

# Southern California Bridge News

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April 2015

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### NOLA 2015

by Becky Clough



Roger and I have just returned from NOLA – not “no Los Angeles,” but New Orleans, Louisiana where the Spring Nationals of the ACBL were held this year. This tournament was the epitome of why someone would want to attend a national.

The right formula for a great national is good bridge, an interesting city, and great food. New Orleans has it in spades. Situated on a bend of the Mississippi River 100 miles from its mouth, New Orleans has been the chief city and the busiest northern port of the Gulf of Mexico since the early 1700's. It was founded by the French, ruled for 40 years by the Spanish, and bought by the United States in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. Its culture is a unique blend of European, African, and Native American.

Though all the national events are on the 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. schedule, if you are content to play regional events you can play at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. every day, or maybe like us, you do some of each. Our best man from our wedding 51 years ago and his wife live in New Orleans. It was great to be able to play bridge on the early schedule and go to dinner with them without having to rush back to play in the evening. They have lived in New Orleans for many years and were forced out of their home after Katrina for 16 months. They evacuated to Chicago because a son lives there. Their tales of helping Katrina evacuees was heartwarming in that it demonstrated the generosity of Americans to those in need.

Another interesting story about our time with our friends was the first night we were supposed to meet them outside the Marriott Hotel. When we went outside where they were to pick us up we found that the entire street had been cordoned off. Thank heavens for cell phones. The street was blocked to accommodate an ear-

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## Board Meeting Highlights

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



The board meetings at the New Orleans NABC were productive as many matters were decided. The following are the highlights of the meetings.

### Bridge Motions

The Board passed two items relating to the Convention Chart. First, Transfer Responses were added to the Competitive Bidding section of the ACBL General Convention Chart with the following language “Transfer Responses (responses after overcalls) where the call shows length or values in the suit of the transfer.”

A second change to the General Convention Chart amended Paragraph 7 of the Competitive Bidding Section had added that a “2 diamond bid showing a one-suited hand in hearts or spades is now allowed over natural notrump opening bids or overcalls.”

### Grand National Teams

The Board passed a motion providing that effective commencing at the 2015 Summer NABC, for the first two days for Flights A, B, and C of the GNT Final, the entry fee is waived as an award for winning the District portion of the GNT competition. I supported this motion and also spoke in favor of waiving the entry fee for the Super Flight, but there were not enough votes from the Board to pass this provision.

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**Experienced  
Directors Wanted**

Please contact Alan Wollman, Manager  
Beverly Hills Bridge Club  
alan.wollman@gmail.com

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**Masterpoints awards for KO, 5-6 person teams**

The following motion requires a second reading that will occur at the Summer NABC in Chicago: “At non-NABC events, players on KO Teams with more than 4 players who are otherwise eligible for overall awards will be subject to the following participation reductions:

For every segment (half a match) of a match that is won and where a participant sits out, the overall awards for that individual will be reduced by 5%. For example, if a player’s team wins a 4-session KO and that participant played only half of each match, that player’s masterpoint award will be reduced by 20%.

**Screen Surcharge**

In Providence, the Board passed a screen surcharge. In New Orleans, a motion for reconsideration was passed by the Board of Governors. Since Providence I have had many discussions with our players regarding this charge. With the costs of entry fees for NABC+ events, it was wrong for the Board to pass this surcharge. In Chicago I will be voting to rescind this charge.

Next month I will discuss the 2015 budget.

And remember, I can always be reached at Pinsky-4Bridge@earthlink.net

**1964-1972 Southern California  
Bridge News Copies Needed**

The Association of Los Angeles County Bridge Units is compiling a history of the district - some of it even 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 at 818 903-2471. Thanks from ALACBU.

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ly St. Patrick's Day parade headed for the French Quarter.

On the days we played in the national events, we were on the late schedule. This, too, had its advantages because New Orleans is such a fascinating city and having free mornings gave us time to explore. One place we are sure to visit each time we are in New Orleans is Café Du Monde whose menu is limited to dark roasted coffee and chicory, beignets, white and chocolate milk, and fresh squeezed orange juice. The coffee is served black or au lait. The original Café Du Monde was established in 1862 in the New Orleans French Market. The Café is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It closes only on Christmas Day and on a day an occasional hurricane passes too close to New Orleans.

Other interesting activities to do during your free mornings or a day off from bridge might include:

- Visit the National World War II Museum

- Walk through the Garden District which began as a plantation that was divided and sold into lots. Developed in the mid 1800's the Garden District offered luxurious houses and gardens to the city's elite and remains the most presti-

gious neighborhood today.

- Take a Ghost and Vampire Tour. Anyone who has read Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles will be interested in such tours because they often include a walk by 2727 Prytania Street in the Garden District, Anne Rice's former home.

- Take a cooking class in the French Quarter

- Walk through French Quarter, which is interesting day and night with its many restaurants, novelty shops, bars and jazz saloons.

Lastly, there's the food. If you end up at some boring restaurant eating hamburgers while in New Orleans, you're missing out. Some of the dishes that have earned New Orleans its culinary legacy include:

- Gumbo, a mix of West European, African, Caribbean and Native American influences, calls for okra simmered for hours with a variety of meats, onions, celery and bell peppers usually served over rice.

- Jambalaya, a meal in itself consists of sausage, vegetables and a variety of meats or seafood and long-grain rice.

- Andouille, a spiced, heavily smoked sausage, is the key flavor in many New Orleans's dishes.

- Shrimp Creole

- Muffuletta is the New Orleans "Subway" sandwich with a distinctive taste due to its piquant olive

spread.

- Po' Boy is a French bread sandwich piled high with meat or seafood mixed with a flavorful tartar-like white sauce.

- Red Beans and Rice, a Creole classic which is a staple on menus across the city. It is often featured on Monday menus because the dish was traditionally made with leftover pork from Sunday's dinner.

- Oysters Rockefeller is served all over the city, but Antoine's holds the title of creator, serving the original dish since 1899.

- Bread Pudding which began as a way to use stale bread is soaked in milk, eggs and sugar, baked and then topped with a sweet bourbon-based sauce.

- Bananas Foster is a distinctive dessert made with bananas, ice cream, dark rum, sugar and spices.

- Beignets, sometimes called the French doughnut is a square piece of dough that is deep fried to form a crispy pillow then dusted with powdered sugar.

- Creole Pralines, dating back to 17th Century France, were originally made with sugar coated almonds but when brought to the United States the almonds were replaced with pecans.

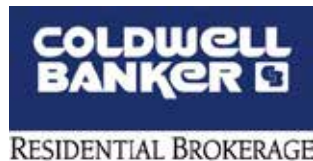
It is good that New Orleans is a walking city. We sure needed the exercise after all that food. We also got exercise finding the restrooms from the playing areas—miles away—often down an escalator on the floor below. When asked how we did, my answer is we had a good time

We have been to a national tournament in New Orleans three times over the years, spaced at about five years apart. It is too early to plan for the next one, but Chicago is coming this summer and it, too, is an interesting city.

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# LOS ANGELES REGIONAL PASADENA!

July 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 2015

- ◆ GOLD RUSH PAIRS every day -Tuesday through Saturday ◆
- ♥ New KO's start every day - Monday through Saturday ♥
- ◆ 299er games twice a day (Monday - Friday) ◆
- ◆ Daylight schedule Saturday and Sunday ◆

Enjoy downtown Old Pasadena

## NEED PARTNER OR TEAM MATES?

Betty Jackson 626-665-0596 or  
rjackson6277@roadrunner.com  
or try partnership desk at  
LosAngelesRegional.com

## TOURNAMENT MANAGER:

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

## DIRECTOR IN CHARGE:

Brian Russell

## HOTEL:

The Westin Pasadena 191 North Los  
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rooms will sell out!

- \* Complimentary WiFi
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- \* 15 min walk to Pasadena downtown

### ◆ MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015 ◆

#### ♥ 10:15 AM ♥

299er Free Lesson

#### ◆ 1:15 PM ◆

Pro Am Game  
Stratified Side Game

#### ◆ 7:00 PM ◆

Educational Foundation Stratified Charity Pairs  
299er Game  
Roses KO Session 1

### ◆ TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2015 ◆

#### ♥ 9:00 AM ♥

Morning Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Roses KO Session 2  
First AM Stratified Swiss 1 of 2

#### ◆ 1:15 PM ◆

Midday Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 2 Sessions  
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 2 Sessions  
Roses KO Session 3  
Arroyo Seco KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:30 PM) & Game

#### ◆ 7:00 PM ◆

Evening Side Game Series 1 of 5  
Roses KO Session 4  
Arroyo Seco KO Session 2  
299er Game  
Single Session Stratified Swiss

### ◆ WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015 ◆

#### ♥ 9:00 AM ♥

Morning Side Game Series 2 of 5  
First AM Stratified Swiss 2 of 2

#### ◆ 1:15 PM ◆

Midday Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 2 Sessions  
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 2 Sessions  
Arroyo Seco KO Session 3  
Huntington KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:30 PM) & Game

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2015, CONTINUED

#### ◆ 7:00 PM ◆

Evening Side Game Series 2 of 5  
Arroyo Seco KO Session 4  
Huntington KO Session 2  
299er Game  
Single Session Stratified Swiss

### ◆ THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2015 ◆

#### ♥ 9:00 AM ♥

Morning Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Second AM Stratified Swiss 1 of 2

#### ◆ 1:15 PM ◆

Midday Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 2 Sessions  
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 2 Sessions  
Huntington KO Session 3  
First Compact KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:30 PM) & Game

#### ◆ 7:00 PM ◆

Evening Side Game Series 3 of 5  
Huntington KO Session 4  
First Compact KO Session 2  
299er Game

### ◆ FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2015 ◆

#### ♥ 9:00 AM ♥

Morning Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Second AM Stratified Swiss 2 of 2  
299er Game

#### ◆ 1:15 PM ◆

Midday Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Flight A/B Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 2 Sessions  
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 2 Sessions  
Busch KO Session 1  
299er Lecture (12:30 PM) & Game

#### ◆ 7:00 PM ◆

Evening Side Game Series 4 of 5  
Busch KO Session 2  
Single Session Swiss  
299er Game

### ◆ SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2015 ◆

#### ♥ 10:00 AM ♥

Morning Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Busch KO Session 3  
Second Compact KO Session 1  
Flight A/B IMP Pairs (0-2000/2000+) 2 Sessions  
Gold Rush Pairs (750/300/100) 2 Sessions

#### ◆ 3:00 PM ◆

Midday Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Busch KO Session 4  
Second Compact KO Session 2  
299er Lecture (2:15 PM) & Swiss Teams

#### ◆ 7:30 PM ◆

Evening Side Game Series 5 of 5  
Single Session Stratified Swiss

### ◆ SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2015 ◆

#### ♥ 10:00 AM & TBA ♥

Marshall Miles Flight A/B Swiss  
(0-2000/2000+)  
Bracketed Swiss (No player over 2000)  
299er Game - 1 session  
◆ 10:00 AM & 1:00 PM ◆  
Mary Jane Farrell Stratified Fast Pairs

## ENTRY FEES

\$14 per session (all events)  
\$18 unpaid or non ACBL members  
Juniors: \$8

Flight A/X 0-2000/2000+  
B/C/D 0-2000 Bracketed  
Flight A/B 0-2000/2000+  
Strat A 2000+ B 750-2000 C 0-750  
All Stratified events are stratified by  
average masterpoints of the team or pair

Midchart allowed in Top Flight of any KO  
with at least 2 brackets.  
KO Events with only one Bracket may be  
Handicapped

## Bridge Stories

*This recurring series in the Southern California Bridge News includes short bridge stories from District 23 players who earned a new rank last month, as collected by Rand Pinsky*

Here is the short history of my life with bridge. In 1969 I married my sweetheart and went to London for a two month honeymoon. It was too long, I bought an Acol bridge book and read it many times. Then I sat at bridge table and for years lost a lot of money to my friends! For the next 50 years, I read many books, improved my game and playing contract bridge. About two or three years ago, I played my first duplicate bridge and became a member of ACBL. Bridge continues to be a part of my life.

*Eddi Samandar  
Regional Master*

I would enjoy sharing my bridge history with you, briefly.

My mother, who was the best natural card player I was ever fortunate enough to play with, introduced me to bridge when I was in junior high school. That was when Charles Goren was still playing at "Bridge Week" at the old Ambassador Hotel, and I was one of the many who were allowed to kibitz. I was impressed by seeing an old Ely Culbertson - he played without sorting his cards. I went to a duplicate class run by an early life master named Jack Ehrlenbach. When I was lucky enough to have him for a partner he would say to me "I'll get you in the right contract, you just make it." When I went on to high school there were no kids playing bridge, so I left the game for years for college, a career, and marriage to a wonderful man who doesn't play cards of any kind. However, he is my biggest booster and encouraged me to return to bridge, which I had never stopped loving. In the 50 intervening years, it became a new game. So I went back to learn again with Peter Knee who was teaching at the Bridge Academy. I am now about five minutes from becoming a full time "bridge bum." My goal, as is the goal of many others

like me, is to become a life master before I am too old to hold my cards. I still have my first copy of Goren's "Point-Count Bidding" and Sheinwald's "5 Weeks to Winning Bridge."

I believe that it is important that bridge does not become an "old people's" game. Kid's from 10 years and up are very competitive and are very strategically oriented. I would be happy to become an "angel" or supporter of anyone who needs whatever I can offer to encourage bridge at schools. I think the chess clubs are doing fine. Bridge needs to do better.

*Marjorie Romans  
NABC Master*

Of course, I am thrilled to reach this milestone in my bridge life. It has taken me about 20 years to accomplish this, but I believe it is never too late. Setting short and long term goals is very important. I feel that if I learn something each time I play, then it is well worth the effort and quite rewarding. I owe a great deal to my early teachers, Craig Kavin and Bill Sides. They gave me the basics from which to move forward. I have had many wonderful partners over the years who have been there to share the joys of victory and the agonies of defeat. My partner of three years, Bill Carlson has taught me a lot and has shown unending patience.

I grew up in Ohio and was taught by my parents at a very early age. I played all through college (more than I went to class). I stopped for about 25 years after marrying Sheldon and raising three children. He does not play which is probably for the best-- at least for our marriage. While trying to learn the game, I ran an entertainment consulting business, Center Stage Productions. After retiring three years ago, I began my real quest to reach 2500. Now that it is accomplished I feel so relieved. However, I am certain I will have a next goal. Onward and upward to 3000.

I wish to thank all of my friends and partners I have made in District 23. It has been a joyous ride.

*Gold Life Master  
Barbara Pinchuk*

### **District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying**

Barrington Bridge Club  
April 11-12: Flight A and Flight C  
April 25-26: Open Flight and Flight B

# Around the Units in District 23

## Glendale Verdugo by Adam Barron

Unit Game: April 11, 2015  
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

The March Unit game marked our first anniversary at the Y, which has proven to be a most comfortable and hospitable venue. Results of the March Unit game were as follows:

### N/S

A1	Ann Banta - Ronald Moeckel
A2	Thomas Lolli Jr - Carolyn Cohen
A3 B1	William Dessert - Sisir Sharma
A4 B2	Michael Doll - Patrick Cardullo

### E/W

A1	Margie Hall - Ann Raymond
A2	Rick Weiss - Martin Blain
A3 B2	Adam Barron - Leon Alexander
A4 B3	Paula Olivares - William Brodek
C2	Bessone - Ramesh Sawhney

Congratulations to Ann on her first day back at the club!

Please join us on April 11 for our next Unit game, which will honor the following winners of the 2014 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races.

## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

**March 1 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: John Bralliar/Steve Ramos, 2nd Susan and Keith Hafen, 3rd Jo Daigle/Betty McClellan, 4th Steve

Mager/Gerri Carlson, 5th John Petrie/Jon Yinger. In the B flight overall Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein were 2nd, Barbara Shuping/Paul Pettler 3rd, Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth 4th, Sue Boswell/Janet Logan 5th. In the C flight overall Lynn Johnson/Rosemary Ford were 3rd, Rob Preece/Ushal Bansal 4th. And in the NLM section Lynn Danielson/Nancy Toussaint were 1st, Ralph Brunson/Tim Panik 2nd. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games:** Feb 16 through March 15: In the Wednesday evening game Feb 18 Gayle Grub/Sherry Troeger had 72.08%. And in the Wednesday evening game March 11 Marcie Evans/Debra Thorpe had 70.42%. Congratulations to both pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards** Feb 16 through March 15: Feb 22 Rai Osborne/Leigh Ives won 3.06mp for 1st. In the unit game March 1 John Bralliar/Susan Hafen won 3.94mp for 1st. Congratulations to both pairs!

**Get Well Wishes:** Mary Thomas.

**New Member:** Nancy Shook. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New Junior Master: Don Vallens. New Sectional Master: Richard Barrack. New Bronze Life Master: Joan Wieber. New Silver Life Masters: Pat Adam, Lavonne McQuilkin, Pamela Cole. New Gold Life Master: John Petrie. Congratulations to you all!

### Upcoming Events at the Club

March 29 Unit Game, lunch 12:30, game 1 p.m.  
April 13-19 Club Championship week. Extra points, no extra charges

April 26 Unit Game and awards banquet:  
Lunch at 12:00, awards at 12:30, game at 1 p.m.

### News from Leisure World

by Judy Carter-Johnson

**Club Championship Game** February 16  
→

(Clubhouse #3) overall winners: Sue Fardette/Vince Remedios 1 in A, 1 in B. Simone Chottin/Fred Benedetti 2 in A, 2 in B. Bill Linskey/Larry Slutsky 3 in A. Verna Burns/Bee Kinman 4 in A. Ted Galardos/Dick Stein 5 in A. Christine Fruman/Stan Blitz 3 in B. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 4 in B. Jean Byer/George Koehm 1 in C. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Richard Barrack 2 in C. Bobbi and Brent Johansson 3 in C. Joyce Basch/Nancy Lichter 4 in C.

**Club Championship Game** February 20 (Clubhouse #1) overall winners: Jeanette Estill/Philippe Varda 1 in A, 1 in B. Nancy Lichter and Stan Blitz 2 in A, 2 in B. Midge Dunagan and Cookie Pham 3 in A, 3 in B. Fern Dunbar/Diane Sachs 4 in A. Linda and Dick Stein 5 in A. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Ralph Brunson 6 in A, 4 in B, 1 in C. Monica and Paul Honey 5 in B, 2 in C. Bill Power and Richard Stammerjohn 3 in C.

**Congratulations** - 70% games -- Jeanette Estill and Philippe Varda - 71.70% on February 20. **New Bronze Life Master:** Joan Wieber **Good Wishes** to Eileen Nelson, Verna Becker and Chuck Cutchshaw who have returned to bridge. Glad to see you back

**Upcoming Club Championship Games:** Clubhouse #3 - April 16 Clubhouse #1 May 16. Unit Rated Games : Clubhouse #3 - June 18, Clubhouse #1 - April 25, June 19. Pro-Am Game: Clubhouse #3 - May 21

The phone number for Clubhouse #3 late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, and need a partner: After noon: 562-481-7368. Games are held on Mondays/ Thursdays at Clubhouse #3 and Friday/Saturday at Clubhouse #1 at 12:15. Advanced reservations are requested as Leisure World is a gated community. Please call: Monday - Midge Dunagan (562) 594 9698, Thursday - Cookie Pham (562) 431 6453, Friday and Saturday - Jaye Woodington (562) 799 1089. Any news for next month's column, please email me at [jcj90740@gmail.com](mailto:jcj90740@gmail.com). 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 email address and I'll put you on the list. My email is [jyinger1@gmail.com](mailto:jyinger1@gmail.com).

## Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

Congratulations to the following Unit 559 mem-

bers and friends.

Unit Game Winners March: Flight A: Frank Shih -Joseph Viola III, Flight B: Edward Hsi -Zu Ming Cheng, Flight C: Diana and Pat Campuzano.

Woodland Regional February 16-22. Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs: 1st Lawrence and Marianne Newman

Robert Chui Memorial Open. 1st Flight A: Art Gulbrandsen, Monrovia; Mike Spero, Burbank.

Thursday Open IMP Pairs. 1st Flight A: Peter Szecsi, Pasadena; Shiu-Ming Huang, San Marino.

Friday Afternoon Side game. 1st Flight A: Barbara Swan, Roseville; Joan Mesias, Temple City.

Friday Open Pairs. 1st Flight C: Steve Shanker, La Canada; Patrick Cardullo, Los Angeles.

Theodore Roosevelt KO 2. 1st Flight A : Xingping Kang, El Monte and Team.

Saturday Open Pairs. 1st Flight A: Saul Teukolsky - Roselyn Teukolsky.

Sectional At The Clubs March 2-8 Thursday a.m. 1st Flight A: Peter Szecsi - Herman Helber; Bridge Center. Friday p.m 1st Flight A: Joe Viola - Bob Johnson; Bridge Center. Saturday a.m. 1st Flight A: Hugh Bartlett - Bill Brodek; Bridge Center. 1st Flight B: John Barrow - Karen Arase; Bridge Center. 1st Flight C: Keiko Fukami - Donna Lindberg; Bridge Center.

### April Unit Events

On April 19 the Arcadia Bridge Center will host the Over/Under Game. Players with under 300 points are matched with 300+ partners. Please contact Art Gulbrandsen (under 300) or Peter Szecsi (over 300).

Also at the Arcadia Bridge Center is the Beat the House Night on Friday, April 24 at 7:15 p.m. and Winners/Losers on Sunday, April 26 at 1 p.m.

### Unit Games

Sunday, March 29 - April Unit game San Marino

Sunday, May 3 - May Unit game San Marino

Also, this in from Anna Croupe/Cheryl Loggins: At the Woodlands regions, Cheryl Loggins and Anna Croupe found themselves pitted against Billy Miller and Mitch Dunitz and their partners in the Thursday evening Swiss.

Cheryl: 1♣	Anna: 1♦	
Cheryl: 1NT	Anna: 2NT	
Cheryl 3NT	Anna: Pass	Billy: Double →

His partner, missing the double (lead of the first side suit bid by responder) led something else. Cheryl made 4NT for a score of 950 (for a 7). We lost the match 27-7, but still **it was definitely the highlight of both of our careers.**

**Yasin Elewy**

I did not know him for a very long time. When I got to know him, I liked him very much. Now he is gone...We will all miss him very much.

**Our guest columnist, Sir Bid-A-Lot**

*We are fortunate that his castle is in within our kingdom*

Derby Fever is here!! The Run for the Roses on the 1st Saturday in May each year in Kentucky is the most exciting 2 minutes in sports.

This year’s mythical Derby, the “San Marino Derby” also known as the “Masterpoint Derby”, will be run at the San Marino Clubhouse. The distance is 27 boards for Juniors to World Champions. Here are some of the likely entries for the “San Marino Derby.”

The entries below and the commentaries are for information purposes only— not for wagering!! Also please note they are not listed in any particular order except the first few who immediately came to mind while racing to the window to enter them!

Player	Comment
Peter Szecsi	Perennial Derby Contender
John Jones	Powerful Finishing Kick
Jeff Goldsmith	Gets the Gold often
Herman Helber	Needs no helb!!
Diane Borgatti	Reigning Queen of San Marino
Rae Murbach	Reliable for big effort
Shiu-Ming	Needs strong handling
Ruby Davis	You won’t go hungry in her barn!
Sir Bid-A-Lot	Worth a bet
Gerry Belcher	Would rather be cruising
Joe Viola	Finely tuned for this
Joanie Mesias	Gold Life Master soon
Amar	Star on the rise, loves the distance
Mart & Bev Weiss	Strong NJ entry
Cathy Martin	Heading in right Direction
Jimmy Rodgers	On winning streak but not at the track!!

Dominique Moore	Goes to whip often in stretch!!!
Roy Wilson	Fast out of gate with Precision
Sandra Franciscus	Improvement noted
Chang Family	Moving up the ranks fast
Marion Miller	Love her racing silks
Dan Lubesnik	Exotics player

Late Scratch: Who’s racing silks are below? One of our top players is an owner, breeder racing enthusiast (find out next month):



**Pomona Covina**  
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, April 18, 11:00 a.m.  
Individual – Saturday, April 4, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

The March Individual was won by Clint Lew, followed by Ann McClelland, Steve Mancini (1<sup>st</sup> in “C”), Paul Chrisney, and Richard Patterson.

The February Unit Game was taken, in a photo-finish (it was decided by a couple of late plays!) by Susan and Dave Ruoff, who just edged out Ann McClelland-Paul Chrisney. Following were Gino Barbieri - Bill Papa, who tied for third with Vic and Kerry Sartor. Genise Hasan - Hanan Mogharbel (1<sup>st</sup> in “B”) rounded out the top five.

One promotion again this month: Anand Kumar is now an NABC Master. Congratulations, Anand, and keep up the good work.

The top game this month was “only” a 69.1% effort by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. again. (Did I hear someone say, “break up the Yankees?”) Other names up on the leader board: Richard Patterson, Hanan Mogharbel, Kurt Trieselmann, Penny Barbieri, Claudia Cochran, Barbara Papa, Joe Unis, Genise Hasan, Gayle Ginsburg, Pat Radamaker, Clint Lew, Ken Bloomfield, Linda Tessier, Herb Stampfl, Denise Morgan, Ken Bloomfield, Karen Olin, Karen McCarthy, Roger Boyar, Diane Simpson, and Yours Truly.

We have two interesting (?) hands for you →



this time, both from the recent D23/D22 STaC. On the very first board, sitting East, you find yourself staring at: ♠K652 ♥J ♦-- ♣AKJ98754

Ho hum, just your run-of-the-mill 8-4-1 hand. You open 1♣, LHO overcalls 1♦ (not a surprise, is it?), partner responds 1♠, and you ... ? Tempting to play in clubs, especially since partner doesn't guarantee five spades in this sequence, One hopes you have some way of showing a good spade raise, because partner has: ♠Q9873 ♥AK3 ♦K62 ♣62.

Even with those two wasted red kings, 6♠ can make if you pick up the trumps (LHO has ♠AJx), but 6♣ is one down unless you take the first-round hook for the trump queen, since RHO has all three of them. (Oh well, they say one peek is worth two finesses ...) This is all predicated on the opponents not sacrificing, since 7♦ is only three down for -500.

Next up is a little lesson on how not to play negative doubles. Sitting West, with no one vulnerable, you pick up: ♠A9 ♥Q8764 ♦6 ♣AT983.

For better or for worse, you open 1♥. Next hand overcalls 2♦, and partner passes. RHO also passes, and you double (takeout). Pass, pass (!), pass. While 2♦ does take a beating – down about 800 – that's not good enough because partner – the passer – holds: ♠KT7 ♥AJT2 ♦AK985 ♣J and 6♥ is stone cold. Worse, the ♥K is not only on side, it's stiff, and 7♥ rolls home. Too bad, so sad! (The pair defending 2♦ actually won the event with about 68% ... one can only imagine their score had they bid the slam.)

With tax time upon us, our Quote for the Month is appropriate: "If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion." (George Bernard Shaw)

Until next month ...

## San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

### Special Congratulations

More than 100 enthusiastic bridge players participated in the Unit 561 March 7 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Awards Celebration.

**Winners** in the afternoon game were as follows:

NS – Bruce Altshuler/Marel Bates (A1), Ruth Fleisher/Marilyn Gaims (A2, B1), Michael Klemens/Leila Greenfield (A3), Michael Newman/Sherry New-

man (A4, B2), Norman Bloomfield/Carol Bloomfield (B3), Tessa Finder/Sheila Bub (C1), and Ruth Pash/Mark Pash (C2).

EW – Om Chokriwala/Joan Rubin (A1), Martin Blain/Rick Weiss (A2), Marjorie Romans/Jerry Athans (A3, B1, C1), Jerry Shapiro/William Raines (A4, B2), and Greg Stewart/Nancy Klemens (B3, C2).

**February Top Ten** Masterpoints at the 750 Club were: Dan Strauss 8.88, Shoshana Blumenfeld 7.87, Ron Malkin 7.58, Elaine Keyes 7.11, Larry Kussin 6.89, Carol Bell 6.06, Gary Baxley 5.62, Helen Malzer 5.27, Muncie Marder 5.10, and Margie Bulmer 5.09.

### Current News

**San Fernando Valley Sectional** will be held on Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, at the 750 Club (Prince of Peace Church, 5700 Rudnick Ave, Woodland Hills). Limited MP Pairs, Friday, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Stratified Open Pairs, Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. ACBL members \$12, Non-members \$15. Swiss Teams, Saturday, 10 a.m., \$110/Team (includes lunch). Peter Knee – Tournament Director; M.J. Jubelirer – mjjubelirer@att.net, Tournament Chair/Partnerships.

**New Location for Bridge on the Boulevard:** 22323 Sherman Way, # 12, (Ralph's shopping center, Shoup and Sherman Way), Canoga Park, CA. Novice/Intermediate games are Monday and Tuesday, at 7 p.m. Open games are Wednesday at 11 a.m. and 7:15 p.m., and Friday at 11 a.m. Call (818) 999-9131 for reservations and information.

### Calendar

Wednesday, April 1, "April Fools Day," at the 750 Club. Wear something "foolish" and get in the drawing for Free Plays.

Monday, April 6, Unit 561 Board Meeting at the 750 Club at 2:45 p.m.

Monday-Friday, April 13-17, Club Championship Week, at the 750 Club, 65% Sectional rated black points.

Friday and Saturday, April 24-25, San Fernando Valley Sectional, at the 750 Club, details listed above under "Current News."

Tuesday, May 19, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night, starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

## Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

The Magic Mountain Sectional will be held this year on October 24-25. The board voted to hold the sectional again at the Friendly Valley Community in Santa Clarita.

Unit 556 will offer two Unit sponsored Mentor Games that will be free to all participants. The first one will be held on Tuesday, May 5 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita at 6:00 p.m. The second one is scheduled for Sunday, August 2 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale at noon. Refreshments will be provided and there will be a short lesson before the game to discuss the convention card. Reservations are required. Anyone interested in participating should contact Paula Olivarres (paula@pacbell.net) or Beth Morrin (morrin@sbc-global.net).

### Unit Game Results

March 5 at Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale:

- |   |        |                                  |
|---|--------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | 65.48% | Barbara York - Elizabeth Morrin  |
| 2 | 56.55% | George Lewis Jr - David White    |
| 3 | 53.90% | George MacDonald - Russell Buker |
| 4 | 50.63% | Henry Roediger - Sharry Vida     |

March 16th at Friendly Bridge Club in Santa Clarita:

North/South Results:

- |   |        |                               |
|---|--------|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 61.61% | Vibeke Gilbreath - Ruth Baker |
| 2 | 55.36% | Jackie Moor - Paul Gill       |
| 3 | 54.46% | Anita Walker - Bill Brodek    |
| 4 | 53.57% | Lamonte Johnson - Mira Rowe   |

East/West Results:

- |   |        |  |
|---|--------|--|
| 1 | 62.50% | Roy Ladd - Albert Stock                |
| 2 | 57.74% | Roshen Hadulla - Nell Schanz           |
| 3 | 57.44% | Hansford Rowe - George MacDonald       |
| 4 | 52.3%  | Carole Provost - Paula Charnock Millar |

March 24th at Valencia Bridge Club in Santa Clarita:

- |   |     |                               |
|---|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1 | 65% | Roshen Hadulla - Anita Walker |
| 2 | 63% | Betty Pavey - Carol Provost   |
| 3 | 62% | Bert Stock - Margie Pinkers   |
| 4 | 59% | Nell Shantz - Bill Brodek     |
| 5 | 58% | George MacDonald - Ted Maki   |

Upcoming Unit Games:

The April Unit Game is Thursday, April 23 in Castaic at 10:00 a.m. The Unit Game and Awards Ceremony for Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards will be on Sunday, April 26 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided and served at 12:15. The June Unit Game is Tuesday, June 9 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita at 6:45 p.m.

Visit us on facebook for pictures from various tournaments and other activities. <https://www.facebook.com/ACBLUnit556>

## Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

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

### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Wednesday, April 8, 11:30 a.m.

Club Championship: Monday, April 13, 11:30 a.m.

Club Championship: Saturday, April 25, 2:00 p.m.

Friday Night games on April 3 and 17

### Club Championships

The February 11 Club Championship was won by Stanley Greengard/Cal Wasller in both Flights A and B. The March 10 Club Championship was captured by JoAnna Wallis/Dolores Nawa.

### Team Winners

Following are the winning quartets in recent Tuesday night Swiss team games.

February 24: Gabriela Jackson, Mark Raggio, Beverly Narahara, Fran Israel

March 3: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

March 10: Kim Wang, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

### TSB Unit winners at Woodland Hills Regional

Not all that many TSB Unit members made the trip to the District 23 Woodland Hills. Those that brought in first overalls are listed below.

→

Charity Game: Gerri Carlson, John J. McDermott  
 Thursday Swiss Flights B & C: Bob Bacharach, Henry Crowder, Barbara Shortwell  
 Thursday Gold Rush Pairs Flt R: Laura Gastelum  
 Thursday Compact KO Bracket 1: Tien Zee  
 Saturday Compact KO Bracket 1: Mike Savage, John J. McDermott

Saturday Compact KO Bracket 2: Carol McCully, Ed Barad  
 Saturday Pairs Bracket C: Steve Ramos  
 Sunday Swiss Bracket X: Carol McCully, Ed Barad

Tuesday Morning, March 3, SBBC  
 Gabriela Jackson/Ray Mack  
 Glen Musicer/Stam Greengard  
 Ed Srenco/Harry Wessels  
 Karen McCarthy/Karin Olin

Tuesday Morning, March 3, NLM Pairs, SBBC  
 1A 1B Madge Weinstein/Myron Mitzenbacher  
 2A Christine Uriu/Setsuko Miyasaka  
 3A 2B Regina Boll/Johnny Arceri

Wednesday Morning, March 4, SBBC  
 8A 6B Carol McCully/Cal Waller

### TSB Unit Overall Finishers in District 22/23 STAC

Following are pairs that finished in the Overalls of the recent District 22/23 STAC in games played in TSB Unit Clubs.

Monday Morning, March 2 SBBC  
 1A Steve Ramos/Ted Gibbs  
 4A Pat Berg/Ray Mack  
 5A Luis Gamio/John J. McDermott  
 1C Marie Lynch/Mahin Khadivi  
 4C Beebe Morehead/Marianne David  
 5C Norm Imberman/Mary Overbey

Monday Afternoon Special Pairs, March 2,  
 Agile Bridge Club  
 1A 1B Bonnie Okamoto/Mike McGory  
 2A Nadine Eltman/Barbara Laier  
 3A Pamela Boyer/Joan Oliver  
 4A 2B 1C Marilyn and Andrew Limbach  
 5A Sue Hunter/Nancy Carnes  
 3B Barbara Fuller/Debra Zelman  
 4B Tom Grove/Joe Duke  
 5B Sheila Fruhling/Dolores Pendergast  
 2C Bob Turner/John Sellers  
 3C Inga Snoops/Sally Boardman

Monday Evening, March 2, Veterans Park  
 6A 2B 1C Hal Hichborn, Patricia Wells  
 3B Betsy Miller, Barbara Shortwell  
 4B Neal Kleiner/David Peim  
 3C Judith and James Scott

Monday Evening, March 2, Aux Pairs, SBBC  
 1A Ray Mack/Mike Savage  
 2A Stan Greengard/Mark Raggio

Wednesday Afternoon, March 3, Veterans Park  
 14A 3B Henry Crowder/Bob Bacharach  
 18A 5B William Baxter/Margaret Enders  
 28A 10B Robert Johnson/Linda Klein  
 3^A 12B Thomas Hirata/Margaret Yeh  
 15B Rick Turner/Alyssa Kennedy  
 6C Barbara and Peter Shen  
 8C Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman  
 9C Barbara Shortwell/Terry Arnush

Wednesday Evening, March 4, SBBC  
 3A 1B Mark Raggio/JoAnna Kuang

Thursday Morning, March 5, 299er Pairs, SBBC  
 1A Charlotte Lewin/Marie Lynch  
 2A Marilyn Morton/Anne Andres  
 3A 1B Dorothy and Peter Joseph  
 4A Elaine Bleiwies/Carolyn Verin  
 5A Setsuko Miyasaka/George Stinson  
 2B Dawn McGill/Linda Barnard  
 3B 1C Bruce Walker/James DeFlon  
 4B Neal Hudson/Greg Gallagher  
 2C Anni and Jon Pack

Friday Morning, March 6, SBBC  
 3A Fran Israel/Gabriela/ Jacson  
 8A 4B Dolores Nawa/Carole King  
 10A 5B Robert Rothman/Stam Greengard  
 7B Harry Wessells/Louis Bruhnke

Friday Morning, March 6, 199er Pairs, Agile BC  
 1A 1B 1C Daisy Mehta/Doug Carlson  
 2A Madge London/Freda Main  
 3A Rae Yan/Freda Rathbun  
 4A 2B 2C Jan and Thea Dryer

5A 3B 3C Marion Hogue/Karen Schaffer  
 4B Lynn Harvey/JoAnne Hadley  
 5B 4C Linda Klebs/Brenda Heyob  
 5C Patty Balzano/Freddie Benson

Friday Afternoon, March 6, Beach Cities BC

7A 3B Florence Niwa/Bill Malcolm  
 10A Dean Kaloudis/John J. McDermott  
 42A 16B James and Judith Scott

Friday Evening, March 6, Inglewood BC

2A 1B Joe Thomas/Roy Young  
 7A 2B Harry and Kim Wang  
 2C David Rosak/Nancy Karnes  
 3C Carl Muchnick/Jeff Grotenhuis

Saturday Afternoon, March 7, SBBC

8C Chris Freeland/Yokuyo Sheehy

GUV Memorial Award

I have no great GUV award stories this month. I might like to take a poll on what you all would do with the following hand from the Woodland Hills Regional. Playing in a KO in first seat all vul you hold ♠x ♥QJx ♦K ♣AKQJxxxx. Some might try a gambling 3NT. However if it looks a little too good for that you might just open 1♣. Believe it or not your LHO overcalls 1NT. Your pard bids 2♠ natural and this is passed back to you. What now? A rational call or an insane call? I leave it up to you.

Na Zdrowie

## West LA by Robert Shore

### Unit Games

April 17 at 12:30 p.m. at Barrington

April 22 at 12:30 p.m. at Beverly Hills

Spring Sectional: May 2-3, at Barrington.

### Spring Is Here, a Suh-Pring Is Here

It's ba-ack! The West Los Angeles Unit has chosen to restore its annual Spring Sectional to the schedule. The tournament will take place at Barrington Bridge Club on Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3. Morning sessions will start at 10:00 a.m. We will have pair games

(including 49er games if attendance warrants), Compact Knockouts, and of course a final-day Swiss. Clear your calendars, find your partners and teammates, and make your plans now!

### Community

We lost another member of our Unit last month when Richard Glatzer passed away. I knew Richard as a frequent presence at the table, persevering when some malady, unknown to me at the time, severely affected his ability to hold cards, bid, and even speak. At the time, I knew Richard only as a bridge player and had no idea what he did away from the table.

Film fans will know where this is going. Richard Glatzer, along with his husband, was the director of *Still Alice*, the recent film for which Julianne Moore won an Academy Award as Best Actress. According to Richard's Los Angeles Times obituary, the ailment that was afflicting him (and which ultimately led to his death) was ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. I'm glad that Richard was able to achieve such a professional highlight before his passing. But it makes me wonder what other hidden gems we have among us, passing as ordinary (or even extraordinary) bridge players.

Our condolences go out to Richard's husband, as well as to the rest of his family and friends. He will be missed at the table.

### Winners Galore

As always, there are a great many winners to report from the Woodland Hills Regional. Leading things off, we start with an impressive haul of gold medals from 299er events. Tom Lawrence and Herb Garfinkel won the Tuesday morning 299er pair game. Carole Hamburger tied for first in the Wednesday morning 299er pair game. Barbara Wellisch led the field in the Thursday afternoon 299er pair game, and Ravnesh Amar won the Friday afternoon 299er pair game.

Our more senior members also brought home some wins. Lee Hausner won the Monday evening Charity Pairs game. Your Humble Scribe crushed the competition by nearly half a matchpoint in the Tuesday Open Pairs event. John Ramos tied for first in the Thursday Stratified Swiss teams event. Jill Meyers picked up a win in the Friday Open Pairs event. Stephanie Young won the Saturday Gold Rush Pairs. We made a clean sweep of the Saturday Compact Knockout. Mike →

Savage won the top bracket, Les Rawitt won his bracket, and Marion Tumen, Peggy Levin, and Jodie Rachmil won their bracket. Rounding things off on Sunday, Joel Schiff won the top bracket of the Flight B Bracketed Sunday Swiss.

That was not the only bridge played last month. Peter Benjamin traveled to the Tuscon Regional and came back with a win in the Saddlebrooke Knockout Teams. Connie Fishbach and Rodger Harbin won the Tuesday afternoon game in the District 23 STAC, and Harvey Katz won the Thursday afternoon game.

### Things to Come

For those who just can't wait until our May Sectional to get a taste of special games, there's plenty to look forward to in April. We will hold Unit Games at Barrington and Beverly Hills on April 17 and 22. Game time is 12:30 p.m. Grand National Teams selection will also occur in April. Flights A (0-6000) and C (0-500 non-Life Masters) will play on April 11 and 12. The Championship Flight (open) and Flight B (0-2500) will play on April 25 and 26. As always, the winners earn the opportunity to represent our District at the Summer Nationals, occurring this year in Chicago.

### Welcome Mat

Add another table of new members this month. Penni Haradon, Alan Krechman, Linda Wiley May, and Peter Schwab all have joined the ACBL in the last

month. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

### Around the Clubs

Beverly Hills had an outbreak of 70% games last month. Hitting that figure were Phyllis and Mario Mory, Rahim Israel and Chuck Fonarow, Wayne Karson and Aram Bedros, and Pete Benjamin and Pete Knee.

At Barrington, George Wagner and Art Zail picked up a 70% game. Aram Bedros hit the mark playing with Steven Yaffe and with Om Chokriwala.

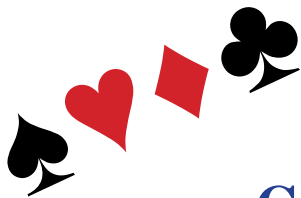
Robin Thayer reminds us that the Marina City Club plays Tuesday nights at 7:15 p.m. at 4333 Admiralty Way in Marina del Rey. Call (310) 713-8647 with any questions or to find a partner.

### Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Elizabeth Bowen, Carolyn Brice, Irwin Jaeger, Harry Levitt, and Rhonda Rundle. Making the leap to Club Master were James Morrow, William Phifer, Adrienne Sarmiento, Tate Shafer, and Judith Stone. Linda Schlesinger is now a Sectional Master.

Richard Stevenson has become a Silver Life Master. Danny Kleinman is now a Diamond Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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



## District 23 Grand National Teams Qualifying

Barrington Bridge Club  
April 11-12: Flight A and Flight C  
April 25-26: Open Flight and Flight B

The complete Conditions of Contest can be found at [www.acbldistrict23.org](http://www.acbldistrict23.org)  
. Direct any questions to  
[howardeinberg@yahoo.com](mailto:howardeinberg@yahoo.com)

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Nima Badizadegan, Jake Frenkle, Mark Itabashi, Roger Lee, Mister Mealy-mouth, Jill Meyers, David Sacks and a special April Fools guest appearance from The Hog.

*Nima and Jake are guest panelists who won a contest to become panelists this month. Nima is the Caltech bridge captain. Jake is a Silver Life Master. He runs a weekly individual game with the interesting format of being scored in both matchpoints and IMPs. This is the April Fools' edition, so we will have a return of The Hog. The Hog is a character not exactly based upon multi-time Barry Crane Trophy winner Ron "The Hog" Anderson, nor Victor Mollo's wonderfully entertaining character "The Hideous Hog," nor Leo Bell's character "The Hog", but a combination of all three.*

# 1

IMPs  
all vul

South	West	North	East
?	1♣*	Pass	1♦**

\* Precision, 16+, \*\* negative, 0-7

You, South, hold:

♠-- ♥J ♦AKQT87642 ♣AQ6

What call do you make?

*We'll start off our April Fools' edition with a hand I have been waiting to use for just this occasion.*

**Sacks: 5♦.** Sometimes the first thought works... 5♦. Now, if I were a heavy underdog in a match, or way behind I might let my imagination run a little wilder. Kudos to anyone bidding unusual 2NT hoping to hear partner bid clubs aggressively.

**Meyers: 5♦,** wrong-siding it.

**Itabashi: 5♦.** Who knows what makes here. A weakness of Precision is that over 1♣ the opponents have no idea if they have a fit. Let them find it at the 5-level. It won't take much to make 5♦.

**Mealy-mouth: 5♦,** hoping to catch partner with the ♣J and giving up on the slam I don't know how to reach anyway (would partner ever know to bid 6♦ with the ♥A in addition to the mighty ♣J?). Perhaps West will sacrifice in 5♠ and run into partner's stack and a bruising penalty double.

**Frenkle: Double.** Start with a double, and over partners probable major I'll show my diamonds. If we're still low enough and partner bids 3NT, I'll let him play it. If he doesn't bid 3NT, but has enough to respond to my diamond bid, I will try 5♦.

*Interesting approach. Trying to be scientific about it may let the opponents find a major suit fit. They are very likely to misjudge your offensive potential though.*

**Lee: 6♦.** It's anyone's guess. 5♦ commits us to bidding 6♦ if they bid 5♥ or 5♠. I will be unhappy if they bid 5♥ or 5♠, so I will just put the pressure on now.

**Badizadegan: 6♦.** Over a Precision 1♣, partner's pass indicates that he doesn't have a particularly unbalanced hand. East's 1♦ bid does not necessarily preclude the possibility that East has a distributional hand, so our opponents definitely have a massive major suit fit. Over a Precision 1♣, we want to be as disruptive as possible, and since we only have 1.5 defensive tricks,

2

MPs  
EW vul

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
?			

You South hold:

♠A ♥AQ743 ♦82 ♣AQJT6

What call do you make?

**Sacks: 3♠** if we are not playing Mathe (asking for singleton) and requesting cuebids up the line. Otherwise, 4♣ hoping to hear 4♦.

**Badizadegan: 4♣.** Partner has just invited us to game with a 9-card fit, but we don't need very much to go to slam here. The ♥K, ♦A and ♣K make us cold for 7, but 3 kings is enough for six. A diamond control is a must, so in the absence of a splinter, I want partner to cuebid 4♦ if he has the ♦A, and then we can continue with Blackwood from there, and try to find 7♥ if partner has the heart and club kings. If he bids 4♥ to deny the diamond ace, we can cuebid 4♠ so that he has the chance to bid 5♣ to show the club king, then our bid of 5♥ clearly invites to six if partner has good enough diamonds.

**Itabashi: 4♣.** I hope to hear 4♦ and if you bid 4♠ later, it will give partner the chance to show the ♣K if he has it or to hopefully give value to the trump king.

**Mealy-mouth: 4♣.** Forget about some silly "rule" that "controls must be bid up-the-line"; *[Right analysis, right bid, wrong system. 3♠ (even if it doesn't ask for a singleton) isn't a cuebid, but a side suit. See Lee and Frenkle.]* I don't buy it, especially when the "con-

trol" can supposedly be "first- or second-round" as though aces and kings, singletons and voids were all equivalent. Bidding 3♠ to show the ♠A would induce partner to love his possible ♠KQx but dislike his possible ♠8532 (just the wrong way round). Bidding 4♣ to show the ♣A will induce partner to love his possible ♣Kx and encourage him to cue-bid the ♦A if he has it (just the cards, along with the ♥K, that he needs for slam).

**Lee: 4♣.** I play this shows a natural side suit, so it seems perfect. *[Right analysis, right bid, right system.]*

**Frenkle: 4♣.** Start with 4♣ because 3♠ might be taken as offering a second playable suit. If partner cuebids diamonds I go to six, otherwise stop at four.

**Meyers: 4♣,** see if I get a 4♦ bid.

**The Hog: 4♦.** Why not deter a diamond lead on the way to 6♥? This is especially apropos on April Fools Day. Of course if my LHO is a Greek whom I have fooled before, I'll change it up, bid 4♣ and maybe he'll lead a club.

PSP#1 *continued from previous page*

and a lot more on offense, we can go to 6♦ without too much risk that we are sacrificing too high. We also only need the right 3 points (the club king) from partner for it to be cold, and one of the major suit aces and a club doubleton from partner gives us a fighting chance.

**The Hog: 6♦.** I'll have to bid 6♦ if they bid 6♥ or 6♠. I'll bid 6♦ now to put the pressure on them.

*This problem comes from the 2014 US Team Trials. Both tables had the same auction up to this point. Eric Greco bid 5♦ and heard it go Pass, Pass, 5♥ by Jeff Meckstroth who held a weak hand with five spades and six hearts. Greco rebid 6♦ only to see Eric Rodwell bid 6♥, down two for an excellent save against the making 6♦. Ralph Katz elected to bid 6♦ right away. This bought the contract, +1370, when Kevin Bathurst elected not to save holding the 5=6=0=2 weak hand.*

3

MPs  
no vul

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♥	1♠	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠9 ♥K93 ♦KT8 ♣QT8743  
What call do you make?

2♣ bidders think this one is easy.

**Frenkle: 2♣** and plan on passing unless partner shows a big hand.

**Lee: 2♣**, I don't know what the alternative is supposed to be, but I'm not passing or bidding 1NT (Yes, those are the alternatives).

**Mealymouth: 2♣**. I have about what partner should expect for this non-forcing, only mildly constructive, advance. Thank heaven for easy problems!

**Meyers: 2♣**. No other comment.

**Sacks: 1NT**. This rates just a notch above 2♣, mainly because I do not want a ♣ lead if they buy the hand in hearts.

**Badizadegan: 1NT**. I want to make a takeout double of partner's suit, and 1NT feels like the lie which is the least bad. If partner has the measly 8 HCP he promised me, we may go down a few, but the -100 is still a reasonable result. If it gets doubled, we can run to 2♣, showing our lack of interest in moving on. Also, when we are

NV at matchpoints, with evenly distributed HCP, we want to be the first pair to bid notrump. If you are playing with a junior, you probably have to bid more safely, because we have been known to overcall our "good" 6-counts.

**Itabashi: 1NT**. 2♣ could be right but if NT is right it should be played by South.

**The Hog: 1NT**. NT and The Hog are a matched pair. Besides, my partners are told to bid minors, leaving NT for me!



## LAS VEGAS REGIONAL

June 22-28, 2015  
Monday to Sunday

### Tournament Co-chairs:

Jane Rubin (janee1212@aol.com), Bruce Rubin (brr32196@aol.com)

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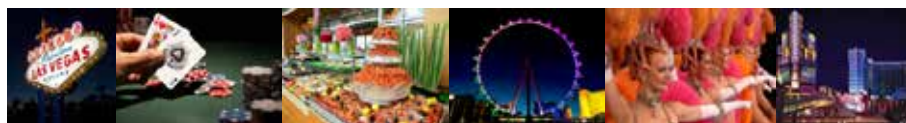
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All events will be held in the Convention Center.

See [LVregional.com](http://LVregional.com) for complete details and a schedule of events.





4

IMPs  
all vul

South	West	North	East
	1♥	Pass	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:

♠-- ♥5 ♦KQ532 ♣AKQJ653

What call do you make?

**Badizadegan: 2NT.** I am between 2NT and 4NT on this hand, both showing hands with both minors, where 4NT shows a crazier hand with more preemption. Ideally, we want to be able to go to 6♣ if partner has the diamond ace, but stop at 5♣ if he doesn't. Over a 4NT bid, partner will still bid 5♦ to sign off with ace and two little ones, and we don't have any ability to find the diamond ace. If partner bids diamonds, we can reply with some number of clubs to try to show our club strength and keep him talking, and if partner bids clubs, we are going to bid spades to show our void. It is likely that we are going to get interference, but the exchange of information probably benefits us more than it benefits our opponents, even though it allows them to find their heart sacrifice more easily.

**Frenkle: 2NT.** Start with 2NT. If partner never bids, I will go to 5♣. If partner is able to get into the auction, I'll cuebid my spade void and if he shows me either other ace I'll go to six, both then seven.

*Candy Scott took an informal poll about 35 years ago asking the better Southern California players what a balancing 2NT meant. Not only was her panel split about 50/50, almost every major partnership disagreed on the meaning of the bid. Today, there is little disagreement among experts about the best meaning for a balancing 2NT call. Almost all expert pairs play it as 19 – 21 balanced. Thus, for many of the panelists, 2NT wasn't a possibility.*

**Meyers: 2♥,** which I play is 2 suited almost GF. *[Interesting idea! Works very well here.]*

**Sacks: 2♣.** Next bid 4NT implying the type of hand I have. 3♣ is stronger but has higher chance of playing there.

**Lee: 2♣.** I'd love to show the minors here but I don't have a bid for it, so I will just start low and see what happens.

*The 2♣ bidders are certain they will get another chance. They are 99.44% to get that opportunity. With this much distribution out there, somebody always bids.*

**Itabashi: 5♣.** This is pretty much the same reasoning as problem 1.

**Mealymouth: 5♣** Borrowing a page from Dad's-- er, Al Roth Sr.'s-- book, I'll complain that this problem could never arise at the table, as somebody would have bid spades by now. *[Sorry Mealy! This problem (as reported by Leo Bell), did occur at the table!]* Before the opponents can find their cheap 5♠ save, I'll jump to 5♣, relying on partner to have as little as the ♦J (with either the ♦T or length) or a defensive slip to help me make it. Yes, we might have a slam, but there is no clear path to reach it (how could I convey to partner that the ♥A is gold, the ♠A is dross, and the ♦J is a precious gem indeed?) and a slow pseudo-scientific auction might so confuse partner that we'd wind up in an inferior diamond or (heaven forbid!) spade contract.

**The Hog: 5♣.** I'll bid 5♣ before they can get to 4 of a major.

5

IMPs  
all vul

South	West	North	East
	3♠	Dbl	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:  
♠KQ5 ♥AJ3 ♦AJT4 ♣Q84  
What call do you make?

*A key question here is does 4NT mean? Ask enough people what 4NT means and you will hear: minors, two places to play, invitational to 6NT, RKC for hearts, and vanilla Blackwood (no kings). Our panel is in the invitational camp.*

**Badizadegan 4NT.** We have a 17-count and partner has shown us a hand that wants to play 4♥ opposite a 7-count, so we are too strong for 3NT, but a little too weak to just blast 6NT. 4NT here is probably for keycard in hearts, but I am assuming that you play 5♠ after a Blackwood response here as a relay to sign off in 5NT (most of my partnerships do, but it probably seems a little too convenient for this hand). If partner shows that we are missing at most one keycard in hearts (the ♠A), then we are going to 6NT, but if we are missing 2 keycards, we can stop in 5NT. Without the 5♠ relay bid, we just have to bid 6NT and pray.

**Frenkle: 4NT.** Invitational, let it be on partners head.

**Itabashi: 4NT,** quantitative. You have to have a way to show extras by responder. Use 4♠ as 2 places to play. *[Good idea!]*

**Meyers: 4NT.** Quantitative.

**Lee: 3NT.** I'm not going to hang my partner, and even though we could make a slam I don't think we are even close to trying for it.

**Mealymouth: 6NT.** I cannot condemn West harshly enough for robbing me of my classic sound 1NT opening, and I'll speak sharply later to North for depriving me of the chance to gamble sensibly with the 3NT I would have bid in the passout seat had he not butted in with his takeout double. As it is, I'll gamble that he doesn't have a spade void (a good bet when East hasn't bid 4♠ preemptively) and bid what I think I can make, 6NT, avoiding the suit slams that might founder on the rocks of bad trump splits.

**Sacks: Pass.** No clear direction towards slam, we should collect 500 or 800.

**The Hog: Pass.** I would love to try 6NT, but my partner might not have extras. My partners love to make takeout doubles a little light because then I get to play the hand! Dummy may well have no entry.

## LOS ANGELES REGIONAL PASADENA!

July 6<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 2015

♠ GOLD RUSH PAIRS every day -Tuesday through Saturday ♠

♥ New KO's start every day - Monday through Saturday ♥

♦ 299er games twice a day (Monday - Friday) ♦

♣ Daylight schedule Saturday and Sunday ♣

**Enjoy downtown Old Pasadena**

## District 23 Rank Changes February 2015

### Junior Master

Mary Beall, Kathy Brugger, Ellen D Eidson  
 Robert Filkoff, Marcelle Freides, Roger Ginsburg  
 Sharon Grossman, Gordon Hull, Peter Koenig  
 Susan Koenig, Ruth Lerner, Simonetta May  
 Sue McPherson, Jean Parks, Alison Slattery  
 H S Jackson Tsao

### Club Master

Jerrold Felsenthal, Florence Forst  
 Jennifer Friedman, John Glovkca, Carol Katzman  
 Jacqueline Keenan, Kai Liu, Elvira Munoz  
 Gwen Pollyea, Joanne Puleo, Dale Quasny  
 Steve Reitzfeld, Jill Thesman, Beverly Young  
 Debra Zelman

### Sectional Master

R Hargrove, Sin Orensztein  
 Nancy Toussaint, Bobbi Zifkin

### Regional Master

Ravness Amar, Barbara Dickson  
 Eddi Samandar, Carol Trenda

### NABC Master

Fran Brant, Barry Heller, Betsy Josias  
 Nancy Lyon, Hanan Mogharbel, James Robinson  
 Marjorie Romans, Rona Schneider, Sheila Singer  
 Yvonne Sterkin, Katherine Weisberg

**Adv NABC Master:** Liang Fan

### Life Master

Carol Bell, Colleen Bilas  
 Phillip Calloway, Joseph Hooker

### Bronze Life Master

Joseph Hooker, Bettyanne Houts  
 Norma Krueger, Albert Stock

### Silver Life Master

Sherman Gao, Edward Hsi, Alyssa Kennedy

**Gold Life Master:** Barbara Pinchuk

**Diamond Life Master:** Gary Frans

**Platinums Life Master:** Jeffrey Goldsmith

## Next Month's Problem Solvers Panel Problems

1. MPs no vul:

South	West	North	East
1♥	3♠	Pass	Pass
?		Pass	Pass

You, South, hold:

♠A8 ♥KJT82 ♦KT753 ♣K

What call do you make?

2. MP no vul:

South	West	North	East
	1♣	Dbl	1♥
?			

You, South, hold:

♠Q83 ♥K ♦Q9853 ♣KT73

What call do you make?

3. IMPs EW vul:

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♦	4♠	5♦
5♠	Pass	Pass	6♦
?			

You, South, hold:

♠KQJ753 ♥6 ♦6 ♣KQ642

What call do you make?

4. IMPs no vul

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:

♠K2 ♥AKJ652 ♦A32 ♣A9

What call do you make?

5. IMPs NS vul

South	West	North	East
Pass	1♠	Dbl	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:

♠Q7 ♥T87 ♦J97 ♣AQJ92

What call do you make?