

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 51, #11

November 2015

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Torrance Stats

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



Computers are a curse or a blessing. It's one or the other for most of us. Summaries are produced with ease and quickly. So, with the Torrance Regional only a few days in the past, we have some data for you.

The Marriott is a nice location for a tournament. Parking is right there. The main room is open and well lit. Lots of hall space for meeting your partners or resting with your coffee. Starbucks down the hall. Staff was on top of things. Nice breakfasts in the restaurant in addition to the pastries out front. Rooms with a view for those who stayed at the hotel. Nice breezes from the beach. OK, so it's a few minutes from the freeway. Not as good as Ventura, but about the same as the Westin in Palm Springs. A total of 867 players enjoyed the games. Did you?

The 987 tables this year was a slight increase over last. We had folks from as far away as New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Oregon, and Texas, plus one from S Korea. Rounding the numbers, we had 540 players from our District, 270 from District 22, and 60 "Pro's" and clients from all over. We thank everyone who travelled those distances and hope you enjoyed the week.

One of our pleasures was to welcome 80 players for Gerri Carlson's lesson and game on Monday morning. Many stayed to mix it up with the main room in the afternoon and that was a good sign to keep that event on the schedule. We did not count how many times the lesson subject – preempts – came up in the student game, but anyone who stayed on for the first regular session may remember the hand that had nine spades. I heard of one case at least that opened 6♠. A trump lead beat it.

To continue with the stats: 3,950 sessions of bridge were played. Our friends from District 22 played more

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

A few STAC motions

by Rand Pinsky, District Director



I do not have much information to present this month. The Board packet will not be distributed until the first week of November so I cannot discuss the motions that will be presented. I do know that there will be one motion regarding STACs and one regarding cheating.

The STAC motion has to do with invitational or limited clubs holding STACs and making these games unlimited. It has been seem throughout the League that this gives an opportunity to the people playing in these limited games to reach the open overalls without having to play against any "A" players.

The motion regarding cheating has to do with expulsion from the League without the possibility of reinstatement. I will know more about this motion when I have an opportunity to review it.

It's a Different View from Dummy

Regarding our District, I have appointed Gerri Soffer-Carlton and Adam Barron to the National Goodwill Committee. Gerri has been organizing the 299er lectures and lessons at our Regionals and Adam has been leading the Glendale Unit as President and also as the director of the Regency Bridge Club.

Finally, next month will be my last report to the District as my term as District Director comes to an end. Kevin Lane will be taking over in January.

As always I welcome your comments. You can reach me at Pinsky4Bridge@earthlink.net.

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DO YOU ENJOY TEACHING BRIDGE?

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SIGNIFICANTLY
INCREASE ITS BRIDGE TEACHING PROGRAM,
COMMENCING
EARLY IN 2016.**

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AND BEING PART OF AN EXPANDING PROGRAM
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TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

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PRESIDENT continued from page 1

than 25% of them. The Pro teams added up to 15% of those sessions, leaving 60% for members of D23. The next generation of computers will be needed to split out the masterpoint allocations unless we have a volunteer in the audience.

The ACBL web site has all the results on their "Tournaments" page. See how all your friends and neighbors fared and all the point totals at the end.

We are sorry to say goodbye to our wonderful DIC, Brian Russell. He's been with D23 for the last six Regionals and his calm presence has made it enjoyable. Brian has moved to North Carolina to enjoy more family time. We will import McKenzie Myers from Oregon for our Feb 16 LAX Sheraton DIC and welcome him to the big city.

Last item: did anyone compare the player total above with the "player total" on the ACBL site? Despite best efforts, some players leave the table with no MPs. We hope they do better at the next tournament. We'll bring the coffee.

Looking for a Club?

Did you know how easy it is to find a bridge game in LA? The following URL will bring you to a great ACBL page:

<https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

All 34 Clubs in Los Angeles are listed (including one new one that I didn't know about) and you can look up all the game times, locations, and contact info. Some of them even offer cookies - the good kind!

Go out and try them all. Wonder who holds the record for most club games in a week? Any claims?

- by Mike Marcucci



Los Angeles Regional at LAX

Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016



Free 299'er
Workshop & Lunch

Free two-hour bridge workshop and lesson on Monday Feb 15th from 10:30am to 12:30, followed by lite lunch.
Game at 1:15

Registration required
Please call Jeff Grotenhuis
310.600.4275
JeffGro@gmail.com

Four Points by Sheraton at LAX
9750 Airport Blvd., LA 90045

Reserve early, rooms will sell out!
1-800-529-4683

- ♥ Room rate \$126 (please refer to ALACBU ATTENDEES)
- ♥ Reserve before Monday, February 1st 2016
- ♥ Complimentary WiFi, access to 24 hour fitness center and swimming pool, and free airport shuttle
- ♥ Convenient transportation to Manhattan Beach shopping and restaurants
- ♥ Self parking \$10.00 per day
- ♥ Card fees \$14 for paid members, \$18 for others.




Need partner or team mates?

Diane Sachs 562-981-4884 or
dianesachs@yahoo.com

Tournament manager Peter Benjamin

310-720-6050, ahoneydo@aol.com

Director-in-Charge McKenzie Meyers

Sanction #1602047



Los Angeles Regional at LAX

Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016

Revised

<p>Monday Feb 15th</p> <p>10:30 AM Free 299er Workshop & Lunch (reservation required)</p> <p>1:15 PM Afternoon Side Game Series 1 of 6 Stratified Charity Pairs 1 of 2 (0-1500/3000/3000+) 299er Pairs Game</p> <p>7:00 PM PM Side Game Series 1 of 5 Stratified Charity Pairs 2 of 2 (0-1500/3000/3000+)</p> <p>Thursday Feb 18th</p> <p>10:30 AM AM Side Game Series 3 of 5 Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+) 1 of 2 Abe Lincoln KO 3 of 4 Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (no player over 3000) 1 of 2 Pat Banks Memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2 299er Pairs Game</p> <p>2:30 PM Guest Lecture</p> <p>3:15 PM Abe Lincoln KO 4 of 4 Afternoon Side Game Series 4 of 6 Flight A/X Swiss (0-5000/5000+) 2 of 2 Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (no player over 3000) 2 of 2 Pat Banks Memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session) 299er Swiss Team</p> <p>7:30 PM PM Side Game Series 4 of 5 299er Pairs Game</p>	<p>Tuesday Feb 16th</p> <p>10:30 AM AM Side Game Series 1 of 5 George Washington KO 1 of 4 Rita Corwin Memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2 GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2 299er Pairs Game</p> <p>2:30 PM Guest Lecture</p> <p>3:15 PM George Washington KO 2 of 4 Afternoon Side Game Series 2 of 6 Rita Corwin Memorial Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2 GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)</p> <p>7:30 PM PM Side Game Series 2 of 5 299er Pairs Game</p> <p>Friday Feb 19</p> <p>10:30 AM AM Side Game Series 4 of 5 Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2 GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2 Teddy Roosevelt KO 1 of 4 299er Pairs Game</p> <p>2:30 PM Guest Lecture</p> <p>3:15 PM Afternoon Side Game Series 5 of 6 Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2 GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2 Teddy Roosevelt KO 2 of 4 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session) 299er Pairs Game</p> <p>7:30 PM PM Side Game Series 5 of 5</p>	<p>Wednesday Feb 17th</p> <p>10:30 AM AM Side Game Series 2 of 5 George Washington KO 3 of 4 Abe Lincoln KO 1 of 4 Wednesday Compact KO 1 & 2 Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2 GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2 299er Pairs Game</p> <p>2:30 PM Guest Lecture</p> <p>3:15 PM George Washington KO 4 of 4 Abe Lincoln KO 2 of 4 Wednesday Compact KO 3 & 4 Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2 GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session) 299er Pairs Game</p> <p>7:30 PM PM Side Game Series 3 of 5</p> <p>Saturday Feb 20</p> <p>10:30 AM AM Side Game Series 5 of 5 Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 1 of 2 GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 1 OF 2 Teddy Roosevelt KO 3 of 4 Saturday Compact KO 1 & 2 299er Pairs Game</p> <p>2:30 PM Guest Lecture</p> <p>3:15 PM Afternoon Side Game Series 6 of 6 Open Pairs (0-1500/3000/3000+) 2 of 2 GOLD RUSH PAIRS (100/300/750) 2 OF 2 Teddy Roosevelt KO 4 of 4 Saturday Compact KO 3 & 4 299er Pairs game Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)</p>
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♥ Strats determined by MP averages, but no player can exceed the event limit.

♥ Open Events and side series are stratified 0-1500/3000/3000+

♥ Gold Rush Pairs award gold points to overall winners and 0 – 750 section tops; red points to 0 – 300.

♥ All KO's are bracketed, random draw and may be handicapped.

Sunday Feb 21st
10:00 AM & TBA, 7 seven-board matches with short lunch break:

A/X Swiss Teams (0-5000/5000+)

Bracketed Flight B Swiss Teams (0 – 3000), 8 teams per bracket; 3 in each bracket win gold

Stratified Fast Pairs - 2 sessions (0-750/750-3000/3000+)

New Sectional Tournament for 299ers

by Jeff Grotenhuis

me in one game!

"Don't even think about starting a bridge club. No one plays bridge in Los Angeles anymore," was the inspiration I received from District Manager Peter Benjamin back in 2011. I was about to launch Agile Bridge Club a few miles from Peter's residence. A life-long entrepreneur, I had a dream that if people were taught the game I loved in a fun, patient way, they would grow to love it the way I did. Before long, Peter was glad I failed to heed his advice. Jeff's Agile Bridge Club recently surpassed 60 tables in one week.

To make the games more fun, I start each one with a lecture that includes a few jokes. I have tried out almost every type of game: pot lucks, Quinellas, Swiss Teams, Top Scorer, Silent Auctions, Mentor/Mentee, ice cream socials, North American Pairs, and Beat the House. I stopped the last one after too many pairs beat

A Tournament at the Beach?

The South Bay has not hosted a bridge tournament for two and a half years. The weekend of January 15-17, 2016, that changes. The South Bay beach cities welcome their first ever bridge tournament: the Beach Cities 299r Sectional. There will be two daily games Friday through Sunday at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Players must have less than 300 master points to enter. New players (49ers) will play separate games. All games will grant silver points exclusively.

All stops are being pulled out to make this event special and memorable. Guest speakers will give free lessons daily at 9:15 a.m. A bridge expert will analyze select morning hands between the morning and afternoon games. The Friday afternoon game is **free** for →



Palm Springs Regional

December 14-20, 2015

Westin Mission Hills Golf Resort & Spa • 71333 Dinah Shore Drive, Rancho Mirage CA 92270 • 877 253-0041

Visit our Website: PalmSpringsRegional.com

2015 Schedule Features

Tournament Now Begins Monday at 1:00 p.m.
Gold Rush Pairs Tue-Wed-Thur-Fri & Sat
New Knockouts begin every day except Sunday!
Compact KOs on Monday and Saturday • IMP Pairs Friday
Open Pairs: 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
Sun 0-2000 Bracketed Swiss: 1st/2nd/3rd each bracket pays Gold!

Knockout Teams

Monday Charity Compact Knockout Teams.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Evening Knockout Teams Tue-Thur (3 sessions).....7:30 p.m.
Tue-Wed Bracketed Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wed-Thur Bracketed Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Thur-Fri Bracketed Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Fri-Sat Bracketed Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Saturday Compact Knockout Teams.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Knockout Teams will not be Handicapped

Open Pairs Games

Monday Charity Pairs (part of side game series) single sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Tues-Wed-Thur & Sat Open Pairs 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Tues-Wed-Thur-Fri-Sat Gold Rush Pairs 0-750.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Friday IMP Pairs 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Sunday Fast Open Pairs two sessions.....10:00 a.m. & TBA

Tournament Manager: Tom Shulman • 702 301-5856 tomshulman@gmail.com
Asst. Manager: Scott Magged • email: scott@solidgoldins.com
Partnership Chair: Darryl Hendershot • email: darrylhen.darryl@aol.com
Online Partnership Desk: PalmSpringsRegional.com
Caddie Master: Leslie Heid • email: Lbridgeb@gmail.com
Director: Gary Zeiger • Sanction: R1512003

Swiss Teams

Monday Charity Swiss Teams single session.....7:00 p.m.
Tuesday thru Saturday Swiss Teams single sessions.....3:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday Eve Swiss Teams double session.....7:30 p.m.
Tue-Wed & Sat Eve Swiss Teams single sessions.....7:30 p.m.
Sunday Swiss A: 0-3000/3000-5000/5000+ B: Bracketed 0-2000.10:00 a.m. & TBA

Side Game Series

Mornings, Tuesday through Saturday single sessions.....10:00 a.m.
Afternoons, Monday Charity (1:00) Tue-Sat single sessions.....3:00 p.m.
Evenings, Monday Charity (7:00) Tue-Sat single sessions.....7:30 p.m.

Maritha's I/N Bridge Boot Camp – Free!
Lectures & Ask the Experts Desk daily
0-5 MPs (ACBL members) play free on Monday!
Expert Guest Speakers Tues-Sat.....9:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Monday 0-300 Charity Pairs single sessions.....1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Tues-Sat 0-100 & 0-300 Pairs single sessions.....10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.

Largest in the West! Tournament Highlights
♦ ACBL Presidents "Passing of The Gavel" Reception
♥ KO Brackets 1 & 2 finals played behind Bidding Screens
♦ Great Prizes & Giveaways ♦ Free Morning & Evening Coffee
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PalmSpringsRegional.com



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new players with fewer than 5 mps. A Swiss Team game will be held Sunday afternoon. There will be plenty of snacks and coffee. Lunch will be available for purchase.

The Tournament festivities will begin the week prior with a Charity Pro Am Bridge Game benefitting Youth Bridge. It will be held Thursday January 7, at 12:15pm at the Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club 2515 Valley Drive. Pros play free.

As tournament coordinator, I am planning for a large turnout. With Agile Bridge Club's Friday morning game already having reached 23 tables of 299rs, I expect a turnout of over 30 tables for the Friday morning and both Saturday games. As a result both the Kiwanis and Rotary Club buildings located in Valley Park in Hermosa Beach have been reserved.

Players from as far away as Maryland and Upstate New York have already made plans to fly out for the Beach Cities Sectional. Hotel Hermosa 2515 Pacific Coast Hwy., just one block from the venue, is the host hotel. Those who book rooms prior to Dec. 15 receive a 20% discount.

Pre-registration begins Tuesday Nov. 3 at 11:00 a.m. at the Hermosa Kiwanis Club, 2515 Valley Drive. Partnership Chair Jan Drayer 310-574-9630, drayerji@gmail.com has already begun matching partners. For questions regarding the tournament, contact Jeff Grotenhuis 310-600-4725, jeffgro@gmail.com or visit <http://www.bridgewebs.com/beachcitiessectional/>.

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.

I really have no story. Considering the accomplishments of others, I haven't done much. It is fun to play bridge, even at my level. I have found a terrific teacher. I will never be a Life Master, but the wonderful thing about bridge is that it can be enjoyable at any level.

Toby Idol
Regional Master

Beach Cities Sectional (299r) January 15-17, 2016

Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club - 2515 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach CA 90254 - 310.600.4275

EVENT	FRIDAY 1/15	SATURDAY 1/16	SUNDAY 1/17
299r / 49r Pairs 3 Strat Sections: 0-50, 50-100, 100-300	10:00 AM* 2 :30 PM**	10:00 AM* 2:30 PM	10:00 AM*
Swiss Teams 5 boards / 4 rounds			2:30 PM

* Lessons held at 9:30 AM on Friday, Saturday and Sunday
** New players with 0-5 master points play free on Friday at 2:30 pm!

♠ FUN ♥ FOOD ♦ SILVER POINTS ♣

Pre-order \$7 lunch before 10:00 AM

Coffee - Variety of snacks

Tournament Chair:

Jeff Grotenhuis (310) 600-4275
jeffgro@gmail.com

Partnerships:

Jan Drayer (707) 478-6654
drayerji@gmail.com "Bridge" in subject

Unit 568

Sanction S1601084



Card Fees:

Pair Games - \$14 per player
Sunday Swiss - \$56/4 person team

\$4 surcharge per session for unpaid or non-ACBL members

Pre-dealt hands for all pair games

Results: www.agilebridgeclub.com



Around the Units in District 23

Glendale Verdugo by Sharon Wolf

Unit Game, November 14, 2015
Lunch at 11:15, game at noon

Results of the October Unit game were as follows:

N/S

A1	Carolyn Cohen & Tim Lolli
A2	Margaret Mataga & Gloria Balfour
A3	Phil Dessert & Dominique Moore
B2	Lyle Weideman & Tor Hylbom

E/W

A1	Jack Futrell & Joseph Viola
A2 B1 C1	Nancy Lyon & Betsy Josias
A3	Gerry Belcher & Amr Elghamry
B2	Mike Doll & Patrick Cardullo
C2	Temo Arjani & Steve Page

Our next Unit game is on November 14. Please join us.

Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

September 20 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Shiu-ming Huang/Amr Elghamry, 2nd Steve and Charlotte Sturm, 3rd John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 4th Diane Starbuck/Eddie Gruber, 5th Jackie Hess/Steve Skinner, 6th Verna Burns/Joan Tschirki. In the B flight overall: 5th Usha Bansal/Rob Preece, 6th Arne Lier/Ann Croul. And in the C flight overall: 2nd Sherry Troeger/Fay Beckerman, 3rd Collen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez, tied for 4/5 Kiyo Nagaishi/Renee Hoffman and Betty Witteried/Christine Frumen. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: September 16 through October 15:

In the NLM game Sept 29 Louise Sperr/Ralph Brunson had 70.14%. Congratulations to you two!

Big Masterpoint Awards September 16 through October 15: In the open game Sept 16 Stanley Snyder/Bob Rubin won 3.79mp for 1st. Sept 18 Betty McClellan/Betty Witteried won 5.98mp for 1st, Randy Hamlin/Mark Fraser 4.49 for 2nd, Toni Morford/John Crabtree 3.36mp for 3rd. Sept 19 Betty McClellan/Marcie Evans won 3.35mp for 1st. In the unit game Sept 20 Shiu-ming Huang won 4.23mp for 1st, Charlotte and Steve Sturm won 3.17mp for 2nd. Oct 5 Ann Croul/Shmuel Fisher won 5.06mp for 1st, Rich Wasser/Steve Skinner 3.80mp for 2nd. Oct 6 Phil Schuster/George Thompson won 6.19mp for 1st, Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein 4.64mp for 2nd, Steve Mager/Ted Gibbs 3.48mp for 3rd. Oct 7 Steve Skinner/Baum Harris won 4.88mp for 1st, Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger 3.66mp for 2nd. Oct 8 Marcus Evans/Lawrence Laughlin won 4.31mp for 1st, Marcie Evans/Steve Skinner 3.23mp for 2nd. Oct 9 Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley won 5.10mp for 1st, Christine Frumen/John Galligher 3.83mp for 2nd. Oct 10 Mike Daley/Earl VanDerVord won 4.51mp for 1st, John Bralliar/Lowell Andrews 3.23mp for 2nd. And on Oct 11 Arne Lier/Ann Croul won 3.56mp for 1st. Congratulations to all 21 pairs!!

Condolences to friends and family of Elinor Barattelle who passed away late last month and Susan Hafen who passed away earlier this month.

New Member: Dr. Lawrence Laughlin. Welcome to the Club!

Status Changes: New Junior Life Master: Robert Barmeyer and new Regional Master Julie Osborne. Congratulations to you both!

Upcoming Events at the Club

November 1-7: Club Championship Week, extra points, regular prices.

November 8: unit-rated team game

November 14-15: Long Beach Sectional

November 16-24: District 22-23 STac.

→

November 22: Unit Game - Pot Luck lunch at 12:30, game begins at 1 p.m. Card fees \$8.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Games

Sept 19 Clubhouse #1: Judy Carter-Johnson/Cooie Dampman 1 in A, 1 in B. Jaye Woodington/Gary Paugh 2 in A. Dorothy Favre/Stam Blitz 3 in A, 2 in B. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 4 in A, 3 in B. Sue Fardette/Vince Remedios 5 in A, 4 in B. Joan and Ted Wieber 6 in A, 5 in B. Barbara and Alan Olschwang 1 in C. Julie Cunningham/Dick Stammerjohn 2 in C. Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw 3 in C.

Pro Am Game Sept 21 Clubhouse #3: N/S Larry Slutsky/Ted Wieber 1 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson and Chie Wickham 2 in A. Norma Krueger/John Hagman 3 in A. Tybie Becker/Mark Sanger 4 in A. E/W Eileen Nelson/Bill Power 1 in A. Simone Chottin/Joyce Basch 2 in A. Jeanette Estill/Ellen Kice 3 in A. Dorothy Favre/Ron Yaffee 4 in A.

Oct 2 Clubhouse #1: Jeanette Estill/Marilyn McClintock 1 in A. Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Slutsky 2 in A. Diane Starbuck/Eddie Gruber 3 in A. Linda and Dick Stein 4 in A. Midge Dunagan/George Koehm 5 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Judy Carter-Johnson/Fred Benedetti 6 in A. Cookie Pham/Bobbie Vann 2 in B. Cooie Dampman/Carman Gross 3 in B. Eileen Kotecki/Jaye Woodington 4 in B. Linda Nye/Alan Olschwang 5 in B, 2 in C. Audrey Healy/Thuan Gwynn 3 in C. Janet Gibbons/Jack Dampman 4 in C.

Congratulations: 70+% - On 9/17 Dorothy Favre and Gary Paugh--72.65% game and on 10/9 Sibyl Slutsky and Gary Paugh -- 71.96% game!!!

Get Well Wishes to Ruth (Paddy) Kaller, Lottie Kostar and Jack Dampman.

Upcoming Games

Club Championship Game: Clubhouse #3, Nov 12, December 21

Unit Rated Game: Clubhouse #1, October 24, Nov 21. Clubhouse #3 October 12.

Pasadena-San Gabriel Valley by Marty Weiss

District 23 Scholarship Program

Approximately 20 years ago, District 23 of the ACBL started the Scholarship program. This was implemented by the efforts of Paula Oliver of the Pasadena-San Gabriel Unit.

The program was designed to assist high school seniors who have some bridge affiliation, with their college expenses. Candidates were required to reside within District 23 boundaries and maintain a 3.0 GPA in their senior year.

The amount of the annual awards is determined by funds available in the scholarship fund. Scholarships are renewable for up to 4 years. Students must maintain a 3.0 GPA.

About six years ago, the District established a tax exempt foundation status. The scholarship program is financed by contributions from units and individual donors. Currently there are 10 recipients, each receiving \$800. John Jones, who mentors bridge and teaches math at Elizabeth Street Learning Center in Cudahy, has sponsored several students with financial need. Nolan Chang from our unit is another recipient.

The "Name a Game," that honors individuals at regional events, is used to raise tax deductible donations to the foundation. The required donation to name an event is \$100 per session.

Contributions in any amount are welcome. Checks made out the ALACBU Scholarship Foundation should be sent to Peter Szecsi, 497 E. California Bl., #309, Pasadena, CA, 91106. For further information, call 626 304-9535.

Upcoming Events

559 Unit Game: Sunday, November 8, 1:00
San Marino Community Center
1800 Huntington Drive, San Marino

Unit Christmas Party
Sunday, December 13

Arcadia Bridge Center:
Beat the House Night: Friday, November 20 7:15
Winners and Losers: Sunday, November 22 1:00 →

Arcadia Bridge Center is closed on Thanksgiving Day.

Our Members Score!

Unit Game October 4

Flight A: Fredy Minter Lulu Minter
Flight B: Margaret Mataga Adam Barron
Flight C: Robert Novell Robert Verhoef

Los Angeles Regional, Torrance
Results through Thursday, October 15

Marvin Grabel Memorial Open Pairs
Margie Gould-Ronald Morris: 1st overall - 12.69 points

Wednesday Open Pairs
Xingping Kang-Chi-Chong Yu: 1st in B - .35 gold

On Thursday, Oct. 1st, at Arcadia, I was seated north at table 1. My partner was Roy Wilson, and, for round one, my LHO was Herman Helber and my RHO was Peter Szecsi. We had some stimulating conversation and a couple of good laughs as we each shuffled and dealt out one deck, following which we picked up our hands to bid and play board one. I took a quick look at my hand. It was a 6/5er: ♠KQJ10xx Clubs ♠AJ10xx. I quickly decided I would open a club, then bid spades twice, to show my distribution. I did open 1♣, and, on my left, Herman bid 1♥. My partner doubled, and a spirited auction ensued which culminated with me playing 5♠, undoubled. The dummy came down with 4♠, as promised. There were no comments by any of us, as I proceeded with the play, going down two. I entered the score on the traveler, we replaced our cards in their slots and were about to embark on the next board, when Peter, my RHO, said, "You were 5-5 in clubs and spades, right." "No", I said, "I had 6 clubs and 5 spades. He disagreed, so I extracted my hand to show him. "There!" I said, as I displayed my 6 clubs, my 5 Spades, my singleton Heart, and my TWO little Diamonds. "Oh, oh....I had 14 cards." Now we all picked up our hands and Herman said, "Oh, oh. It looks like I also had 14 cards." Peter, solid as a rock, as always, said, "Well, I have 13." That left my partner quite short-handed, with just 11 cards. Talk about embarrassing moments, three of us had the wrong count in hand, and all four of

us were totally unaware of an eleven card dummy. There is, of course, a moral to this story. It is....'At our age, Count Your Blessings....and your cards.'

It is noted that, pursuant to Law 7, Sect B2, all players are directed to count their cards, and in some situations, may be subjected to penalties for failing to properly do so.

Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Sat, November 21, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – Sat, November 3, 9:30 a.m., LaVerne Site

Back to normal after the Torrance Regional. Our publishing deadline occurs right in the middle of the tournament, so we'll have some news from there for you next month. Meanwhile ...

In the closely contested September Unit Game, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor came out on top. Margie Hall - Ann Raymond tied for second with Tom Lill – Linda Tessier. Fourth were Anand and Kirin Kumar. Only 4½ match points separated the top four spots.

The October Individual, Ann McClelland took the top spot, edging our Linda Tessier by just ½ match point. To add insult to injury (for Linda, that is), Linda was leading until the last score – a late play – came in. Such is life ... and Bridge. In third place was Don Logsdon, followed by Bob Kakade, and Richard Patterson.

The October Individual marked the end of our Championship year, which determines the overall club winner. It's a somewhat bizarre formula (don't ask, unless you really, really want to know). The top qualifiers:

Clint Lew	61.1%
Steve Mancini	59.9%
Ann McClelland	59.0%
Bob Kakade	57.0%
Richard Patterson	56.6%

It should be noted that in the 10 years or so we've been holding the Individual, no one has ever had a score as high as 60%. (It's a weighted average of multiple games.) A 75% score in a 20-player game really helped!

The top game this month was shared by two pairs: a 68.4% game was turned in by Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, and also by Chuck Lohr – Vic Sartor. Other winners: Richard Patterson, Gino Barbieri, Clint Lew, Fredy Minter, Lulu Minter, Gayle Ginsburg, Linda Tes- →

sier, Walt Otto, Penny Barbieri, and Hanan Mogharbel. For our hand of the month, we have a nice freak deal. With both sides vulnerable, as dealer you find yourself looking at this shapely hand: ♠AQ84 ♥AK87532 ♦AT ♣--.

A three-loser hand, so you might open 2♣ if that's your style. Let's be simple and say you open 1♥. The auction will procede 2♦-4♥-4♠.

Well, you now know where the ♠K is, and all you see is a diamond loser, so you bid 6♥. Two passes follow, and RHO calls 6♠! Now what?

You're still looking at that pesky diamond loser (unless partner has the ♣A – or the ♦K – no way to find out, now), so you decide to take the money and double. It goes for 1100, which is an above average score. Unfortunately, partner has ♠-- ♥T96 ♦8 ♣KQT987642 and with an opening spade lead, 13 tricks would roll home. Twelve tricks are always there, because the full deal is

	♠95	
	♥QJ	
	♦KJ643	
	♣AJ63	
♠AQ84		♠--
♥AK87532		♥T96
♦AT		♦8
♣--		♣KQT987642
	♠KJT7632	
	♥4	
	♦Q9752	
	♣--	

That's right. Partner had a nine card suit and never mentioned it. Needless to say, declarer in 6♠x got the shock of his life when he tried to come to hand with a club ruff (with the ♠7) and got overruffed with the ♠8!

One pair played in 6♥x (+1660) and one pair actually found a way to bid the grand, which made. Must be nice...

When was the last time you saw a deal with three voids? The odds against any single hand having a void are about 1 in 20. I'd guess the odds against **three** voids are somewhat better than 1 in 203 = 1 in 8000, but probably not much better.

Quote for the Month: "Sometimes a majority simply means that all the fools are on the same side." (Claude McDonald)

Until next month ...

San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Unit 561 Gala Holiday Bridge/Dinner

Unit 561 will host a Gala Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party to be held on Saturday, December 5, at the 750 Club in Woodland Hills. An Open Pair Game will start at 2 p.m. in Taylor Hall (usual bridge room), followed by a festive, holiday dinner (catered by Stonefire Grill) at approximately 6 p.m., in the Family Center on Rudnick Avenue.

The cost per person will be \$25 and includes both bridge and dinner. Due to limited seating, pre-purchase of non-refundable tickets by Tuesday, December 1, is required. Sales of tickets will begin about mid-November at the 750 Club or by mail to Rochelle Lotto at 23679 Calabasas Rd., # 375, Calabasas, CA 91302 (nanalotto@yahoo.com).

Cash (750 Club only) or checks payable to "Unit 561" will be accepted. If you are mailing in your ticket purchase, please do this by Monday, November 23, and include your telephone number, email address, and your partner's name (if known). An email confirmation will be sent to you and your ticket(s) will be held for will-call pick-up on December 5. Note: There will be no on-site sales on the day of this event.

Get your Holiday Season off to a "Grand Slam" and don't miss out on this annual Unit 561 special event! For partnership assistance and further information, please contact M.J. Jubelirer at mjjubelirer@att.net.

Unit 561 Board Nominations

Are you looking for adventure of a new and different kind? Unit 561 is seeking members who are interested in running for a two-year term on the Unit Board, beginning January 1, 2016. This is an opportunity to give back to the San Fernando Valley bridge community, meet new friends, and have an impact on changing things for the betterment of 561 bridge players.

If you wish to self-nominate, please contact Dennis Forst at diforst123@gmail.com or sign up at the 750 Club. Nominations must be received by Monday, November 16. The Unit Board election will be held at the December 5 Holiday Party. May you be with the "Bridge Force" of Unit 561!

Special Congratulations

New Life Master Achievements by Unit 561 Players are Doug Beagle and Mark La Vine (Bronze).

September Top Ten Masterpoints at the 750 Club were Gary Baxley 11.48, Susan Raphael 11.44, Ray Primus 10.20, Linda Silvey 9.29, Phil Calloway 9.09, Martin Hurwitz 7.77, Leonard Popowitz 7.65, Dwight Hunt 7.18, Ron Malkin, 7.11, and Ellen Carrier 6.85.

Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, November 10, the second Tuesday (not the third Tuesday) in November. Dinner is \$18 per person and starts at 6 p.m. and the bridge is \$5 per person and begins at 7 p.m. This is an ACBL sanctioned game and the first place NS and EW winners will receive coupons for Braemar's Wednesday night "Pastabilities" dinner. For reservations and/or partnerships contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

November Special Events at the 750 Club

November Activities at the 750 Bridge Club will include: "Giving Thanks Week," November 9-13. During this week the 750 Club will donate \$1.00 from each card fee to our next-door neighbor, the West Valley Food Pantry. Players are encouraged to make additional donations in cash or checks payable to the "West Valley Food Pantry". On Wednesday, November 11, Veterans' Day will be celebrated by a special drawing for free plays.

Calendar

Monday – Friday, November 9-13, Giving Thanks Week at the 750 Club.

Tuesday, November 10, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night. See details above.

Wednesday, November 11, Veterans' Day: Drawings for free plays at the 750 Club.

Monday, November 16, deadline to indicate an interest in serving on the Unit 561 Board, 2016-2017. See sign-up details listed above.

Saturday, December 5, Unit 561 Holiday Bridge Party/Dinner. See details above.

Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Magic Mountain Sectional Results October 24-25 2015

Saturday Morning Open Pairs

- 1 Markle Vandervort and Lamonte Johnson with 56%
- 2 Kristi Kubo and Rita Vannatter with 55.3%
- 3 Donna Davidson and Norman Pine with 55.1%

Saturday Morning 299er Pairs

- 1 Roseann Buckley and Deborah Harrington with 62%
- 2 Linda Dillon and Anita Walker with 61%
- 3 Paul Reukakuf and Barbara York with 59%

Saturday Afternoon Open Pairs

- 1 Marta Monheim and John Langer with 70%
- 2 Bill Brodek and Hugh Bartlett with 64%
- 3 Bert Stock and Margie Pinkers with 63%

Saturday Afternoon 299er Pairs

- 1 Carol Provost and Aggi Oschin with 60%
- 2 Roseann Buckley and Deborah Harrington with 59%
- 3 Deborah Kerr and Louise Cathcart with 54%

Sunday Alene Friedman Swiss Teams

- 1 John Langer, Bill Brodeck, Bill McClean and Rand Pinsky
- 2 Brad Ward, John Swanson, Willo Phillips and William Hall
- 3 Alexander Kolesnik, Roberto Scaramuzzi, Jeffrey Goldsmith and Paul Markarian
- 4 Ted Maki, George MacDonald, Tom and Barbara Jones

Thanks to Peter Knee for a very pleasant and well-run tournament.

Congratulations to Roy Ladd, Bert Stock, Marjorie Romans and Om Chokriwala who won KO2 on Tuesday and Wednesday at the Los Angeles Fall Regional. Bert also played with Jackie Moor when they came in second overall in the Friday Gold Rush pairs with 60.7%.

Welcome to new ACBL members Jane Dietz and Purshottam Tennarangam.

Unit Game Results

Valencia Bridge Studio on September 29

North South Winners

- 1 Alene Friedman and Rand Pinsky with 55%
- 2 Kathy Swaine and Paul Mostman with 54%
- 3 Betty Pavey and John Langer with 53.8%

East/West Winners

- 1 Paula Olivares and Bill Brodek with 61%
- 2 Gary Grey and Arif Shah with 60%
- 3 Charles and Beth Morrin with 52%

Instant Matchpoint Game on October 16**North/South Winners**

- 1 Paula Olivares and Bill Brodek with 61%
- 2 Henry Roediger and Sharry Vida with 55%
- 3 Nora Fincher and Rosalee McEntyre with 50%

East/West Winners

- 1 Carol Provost and Aggi Oschin with 61%
- 2 May Abagi and Leah Levitt with 56%
- 3 Carol and Hal Underwood with 55%

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Unit Games: Thursday, November 5 in Castaic at 10:00 a.m., Monday December 7 at the Friendly Valley Bridge Club at 1:00 p.m., and Thursday, December 10 in Castaic.

Next board meeting will be a conference call in November. Anyone interested in serving on the board for 2016 can submit their name to Paula Olivares.

After-Holiday Potluck and Annual Membership Meeting: Tuesday, January 12.

Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

NLM Club Championship: Thurs, Nov 5, 10:30 a.m.
 Club Swiss Team Championship: Tues, Nov 10, 7 p.m.
 Club Championship: Fri, Nov 13, 11:30 a.m.
 Club Championship: Wed, Nov 18, 7 p.m.
 Friday Night games on November 6 and 20

Club Championships

The September 21 Club Championship was won by Booth Tarkington/Jim Jensen in Flights A and B with Bruce Merchant/ Tom Criswell on top in Flight C. On October 5 the Club Championship was captured by Stan Greengard/Mark Raggio in both Flights A and B. The October 12 Championship was won by Fran Israel/ Stan Greengard in Flight A and Janice Scholler/Lina Ashar in Flight B. The popular Eight is Enough Swiss team event on September 26 was led by a team of Fran Israel, Ray Mack, Bruce Merchant and JoAnna Wallis in Flight A and a team of Janice Scholler, Joyce Klossner, Barbara Catino and Lina Asher, in Flight B.

In Club Appreciation games at other local Clubs the results are as follows. The Anderson Park afternoon game on October 2 was led by William Baxter/Margaret Enders in Flight A with Lee Sagendorf/Robert Fieselman leading Flight B and Virginia Brewer/Barbara Catino ahead in Flight C. The October 2 Evening game at Anderson Park was won by Kathy Miglin/Marsha Curry in Flights A, B and C. The Veterans park game on October 5 was won by Elaine Godin/Ed Srenco. The Veterans park game on October 7 was led by Lena Hoomani/Jeff Grotenhuis in Flight A with Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman on top in Flight B and Barbara and Peter Shen ahead in Flight C.

Team Winners

September 22: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Carol Mason, Wayne Otsuki

September 29: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Jeff Strutzel, Wayne Otsuki

October 6: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Cal Waller, Wayne Otsuki

TSB Unit Winners at the Torrance Regional

Leading the way among winners from the TSB unit at the Torrance Regional were Karen and Mike McKittrick who were first overall in 3 Gold Rush Pairs events on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Other people →

whom I believe are unit members who won events include the following:

Monday Morning 299er pairs: Mari Jacobsen/Kathy Soltwedell

Monday Afternoon 299 pairs: Diane Maye/Carol Hansen

Monday Evening Side Game: Dean Kaloudis/Byron Steffenrud

Tuesday Morning 299er pairs: Georgeann Dorn/Mary Gillett

Tuesday Afternoon 299er pairs: Juanita Smith/Marilyn Landau

Tuesday Evening Flt C Swiss: Madge London/Donna Moody/ Freda Main/ Robin Hill

Tuesday Evening Side Game Flt B: Terry Hane

Wednesday Morning 299er pairs: Pamela Haskins/Robin Hill

Wednesday Morning Side Game: Laura Gastelum/Ray Mack

Wednesday Gold Rush Flt Q: Gerald Ketz

Thursday Morning 299er Pairs: Marilyn Henshel/Kathleen Pecarovich

Thursday 0-3000 Brackett 2 KO: Jeff Grotenhuis/Rae Yan

Friday Morning Side Game: Alfred Lee

Frank Jones Pairs Flt B & C: Neal Kleiner

Friday Afternoon Swiss Flt B: Barbara Shortwell/Henry Crowder/Hank Sheehan

Saturday Morning Side Game: Alfred Lee

Saturday Compact KO 3: Rae Yan

Saturday IMP Pairs Flt C; Jeanne Tamaki/David Cheshire

Saturday Gold Rush Pairs Flt Q: Nancy Raishe/Gerry Gastelum

Saturday Afternoon Side Game: Carol McCully/Ed Barad

Saturday Aft Side Game Flt B: Barbara Shortwell

Saturday Aft 299er Swiss Flt D: Madge Weinstein/Juanita Smith/Marlene Felix/Bruce Sheldon

Saturday Aft 299er Swiss Flt E: Kathleen Pecarovich/Barbara Laier/Marilyn Henshel/Nancy Carnes

Morning Side Game Series: Laura Gastelum/Ray Mack

Evening Side Game Series: Dean Kaloudis/Byron Steffenrud

Sunday 0-3000 Brackett 1 Swiss: Carol Mason/Lorna Wallace/Lutrell Long/ Mike Welsh

Sunday 0-3000 Brackett 3 Swiss: Jeff Grotenhuis

GUV Memorial Award

Well I have no outstanding nominees for the GUV award this month but will try to fill in with a few stories from the Torrance Regional. First my pard and I went for a number in a game contract on the first board of an event. A couple tables later we picked up cards for the same board. Our hopes rose hoping some error by our directors had duplicated the board. We hoped maybe the board would get thrown out. Our hopes were dashed when we found out the table arrangement caused us to sit down at the wrong table (Not surprising considering our brilliance on the first board) and there was a web movement in boards.

Without naming names I have a partner who has a very questionable understanding of what constitutes a weak 2 bid. Against a player who is very much up there in recent McKenney races my pard opened a weak 2♦. Following a pass by the McKenney hero I held ♦A52 and enough outside to make a somewhat preemptive raise to 3♦ which was passed out. Sometime while this was going on my RHO hero inquired if this was a Weak 2 Bid. I replied it might be according to my pards understanding of weak 2's but I have seen him do it on Txxxxx in first or second seat. My pard won the opening lead in hand and led the ♦3 the McKenney hero played the ♦4 and declarer put in the ♦5. Believe it or not the ♦5 held the trick as declarer's RHO showed out. The Hero held ♦KQJ4 and I had given him a very accurate description of pards Weak 2 bid.

Lastly Gerri Carlson made a remark in arabic showing her displeasure when pard laid down the dummy. I won't give you the translation of this remark except to say it might be something of a No No at the tables when uttered in English. Her RHO who apparently was Egyptian turned to her and said "So you know that word when you see a bad dummy."

Na Zdrowie

West LA by Robert Shore

Holiday Party and Unit Game:
November 22, 2015, 11:00 a.m.

Unfinished Business

I can finally confirm the winner of our Unit's →

trophies for performance at our sectionals. As usual, Peter Benjamin took home the Jill Meyers Trophy. This year's Mary Jane Farrell Trophy went to Ira Thierer. Congratulations to you for your sustained excellent performances.

Party Time

Have you read any of the Bridge in the Menagerie books by Victor Mollo? In that series, an unforgettable cast of characters led by the Hideous Hog played our favorite game, often to hilarious and instructive effect, at the inimitable Griffin Club. Well, now it's your chance to play there as well. The Beverly Hills Country Club has changed its name and now is known as the Griffin Club. So we can offer our parties' attendees the opportunity to play bridge at the Griffin Club.

You should already have your invitation, and if you don't, we have reply forms at both Beverly Hills and Barrington. Please take advantage of the early registration discount by getting us your check on or before November 11. Our party also doubles as our Unit's annual Membership Meeting, so if there's something that absolutely has to be said before the Unit's entire membership, this is your annual opportunity. And I expect to be able to introduce a new member of the Unit Board at the party.

It's a Tie!

Once again, I am delighted to report that the annual hospitality contest between our Unit and the ABA has ended in a tie, so we'll have to do it again next year. Thank you to all of the players in both organizations who contribute their time and efforts to making the game such a success. The defending champion of the ACBL version of this game was finally dethroned when Stephen Goldstein and Michael Shaw walked away with top honors. I hope you're looking forward to next year's home-and-home series as much as I am.

As long as I'm on the subject of winners, there are a few more to report as well. Becky and Roger Clough headed out to the Taos, New Mexico, Regional and came back with a victory in the Wild River Compact Knock-out Teams event. Mike Savage found the winner's circle at the Riverside Sectional by emerging at the top of the heap in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs event.

Reading Is Fundamental

The Beverly Hills Bridge Club now has an honor-system lending library. It has a wide selection of books, mostly concerning bridge. Benefactors who made this library possible are the estate of Eddie Feldman and the estate of Don Krauss. Think upon these departed friends when you enjoy their legacies.

Welcome Mat

Our Unit continues to grow as seven new members join the ranks. The ACBL's newest West Los Angeles members are Anthony and Lindsay Gronich, Lee Hanson, Sherry Kahn, Cassandra Langston, Robert Moyer, and Royce Younger. Transferring into our Unit from other locales are Rosemary Heath, Christopher Marks, and Kevin Shiue. As always, please give these players a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Beverly Hills reports that Rhoda and Lew Him-mell topped 70%, as did your Humble Scribe, playing with Kevin Lane and with Doug Kuschner. Club champions last month were Alan Chapman and Lou Papp, a tie between Dovid Crum and Gil Stinebaugh and Sue Ann Simon and Susan Somogyi, Chuck Fonarow and Alan Wollman, and Anna Benatar and Maria Pendergast. Amadeo Ursini, Viktor Anikovich, Joe Viola, and your Humble Scribe won the team championship.

Hitting 70% at Barrington were Aram Bedros-Art Zail (twice), Marty Blain-Peter Knee, and Om Chokriwala-Marty Blain. Picking up a club championship were Aram Bedros and Sheri Rivera, Bill Wickham and Peter Benjamin, Ellen Anten and Becky Clough, and James Perkins and Basant Shah.

The Marina City Club holds its games Tuesday evenings at 7:15 at 4333 Admiralty Way. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information or for a partner.

Climbing the Ladder

Our newest Junior Masters are Judi Brown, Florence Cooper, Leslie Dean, and Patricia Jaeger. Ubaldo Marson is now a Club Master, while Mary Williams and Sandra Young are Sectional Masters. Paula Nataf, Sin Orensztin, and Shoreh Toufanian are Regional Masters. Herb Rosenthal is now an NABC Master. Phil Feldman has become a Silver Life Master.

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

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Mitch Dunitz, Eddie Kantar, Roger Lee, Tim Lolli, Mike Shuster, John Swanson, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
EW vul

South	West	North	East
Pass ?	Pass	1♦ Dbl	4♥ Pass

You, South, hold: ♠AT72 ♥J6 ♦T742 ♣K42
What call do you make?

Pass, 4♠ and 5♦ all might be best on any given hand. What's the percentage action? Let's hear from the 4♠ bidders first.

Wittes: 4♠. If doubled, I will bid 5♦. [That makes sense because you will likely be facing a spade stack if you are doubled. The opponents are unlikely to have sufficient high cards nor quick tricks to double if spades aren't stacked.]

Bartusek: 4♠. Partner often has four spades for this auction, and even if he doesn't, I should be able to handle a Moysian fit. When partner holds only three spades, he usually has a stronger hand for his double. Choosing 5♦ might get us too high (especially if partner is 4=1=4=4 or 4=2=4=3). Even though pass should get +200, and sometimes +500, RHO will often have a strong playing hand at these colors.

Dunitz: 4♠. Partner has a big hand, typically with heart shortness. I'm quite comfortable bidding 4♠.

Swanson: 4♠, the same call I

would have made had East bid 3♥.

Kantar: 4♠. My diamond fit was the clincher to bid rather than pass.

Now we'll give the passers the podium.

Lee: Pass. It feels bad since it's not hard to imagine a double game swing, but 4♠ and 5♦ both seem like total guesses to me.

Bare: Pass. I have 1.5 tricks on defense and it's unclear how good a fit we have on offense.

Lolli: Pass. I think 4 tricks on defense will be easier than 10 or 11 on offense.

Shuster: Pass. I don't have any useful shortness. That is really bad for trying to make at the 5-level.

I held this hand at the Bakersfield Sectional and passed. Pass netted down two for +500, but 4♠ would have made for +420. 5♦ would go down a trick, though.

November is a month we remember to be thankful. I'm thankful for our outgoing D23 officers: Becky Clough and Rand Pinsky. They both quietly did fabulous work for the district during their tenures. They will be missed! Next, I'm very thankful for all the people who help me get this column out every month. I'm thankful for all the wonderful panelists who answer my problems. Without them, this column wouldn't even exist. When the problem looks trivial, they answer anyway. When I mess up the formatting, they do their best to figure out what I meant. They get back to me rapidly and never complain when I criticize their bids or comments. Los Angeles has an awesome group of bridge experts! I am also very thankful for my many proofreaders, especially Miriam Harrington and Chris Hitchcock, who drop what they are doing to correct my grammar, formatting, and errors. I am thankful for all my readers. I so appreciate it when someone tells me they enjoy the column or mentions a column hand. I appreciate the readers that send me problems: Ed Barad, Matt Klimesh, Chris Hitchcock, Lucy Tredenick, Roy Wilson, Alyssa Kennedy, and many others. Last, but absolutely not least, I am extremely thankful for my marvelous editor Jennifer Einberg. She works with me and is fair when we disagree. She proofreads, revises, and formats my column. She thanks me for my work - even when it is late (always). She is the best!

2

IMPs
all vul

South

West

North

East

1♦
?

2♥

Pass
PassPass
Pass

You, South, hold: ♠KQJ9 ♥AK ♦JT865 ♣A9

What call do you make?

Chris Hitchcock, a reader, held this hand in a Caltech game. Chris thought there was an interesting choice of bids at this point, and that double, 2♠ and 2NT were all reasonable. The panel proved him correct. Two members of the panel thought this was an easy problem, and that the answer was obvious.

Bare: Double, seems clear, what else?

Bartusek: 2♠. WTP? Just bidding what is in front of me (and guaranteeing five diamonds also). Double will falsely encourage partner to bid clubs.

The experts that thought the problem was obvious don't agree on what the best bid is. Think bridge is an easy game?

Lolli: 2♠. Partner could have lots in one suit with a poor hand that could still make game.

Wittes: 2♠. I like this a little better than 2NT with my concentration of values.

Lee: 2♠. 2NT is in the discussion, but I prefer to just bid my good four card suit while showing five plus diamonds and a good hand. We don't have the kind of hand that will do well in NT when we have a diamond or spade fit.

Kantar: 2♠. Double is apt to get me 3♣, and then what is to become of me?

The problem of how to react to a 3♣ response over a double sways some panelists to consider alternatives.

Swanson: Double. I might have to decide how to continue if partner bids 3♣. [I'd pass 3♣.]

Shuster: 2NT. Double won't help us figure out the right level. What would I do over 3♣?

Is pass an option?

Dunitz: Pass/Double. The problem is my big high cards are in my short suits. This eliminates 2NT as a possibility. Partner didn't make a negative double, so he likely does not have four spades. This leaves pass (going low) and double, hoping I can survive partner's possible enthusiasm for clubs. I have no strong feeling.

www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/

3

MPs
no vul

South

?

West

2♠

North

3♥

East

Pass

You, South, hold: ♠J4 ♥7 ♦AQ874 ♣A9753
What call do you make?

This is a problem I created based upon a conversation I was having with Ed Barad. Oddly, the exact same auction and same shape with only one less HCP occurred in a match Ed and I played as opponents after I had already submitted this hand for this month's column.

Kantar: Pass. But I would have liked to know the state of our game.

Swanson: 4♦. I'll be optimistic because a plus score is not assured in 3♥. *[This is optimistic partially because 4♦ is 100% forcing.]*

Wittes: 3♠. Tough problem. If partner has a fit for one

of my minors and a spade stopper, 3NT should be a good spot. If partner has a good hand with a four card minor, slam is not out of the question. If partner has a minimum with a 6-card heart suit, we may be in a little trouble.

Lolli: 3♠. Try to get to the right game.

Bare: 3♠. North should be aware that even though a cue bid almost always shows a fit, in this case 3♠ puts you in game anyway. So from the 3♥ bidder's viewpoint if partner has a slam try in hearts, a bid back to 4♥ over any bid would be a clear slam try. Frequently partner may have a hard hand to bid, so North should allow for other options.

Lee: 3♠. In this auction, I play 3♠ is either a stopper ask or a good hand with clubs, and 4♣ shows a strong heart raise. That seems like a good agreement for this hand.

Bartusek: 3NT. Opponents are non-vul and there was no raise by my RHO. Partner rates to have a spade card, and 3NT could easily right-side the contract when partner has something like Kxx. Some partnerships allow 3♠ to ask for a spade stopper and not guarantee heart support.

Dunitz: 3NT. Partner rates to have something in spades. 3NT will be the winning action most of the time.

I'm with the 3NT bidders. So is our resident joker.

Shuster: Double. Just kidding. 3NT. I've got a good hand and so does partner. Partner didn't make a take-out double and RHO didn't raise, so my guy rates to have some spades. At least that will be my story later after they take the first six tricks.



District 23

Reno - March 2016



HABC
March 2016



North American Pairs

Semi-Final #1

27 Sept '15, 11:00 AM

Long Beach Bridge Club
4782 Pacific Coast Highway

Semi-Final #2

1 Nov '15, 11:00 AM

San Marino Comm. Center
1800 Huntington Dr.

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks
Sodas
Coffee
Gold/Red Points

Mike Marcucci - 818 903-2471

4

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
Dbl	4♥	4♠	3♥ Pass

You, South, hold: ♠KQ8 ♥-- ♦AK9862 ♣K763
What call do you make?

Shuster: Pass. I'm waiting to see what nugget of wisdom will be published here about why some mastermind bid is, of course, correct.

Bartusek: Pass. I'm not going to hang partner. If I had a fourth spade the hand would be significantly stronger.

Lolli: Pass. Partner knows I have a pretty good hand and was content to play game.

Swanson: Pass. Partner will try 4♠ on a wide variety of hands in the situation. I'm pleased he bid.

Lee: Pass. Partner could be taking a shot here. It's losing bridge to guess on partner's guess. His range of hands includes a lot of random hands with five spades.

Wittes: 5♥. Aggressive, but partner needs too little to make a slam, ♠AJxxx ♥xx ♦Qxx ♣Qxx for example. Make the ♣Q the ♣A, and a grand is a very good proposition.

This is another hand from the Bakersfield Sectional. I tried 5♥ at the table. My partner, Doug Blagdon, who had made a great 4♠ bid, retreated to 5♠ with his six spades and his three HCPs. He gave 5♠ a great effort, but to no avail. I had got us overboard in my effort to get to a slam. 10 tricks were the limit of the actual hand.

Bare: 5♦.

Eddie passes, but thinks of Edgar Kaplan.

Kantar: Pass. I'll gamble partner has five spades or four good ones. Edgar [Kaplan] would not be happy with me. His answer to all tough problems was to bid one's longest suit.

Dunitz: 5♦. 4♠ could be the limit of the hand, but I'm a 5♦ bidder. [That's the bid Edgar would make]. I'm suggesting another strain and still leaving spades in the picture.

Los Angeles Regional at LAX
Los Angeles, CA February 15th-21st 2016

5

IMPs
no vul

South

West

North

East

Pass
Pass
?1NT*
4♥Pass
Pass1♥
2♣
Pass

* = Forcing NT

You, South, hold: ♠AQJ6 ♥QT82 ♦QT4 ♣72

5a. Would you have overcalled 1♠?

5b. Would you double 4♥?

Bare: a: Yes. b: No. Declarer may play 1 trick better if doubled.

Lee: No and no. I'm not a fan of four card overcalls with scattered defense. After the opponents get to 4♥ when responder implies useful club stuff, I don't like doubling. It could be cold, or perhaps declarer has a line of play that involves ruffing something and then playing AK of hearts to claim on trumps breaking 3-2. I like to spec double about as much as anyone, but I just don't see it here.

Bartusek: a: No. Overcalling 1♠ shouldn't have such strong defense for hearts. It will encourage partner to make bad decisions in the auction. b: No. What am I trying to do ? ... turn +50 into +100? Doubling might even give declarer enough information to make the hand!

Swanson: a: No. Defensive potential is much greater than offensive potential. An overcall would not have occurred to me. b: No, but I assume double is the winning action because it is given as a problem. A double could convert two heart winners into one. West has limited values, but could hold as many as 12 HCP. East could have up to 17, even 18. Pass, in tempo, is clear to me. Sometimes you just don't get full value when the opponents overbid. At least they got to 4♥.

Lolli: Pass. I'm not a fan of overcalling four card suits. No, I would not double. It might make him play the hand into a make.

Dunitz: Pass. I should go plus. Double could work out, but could also be disastrous.

Shuster: a: No. 1♠ isn't terrible, but it is dangerous and unnecessary with this heart holding. b: No. My hand holds little in defense and only a very mild surprise for declarer.

Wittes: a: No. I probably would not overcall 1♠, but I do not have a strong objection to it at this vulnerability. b: No. I would not double 4♥. A double might be just what declarer needs to take a safety play with Jxx or K9x of trumps in the dummy. Dummy should have some kind of limit raise with a nice club fit.

Jon has correctly guessed the reason for the 4♥ jump. The 4♥ bidder (West) had ♠xxx ♥Kxx ♦xx ♣AKJTxx and had upgraded based on the probable club fit. Unfortunately for her, there wasn't really a club fit. Her partner had ♠KTxx ♥AJ9xx ♦Jx ♣Qx. Both Easts elected to open this hand, but my teammates stopped in 3♥ (after a 1♠ overcall). I thought about doubling for a split-second, but passed in tempo. Against 4♥, I led a low diamond, and partner took his ♦K and ♦A before shifting to a spade for down three. If I had doubled, he is quite likely to find the spade shift in time to get another trick for +800.

Kantar: Pass. I once had a hand very similar to this in a National KO event in Chicago playing with Marshall Miles. Actually, my spades were Q108x, and I overcalled a 1♥ opening with 1♠, vulnerable, (a death wish). I was raised to 2♠ by Marshall with ♠Kxx. It went double on my right and pass on my left with LHO holding ♠AJ97x. I went for 800 and Marshall never said a word. There was one board to go, and as it happened we were still ahead! Our teammates were Alvin Roth and Tobias Stone, and they had →

been carrying us through each match with huge games. When Roth saw they were barely winning these matches, he started to make plane reservations home after each match. On the next hand, the last hand of the match, partner invited with 4NT and I passed and the hand made six on a finesse. Had I not overcalled 1♥ or had I bid 6NT, we would have won the match. There's more. A good friend of mine, Harvey Cohen, living in Los Angeles at the time, had come to Chicago to kibitz us. After the match he was in the circle surrounding our team among many others during the comparison. After we lost the match, Stoney pointed to Harvey and said: And here's a guy who has come thousands of miles to watch these guys play!

District 23 Rank Changes September 2015

Junior Master

Barbara Ackerman
Susan Allen
Paul Brunton
Tracee Dezzutti
Jerry Ellingson
Gregory Gallagher
Harriet Merjan
Joseph Scollo
Bernard Seal
Yunkai Song

Warren Harris
Alan Olschwang

Regional Master

Toby Idol
Raymond Primus

NABC Master

Sylvia Christensen
Joyce Field
Carol Hanson
Shirley Lee

Club Master

Yoshie Bell
Douglas Carlson
Robert Culbert
Dogan Erden
Peter Exline
Norman Futami
Gay Gipson
Martin Goldman
Phyllis Licht
Marilyn Limbach
Don Nakasaki
Joyce Powell

Adv NABC Master

Anand Kumar

Life Master

Michael Keston
Richard Neumeyer

Bronze Life Master

Joan Feldman
Gilbert Frank

Silver Life Master

Sharon Aronson
Bobbe Korbin
Chi-Chong Yu

Sectional Master

Rosemary Abrahamson
Steven Anderson
Barbara Eckstein

Gold Life Master

Irwin Novick

Next Month's Problems

1. MPs EW vul

South	West	North	East
	1♥	1♠	Pass
Pass	2♥	3♣	Pass
?			

You hold: ♠A9 ♥7653 ♦Q4 ♣QT852

What call do you make?

2. IMPs no vul

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

You hold: ♠AQ84 ♥QJ7 ♦J753 ♣J2

What call do you make?

3. IMPs EW vul

South	West	North	East
	1♠	Dbl	2NT*
?			

* = limit raise or better for spades

You hold: ♠2 ♥K73 ♦Q986543 ♣83

What call do you make?

4. IMPs all vul

South	West	North	East
		1♥	Pass
1♠	2♦	Dbl*	Pass
?			

* = three card support for spades

You hold: ♠KJ65 ♥K9 ♦QJ65 ♣T32

What call do you make?

5. MPs all vul

South	West	North	East
			3♣
?			

You hold: ♠A ♥J863 ♦AKT9873 ♣A

What call do you make?