lyle Wiedeman & Paul Silverstein

Our next Unit game is on November 8. Please join us.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

Unit website: [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
Club website: [www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

**September 28 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Marcus Evans/Verna Baccus, 2nd Verna Burns/ Bee Kinman, 3rd Walt Schafer/Steve Love, 4th John and Jo

Melis, 5th Betty McClellan/ Jo Daigle, 6th Kim Wang/ Mark Tang. In the B flight overall Fay Beckerman/ Barbara Shortwell were 1st, Judy Jones/Wayne Rapp 2nd, Usha Bansal/Rob Preece 3rd, Susan and Keith Hafen 4th, Sharon and Al Appel 5th, Renee Alpert/ Ruth Ableman 6th. And in the NLM overall Lynne Danielson/Shirley Knopf were 1st, Martin Lipman/ Alan Olschwang were 1st, Dalia Hernandez/Colleen Bilas 2nd. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games:** In open games Sept 16 Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh had 74.67% and Sept 16 Steve Skinner/Baum Harris had 71.66%. And in the NLM game Sept 28 Martin Lipman/Alan Olschwang had 73%, and in the 299er game Oct 1 Martin Lipman/ Tim Cole had 73%. Congratulations to all four pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards:** Sept 16 through Oct 15: Sept 19 John Petrie/Doug Kushner won 5.81mp for 1st, Jackie Hess/John Melis 4.36mp for 2nd, Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein 3.27mp for 3rd. Sept 22 Lowell Andrews/George Thompson won 3.27mp for 1st. Sept 23 Al Appel/Larry Topper won 3.85 for 1st. Oct 25 Marcie and Marcus Evans won 3.15mp for 1st. Sept 16 Larry Topper/Bob Goldstein won 4.20mp for 1st, Carmela Chiurazzi/Walt Schafer 3.15mp for 2nd. In the Unit Game Sept 28 Verna Baccus/Marcus Evans won 4.11mp for 1st, Bee Kinman/Verna Burns 3.08 for 2nd. Oct 6 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 4.50mp for 1st, Diane Starbuck/Eddie Gruber 3.38mp for 2nd. Oct 7 Doreen Maes/Karen Watson won 5.83mp for 1st, Suzy and John Hand won 4.37mp for 2nd, Steve Mager/ Maurice Suhre 3.28mp for 3rd. Oct 8 Ron Lien/Subba Ravipudi won 4.17mp for 1st, John Melis/Pam Kirkner 3.13 for 2nd. Oct 9 Brandon Sheumaker/George Alemshah won 4.67mp for 1st, Betti Harris/Judy Jones 3.50mp for 2nd. Oct 10 Orhan Gurbuz/John Petrie won 5.83mp for 1st, Jackie Hess/Wayne Otsuki 4.37 for 2nd, Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley 3.28mp for 3rd. Congratulations to you all!

**Get Well Wishes:** Larry Slutsky, Jean Matz, John Killian, Cecil Cook and Lois Abramson

**New Members:** Steven Gabel, Carolyn Lassiter →

and Dennis Richard. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New NABC Master: Dalia Hernandez. New Bronze Life Masters: Howard Smith, Jean Ingram, Sandy Bernard. Congratulations to you all!

### Upcoming Events at the Club

November 8-10: Long Beach Sectional.

November 11-15: District 22-23 STAC Week. All games: extra points, \$12 fee.

November 23: Unit Game. Lunch 12:30 pm, game 1:00 pm Next Unit Game December 21 (Christmas party at the LBBC).

November 26: Regular game at 12:30, no game that evening.

November 27: Bridge Center closed for Thanksgiving.

November 28: Unit-rated Black Friday game.

### News from Leisure World

*by Judy Carter-Johnson*

Club Championship Results: October 10 (Clubhouse #1) overall winners: Bee Kinman/Stam Blitz 1 in A. Sylvia Kapreyan/Jack Miller 2 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Emma Trepinski/Gary Paugh 3 in A. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 4 in A, 2 in B, 2 in C. Marilyn McClintock/Joan Tschirki 5 in A. Jane and Jerry Reid 6 in A, 3 in B. Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw 4 in B, 3 in C. Gale and Glenn Harris 5 in B.

October #3 (Clubhouse #1) overall winners: Jean Byer/Joan Tschirki 1 in A. Bee Kinman/Bill Linskey 2 in A. Sue Boswell/Stam Blitz 3 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Diane Sachs/Rob Preece 4 in A. Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 5 in A. Betty Scharf/Jaye Woodington 6 in A, 2 in B. Judy Carter-Johnson/Cooie Dampman 3 in B. Cookie Pham/Jack Dampman tied with Rhea Scharf/George Koehm for 4/5 in B, 3 in C.

Congratulations: On October 3rd in Clubhouse #1 Sibyl Slutsky/Diane Schmitz had a 71.22% game.

Condolences to one of our frequent guest players, Lavonne McQuilkin, on the loss of her son.

Upcoming Club Championship Dates: Clubhouse #3 Thursday Dec 18. Clubhouse #1 Saturday October 18.

Upcoming Unit Rated Games: Clubhouse #3 Monday November 17.

Results of all Leisure World games are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)

Get the Unit 557 newsletter via email: Send me your e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is [jjyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jjyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

Unit Game: November 2  
San Marino Community Center  
Lunch at 12:30, game at 1:00

Beat the House Night:  
Arcadia Bridge Club, Friday, November 14 7:15

Winners/Losers Sunday  
Arcadia Bridge Club, November 23, 1:00

Arcadia Bridge Club is closed on Thanksgiving,  
Thursday, November 27.

Silver Point Games  
San Marino Bridge Club  
Week of November 17

### Congratulations

Unit game on October 5 first overall were Patrick Cardullo- Ann McClelland; 2nd place: Frederick Upton-Om Chokriwala; finishing third was Joseph Viola III-Gerard Geremia.

Overall winners of the Unit "Over Under" game, held September 21 were Marie Nimmrich - Diana Campuzano; 2nd was Gitta Earll - Claudia Cochran; tied for 3rd/ 4th were Mary Falvey - Richard Halverstadt and Bob Verhoef - Bob Novell.

About 7-8 years ago, a new pair made their first appearance at our club in Maywood, NJ. After just 2-3 weeks, one of them was seen no more, and the other, Steve, who had recently moved to N.J., stayed on, pairing with a number of different players of varying levels. At 6 ft 3, going about 240 lbs., with a booming voice that often made people wince, Steve was not easy to miss. Playing against him, I could tell he was a solid and serious player, though much newer to bridge than I was, and he obviously spent much time reading →

and learning about the game. I noticed that before every game, he would re-write his card, saying that it helped him remember the conventions he was playing.

He also had the unfortunate habit of often telling his opponents how they should have bid or played a hand...which did not endear him to most people. Many players with whom I spoke, at that time, had a decidedly negative opinion about him. Given the foregoing, I still cannot explain... or even understand, why I chose to ask him if he would like to try playing together a few times and see how it worked out. I was available on Fridays, and we met early to discuss our proposed card. First, however, I forged ahead on matters I thought were more important than our card. I had the advantage of being 20 years his senior so he listened as I told him of some important 'Don'ts', like no instructing opponents, and some do's, like lowering his stentorian voice. I had some success...he cut down his unsolicited lessons. His voice.....well, you can't win 'em all. The results, however, were truly great on both levels. We quickly became one of the club's more successful pairs, and, as people began to know the Steve behind that big body and voice, they got to like him a lot, as I did. Turned out, Steve was very bright, very good, very open-minded about bridge, and a very good partner. He had been, for many years, a math teacher, after which he had held an important position with a major brokerage firm. Then, a heart replacement some years later had significantly re-ordered his life priorities.

As we continued to play, he became, not just my bridge partner, but he and his wife became our very dear friends, with whom, over the next 5-6 years, we spent more time than anyone else. Following Hurricane Sandy, when both of us had to vacate our homes because of the power outage, we spent 5 nights together in the same hotel, some 90 miles away (which was the closest place with available rooms). A year after we began playing I had spinal surgery which kept me away from bridge for 6-8 weeks. Steve spent many hours at my home every Friday during that time, explaining to whoever asked, that "Friday was Marty's day".

Sadly, eighteen months ago, he incurred severe complications from his heart transplant, and passed away. I was one of three people who spoke at his funeral, and noted how remarkable it was, that although chronologically, I knew Steve far less time than virtually everyone there, I actually knew him far better than most of them because we had been, not just bridge partners, but true partners, in every sense of the word. I

still miss him.

Please send us your news, comments to include in the column. Martyweiss559@yahoo.com

## Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, November 15, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, November 1, LaVerne Site

Catching up on unfinished business from last month, the winners of the September Unit game were Vic Sartor - Walt Otto. In second place (first in flight B) were Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson. Following the were Dave and Susan Ruoff, Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Roberts, and Denise Morgan - Karen McCarthy. Anand and Kiran Kumar took top honors in flight C.

We are very happy to report that the problems we encountered with the Bridge Mates in September have been worked out (and the solutions tested). In case you are curious, the problem was twofold. First, there was a "buried" setup instruction - off in another document entirely from the regular server setup – that got overlooked. Second, according the League's ACBL guru, the instructions in The Director's Companion for setting up an Appendix game are wrong, wrong, **wrong**. In fact, they discourage the use of that book! Now they tell me ...

The October Individual was won by Rona Schneider, followed by Al Lax, Bob Kakade, Paul Chrisney, and Larry Clark. This was also the final game in the 2013-14 Championship Series, where the best performer (using an insane formula – don't ask) gets his or her name on the perpetual plaque. It was another real close race this year. The top qualifiers, and their percentages:

Steve Mancini - 57.8%

Tom Lill - 57.1%

Richard Patterson - 56.8%

Claudia Cochran - 55.1%

Clint Lew - 54.6%

Once again, the Unit game falls well after our publication deadline, so look for the winners of the annual two-session championship next time.

One promotion this month: Marjorie Preston is now a Club Master. Look for lots of promotions after the conclusion of the Torrance Regional, which is ongoing as I write this.

The top game this month was a 72.1% monster →

by Vic Sartor and Genise Hasan. (Yes, it was a “real” game, not one of those 2-1/2 table Howells.) Other first place finishers were Ann McClelland, Sandy Jones, Ron Purkis, Linda Tessier, Paul Chrisney, Lulu Minter, Fredy Minter, Charlotte Capelle, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, Clint Lew, Roger Boyar, Hans Hehnke, Penny Barbieri, Richard Patterson, Denise Morgan, and Cordell Goode.

This month’s entry for hand-of-the-month is one of those beauties that show just what a weird and unpredictable game we play. You find yourself looking at ♠983 ♥2 ♦QT9863x ♣A84. Your RHO ends up declaring 3NT after an auction of 1♣ – 1♥; 1NT – 3NT. You are all set to lead the ♦10 when out of the blue, partner doubles! You aren’t happy, but you obey instructions like a good little boy/girl and lead that little heart. Dummy flops with ♥J863. Low from dummy, ♥Q from partner, declarer wins ♥A. Oh well, one more bottom won’t hurt that much, will it?

Play continues. Declarer plays on clubs, removing your only sure entry, and now you can lead the ♦10, partner playing ♦K and declarer winning the ♦A after some thought.

Soon partner gets in (with a spade, if it matters), thinks, trusts you to not have any hearts left, and shoots out – a diamond! Declarer plays the ♦J, you win the ♦Q, and cash the rest of the suit. At the end, partner wins trick 13 with the ♥K. Down 5, not vulnerable, for sticks-and-wheels.

OK, what’s so unusual about all that? Didn’t you notice? Partner doubled and took three tricks. You took **six** tricks with your dog hand (five diamonds and the ♣A). How fair is that? (Note: declarer cannot stop the carnage by holding up the ♦A. He only has a doubleton, and partner has three.) (Maybe even more unusual: partner trusted you not to have any more hearts when you failed to lead one after taking your ace! How great is that!)

Quote for the month: since it is election time, we present you with this food for thought: “Diapers and Politicians should be changed often – both for the same reason.” (Original source unknown, to Your Correspondent at least)

Until next month ...

Oh yeah – “sticks and wheels” is 1100, if you didn’t get it. Not my invention! Really!

## San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

**Belated Congratulations** to Om Chokriwala (Captain) of Sherman Oaks and Frederick Upton of Van Nuys, and fellow team members Kevin Lane of Long Beach and Steve Ramos of Seal Beach. Representing District 23, our team won the Mini-Spangold II at the Las Vegas National last August. This 33 team, 5-day knockout event is limited to players with less than 1500 MP’s. This is the second national title for Om and Frederick as they previously won the GNT flight C in 2013.

**Special Congratulations** to the following Unit 561 members who have achieved new Life Master levels, January – August 2014: **Life Master** -Wayne Beagle, Joan Feldman, Jerry Goodman, M. J. Jubelirer, Myrna Kalman, Elaine Keyes, William Raines, Patricia Shellogg Seal, Charles Shapiro, and Frederick Upton; **Bronze** - Phil Jones and Elaine Keyes; **Silver** (1,000) - Om Chokriwala, Janet Cooper, Sheldon Levitt, and Carol Rand; **Gold** (2,500) - Marel Bates; **Diamond** (5,000) - Susan Somogyi; **Emerald** (7,500) - Andrew Vinock; and, **Grand** (15,000) - Mitch Dunitz.

Unit 561 is happy to announce that our annual **Gala Holiday Party** will be held on Sunday, December 7 at the Marriott Hotel in Woodland Hills. There will be two sessions of bridge starting at 1 p.m. with a delicious dinner served between the bridge games. Each session will have both a 199er and an Open game. Participants may play in one or both of the sessions. Price will be \$40 per person in advance and \$50 at the door. Tickets will be available shortly. If you need a partner, contact Rochelle Lotto at <nanalotto@yahoo.com>. For additional information, contact me at <Lnsilvey@mindspring.com>.

**Sincere Condolences** to the family of Leda Danzig, who passed away on October 17. Leda was a Diamond Life Master who played frequently at the Bridge Academy. A Memorial Game in Leda’s honor will be held on Sunday, November 16 at Bridge on the Boulevard (20350 Ventura Blvd, Suite 120, Woodland Hills, CA 91364). Potluck lunch with main course provided starts at 12noon and the stratified game (Club Championship points) at 1 p.m. Half of the card fees will be donated to the cancer society. Please call (818) 999-9131 for reservations.

**September Top Ten** (for regular bridge games) →

at the 750 Bridge Club in Woodland Hills were: Ron Malkin 10.99, Carol Bell 8.37, Bunnie Roth 8.27, Phil Calloway 8.03, Manny Weintraub 7.98, Susan Raphael 7.62, Gloria Malkin 7.18, Margie Bulmer 6.59, Vera Mandell 6.44, and Elaine Keyes 6.41. **70% Games** were achieved by Phil Calloway-Susan Raphael (74.21%) and Gloria Malkin-Ron Malkin (71.09%). Congratulations to all of the above!

**November Activities** at the 750 Bridge Club include: “Giving Thanks Week”, November 10-14. During this week the 750 Club will donate \$1.00 from each card fee to our neighbor next door, The West Valley Food Pantry. Players are encouraged to make additional donations in cash or checks made out to the West Valley Food Pantry. On Tuesday, November 11, Veterans’ Day will be celebrated by a special drawing for free plays. During the month of November, “2015 Daily Reminder” calendars will be distributed.

## Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

### Magic Mountain Sectional Tournament

Unit 556 held its annual sectional tournament on September 27 and 28 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. Many thanks go to Bill Brodek, Paula Olivares, and David White for a well-run tournament. The location was great—easy to find with great parking, a pleasant atmosphere, and close to many restaurants.

Sectionals are great places for our newer players to start participating in tournaments. Thanks to all of our regular players who came out to support the tournament. One new player reported: “After suffering through first-timer nerves the first hour of the Saturday morning session, I began trying to meet the challenge of playing outside my comfort zone. It was interesting meeting and playing with people from outside our immediate community. By Sunday’s Swiss teams competition, I was able to play closer to my personal best and contribute to my team. Overall, I really appreciated the availability of the 299er offerings at the Sectional. The overall experience was very positive, priming me for participating selectively in some future tournaments.”

Visit us on facebook for pictures from the sectional including the winners at <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit556>

### Unit Game Results from October 9 in Castaic

First with 59.7%: Theodore Maki - George MacDonald  
Second with 57.3%: Barbara Jones - Thomas Jones  
Third with 55.7: Lamont Johnson - Fabian Fang  
Fourth with 54.7%: Russell Buker - Rita Vannatter  
Fifth with 51.4%: Jackie Moor - Kathy Cresto

### Upcoming Events

Unit Games: Sunday, November 9 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale and Monday, November 17 at the Friendly Bridge Club in Santa Clarita

Next Board Meeting: Sunday November 9 after the Unit Game in Palmdale.

Unit 556 will sponsor a “Learn Bridge in a Day” event on Sunday November 16 from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Valencia Public Library, 23743 Valencia Blvd, Santa Clarita, 91355. For more information contact Ruth Baker ([rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net)) or Rand Pinsky ([pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net](mailto:pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net)).

Unit 556’s Annual Meeting and “After the Holidays – Holiday Party”: Tuesday, January 13 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

## 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 Swiss Team Championship: Tues, Nov 4, 7 p.m.  
Club Championship: Friday, November 7, 7 p.m.  
NLM Club Championship: Thurs, Nov 13, 10:30 a.m.  
District 22/23 STAC: Monday November 17-22  
Friday Night games on November 7 and 21

### Club Championships

The September 19 Club Championship was won by Kim Wang/Rocky Williams. On October 8, the Club Championship leaders were Carol McCully/Ed Barad in Flight A and Beverly Narahara/Carol King in Flight B. The Club Championship on October 11 was captured by Arlene and Stanley Greengard.

On September 22, the Club Championship →

## NAP Semi-Final #1 Results

by Mike Marcucci, D23 NAP Coordinator

District 23 North American Pairs Semi-Final #1 has come and gone for the 60 hardy bridge players who tried their luck in Beverly Hills on October 26.

First place in Flight A went to Dr. Ed Piken and Viktor Anikovich. They are showing lots of consistency lately. Flight B was headed by Joerg and Andrew Rottenbacher, who are a Flight C pair. That is a real nice start on the path to New Orleans.

Marguerite Pinkers and Bert Stock took second place for Flight B. We now have our first group of qualifiers for the finals in January.

We look forward to Semi #2 in Long Beach on November 16, when the qualifiers will be completed. Let's see many more Flight C players join us so there can be a separate game instead of a combined game! There will be no seafood served but that can wait till New Orleans.

at Veterans Park was won by David Peim/Neil Kleiner. The September 24 Club Championship at Veterans Park was Headed by Betty Williams/Shinko Mauritz in Flight A with Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman capturing Flight B and Carol Hansen/Loretto Russell leading Flight C. The September 26 afternoon Club Championship at Anderson Park was led by Florence Niwa/Bill Malcolm in Flight A with Paula Hall/Susan Cohen on top in Flight B and Frankee Victor/Marilyn Daeshner winning Flight C. The September 26 evening Club Championship was won by Kim Wang/Bruce Horiguchi in Flight A with Garth Greene/Peter Menotti capturing Flight B and Jeff Grotenhuis/Don Levine ahead in Flight C.

### Team Winners

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

September 30 : Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronck Felczer

October 7: Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

### GUV Memorial Award

Sometimes it seems like the Gods of Bridge are punishing you for an indiscretion when actually they are testing your mettle. Lets say you hold as declarer ♠Kxxx ♥A ♦Kx ♣AQJT98 and partner holds ♠Axx ♥9x ♦AQ8xxx ♣Kx. With these cards matchpoint pigs would opt for a 7NT contract with 15 tricks off the top if diamonds split. At IMPs the more prudent →

**District 23**  
New Orleans - March 2015

NEW ORLEANS SPRING 2015  
BRIDGE AND ALL THAT JAZZ  
CRESCENT CITY

**North American Pairs**

<b>Semi-Final #1</b>	<b>Semi-Final #2</b>
26 Oct '14, 11:00 AM	16 Nov '14, 11:00 AM
Beverly Hills Bridge Center 325 S La Cienega Blvd.	Long Beach Bridge Club 4782 Pacific Coast Highway

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks ☉ Sodas ☉ Coffee ☉ Gold/Red Points

Mike Marcucci - 818 903-2471

bidders would bid the wiser contract of 7♣. Through bidding best left undescribed our no so prudent pair wound up in 7NT at IMPs. Well there would be no story if Diamonds split so I will tell you that declarers LHO held JT9x of Diamonds. I also will ask what is the most important card in the two hands?

Declarer has a couple expert teammates who will castigate him unmercifully for being in the wrong IMP contract so he better find a way to make to at least lessen the criticism that is sure to come. It turns out that declarer gets lucky since RHO holds ♥KQJTx and ♠QTx. Can you figure out the most important card now? The ♥9 of course. After declarer gets the bad news in Diamonds he plays the Heart Ace and runs Clubs. There is a double squeeze where the Heart 9 is the threat card on RHO and a low Diamond the threat card on LHO so nobody can hang onto Spades. Believe me declarer still got his share of criticism for the final contract but at least could counter with “Isn’t a double squeeze much more fun than a laydown contract at trick one”.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by Robert Shore

### Hosts with the Mosts

Once again Barrington served as the venue for our Unit’s entry in our friendly competition with the ABA. The contest? Best host for a neighboring bridge organization. The winner? Once again, I’m forced to declare it a tie. We’ll have to keep holding these events until there’s a clear winner. I’m inclined to think the process will take quite a while.

This year’s game at Barrington featured nearly two dozen tables in play. Both the hospitality and the food were, as usual, wonderful. I will confess that the Barrington event is rapidly building a warm home in your Humble Scribe’s heart, but not for the reason you might assume. It’s because, playing this year with Sara Wilson, I managed to defend the title I won at last year’s inaugural event. I’ll be back again next year to try for three in a row.

### Speaking of Dynasties

There’s been a scoring correction for our Labor

Day Sectional. The Monday Swiss should have awarded master points on the regional scale, not the sectional scale. The mistake has now been rectified and as a result, there’s a new winner of the 2014 Jill Meyers Trophy. Peter Benjamin, our new winner, has now won the award for something like 60 of the last 50 years. Winning the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy, given to the non-Life Master collecting the most points at our Unit’s sectionals, were (in no particular order) Sophia Lucy Chang Zhang.

### But Wait, There’s More!

Last month saw quite a few of our members travel to parts near and far and return home with tournament victories. Joel Schiff went all the way to Long Island to play their regional and prevailed in the top bracket of the Friday <3000 Round Robin Teams. Judy Hyde achieved a more ambitious goal, trekking to Seaside, Oregon, for a regional and winning the Thursday A/B Pairs. Peter Benjamin continued his winning ways with a victory in the Ocotillo Knockout Teams event at the Mesa, Arizona, regional.

Turning to sectionals, our Unit dominated Saturday events at the Magic Mountain Sectional. Peter Knee won the Saturday morning Open Pairs event, while Susan Frank and Ira Thierer won the Saturday morning 299er Pairs game. Your Humble Scribe also entered the winner’s circle in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs at the Oceanside Sectional and again in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs even at the Riverside Sectional.

### Losses Temporary and Permanent

We extend our condolences to the family and friends of Bob Lesser on the occasion of his passing. Closer to home but less permanent, we offer get-well wishes to Donna Castor. Unfortunately, Donna’s illness has compelled her to step down from her seat on the Unit Board. The position will be filled early this month at our next meeting. We look forward to welcoming Donna back to the table when she’s ready to return.

### Party Time

By now I hope all Unit members have received their invitations to the Holiday Party, a black-and-white ball, at the Beverly Hills Country Club (3084 Motor

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

fail to make his contract if he finesses for the King of Diamonds.

To fulfill the contract South must:

1. Strip the opponents of trumps, retaining one or more trumps in both his hand and the dummy.
2. Eliminate the side suits (clubs & spades) from the North and South hands.
3. Throw West in with the ♠J to force him to either lead a diamond giving declarer a free finesse or by leading a spade giving declarer a sluff and a ruff.

Most often an end play takes preparation – usually the strip or elimination of the side suits by playing high cards in notrump or by ruffing in suit before throwing an opponent in.

Another example:

	♠ A843	
	♥ 75	
	♦ Q962	
	♣ J105	
♠ KQ107		♠ J9652
♥ J109		♥ Q
♦ 853		♦ J1074
♣ Q97		♣ 843
	♠ --	
	♥ AK86432	
	♦ AK	
	♣ AK62	

Playing in 6♥, declarer needs to win the ♠A in his hand and play two rounds of trumps. When the trumps don't split, declarer can still succeed by cashing his two top diamonds and one high club (to guard against a singleton Queen of clubs) before throwing West in with the master trump.

West must either lead a spade or a diamond giving declarer two tricks with the ♠A and the ♦Q or lead a club giving declarer a free finesse.

Sometimes the strip requires pitching the right card from the dummy before throwing the opponent in as is seen in the following example:

	♠ 54	
	♥ QJ104	
	♦ 872	
	♣ J985	
♠ 97632		♠ J108
♥ 8		♥ 73
♦ KQ103		♦ 9654
♣ K73		♣ 10642

♠ AKQ
♥ AK9652
♦ AJ
♣ AQ

West leads the ♦K against ♥6 by South. Declarer wins the Ace in his hand, pulls trump and plays the Ace, King, Queen of spades, pitching the third diamond from the Dummy. Declarer then throws West in with the ♦J, end playing him. West must lead either a diamond or a spade giving declarer a sluff and ruff or lead a club for a free finesse.

Sometimes the throw-in is in the suit you want returned.

AQ9	AJ10	K10x	QJx	K9x	A10x
xxx	xxx	xxx	xxx	Jxx	J9x

In each case above declarer simply covers any card played by West. Provided East has been stripped of all other exit cards, he will have to return this suit, allowing declarer to hold his losses to a minimum.

There are other suit combinations that guarantee an extra trick when an opponent is forced to lead that suit. In these cases the throw-in is in another suit.

A10x	Kxx	K9x	Qxx
Jxx	Jxx	Q10x	Jxx

Another group of card combinations are often referred to as frozen suits. Whichever side leads the suit first gives up a trick. The throw-in must be in another suit.

A10x	Ax	Kxx
K9x	Qx	J9x

Another throw-in technique is the loser-on-loser play defined by the Encyclopedia of Bridge as “the act of playing a card that must be lost on a losing card in another suit.”

	♠ KJ983	
	♥ A5	
	♦ 32	
	♣ 8532	
♠ A4		♠ 2
♥ KQ109		♥ J87432

PRESIDENT *continued from page 12*

♦ J1084	♦ 765
♣ AQ7	♣ J109
♠ Q10765	
♥ 6	
♦ AKQ9	
♣ K64	

West leads the ♥K against South's 4 spades. Declarer wins the Ace and ruffs a spade in his hand. Declarer then wins a trump which West wins and returns a trump. Declarer now plays the top 3 diamonds pitching one club. When the Jack doesn't fall, declarer continues with the losing nine of diamonds and pitches another club from dummy. West is allowed to win the ♦J but is now end played and must either give declarer a free finesse or a ruff and sluff.

Sometimes declarer can only execute a partial strip or elimination of the other suits before throwing an opponent in.

	♠ 10742	
	♥ AK64	
	♦ A5	
	♣ 862	
♠ 6		♠ QJ9
♥ J1082		♥ Q93
♦ 10643		♦ K872
♣ 10875		♣ J43
	♠ AK853	
	♥ 75	
	♦ QJ9	
	♣ AKQ	

Playing in ♠6, South wins the heart lead and tests trumps. When the trumps fail to split, declarer attempts an end play to avoid the diamond finesse. Declarer leads a second high heart, ruffs a heart and cashes the three high clubs before throwing East in with the master trump. Because he only has diamonds left, East must lead away from the ♦K. This is a partial elimination or strip because declarer lacked the entries to eliminate hearts completely.

The successful execution of an end play at the bridge table is very satisfying and lots of fun, so look at your finesses very carefully and ask yourself: Would an end play work better? You too can be an expert.

Sources for this article were: Watson's "The Play of the Hand at Bridgeman," 3rd Edition of "The Official Encyclopedia of Bridge," and "Coups, Finesses, Squeezes and Other Stratagems" by Henry B. Anderson.

WEST LA *continued from page 12*

Avenue) on Sunday, November 23. Brunch will begin at 11:00 a.m. and bridge will start at 1:15 p.m. The event will be part of a STAC so a big game could be worth a whole fistful of points. Please return your invitation by our early payment deadline of November 5 — the price will go up by \$10 per person for payments postmarked after that date. Not only is this a can't miss event, it's officially sponsored by Autumn.

### Welcome Mat

Another fistful of new members join us this month. Phoebe Chang, Carrie Grace, Dr. Robert Stein, and Chrysoula Tobias are new members of the ACBL. Transferring into our Unit are Sharon Beynon, Misook Jung, Alex Kolesnik, and Maxine McIntosh. As always, please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

### Around the Clubs

Barrington club champions last month were Bob Levy and Basant Shah and Aram Bedros and Art Zail. Picking up 70% games were Michael Nash and Hans Kraepelien (twice each) as well as Aram Bedros, Art Zail, Paul Smith, and Cyma Aronow.

Last month's club champions at Beverly Hills were John Lu and Danny Kleinman, Pete Benjamin and Peter Knee, David Raphael and Bob Ashen, and Jim Brunet and Ken Okel. No 70% games were reported. I guess the competition is getting stiffer.

### Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Don Levine, Jerry Moore, and Jill Richling-Thomas. Don Adler, Elaine Caplow, Stephanie Lugash, and Tony Mirchandani are now Club Masters. Shoreh Toufani has now become a Sectional Master and Bruce Schelden is now a Regional Master.

Marcia Meyerson is now a Life Master, and in fact has reached Bronze Life Master Status. Michael Grant and Cecelia Guttenberg have become Silver Life Masters. Bob Levy is now a Gold Life Master and Pete Knee is a Diamond Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Eddie Kantar, Mister Mealy-mouth, Rick Roeder,  
John Swanson and Bill Wickham

# 1

IMPs  
no vul

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	?	

You, South, hold:

♠AK9 ♥7632 ♦KQ6 ♣873

What call do you make?

*I held this hand playing with US U21 Silver Medalist Nolan Chang while playing in the recent Torrance Regional. Every time I made a call the hand seemed to get worse (generating problem two and problem three). Let's start with those panelists who want to put a club in their spades and make a negative double.*

**Wickham: Double.** This is the best description. Nothing else comes close. Move your ♣8 in with your spades for now.

**Kantar: Double.** So sue me, I owe partner a spade

**Swanson: Double.** I use 1♠ in some partnerships to show values for a response but with fewer than four spades and not appropriate for notrump or a raise. This hand fits that definition but it is nevertheless an uncomfortable call with so many high cards in two suits I claim not to be able to bid. Put me down for double, regardless of what it means.

**Mealy-mouth: Pass.** What did we do before negative doubles? *[This hand would be easier before negative doubles? Only if you were playing Marshall Miles' cooperative penalty doubles and could double, describing this hand.]* Well, we couldn't bid 1♠ because that promised at least four. We couldn't raise clubs with only three low ones. We couldn't bid 2♦ (even when we didn't play two-over-ones as very strong) on three, and we couldn't bid 2NT (what the hand is worth in high-card strength) with unstopped hearts and wrong-siding the notrumps when partner

has ♥Kx or ♥AQ. Even then, when I'd been playing bridge for little more than 13 years, I had learned from the revered Ludwig Wittgenstein's "Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus," "Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent." So I'd have known to pass. Better to earn a small plus on defense than a minus in whatever contract we might reach if I bid. If I double, partner will credit me with the four spades I promise. He will then rebid spades relentlessly no matter what I bid subsequently (and what would that be?) when he also has four and the heart taps will be coming in the long hand. Even if partner doesn't have four spades, he may bid 1♠ in reply to a double; what else would he do with ♠QJ6 ♥J5 ♦AJ3 ♣A10652 or similar? So I still pass.

**Roeder: Pass.** I expect to be in the minority. The mainstream view will be "I've got to do something." But that "something" is so perverted that it would be rejected by most porn movie editors. Lying about the fourth spade is almost as relevant as lying about a mistress – and perhaps more painful. *[OK, pass for now. What are you doing over partner's reopening double? 2♥? Pass? Some number of notrump? 2♣? 3♣? Pass avoids showing something specific that we don't have, but it's not this hand either.]*

*OK, so no bid on this round is perfect. Double or 2♥ comes the closest. What does pass accomplish? What are you doing over the inevitable reopening double? Passing without a plan for what to do over subsequent normal auctions merely puts us deeper into trouble.*

2

IMPs  
no vul

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	dbl	pass
1♠	2♥	?	

You South hold:

♠AK9 ♥7632 ♦KQ6 ♣873

What call do you make?

*Experts normally play that the 1♠ rebid shows exactly three spades. Let's see how they progress on this hand that seems to be getting tougher.*

**Wickham: 3♣.** Unless your partnership uses obsolete primitive agreements partner's 1♠ bid shows exactly three spades and no desire to bid NT right away. So playing in spades will never be an issue, and you can move your ♣8 back with your clubs. Pass will not cause you to miss game, but you can probably make 3♣. At this point your partner is known to have three spades and a strong preference for clubs over diamonds because he chose to open 1♣. His most likely shape is 3=2=3=5. Unless your methods are simply silly, partner would rarely have 3=1=4=5, and would never have 3=2=4=4.

**Roeder: 3♣.** 3 clubs with an asterisk. The auction has become so sick that I heartily recommend euthanasia for the North-South pair. The best way to play the 1♠ rebid by the opener, after the overcall, is that it only promises three spades, Opener might be lacking a heart stopper and be "stuck." With a minimum and four spades, it is best to bid 2♠ straight away. If partner and I do not have this agreement, then I would bid 2♠.

The most misdefended hands in bridge are when we declare a 3-3 fit at the two level. [*Gee Rick, I thought the most misdefended hands in bridge were when **you and I** defended.*] The hand with 4 trumps wants to tap us to get control. By the time that mission is accomplished, voila, we often have scampered to 8 tricks. So, 2♠ is close in any case.

**Kantar: 2♠.** Yes, I still owe partner a spade. Let's hope he doesn't owe me one, too!

**Mealy-mouth: Pass.** At matchpoints, I'd go for the jugular by doubling, but at IMPs I'd still remain silent, though a bit more confident of a plus than I was last turn.

**Swanson: Double .** The modern style is to double showing extra values without clear direction. The drawback is that with partner showing a minimum hand with likely only three spades, where are we going to declare? Pass is quite acceptable to me, but I would double again.

*I passed at the table, but now think that Swanson's suggestion of double is probably the least of evils.*

**For the latest ALACBU news:  
www.acbldistrict23.org**

3

IMPs  
no vul

North	East	South	West
1♣	1♥	dbl	pass
1♠	2♥	pass	pass
dbl	pass	?	

You, South, hold: ♠AK9 ♥7632 ♦KQ6 ♣873  
What call do you make?

**Swanson: 3♣.** Will this problem never end? Frankly, I don't think partner can have a holding on which it is correct to bid one only spade and yet bid again. Could he hold: ♠QJx, ♥x, ♦Axxx, ♣AKxxx? Possible, I suppose, but I see no game in our future and am unwilling to defend 2♥ doubled. So it is 3♣ for me.

**Kantar: 3♣.** Partner must have a singleton heart with a likely 3=1=4=5 pattern. With 4=1=4=4, he would have opened 1♦ and raised spades after I rebid the suit, for God's sake!

**Roeder: 2♠.** This is inconsistent. To be consistent with the torture-chamber auction that has been perpetrated, symmetry suggests making the "I don't have any earthly idea what to do" cuebid of 3♥, which I certainly would do if I were a descendant of Marquis de Sade.

**Mealymouth: Pass.** Partner thinks he can beat 2♥? Now I'll pass and drool. *[I rather doubt partner intended the reopening double as penalties from underneath the heart bidder.]*

**Wickham: 3♥.** Now we know a lot about this hand. Partner has some extra values, but he cannot have a balanced hand or he would have opened INT, maybe

even with 14 HCP and five good clubs. He must have 3=1=3=6 shape (or maybe ♠QJx ♥x ♦Qxxx ♣AKQJx; note that he should have opened 1♦ with that hand.) *[I'd open 1♣ intending to reverse on that five loser hand.]* . Opposite ♠Qxx ♥x ♦Axx ♣AKJxxx, *[Wouldn't he rebid 3♣, not 1♠ with that hand?]* 5♣ is virtually cold and 6♣ may make. Passing 2♥ doubled is totally suicidal. Your pass on the last round didn't kill you. Now you have an easy 3♥ bid, which you plan to follow with 5♣.

*Partner was also dealing with a difficult hand to bid. His actual pattern was 4=2=3=4, with 14 HCP, four small spades and ♥Ax. His double was a tactical overbid (hoping I could convert it). He played 3♣ and failed by a trick. In retrospect, he thought he should have made it. How did the player in my seat handle this nightmare problem? What problem? With his balanced 12 he jumped to 2NT on his first turn, despite holding no heart stopper. He got very lucky that he did not wrong-side the contract. He was raised to a very makeable 3NT. However, the hero of the hand was my teammate Gerry Bare on defense. Gerry read the hand correctly very early. He stiffed his ♣K early on the defense, and when declarer tried for a throw in, Gerry had enough hearts left to beat him a trick.*

## What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to  
[bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)

4

IMPs  
no vul

S	W	N	E
1♥	2♠	dbl	pass
?			

You, South, hold:  
♠A3 ♥AQT654 ♦T ♣A876  
What call do you make?

**Kantar: 4♥ - 3.5♥.** *[No, Eddie! You can't bid for half a trick except in Bruce Walker's alternative version!]* Still won't allow that will you, John? O.K, make it 4♥, and it's on your head if I go down.

**Roeder 4♣.** If partner has enough juice to continue, I'm hoping he will bid 4♥, en route, with honor doubleton. 4♥ is too unilateral for my taste; 3♥ is a massive underbid because of the aces and club fit.

**Swanson: 3♠.** A little stretch keeps 3NT in the

picture. 4♣ is my second choice.

**Wickham: 3♣.** Partner's double usually shows both minors and about 9 or more HCP. But some caution is necessary here, because partner may be planning to correct 3♣ to 3♦ or pass 3♥ with a hand like ♠xxx ♥Jx ♦KQJ9xx ♣xx. Your reasonable choices are 3♣, 3♥, 4♣ and 4♥, but maybe 3♠ is also a possibility (Kaplan & Rubens (hand evaluation program says your hand is worth 18.90 although Danny Kleinman's evaluation program evaluates it at 15+) At IMPS NV, I think I will be best placed to bid a wimpy 3♣, planning to correct partner's 3♦ bid to 3♥.

**Mealymouth: 4♥.** Extra length calls for a heart rebid. Extra strength, both in (a third honor) and out (aces) of my suit, calls for more than a minimum rebid, so I'll venture 4♥.

5

MPs  
no vul

N	E	S	W
1♣	1♠	?	

You, South, hold:  
♠Q8542 ♥T ♦AQ5 ♣J765  
What call do you make?

**Swanson: Pass.** No bid is on the mark, so I'll wait around for the next round of the problem. My intention is to pass a reopening double, without a strong conviction that we can actually set 1♠. *[OK, if you are intending to pass a reopening double, pass has merit. Compare this to problem one where the passers were just hoping the problem would be easier the next round. Pass would be more attractive at IMPs, where -160 would likely be a small loss. At matchpoint scoring, -160 will be a disaster.]*

**Wickham: 3♣.** Pass of 1♠ accomplishes nothing. Unless RHO has overcalled a four card suit, partner must have real clubs. Something as meager as ♠x ♥xxxx ♦Kx ♣AKTxxx would made a club game almost frigid. Here I subscribe to various methods dependent upon partner's system preferences. I

would show a limit raise in clubs. My 3♣ bid should NOT be preemptive but show exactly a limit raise, leaving a direct Q as a game force. *[Bill's methods might be good, but they are certainly not standard. Standard methods are preemptive jump raises and cuebids show LR+ hands. Bill's methods might be debated more in future columns.]*

**Kantar: 2♣.** No more silly comments to make. *[Wow, the standup comedian of bridge experts is out of material? Say it isn't so.]*

**Roeder: 2♣.** Slightly heavy, but your spade holding and potential bad breaks suggest caution.

**Mealymouth: 2♣.** Easy. If the opponents bid more spades and I double, then partner will know where he can pull the double safely.

*Mealymouth's point about 2♣ limiting the hand for subsequent penalty doubles is a bullseye.*

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*The November column is dedicated to former columnist and panelist Ron Garber, whose obituary appears on page 2 of this issue.*