

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Off to Orlando

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



As the bags get packed, I am reminded of the difference between attending an ACBL National this year vs doing the same 15 years ago. As a newbie to tournaments, I probably had three regional visits and one sectional visit under my belt when the call of Las Vegas lured me to the '01 NABC. It was close to LA and, since it was a solo visit, it must have been a sense of adventure that made it seem worthwhile.

I very definitely had a nice time. The fact that the venue was Vegas made it easier than usual to convince myself to play in the midnight Swiss along with a variety of normal time events. Matched with a friendly gal from Canada and her friends, we had an exciting last match against a team from Colorado and won our bracket of a 2-night zip event and received 5+ points – probably the highest award that had ever come my way in a short bridge career. It was exciting but confusing when my partner literally started hopping around the casino celebrating our gold points. Why confusing? Well, that's because at the time I did not know what gold points were. Talk about not staying up to date with your hobby!

Since that time, I've had a chance to attend several more NABC's and the lessons continue to be learned. One of those lessons is that the competition is fierce. It's one thing to treat a 10,000 table tournament as any

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Orlando Motions

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun

Orlando Motions

Last month I mentioned an important ACBL Educational Foundation vote in Orlando. The motions submitted for Orlando have been announced. I'm disappointed that several motions appear to be repeats of recent votes. I view this repetition as a waste of the board's time.

Another theme in the motions - and other budget business before the board – is micro-managing minor cost savings, particularly minor expenses related to the board of directors or board of governors. My view is that if the board of directors is effective minor board expenses won't matter, and if the board is ineffective minor cost savings won't help. Therefore, the board should focus on being effective rather than, say, whether the board meets for three days or four days.

Key motions up for a vote in Orlando

Key motions up for a vote in Orlando include World Bridge Federation dues, moving fall board meetings to Mississippi, Ethical Oversight Committee, and Board counsel.

World Bridge Federation Dues: Currently, the ACBL pays \$170K in dues to the World Bridge Federation. The WBF conducts world championships. A motion was submitted to dramatically reduce the amount of money that the ACBL sends to the WBF. I favor supporting the WBF monetarily, but I'd prefer to reduce the amount we pay to the WBF to better align with what Europe and Asia pay. This motion, however, takes a much more aggressive cost-cutting approach than is warranted.

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old game where you try to find an affable partner at the partnership area and do your best against the field, but that may not work well in Kansas City once you have a few points under your belt and you are actually trying to do well. My observation is that pairs practice hard before an NABC and they are there to clean your clock. Not only may you sit down against a nationally rated pair trying to tune up for the “big” events, but everyone else seems to act that way too. Not to say that this is not enjoyable, just don’t expect opponents to make many mistakes. This is not kitchen bridge. Option 1 is to have your regular partner along at an NABC and practice up beforehand.

Another reason to bring up the subject of NABC’s is that I’ve started to see more Flight C action around LA lately. Naturally, the 750 events continue to be very popular and there was even a substantial increase in the Flight C NAP games this year. Nice to see large contingents from South Bay and the Valley competing for the NAP awards next March. My view is that the competition above the club level is a whole new ball game in our hobby. Playing against new people will uncover situations that are different than your friendly club. You’ll

meet new directors who have a different way of running the game, settling issues, enforcing the rules, and fostering a friendly competition. You definitely will encounter new conventions that need be dealt with. This type of newness will teach you to stay alert, focus on the game, and notice the styles of opponents instead of assuming you know their tactics because you’ve been playing against them for months (years!).

As the sense of adventure really takes hold and you go beyond the Sectionals and Regionals in your area (there were probably 150 around the country last year), your range of friends may expand to many wonderful locations. How cool is that? To have friends all across the country with whom you can enjoy a bridge game is a life-expander. The US is a beautiful country. Who can forget all the pancake shops on the main avenue in Gatlinburg? The round-a-bout in Seaside? The history all around DC?

Playing bridge has given us all many opportunities to make new friends and see new places. Let’s expand those boundaries and get out there! Your game will improve too. For those who already know this and will be joining me in Orlando, watch out! I’m watching your every move.

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier
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Looking for a Club?

Check out

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

All clubs in Los Angeles
are listed.
You can look up all the
game times, locations, and
contact info.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

Moving Fall board meetings to Mississippi: A motion has been proposed to move the fall board meetings to the ACBL headquarters in Mississippi.

I will oppose this motion. The board just voted on this issue, so it's disappointing to have the issue re-emerge so soon. One issue is that the Board of Governors and other groups want the Board of Directors at their meeting so, rather than saving time and money, this second fall meeting would actually waste money and time.

Ethical Oversight Committee: Some competing motions about the EOC reflect very different views on that group's role. I favor some common sense recommendations given by the EOC committee itself. They

know best the problems they've encountered. My only concern is to avoid solutions that would lock in substantial recurring costs.

Board Counsel: The board needs its own lawyer in the wake of our decision to replace the league counsel position with inhouse counsel that serves only the CEO, Several issues have already arisen highlighting this need, and the expense figures to be minor. This issue is a good example of the board needing to focus on being effective rather than micro-managing minor expenses.

I welcome feedback on these and other motions before the board.

I can be reached at: klaned23@gmail.com

D23 Rank Changes October 2016

Junior Master

Barbara Andryjowicz
Burzin Engineer
Joel Kaplan
Won-Young McDevitt
Charlotte Reith
Helen Romm
John Romm
Ginny Sand
Kurt Schneider
Beverly Sugimoto
Jay Swerdlow

Club Master

James Gates
J Donald Houser
Esther Johnson
David Peterson
H S Jackson Tsao

Sectional Master

Elaine Caplow
Norman Futami
Donald Vallens

Regional Master

Gregg Alsdorf
Linda Hedden
Bob Weingarten

NABC Master

Shoshana Blumenfeld

Advanced NABC Master

Raymond Primus

Life Master

Elizabeth Morrin, John Tickner

Bronze Life Master

Mary Miller
Elizabeth Morrin
John Tickner

Silver Life Master

Kathy Flynn

Ruby Life Master

Genise Hasan

Gold Life Master

Bruce Altshuler
Marta Monheim

Sapphire Life Master

Edward Schwartz

Diamond Life Master

Marcie Landry-Evans

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

October 23 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Dominique and Arthur Moore, 2nd Bob Mault/Usha Bansal, 3/4 Mike Welsh/Lorna Wallace tied with Jo and John Melis, 5th Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 6th Marcie Evans/Jean Matz. In the B flight overalls: 2nd Stanley Small/Cindy Yan, 3rd Shirley Knopf/Lynn Danielson, 4th Pamela Cole/Joyce Henderson, 5th Peggy Waite/Hashim Mahmood. In the C flight overalls: Renee Hoffman/Silvia Kaprelyan were 4th. In the NLM section Mary Guzzetta/Linda Henley were 1st, Willie and Judy Grieb were 2nd. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: Oct 16 through Nov 15: In the evening game Oct 21 Earl VanDerVord/John Petrie had 71.77%. In the open game Nov 6 Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel had 73.33%. In the NLM evening game Nov 7 Kay Hyland/Lynne Finley had 70.3%. And in the open game Nov 15 Iftikher Baqai/Mitch Dunitz had 71.13%. Congratulations to all four pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards Oct 16 through Nov 15: In the unit game Oct 23 Dominique and Arthur Moore won 4.23mp for 1st, Bob Mault/Usha Bansal 3.17mp for 2nd. Oct 24 Steve Skinner/Rich Wasser won 3.79mp for 1st. Oct 25 Sankar Reddy/John Petrie won 5.10mp for 1st, Jeanette Estill/Ted Cooper 3.83mp for 2nd. Oct 26 Bob Goldman/Bill Wilson won 3.50mp for 1st. Oct 27 Kay Tseng/John Melis won 3.35mp for 1st. Oct 28 Om Chokriwala/Brandon Sheumaker won 4.52mp for 1st, Verna Baccus/Al Beebe 3.39mp for 2nd. Oct 29 Marcie Evans/Betty McClellan won 3.35mp for 1st. Oct 31 George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord won 3.79mp for 1st.

Nov 14 Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh won 4.50mp for 1st, Rich Wasser/Steve Skinner 3.38mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

New Club Members: Frederick and Norma Reker. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Club Masters: Paul Chen, Marcy Weigand. New Advanced NABC Master: John Galligher. And new Silver Life Master: Lynn Johnson. Congratulations to all!

Get Well Wishes to Eileen Nelson

Upcoming Events at the Club

December 5-11: StaC Week: Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

December 11: Swiss Team Sunday: silver points, \$1 surcharge.

December 18: Unit Game holiday party. Unit will provide ham, members bring side dishes or desert

December 21: ACBL-wide International Fund Game. Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

December 25: LBBC closed Christmas Day.
Wednesday Evening Dec 29: Inter-Club championship game. Extra points, regular prices.

December 31: New Year's Eve unit-rated game.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Oct 15 Club Championship Game – Clubhouse #1: Verna Burns/Gary Paugh 1 in A. Verna Baccus/Larry Slutsky 2 in A. Colleen Gardner/Jane Reid 3 in A, 1 in B. Sue McHale/Linda Nye 4 in A, 2 in B. Joyce Basch/Ellen Kice 5 in A, 3 in B, 1 in C. Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw 4 in B, 2 in C. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Mark Singer 3 in C.

Nov 14 Club Championship Game—Clubhouse #3: Verna Burns/Sibyl Smith 1 in A. Alan Flower/Howard Smith 2 in A, 1 in B. Joan Tschirki/Philippe Varda 3 in A. Joan and Ted Weiber 4 in A, 2 in B. Diane Sachs/Rob Preece 5 in A. Lynn Danielson/Larry Topper →

6 in A. Midge Dunagan/Bill Linskey 3 in B. Kathryn Moore/Dee Park 4 in B, 1 in C. Monica Gettis/Peggy Spring 5 in B. Sue McHale/Paul Chen 2 in C. Gene Yaffee/Fred Reker 3 in C. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Russell Gray 4 in C.

Congratulations to participants at the Long Beach Section. Our club members who earned master points: Joan Tschirki, Sherry Troeger, Louise Seifert, Stan Johnson, Bob Mault, Stan Blitz and Sylvia Kaprelyan

Reminder: ACBL classifies Leisure World bridge games as “invitational” meaning non-resident guests must secure an advance reservation. Any news for next month’s column, please e mail me at jcj90740@gmail.com Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, Dec 10, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, Dec 3, 9:30 a.m., La Verne Site

That’s right, the Unit game is a week early this month. We wanted to avoid competing with the Palm Springs regional... giving you the chance to play both games. Aren’t we just wonderful?

The December game is our annual Christmas party. Some good eats will be supplied, although we don’t expect Alton Brown to attend. The famous Nuclear Powered Punch will flow, which of course won’t affect the high standard of play at the game. If you have a favorite dish you’d like to bring and share, please feel free!

In our annual two-session championship event, Vic Sartor - Bill Papa took top honors. Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson were second, followed by Michael Marcucci - Clint Lew and Yours Truly - Penny Barbieri. Genise Hasan - Kiran Kumar also cracked the overalls, placing third in flight B.

In the November Unit game, Tim and Eileen Finlay placed first, followed closely by Lulu Minter - Amr Elghamry and Kiran Kumar - Xingping Kang, who tied for second. Rounding out the top five were Richard Patterson - Roger Boyar and Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Rob-

erts.

In the November Individual, Roger Boyar took for the top spot. Looking up were Sofi Kasubhai, Linda Tessier, Claudia Cochran, and Al Lax.

In Board of Directors news... we could not find any fresh meat to serve, so it’s the same fine crew that serves now. Clint’s term as president has expired, to Yours Truly is taking another term, with Vic Sartor backing him up as VP. We’d love to have **you** on the board ... it costs you nothing (and pays the same, of course) but a little of your time, and you help set policy. Want to give it a go? It’s not too late. Contact any Board member if you are interested.

The top score this month was a whopping 72.4% posted by Clint Lew – Linda Tessier. They beat out the Minters, who could only manage a 68.3% game. How the mighty have fallen? (I wouldn’t count on it ...) Other winners: Claudia Cochran, Richard Patterson, Clint Lew, Sandy Jones, Penny Barbieri, Walt Otto, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, Genise Hasan, John Barrow, Mary Miller, Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Karen Olin, Karen McCarthy, and Gino Barbieri.

One promotions to report this month: Daniel Sonner is a Sectional Master. Congratulations, Daniel.

This month’s Hand-of-the-Month is a lulu (but not a Minter). It’s anyone’s guess whether it falls into the “better lucky than good,” “trust your partner,” or “never give up” category. Maybe it is all three. Here goes. It’s unfavorable vulnerability. Your hand is reasonably nice, but not spectacular: ♠A9743 ♥AJ9 ♦K432 ♣T.

All set to open 1♠, you are somewhat dismayed to hear RHO (the dealer) open 2♠! After a proper pause for the skip bid, you pass, LHO passes, and partner balances with 3♦. RHO passes, and you ... ?

Hmmmm. The opponents are solid defenders, if that helps. No? You could raise to 4♦, passing the buck to partner, who will likely decline the invitation. Or you could bid 5♦. Did you consider 3NT? You certainly have the spades under control. Let the clubs fall where they may.

OK, you grit your teeth (mentally) and go 3NT. All pass, and the opening lead is the ♠J. Dummy flops with a somewhat disappointing: ♠-- ♥KT62 ♦QJT975 ♣KQ4.

Grrrrr! Where’s that ♦A you were counting on? Well, at least you know the spade layout, so you duck the first trick, and win the continuation. Now what?

You can see 9 tricks (5 diamonds, a spade, 2 →

hearts, and a club), so it's not hopeless. Can you take them all? If RHO has a minor suit ace, you are history, so let's clear the diamonds and hope. It turns out that LHO has the perfect hand (for you): both minor suit aces and the ♥Q, no less. So 3NT rolls home. Everyone else was either -100, -140, or +100. So I guess we can add a fourth zinger to our list: fortune favors the bold.

Quote for the Month: "As scarce as truth is, the supply has always been in excess of the demand." (Josh Billings)

Until next month ...



**Santa Clarita-
Antelope Valley
by Beth Morrin**

Congratulations to Russ Buker and David White for their outstanding performance in Friday's StaC game with 66.67%. They were 6th overall and 1st in B out of 140.5 tables.

Congratulations to Bill Brodek and Paula Olivares for their outstanding performance in Sunday's StaC game with 65.1%. They were 4th overall in the District 22-23 event.

Congratulations to Rand Pinsky and Kathy Swaine for their great performance at the Puerto Vallarta Regional during the week of Nov. 7th. They came in first in Flight B in both the Tuesday and Thursday Evening Swiss Team event. They also won the Wednesday Evening side pairs with 65% and total evening side game series.

STaC Results

Friday, November 18 at Joshua Tree Bridge Club

- 1 Russ Buker and David White - 66.67%
- 2 Mary Ellen Downs and Beth Morrin - 61.85%
- 3 George MacDonald and Bert Stock - 58.15%
- 4 Sharon Hoelscher and Aggi Oschin - 55.19%
- 5 Bernie and Sue Guzenske - 52.59%
- 6 Henry Roediger and Sharry Vida - 50.37%

Sunday, November 20 at Joshua Tree Bridge Club

- 1 Bill Brodek and Paula Olivares - 65.1%
- 2 Rand Pinsky and Kathy Swaine - 59.9%
- 3 Mary Ellen Downs and Beth Morrin - 55.2%
- 4/5 Ron and Sandi Oest - 52.6%
- 4/5 Russ Buker and George MacDonald
- 6 Aggi Oschin and Carole Provost - 52.3%
- 7 Carol and Paul Reukauf - 50.5%

**Club Championship Game Results
Monday, November 21 at Friendly Club**

North/South

- 1 Bill Brodek and Shirley Ramspeck - 65.77%
- 2 Barbara and Tom Jones - 57.74%
- 3 Sam Khayat and Carol Morton - 57.14%
- 4 George MacDonald and Hansford Rowe - 56.25%

East/West:

- 1 Roshen Hadulla and Robert McBroom - 64.88%
- 2 Vibeke Gilbreath and Mira Rowe - 62.8%
- 3 Roy Ladd and Bert Stock - 54.46%
- 4 Jackie Moor and Hilda Smith - 50.3%

**ACBL-wide Charity Game
Tuesday, November 22 in Santa Clarita**

North/South

- 1 Ruth Baker and Kathy Flynn - 64.68%
- 2 Lamonte Johnson and Arif Shah - 60.66%
- 3 Betty Pavey and Rand Pinsky - 59.57%
- 4 Mort Light and Kathy MacDonald - 54.96%

East/West

- 1 Bill Brodek and Robert McBroom - 54.67%
- 2 Viviane Dinehart and Aggi Oschin - 53.53%
- 3 Roy Ladd and Bert Stock - 52.81%
- 4 Peter Knee and Paula Olivares - 51.24%

**Next StaC game: Western Conference
Holiday Sectional Tournament at Clubs**

Monday Afternoon Dec. 5th at 12:30, Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Tuesday Afternoon Dec. 6th at 12:30, Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Friday Afternoon Dec. 9th at 12:30, Joshua Tree Bridge Club

Sunday Afternoon Dec. 11th at 1:00, Joshua Tree Bridge Club

Unit 556 Board Nominations

Are you looking for adventure of a new and different kind? Unit 556 is seeking members who are interested in running for the Unit Board, beginning January 18, 2017.

This is an opportunity to give back to the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley bridge community, meet new friends, and have an impact on changing things for the betterment of Unit 556 bridge players.

If you wish to self-nominate, please contact Ruth Baker (rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net) or Beth Morrin (morrin@sbcglobal.net). Nominations must be received by January 1st.

Election of Board of Directors for Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley

The Unit 556 Board election will be held on Tuesday, January 17th at the annual "After the Holidays" Holiday Party at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita. The potluck dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the board election will be at 6:15 p.m. A Unit Game will follow the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, January 24 at 5:15 before the Tuesday Night Game in Santa Clarita (6:45 p.m.)

Happy Holidays to all and best wishes for the new year.



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Special Congratulations

New Life Master Achievements by Unit 561 members/players were: Barry Heller, Michael Newman, Sherry Newman, and John Tickner (Life Master); Julie Sheerin (Diamond – 5,000).

October Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were: Ray Primus 17.17, Ron Malkin 10.61, Bill Raff 10.36, John Tickner 9.66, Helen Malzer 8.81, Mike Wiener 8.74, Gloria Malkin 8.65, Marty Hurwitz 8.52, Gloria Feerst 8.18, and Dan Strauss 7.60. The following

achieved 70% games in October: Lee Skupen – Jerry Shapiro 72.36% and Gloria Malkin – Sandy Klasky 71.51%.

Successful Fundraising Activity

A very timely and unique fund raising event was held in late October and early November at The 750 Club. An anonymous 750 player offered to contribute \$2 to the Prince of Peace Church's Christmas Fund for every Ballot Stub or "I Voted" sticker collected from the players. Bill and Terry Morton, 750 Club owners/managers, graciously agreed to match this contribution for a total of \$4/Stub or Sticker.

An amazing 185 Ballot Stubs/Stickers were submitted and attached to a large poster that was displayed on the Club's bulletin board. This resulted in a donation of \$740 to the Christmas Fund on behalf of The 750 Club, which is located on the Church's campus. A "grand slam" of thanks to all who participated in this event, to the generousness of the "anonymous player" who created this innovative fund raising event, and to The 750 Club owners for their strong support!

December Events at The 750 Club

On Monday – Friday, December 5 – 9, Great Western STaC games will be held at the Club. This is a chance to compete with players in the Western U.S.A. and extra silver points. The fee for all games will be \$10. "Holiday Sharing" week will occur Monday – Friday, December 12 – 16. During this week, \$1 from each card fee will be donated to the West Valley Food Pantry, the Club's next-door neighbor. Additional contributions from the players in the form of cash or checks (payable to "West Valley Food Pantry") are encouraged and appreciated.

Holiday-Themed "Free Play" Gift Cards will be on sale for \$8 each, Tuesday – Friday, December 6 – 23. These make excellent gifts for your favorite partners, bridge friends, and even worthy opponents in celebration of Hanukkah, Christmas, or the New Year! Club Championship Week will take place Monday – Friday, December 26 – 30. This is an opportunity to earn extra black points for no extra fee. →

District 23 on the web:
<http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/>

Calendar

Saturday, December 3, Unit 561 Election for 2017 Board Members, Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party, at The 750 Club. 2 p.m. start time. Contact mjjubelirer@att.net for additional information.

Monday-Friday, December 5-9, Great Western STaC games at The 750 Club.

Tuesday-Friday, December 6-23, Holiday-themed “Free-Play” gift cards on sale at The 750 Club.

Monday-Friday, December 12-16, “Holiday Sharing” Week at The 750 Club.

Monday-Friday, December 26-30, Club Championship Week at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, January 17, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Friday, March 31-Saturday, April 1, U561 San Fernando Valley Sectional, at The 750 Club.

24424 Eshelman Ave with a free parking lot. Reservations are not required but would be appreciated in sign up lists at local clubs in November.

The unit will provide sandwiches, salads and drinks starting at 11:00 a.m. The unit would be grateful if unit members would volunteer to bring desserts.

The game starts at noon. It will be divided into 2 sections (Over 1000 MPs and under 1000 MPs).

Club Championships

The Club Championship on October 10 was won by Fran Israel/Steve Ramos in Flight A with Mark Raggio/Ernie Frank on top in Flight B. The November 2 Club Championship was led by Fran Israel/Mark Raggio in Flight A with Janice Scholler/Lina Ashar taking Flight B. The NLM Club Championship on November 10 saw Jamila Malikyar/Ed Ruttenberg winning both Flights A and B

Team Winners

November 1: CVal Gamio, John Jones, Carol McCully, Ed Barad

November 8: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronck Felczer

November 15: Lucy Gellner, Wayne Otsuki, Carol McCully, Ed Barad

November 22: CVal Gamio, John Jones, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

District22/23 STAC

Pairs that placed in the overalls during the recent Disteict 22/23 STAC in games played at TSB Unit websites are listed in the following.

Monday Morning 11/14, SBBC

- 6A 1B 1C Jean Futami/Kiyoko Ohtomo
- 7A 2B Booth Tarkington/Jim Jensen
- 3B Al Blinder/Stam Greengard
- 6B 3C Lorraine and Michael Kammerman

Monday Afternoon 11/14

299er Pairs, Agile Bridge Club

- 1A Carolyn Woo/Edward Bucklin
- 3A 2B Kathy Soltwedell/Mari Jacobson
- 4A 3B 2C Jon and Anni Pack
- 5A 4B Joseph Duke/Carolyn Hatten →



**Torrance-South Bay
by Steve Mager**

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568
SBBC: www.southbaybridgeclub.com

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

- Club Championship: Friday, December 2, 7:00 p.m.
- Western Conference STAC: December 5-10
- Club Championship: Monday, December 19, 11:30 a.m.
- Club Championship: Tuesday, December 27, 11:30 a.m.
- Friday Night games on December 2 and 16

New SBBC Website

The South Bay Bridge Club has upgraded its website thanks to Janice Scholler. The new address is <http://www.southbaybridgeclub.com/>

TSB Unit Christmas Party

The party will be held on Sunday, December 11 at the Tom Rico Center in Lomita Park. The address is

4C Nancy Hamada/Allan Baraz
5C George Wakabayashi/Susan Johnson

Monday Evening 11/14, SBBC and Veterans Park

1A 1B David Peim/Neal Kleiner
2A 2B 1C Judith and James Scott
3A 3B 2C Elaine Godin/Ed Srenco
4A Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel
5A 4B Stan Greengard/Mark Raggio
3C Frankee Victor/Marilyn Daeshner

Tuesday Morning 11/15, Side Pairs, SBBC

1A 1B Gerri Carlson/Arlene Greengard
2A 2B Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan

Tuesday Morning, 11/15, 499er Special Pairs, SBBC

1A Charlotte Lewin/Jamila Malikyar
2A Neal Hudson/Greg Gallagher

Wednesday Afternoon, 11/16, Veterans Park

9A 2B 2C Steve Kiser/Bruce Walker
15/16A Byron Steffenrud/Dean Kaloudis
15/16A 5B Kathy Rudolph/Lena Hoomani
24A 8B 4C Diane Maye/Norm Imberman
16B Harold Koletsky/Hank Sheehan
8C Patricia Wells/Thomas Robinson
11C Jeff Grotenhuis/Manzoor Ursani

Wednesday Evening, 11/16, SBBC

2A 2B 1C Ramani Ravikandan/Neal Hudson
4A Fran Israel/Mark Raggio
7A Ray Mack/Terry Hane
4C Joan Chrishal/Chris Freeland

Thursday Morning, 11/17, 499er Pairs, SBBC

1A 1B Gerry Ketz/Mike MCGory
2A Marilyn Morton/Anne Andres
3A 2B Madge Weinstein/Myron Mitzenmacher
4A Joyce Klossner/Betsy Miller
5A Charlotte Lewin/Marie Lynch
6A 3B Jamila Malikyar/Edward Ruttenberg
4B Sandy Rathbun/Rae Yan
5B Doug Carlson/Howard Schecter

Friday Morning 11/18, Side Pairs, SBBC

1A Fran Israel/Lucy Gellner
2A 1B Bob Bacharach/Hank Sheehan
3A 2B Laura Gastelum/Pat Berg

Friday Morning 11/18, 499er Pairs, Agile Bridge Club

1A 1B 1C Brigitte Prince/Petra Green
2A Edward Bucklin/Carolyn Woo
3/4A Nancy Karnes/Deborah Downs
3/4A Burzin Engineer/Bruce Schelden
5A Thomas Grove/Joyce Field
6A John Janus/James Deflon
2B Kathy Soltwedell/Mari Jacobson
3B Joanne Hadley/Lynn Harvey
4B 2C Inga Stoops/Jeanette Avery
5B 3C Kelley Butcher/Barbara Fuller
6B 4C Gail Davis/Jean Ray
5C Jan and Thea Dryer

Friday Afternoon, 11/18, Beach Cities BC

20A 11B Rick Turner/Alyssa Kennedy
20B 6C Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman
8C Patricia Wells/Virginia Brewer
12C Judy Colaianni/Joe Packey

Friday Evening, 11/18, Inglewood Beach BC

5A 1B Les Nakasaki/Joe Thomas
6A 2B David Cheshire/Jeanne Tamaki
7A Dean Kaloudis/Byron Steffenrud
3B Barbara Shortwell/Henry Crowder
4B 1C Linda Nye/Corneliu Dabija
6A 2B Jane Tourino/Lee Sagendorf
4C Kathy Miglin/Marsha Carry
5C Pearl Karon/Susan Prescott

Saturday Afternoon, 11/19, SBBC

2A Gabriela Jackson/Betsey Amador
5/6A Laura Gastelum/Fran Israel

GUV Award

A couple nominees this month. First I was playing with Peter Benjamin at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club one recent Sunday. Near the end of the game people were asked to leave because of a fire threat in the parking lot. You actually could see some smoke blowing by the open door to the bridge area. Everybody did → go outside right away except our table where Pete seemed to be taking forever to declare a hand. Fortunately the fire didn't threaten the bridge area although it took about an hour to get things going again. Pete did get a very good score on the hand.

As the recent STAC attendees at the South Bay Club waited (and waited and waited) for the predupli-

cated hands to be put on the table to play. Apparently an unnamed manager of the SBBC (who had the STAC boards at home) had overslept and had to be woke up to get the boards to the playing site over a half hour late. This just beat a mass exudes to other clubs starting a bit later.

Na Zdrowie



West LA
by Robert Shore

Excuses, Excuses

I hope that everyone enjoyed the Holiday Party. Alas, your Humble Scribe is in the middle of a month-long jury trial, so I've been unable to spend much time at my favorite avocation. I was particularly disappointed to miss the opportunity to introduce the 2016 West Los Angeles Player of the Year, Mike Savage, to scores of his adoring fans. And I was just as sad not to have the chance to give timely and in-person congratulations to our Volunteer of the Year, Nancy Heck. Still, trial will be over soon, and I'll get my chance to make up for lost time. Winning the Unit Game after the Party were Candy Scott and Barbara Nusbaum. Our 299er winners were Selma Archerd and Sue Rosenwasser.

A Quick Tour

Again, my apologies if I missed anyone. I simply haven't had the time this month to perform the thorough

scouring of the records that usually helps me publicize the names of our winners at the Sectional and Regional level. If you want to be sure your victory makes the column, you can always email me at the address at the bottom of my column every month.

Several winners from the Ventura Regional made for a great run-up to Halloween. Jill Thesman won her bracket of the Oxnard Wednesday-Thursday Knockout Teams. Leslie Brucker was victorious in the Friday Gold Rush Pairs. Alex Kolesnik doubled up, winning the Saturday Open Pairs and then the Sunday A/X Swiss.

Moving up to the Modesto Regional, Ifti Baqai brought home a win in the Friday Daylight Pairs. Stan Small came, saw, and conquered at the Long Beach Sectional, winning the Saturday morning Open Pairs and the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs. Our newly crowned Player of the Year, Mike Savage, won the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs at the Sun City Sectional. In the STAC, Aram Bedros and Jim Perkins paired up to win the Monday evening game, while Ifti Baqai won the Tuesday afternoon game and Bruce Altshuler claimed the win on Sunday afternoon.

That's All Folks!

My apologies for omitting the usual shout-outs to new Unit members, rank changes, and outstanding performances at the club level. The elves who usually provide me with this information behind the scenes are apparently in the middle of the pre-Christmas rush, and I haven't had time to obtain the information any other way. I hope to resume normal operations in time for next month's column.

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

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Monday, February 6, 2017

299er Free Workshop/lunch (Reserv. Rqd)	10:30 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
0-50 Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (1 of 6)	1:00 pm
Stratified Charity Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (1 of 6)	7:00 pm
Betsy Ross KO (1 of 4)	7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

AM Side Game Series (1 of 5)	9:00 am
Betsy Ross KO (2 of 4)	9:00 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (2 of 6)	1:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Bernie Mateer Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1&2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
George Washington KO (1 & 2 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (2 of 6)	7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

AM Side Game Series (2 of 5)	9:32 am
Early Bird Turbo Swiss (1 of 2)	9:32 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (3 of 6)	1:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Jan Nathan Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
George Washington KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Abe Lincoln KO (1 & 2 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (3 of 6)	7:00 pm

Thursday, February 9, 2017

AM Side Game Series (3 of 5)	9:32 am
Early Bird Turbo Swiss (2 of 2)	9:32 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (4 of 6)	1:00 pm
Lois Miller Memorial Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Abe Lincoln KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Ft Henry Board-A-Match Teams (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (4 of 6)	7:00 pm

Friday, February 10, 2017

AM Side Game Series (4 of 5)	9:32 am
Rise and Shine Turbo Swiss (1 of 2)	9:32 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
0-99 Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (5 of 6)	1:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Unit 559 Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Teddy Roosevelt KO (1 & 2 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (5 of 6)	7:00 pm

Saturday, February 11, 2017

AM Side Game Series (5 of 5)	9:32 am
Rise and Shine Turbo Swiss (2 of 2)	9:32 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6)	1:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Pat Banks Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Teddy Roosevelt KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
POTUS Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Entertainment Event	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
299er Pairs (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (6 of 6)	7:00 pm

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Stratified Fast Pairs (2 sessions)	10:00 am & TBA
WLA 2015 Player of the Year --- Bob Shore --- Flight A/X	
Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	10:00 am & TBA
Bracketed Flight B/C/D Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	10:00 am & TBA

Event Colors: 299ers: Orange / Teams: Green / Pairs: Blue

KOs may be handicapped. Games will be stratified by average masterpoints.

Stratified Games: 0-1500 / 1500-3000 / 3000+
Gold Rush: 0-100 / 100-300 / 300-750
Flight A/X: 0-5000 / 5000+
Bracketed Flight B/C/D:
Bracketed by average points of team.
No player over 3000 MPs

PM Swiss Teams: 4 x 7 boards
Turbo Swiss Teams: 3 x 8 boards
Sunday Swiss Teams will be finished by 5 pm.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, David Chechelashvili, Ed Davis, Jeff Goldsmith, Roger Lee, Tim Lolli, Mister Mealy-mouth, Margie Michelin, Rick Roeder, David Sacks, Michael Shuster, John Swanson, Bill Wickham, and Jon Wittes.

This December varies from the usual format and instead of presenting new problems, we are reviewing five favorite problems from earlier in 2106. There are many panelists because all the panelists who contributed to even one of the original problems are listed.

1

MPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
Pass ?	1♠	Pass Dbl	Pass 2♠

You, South, hold: ♠Q ♥7654 ♦Q765 ♣A654
What call do you make?

January made me shiver, and brought this problem where we are outgunned by the opponents' spades.

Partner's passed hand double is frequently based on a singleton in the opponent's suit. That gives the opponents 11 spades. They have at least half the deck in high cards. It is extremely likely that the opponents will be in 4♠ by the next time I get to bid. We aren't buying the contract under any circumstances. Thus, this bid should be used to direct the desired lead, if we feel we have a preference. 2NT here should be either scramble or both minors, probably not Lebensohl because we are both passed hands and don't need to invite game ever. Is a responsive double for all three suits, or just the minors? I think it is for the minors.

Wittes: Pass. Partner is a passed hand, we're vulnerable, and although I surely have fits with partner somewhere, I have no texture in any of my suits. -200 or worse is a distinct possibility at the 3 level, especially if suits are not breaking well. If my ♠Q were elsewhere, I'd be a little more tempted to compete.

Lolli: Dbl. Responsive. I may be a little light, but if partner wants to butt in, I'm going to co-operate. Does my double deny four hearts? Perhaps double denies four hearts, but they're lousy, and I don't want the lead

if we defend. Also, if partner has a five card minor, I'd rather play it there, or at least in his stronger suit. I admit it's unlikely partner has a five card minor.

Wickham: Dbl. 2NT should definitely not be used as natural, so it should show two places to play. Some partnerships use a Lebensohl or Good/Bad variant for 2NT here, in which case their choice is limited to double or pass. Some partnerships use double to show four hearts, and others use it deny four hearts. Having a solid agreement is irreplaceable. We should show some values, and double is the most flexible action, even if it denies four hearts.

Lee: 2NT. Obviously it's not our hand but I refuse to defend a 10-card trump fit at the 2 level, and I don't need to get a particular lead director in so 2NT seems fine.

Shuster: Dbl. All strains are equivalent when competing for a part-score or finding a save a level above spades so we should make the call that will find our longest fit. Mirrored shortness isn't good for our side though. If I had a strong preference for a lead in a suit, I'd bid it instead in preparation for defense.

Swanson: Dbl. I will rarely hold four hearts for a re-

2
 IMPs
 no vul

South

West

North

East

?

1♠

2♣

You, South, hold:

♠AJ32 ♥K76543 ♦765 ♣--

What call do you make?

May brought us flowers and this problem in which we have the spade fit this time. We have to decide how to let partner know about the fit with a bid that describes this hand.

We have a good fit, a long suit, a void in the opponents' suit and a mediocre HCP hand. What's best?

Chechelashvili: 4♠.

Swanson: 4♣. A slight overbid to eliminate the possibility of being shut out of showing the two big features of my hand – four-card spade support and short clubs.

Wittes: 4♣. Perhaps a slight overbid, but if partner has nothing wasted in clubs, the KQ of spades, the A of hearts, and either the A or K of diamonds, we are in the slam range.

Bare: 4♣. Light for a splinter but there is going to be a lot of bidding.

Lolli: 4♣. We could go from a possible set in 4♠ (♠KQxxx ♥QJ ♦QJx ♣xxx) to a possible grand (♠KTxxxx ♥AQ ♦Ax ♣xxx). It's also possible the opponents could bid some grotesque number of clubs. By bidding 4♣, at least partner knows I have at least four spades with club shortness.

Davis: 2♥. I want partner to evaluate AQx in hearts and a stiff diamond much more highly than if his red suits were reversed. I will cue bid 4♣ if I get the chance, will cue bid 5♣ if partner shows extra interest in either major, and will take the push to 5♠ if he/she bid to 5♣, unless partner doubles 5♣ in front of me.

A game-forcing fit-showing jump to 3♥ would be the ideal bid over 2♣ with my hand. A direct 4♣ over 2♣ is okay, but I like highlighting the red-suit disparity and then showing the club control, unless partner discourages me. This is risky because showing the club control is more important than showing hearts. However, if the opponents jump to 5♣ and partner has two or three clubs, he will infer that I am short in clubs.

Wickham: 2♥. Since a grand slam in spades is an excellent proposition when partner holds as little as ♠Kxxxx ♥Ax ♦Ax ♣xxx, and anything past the four level could be a disaster opposite some trash like ♠KQTxx ♥Jxx ♦Kx ♣KQx, creating a plan that will work in either case is not easy. I expect my LHO will raise clubs, and I will try my best to read the level of satisfaction attached to the club raise. My plan is to start with 2♥ to give the opponent enough room to raise clubs with most any hand type. If partner passes or bids diamonds over the anticipated club raise, I will cuebid 4♣ if available, or the minimum number of spades available through the six level. If partner rebids spades or raises hearts, I plan to cuebid clubs as cheaply as possible. Maybe we're saving against a cold club slam, or maybe I'll need a new partner after this adventure.

Shuster: 3♥ if fit showing, otherwise 4♣. While useful to tell partner I have a good hand with club shortness, it is more useful to let partner know that ♦AQx ♣x in the minors is offense and ♦x ♣AQx is defense.

I like the 3♥ bid, which gets in the spade support and the heart support at once.

3
 MPs
 no vul

South	West	North	East
1♦ ?	1♠	Pass	Pass

You, South, hold:
 ♠6 ♥J6 ♦AKT864 ♣KJ62
 What call do you make?

June brought us the longest day, and this reopening problem.

Where is the heart suit? Do we reopen on this minimum hand? If we reopen, what call is best?

One panelist channels Marshall Miles, the late moderator of this column.

Bartusek: Pass (influenced by Marshall). Opponents have at least eight hearts combined (and possibly a heart game). Partner should not trap pass with a hand likely to make 3NT (doubling one-level contracts is generally not that profitable and also leads to difficult auctions). A lot of people believe that opener must reopen with shortness in LHO's suit, but there should be some exceptions.

Others allow for the big prize, the penalty pass.

Goldsmith: Dbl. The main reason to act is to cater to partner's penalty double, which he can easily have. If I'm not willing to double, I'm defending 1♠ before they find hearts.

Kantar: Dbl. Looks like partner has the majors (no negative double because his spades are too strong)

and I have the minors. Perfect.

Some panelists shy away from the reopening double but argue for two of a minor.

Lolli: 2♣. I don't like a reopening double here, although I admit it might be our top spot if partner leaves it in. I'd rather show partner that my hand is minor suit oriented, and go from there.

Roeder: 2♦. I hate bidding, but partner could have a hefty penalty pass, in which case, he will be disappointed but can still bid No Trump. The danger in bidding is that the opponents can make 4 of a major or scramble to a superior heart partial. I judge those risks to be slightly less than partner's making a penalty pass.

Sacks: 2♦. I have to respect the possible penalty pass (for which I have one too few hearts to reopen with a double). I rebid 2♦ just as I would have if partner had responded 1♠, so that I can bid 3♣ later if need be to show a weak 6-4.

I'm with the doublers here. Double caters to the big prize of partner passing and also getting to a minor part score.

PSP#1 continued from page 1

sponsive double of a major, but it appears that we will be outbid, and I don't want to encourage a heart lead.

Mealy-mouth: 3♣. This problem isn't about competing for a partscore. It is about maximizing our chances of beating 4♠ or minimizing West's overtricks, as the opponents have the balance of power and the boss suit. They'll buy the contract. Though hearts is the suit in which we are most certain to have a fit, it's the last suit I want to encourage partner to lead against the inevitable

spade contract, so I reject 3♥. That leaves pass, a responsive double, 3♣ and 3♦ as my only plausible choices. I'd go for double if I were confident that partner would read it as both minors. However, I'm not confident that partner will read it as excluding hearts, so I'll go for 3♣, the suit in which I expect partner's opening lead to be most effective.

It's not clear what we should do here, but's it clear what the wrong action is. Bidding hearts will leave us out-gunned with partner leading the wrong suit. 3♣ or 2NT (minors) would both be reasonable actions.



South

West

North

East

?

2♥

You, South, hold:

♠K9632 ♥K ♦AT7 ♣QJ76

What call do you make?

July delivered fireworks and this argumentative problem.

This problem was submitted to Jerry Helms of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin a few months ago. The reader bid 2♠. Helms disliked the 2♠ bid (the rest of the auction was horrid), and said he would Pass. He didn't even mention Double. I had the feeling that if I asked a group of experts, I would hear Double (my choice), 2♠, and Pass. It seems to me that Pass is most conservative, Double is flexible but doesn't get the fifth spade into play, and 2♠ has the most to gain or lose. Let's hear from the panel.

Lolli: Pass. Am I really supposed to bid with this hand? 13 meager high cards including an 80% worthless ♥K is too rich for my blood.

Wittes: Double. To me, it's close between double and pass, so I'll vote for the more aggressive action. I would not bid 2♠ on that moth-eaten suit.

Bare: Double. Poor spades make double a safer bid, and if partner has a good hand the ♥K may make NT a better spot even with a 5-3 spade fit.

Michelin: Double. Miserable! Pass, 2♠, or Double could all be right. I hate my spade suit, and my stiff ♥K. However, I am the one who is short in hearts so I am supposed to take action, I am going to treat my spade suit as a 4 card suit for MP and hope that when I double partner can Pass for penalties or bid 3NT. My ♥K rates to score so double is my choice but I don't love it.

Swanson: 2♠. Double is a reasonable option.

Kantar: 2♠. Looks pretty clear. It's not strong enough to double and then bid spades.

I'm with the doublers. Double is the flexible call.

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to:

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

5

IMPs
NS vul

S	W	N	E
Pass ?	Pass	3♥	3♦ Pass

You, South, hold:
 ♠K853 ♥K8652 ♦Q43 ♣A
 What call do you make?

August was the last month of summer, and brings the last problem in this review.

Bare: 5♥. A guess but many minimum hands will produce slam.

One 5♥ bidder still isn't giving up on a grand.

Lolli: 5♥. If partner has three small diamonds I'll apologize, but if partner is kind enough to bid 5♠ over my 5♥, I can bid 6♣ and land in the correct level.

Roeder: 4♦. Not riskless, but I could not bear partner's scorn if he looks at dummy in 4♥, holding ♠Ax ♥Axxxx ♦x ♣Kxxxx, and telling me I badly need a testosterone injection. Then his adding insult by saying, "Sorry, partner, I guess I should have jumped to 4♥."

One panelist thinks he is making a "fake" cuebid, showing a diamond control.

Kantar: 4♦. You've driven me to make fake cuebids, John. What is to become of me? *Remember, Eddie, no matter what you bid in this panel, you are still the master, and Yvonne loves you!*

Other panelists think 4♦ represents a big hand with a fit and says nothing about a diamond control.

Lee: 4♦. I have a good raise in hearts with reasonable slam chances, so that's what I would show.

Sacks: 4♦. Agrees hearts and suggests slam.

I'm with the 4♦ bidders. This shows a maximum hand with a fit. Let partner take it from there.

Next Month's Problems
 South, what call do you make?

1. MPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
?	1♠	Pass	Pass

You hold:
 ♠KQ ♥QT864 ♦94 ♣KQ93

2. MPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
* 1♦ ?	Pass	1NT	2♠

You hold:
 ♠5 ♥AJ84 ♦AK942 ♣A53

3. IMPs, no vul

S	W	N	E
2♦ ?	2♥	2♠	1♥ Pass

You hold:
 ♠T5 ♥Q863 ♦KQJT87 ♣A

4. IMPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
?			

You hold:
 ♠A8752 ♥KQ9753 ♦2 ♣2

5. MPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
1♣ ?	3♦	Pass	Pass

You hold:
 ♠AK5 ♥9 ♦KJ7 ♣AQJ953