

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 52, #8

August 2016

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Taking Care of the Little Things

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



There are many ways to approach life. Be positive. Look on the bright side. Take care of business. Keep your friends close. Family first. Get the puppies off the street. Etc. Then there's that one about taking care of the big things and the little things will take of themselves. I'd like to

consider the reverse. Take care of the little things and the big things will fall into place.

What are the aspects to a bridge game that add up to a good experience? Lighting and temperature have to be right or it's hard to enjoy the day. Bidding boxes offset many vision and hearing issues that may arise, especially if lots of chatter is surrounding the table. Who says bridge players like to chatter? I passed a 3NT bid by my partner the other day and watched him make 4. Nice going, I thought. Until the score was input as 2NT making 4. No bidding boxes and lots of chatter led to a poor score. My bad. I need to get better at reading lips.

And now we come to those little Bridgemates. They do speed up the scoring and I actually hear players asking for them lately. But do they add to our enjoyment or hinder it? It certainly does not add to my day when my opponent grumbles as he enters the contract and score, then does not even turn the device around so that I may "accept" the result – as is my duty at the table. Sometimes it is literally thrown over to me. I usually turn it around so that I may see the result, check it against my scorecard, push the "accept" button, and, finally, turn it back to face my opponent and quietly hand it back so we are ready for the next hand. Ask me sometime whether I'd really like to throw it back! How do you feel when that happens?

I really don't know if BridgeMate etiquette is recorded in an ACBL publication, but it should be. Maybe I'm dreaming – it seems to me that I read somewhere

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

Found Money

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun

Found Money

The ACBL announced some very good financial news in early

July.

The ACBL reached an agreement with online bridge provider BBO. BBO has agreed to pay the ACBL \$500K per year above and beyond any current payments to the ACBL. In exchange, the ACBL has given BBO the exclusive rights to run ACBL robot games through July of 2020.

This welcome good news marks an important improvement in the ACBL's financial condition after several challenging years. Although there are some very minor additional conditions of the agreement, the agreement represents effectively a pure win for the ACBL – the equivalent of finding money in your pocket. CEO Robert Hartman deserves high praise for coordinating the deal. Several members of the board of directors facilitated Mr. Hartman's efforts and deserve praise in a supporting role.

Representing Clubs

I submitted one motion to the national board meeting. My central motivation is: how can the ACBL make it a good deal to own a bridge club?

I am not seeking a direct financial payment to clubs. Rather, I am trying to find and promote ways that

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**Agile Bridge Club hosts
"Learn Bridge in A Day?"**

The Agile Bridge Club is holding a "Learn Bridge in A Day?" seminar on Thursday, September 15 from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. at The Hermosa Beach Kiwanis Club 2515 Valley Dr.

"Learn Bridge in A Day?" is a five-hour course designed especially for newcomers and returning players to learn the fundamentals and sharpen their skills. Students will leave ready to take on a new beginner class or even play in a local club's novice game. All are welcome to attend regardless of age or bridge experience. Cost is \$35 and includes a textbook and refreshments.

To register for "Learn Bridge in A Day?" or for more information, contact Jeff Grotenhuis (310) 600-4275, jeffgro@gmail.com.



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that it is North's duty to "present" the preliminary score screen to his opponent for acceptance. I would have added the words "quietly and politely" in there. This is one of those "little things" that would add to our day. It is not that much trouble to input the score, turn the unit to face your opponent, then hand it over to him for his examination. That is how I define "present." How would you define that term? You should then expect him to show you the same courtesy. Not hard. Polite. Speedy. Comfortable. Agreeable. Proper. Helpful.

Let's take care of the little things! This is one of them!

By the way, I see that all our GNT Teams made it to the Round of 8. The A Piken team and the B Chokriwala team made it to the Round of 4 and with 2 different Cinderella rounds, the B Chokriwala team **won** their GNT bracket. They were behind by 47 VPs with 1 round to go and **won** in the semi's, then were ahead by 48 with 1 round to go in the Finals and **won** by 1 VP! Congrats to Om Chokriwala, Fred Upton, Jack Chang, Dr Zheng Zhang, Nolan Chang, and Jim Perkins. Go D23! "

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

the ACBL Board of Directors can set policy and fees for clubs as well as ways that ACBL headquarters can provide better value for clubs.

My motion proposed specific ways that the ACBL Board of Directors become well-informed about how clubs – and other groups such as bridge teachers and other volunteers – contribute to the ACBL and how the ACBL will be attracting new members in the long-term.

This idea is Business 101, and it was derived from a sustained effort on my part to understand the current situation. I spoke to a wide variety of club owners and managers. I also spoke to board members and others familiar with the ACBL and bridge administration. I continue to welcome feedback on this subject. I continue to feel that the ACBL would strongly benefit if the ACBL Board better understood the role of clubs.

Unfortunately, I ran into some political challenges in advancing this simple notion. Some procedural obstacles prevented a full airing of my motion. I did start the process of building political support for clubs, but I see that this will be a long-term challenge. I'll write more extensively about this issue at: <https://acbl23dd.wordpress.com/>

Thank you to all who attended the Long Beach Regional, and thank you to the many district volunteers who contributed to its success. The Long Beach Regional is well-positioned to be a strong contributor to our district's coffers and to rebuild our district's reputation. Perhaps most importantly, it was good, fun bridge.

Reach me at klaned23@gmail.com

Southern California Bridge News

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

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Subscription Rates: \$12.00 per year, private; \$2.00 as portion of District 23 dues; \$3.00 Units outside District 23 if subscribed by entire unit. Copy deadlines: advertising and editorial material by 10th of month; unit columns by 15th of month. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

June 2016 District 23 Long Beach Regional

by Stan Holzberg, Tournament Chair

Great players! Great site! Great Results!

Well, maybe not great results for everyone all of the time but at least some of the time. I think I can safely say that everyone who attended this regional enjoyed themselves. All of the players were cordial, the attendance was terrific (1,406 tables) and the hotel staff could not have been better. We had 1,094 different players in attendance including some from Florida and New York.

The fairy tale story of the tournament concerns Mitch Towner of Tucson, Arizona. On his way to our regional he decided to play in a World Series of Poker event in Las Vegas. In an amazing display of poker playing, he came in first and won over a million dollars! Again, in an amazing display of loyalty to his teammates, he hopped on a red-eye flight, arrived at our tournament and was a double-winner here as well. Congratulations and well done, Mitch!

This year's winner of the Stoddard Trophy (most MPs for the week) was Bob Etter from Sacramento. He accumulated slightly over 100 MPs for the week. Where is that trophy, one might ask? Well, it has been missing for a few years, but, thanks to the generosity of Peter Gelfand, it is going to be replaced. Look for it soon with all those winner names again engraved, starting with Ed Davis in 1970.

The week started off with our 299r workshop by Gerri Carlson. She briefed about 75 up and coming players on the standards of "Take-out doubles" and had a great time with examples and questions. Even Margie Michelin peeked in for some tips! Feed-back from the players included that Gerri's info was put into immediate practice that afternoon. Players are already looking forward to the next workshop and learning more tools of play.

The Pro-Am the first afternoon was enjoyed by 39 tables of players and was won by John Jones from Hacienda Heights and Nancy Nakanishi from Pasadena. We'll show a picture of the happy pair next month.

We had daily bridge lectures between sessions courtesy of the wonderful professionals all arranged by Margie Michelin - see the flyer from the event on the next page. Great questions and great advice was heard by packed audiences.



Ellis Feigenbaum, Margie Michelin
1, Marvin Grabel Open Pairs



Sara Clark, Cindy Owens
1, Tuesday 299r Pairs



Bobby Levin, Marc Jacobus, LouAnn O'Rourke, Geoff Hampson, Kevin Bathurst, Steve Weinstein
1, Tuesday Stratified Swiss, Firecracker KO Bracket 1, and Liberty KO Bracket 1



Richard Picheny, Frank Frand, Maureen Morden, Ron Nath
1, Friday Gold Rush Swiss

LA Regional *continued from previous page*

Sally the Swan visited the tournament and stole some of Penny's M&Ms. She hid them in her egg and made players guess how many she took. Half the donated income went to the ALACBU Scholarship Fund and the other half to the winning guesser. Right before the Master Solvers Live show, our District Director, Kevin Lane, broke the egg and the winning guesser was Lucy Gellner of Torrance, who donated her winnings to the Scholarship Fund. Very generous of you, Lucy.

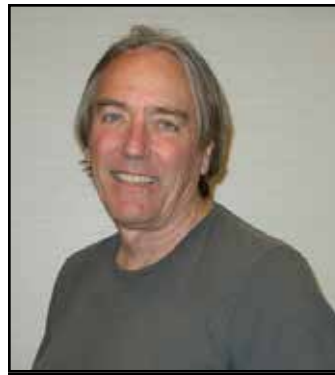
While munching on the M&Ms, the audience saw a great show hosted by John Jones and Leo Bell. The Master Solvers panel included Jill Meyers, Ifti Baqai, Mitch Dunitz, Rick Roeder, Mark Itabashi, Ellen Anten, Margie Michelin, and help from audience member Pam Wittes. The most surprising answer was when the majority of the panel thought that a stiff jack in the opponents opening weak-2 suit was a good enough stopper for 3 no trump.

The Saturday show for the February 2017 tournament will be "The Not So Newlywed Game" with John Jones as Bob Eubanks.

Our players this July were awarded over 9400 master points. While we try to take winner pictures, many folks are camera-shy or miss the photo times. Shown next to this story are at least a few of our happy players and their events. We will supply lollipops next time if you stop by for a picture and we intend to designate an exact spot for those smiling photos to be taken.

I want to personally thank my various committee chairpersons and our very capable staff of Directors without whose dedication and hard work this tournament would not have been a success. The caddies, as usual, did an outstanding job in moving the boards as well as supplying water when requested. These small acts of courtesy often go unnoticed and unrewarded. Of course our biggest thanks go to all our local players from D23 and all those players from D22 and around the country who travel long distances to come enjoy themselves at Bridge Week in Los Angeles. We do our best to make the week enjoyable.

The 2017 summer regional will again be held at the Long Beach Hilton. District 23 hopes you will all attend next year and bring your friends. The new Stoddard Trophy will be on display.



Jim Perkins
1B, Friday Open Pairs



Bob Shore
1 Saturday Open Pairs



Mitch Towner and John Ramos

Star Speakers

Tuesday June 28
Mark Itabashi
"Special Doubles"
2:30

Mark Itabashi is our own Southern California bridge hero. He has over 50,000 masterpoints. He is a Grand Life Master and multiple National Champion winner, including the prestigious LIFE MASTER PAIRS. Mark is a full time bridge professional and makes his home in Newport Beach, Ca.

Wednesday June 29
Bobby Levin
"Competing"
2:30

Bobby Levin is a World and Grand Life Master Champion. Besides his notable award winning good looks, Bobby is the youngest player (at 23) ever to win the prestigious Bermuda Bowl. Besides his world and European championships, he has numerous National championships and is a favorite to bet on in the Cavendish pairs. He lives in Las Vegas with his wife Jill (also a world champion).

Thursday June 30
Marjorie Michelin
"Clues and Inferences to the Rescue"
2:30

Grand Life master - Marjorie is a local favorite speaker for her enthusiasm and energy! She is always available to answer questions, help anyone who is in need. She is the secret partnership for tournaments all over the region and makes bridge fun! She is a bridge teacher and lives in Laguna Woods with her husband Ellis Feigenbaum, a club owner, director and Israeli bridge Champion.

Friday July 1
Billy Miller
"Three Bid Hands"
2:30

Billy, a full-time professional player, is a Grand Life Master and World Bridge Federation World Master. He is famous for his great sense of humor and his Dear Billy column which he has written since 1987. It first appeared in our own ScoreCard Western Conference Contract Bridge Forum and is now syndicated in the JCBL Bulletin (Japan). When not playing bridge, Billy and wife Julie caretake local wildlife at the eight ponds near their Las Vegas home.

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

June 24 big unit-rated game: Overall results: 1st in A: Kim Wang/John Williams, 2nd Kiyo Nagaishi/Mark Tang, 3rd Atsuko Kurishima/Iftikhar Baqai, 4th Mariko Kakimoto/Brandon Sheumaker, 5th Sankar Reddy/Subba Ravipudi, 6th Kay Tseng/Cory Hand, 7/8 tie Lorna Wallace/Lutrell Long tied with Ralph Beazley/Earl VanDerVord. In the B flight overalls: 3rd Jean Matz/Steve Rowe, 4th Barbara Shuping/Paul Pettler, 5th Fay Beckerman/Sherry Troeger, 6th Joyce Henderson/Pamela Cole. In the C flight overalls: 3rd Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein, 4th John Galligher/Christine Frumen, 5th Richard and Robert Bakovic, 6th Vivian Kiley/Bob Ballack. Congratulations to all!

June 26 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: 1st John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 2/3 tie Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger tied with Xiao Xue Walker/Joseph Chaikin, 4th Alan Flower/Janet Logan, 5th Fern and Hank Dunbar, 6th Jackie Hess/Steve Skinner. In the B flight overalls: 3rd Sharon and Al Appel, 4th Wayne Rapp/Judith Jones, 5th Joyce Henderson/Sue Boswell, 6th Joan Kaye/Renee Alpert. In the C flight overalls: 2nd Bill Dilks/Alan Olschwang, 3rd Madge Weinstein/Nancy Karnes. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: June 16 through July 15: In the open game July 13 Robert Gish/Cliff Goodrich had 70.51%. In the 299er game July 2 Bill Heck/Jim Werner had 72.79%. Congratulations to both pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards June 16 through July 15: In the open games: June 19 John Bralliar/Carole Mason won 3.19mp for 1st. June 20 Jackie Hess/Shirley Carroll won 4.88mp for 1st, Judith Jones/Chuck LaFranchi tied

for 2nd with Diane Starbuck/George Thompson each winning 3.21mp. June 21 Rich Wasser/Mike Welsh won 6.56 for 1st, Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh 4.92mp for 2nd, Ted Gibbs/Steve Mager 3.69 for 3rd. June 22 George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord won 4.69mp for 1st, Richard and Robert Bakovic 3.25mp for 2nd. June 23 Steve Mager/Shirley Carroll won 4.50mp for 1st, George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord 3.38mp for 2nd. In the big game June 24 Kim Wang/John Williams won 7.69mp for 1st, Kiyo Nagaishi/Mark Tang 5.77mp for 2nd, Atsuko Kurishima/Iftikhar Baqai 4.33mp for 3rd, Mariko Kakimoto/Brandon Sheumaker 3.24 for 4th, Sankar Reddy/Subba Ravipudi 3.19mp for 5th. In the unit game June 25 Sankar Reddy/John Petrie won 4.23mp for 1st. June 25 Kevin Lane/Murat Veysoglu won 4.31mp for 1st, Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh 3.23mp for 2nd. And July 4 John Petrie/Sankar Reddy won 4.13mp for 1st, Toni Morford/Steve Rowe 3.10mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

New Members: Judith Cook, Carol Poto, Mary Power, Sandra Schlosser, Nancy Conger. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Regional Master: Rosalie Storc. New Silver Life Master: Richard Stein. New Ruby Life Master: Dorothy Favre. Congratulations to all three!

Upcoming Events at the Club

July 24 Unit Game. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8. Future Unit Games will be played on August 21, September 25 and October 23.

July 25-31 NAP (North American Paris) qualifying week. Extra points, regular card fees.

July 31 unit-rated Happy Mutt Day

August 7-13 NAP qualifying week. Extra points, regular card fees.

August 14 unit-rated Swiss Teams game

August 15 happy birthday to all with an August birthday. Bring your birthday post card for a \$5.00 discount. →

August 21 Unit Game. 1:00 PM. Card fees are \$8.00.

August 22-28 Great Western STAC. Silver points. Extra points are available at all regular game sessions. There is a \$1.00 surcharge per session.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Game: July 14 Clubhouse #3: Verna Baccus/Larry Slutsky 1 in A. Coorie Dampman/George Alemshah 2 in A, 1 in B. Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 3 in A. Dixie Albright/ Roger Farmer 4 in A, 2 in B. Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 5 in A. Hanefi Erten/Arne Lier 6 in A. Sue Boswell/Ellen Kice 3 in B, 1 in C. Midge Dunagan/Bud Parish 4 in B. Melaine and Jerry Smith 5 in B. Norma Krueger/Paul Chen 2 in C. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 3 in C.

70% Game: On July 4 Alan Olschwang/Ken Miller had a 71.30% game at Clubhouse #3

Congratulations: New Ruby Life Master: Dorothy Favre

Congratulations to L.A. Regional winners: Howard Smith and his teammates Diane Sachs, Joyce Henderson and Jane Reid were 1st in a Bracketed B Swiss game. Master point winners from members of our club: Betty Jackson and Howard Smith

Get Well Wishes to Jaye Woodington, Sibyl Smith, Dick Stammerjohn

Condolences to our Saturday Director Emma Treppinski on the loss of her husband Skip.

Upcoming club championship games: Clubhouse #3: Aug 11, Sept 12. Clubhouse #1 Oct 7.

Any news for next month's column, please e mail me @ jcj90740@gmail.com results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game: Saturday, August 20, 11:00 a.m.
Individual: Saturday, Aug 6, 9:30 a.m., La Verne Site

Our July Unit game was won by Genise Hasan - Michael Marcucci, beating out Richard Patterson - Roger Boyar, Susan Emminger - Linda Ananea, and Timothy Finlay - Eileen Finlay. Genise and Mike's result was good enough for second overall in the District. And speaking of Unit games, we have some (we hope) Interesting News to report:

In an effort to lure in some players who do not play – maybe have never tried – duplicate bridge, we are adding a “newcomer” section to our monthly game. Entry fee for this game will be the breathtakingly low, low price of \$1.00 through the end of this year. Entry will be limited to so-called “newcomers” at the discretion of the game Director – we will **not** (necessarily) be limiting participation by master point holdings or previous experience. Hand records will be available! So if you have any friends, relatives, or acquaintances who would like to see what Duplicate is all about... bring →



John Ramos is a Sapphire Life Master who has been playing tournament bridge for 25 years. In 2008 and 2009, he won back-to-back National Championships by taking home the Grand National Teams A Flight title, first representing New York and then his now-home Los Angeles. He's also had high finishes in the Roth Open Teams and the Norman Kay Platinum Pairs. He teaches and plays with all levels of students and strongly believes anyone can improve with the right approach for that person. Most importantly, he thinks bridge should be fun at any level! Please get in touch with John for availability and rates.

Phone: (212) 920-1224

Email: couchbaron@gmail.com

them along. We will do our best to supply partners, too, if given sufficient notice. Since our game is on Saturday morning, it is very, very, very difficult to find a partner when requested at 9:00 p.m. Friday!

Advance warning, our annual October two-session championship game is being moved to the fourth Saturday, October 22, due to a scheduling conflict with our playing site. Mark your calendar!

Even more advance warning, our December game + Christmas party is being moved up to the second Saturday, December 10, to avoid a conflict with the Palm Springs regional. Mark your calendar again!

Speaking of Unit Games, we have some Good News... a slight correction to last month's Bad News. Due to an error in ACBLScore, Unit Games were incorrectly being charged the "special game" fee of \$4/table. The sanction fee has gone up, but "only" to \$2.25/ table. That's still a rather stiff 80% increase. Our District Director has promised to note our objections to such a stiff rise at the next ACBL Board Meeting... FWIW.

But we still have to raise our entry fee (for non-StaC games) to \$7. Still a bargain!

In the July Individual, Roger Boyar took the top spot, followed by Al Lax, Lois Snowden, Darlene Sessions, and Dale Quasny.

The top game this past month was a blistering 72.2%-er by Richard Patterson – Sandy Jones. They just edged out Lulu-Minter – Paul Chrisney at 68.75%. Other winners were John Barrow, Mary Miller, Walt Otto, Clint Lew, Susie Emminger, Fredy Minter, Hanan Mogharbel, Linda Tessier, Roger Ginsburg, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, and Herb Stampfl.

Twelve Unit members hauled in 77.91 masterpoints during the Bridge Week Regional in Long Beach. Topping the list was pro Jack Chao (30.76). Tops among the rest of us was Col. Larry Bolls, with 15.03, Penny Barbieri (7.57) and Clint Lew (6.92). Preliminary indications are that the tournament was a success. A special feature was an address by Billy Miller (you've seen his columns in the ACBL Bulletin) to our District Board of Directors. Mr. Miller had some interesting suggestions as to how we could improve our tournaments. We Shall See!

Five ... count 'em, five ... promotions this month. Roger Ginsburg is now a Club Master, Sofi Kasubhai is a Sectional Master, and Judy Husted, Marty Husted, and Al Lax are all Sectional Masters. Congratulations to you all.

This month our Hand-of-the-Month takes an en-

tirely new direction. It's called "Sometimes Those %\$#! Hand Records Do More Harm Than Good." The hand presented occurred during our recent StaC.

North deals, and North-South are vulnerable. The North-South hands are

♠AQ9 ♥AT863 ♦AJ ♣AQ4
♠8532 ♥K5 ♦K52 ♣K973

The auction could go many ways, depending on your methods, but let's say... just for laughs... that you are playing Standard and open the North hand with 2NT. Then it will probably go 3♣ (Stayman), 3♦, 3NT. Pretty tame, no?

Maybe. Maybe not. The hand record shows 6NT making (+1440) as the par contract. Really? Sure, at match points you will take both finesses (spades and diamonds) and since both win, you will take 12 tricks. But how under Heaven and Earth do you get there? Even opening that North hand 2♣ (22 points, counting for the long heart and ignoring ♦AJ tight), we see no reasonable way. Of course, if you are about 30 IMPs behind in a match, it's probably a great slam to be in.

Just for added icing on the cake... 6♣ also makes, on the same two finesses and the 3-3 club break. Go figure.

Quote for the Month: "Drawing on my fine command of language, I said nothing." (Robert Benchley)

Until next month ...



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

We are continuing to profile some of our Inspirational Players in Unit 556. This month we are featuring Roshen Hadulla of Santa Clarita:

Roshen Hadulla was born in Karachi, India, before Pakistan was created. As a young woman she met her future husband at an American company where she worked. After marrying, they lived in many parts of the world, including Germany, Argentina, Brazil, Puerto Rico, Pakistan and the United States.

Roshen loved to play cards and played a lot of blackjack at casinos. Her husband told her it was too expensive a hobby and suggested that she learn to play bridge. She did and loved it. Wherever they lived she was able to find a bridge club and pursue this inter- →

est as well as playing in tournaments all over the world.

About 10 years ago, Roshen moved to Santa Clarita to be near her daughters and immediately found a bridge club. Today, she is a Gold Life Master. Besides playing with her regular partners, she enjoys mentoring intermediate players and is a valuable member of our bridge community.

“Eight is Enough” Swiss Team and Unit Game

We had a great turnout for our first Swiss Team and Unit Championship game on July 10 in Palmdale. Eight out of the 9 teams scored masterpoints. The top 4 teams were:

- 1 George MacDonald, Kathy Cresto, Tom and Barbara Jones - 68 VPs
- 2 Susan Adkins, Purshottam Tennarangam, Paula Olivares and Bill Brodek - 49 VPs
- 3 Rand Pinsky, Kathy Swaine, Charles and Mary Anne Self - 44 VP
- 4 Ruth Baker, Tracy Boys, Bert Stock and Roy Ladd - 42 VP

Unit Game Results

July 18 at the Friendly Bridge Club in Santa Clarita

North/South

- 1 Charles and Mary Anne Self - 62.12%
- 2 Carol Ashbacher and Melisse Benson - 56.46%
- 3 Lamonte Johnson and Ted Maki - 56.33%

East/West

- 1/2 Sam Khayat and Bob Brothers - 56.55%
- Susan Strasser and Dan McGreevey - 56.55%
- 3 Anita Walker and Jackie Moor - 54.55%

Magic Mountain Sectional

Unit 556 will hold our Magic Mountain Sectional

this year on September 17-18 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium, 19345 Avenue of the Oaks in Santa Clarita. On Saturday there will be two single session events, Stratified Open Pairs and Limited Masterpoint Pairs at 10:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. On Sunday there will be a play-through Stratified Open Swiss Teams event at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact tournament chair Bill Brodek (bbrodek@yahoo.com) or partnership coordinator Tracy Boys (abigquack@sbcglobal.net).

Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting is Tuesday, August 16 at 5:15 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Upcoming NAP Qualifying Games

Tuesday, August 9 at 12:30 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Tuesday, August 23 at 6:45 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Upcoming Unit Games

Friday, August 12 at 12:30 (Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale) →

Monday, Aug 22 at 12:30 (Senior Center in Santa Clarita)

Other Events

Over/Under Game scheduled for August 30, Tues 6:45. To sign up or for more details contact Rand or Paula.

Magic Mountain Sectional: Saturday, September 17th and Sunday September 18th at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. →

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.



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

August 6: Unit 561 Luncheon/Game

Unit 561 will host a Luncheon and Game on Saturday, August 6, at the 750 Club, 5700 Rudnick Ave, Woodland Hills. A catered Italian lunch will be served buffet style at noon, followed by an Open, Stratified game at 1 p.m. The fee is \$12 and reservations are requested. A sign-up sheet will be available at the 750 Club or email Dennis Forst at diforst123@gmail.com for reservations/partnerships.

Longest Day Games

The 750 Club held three games of bridge on Monday, June 20, for a total of 48 tables. All card fees and additional individual donations resulted in a generous contribution of over \$4,900 to the Alzheimer's Association. The following energetic players were awarded special certificates for playing in all three games: Jeff Hartmann, Anne Hurwitz, Martin Hurwitz, Phil Jones, Beverly McLeod, Susan Raphael, and Frank Rappaport. Winners in the games were as follows:

Morning Pairs: NS – Martin Hurwitz – Joan Rubin (A1), Carol Klein – Martin Klein (A2, B1), Daniel Strauss – Aramis Simian (B2), Ravnesh Amar – Gulshan Amar (C1), and Jeri Herman – Pushpa Comar (C2). EW – Jerry Rabinowitz – Joyce Rabinowitz (A1, B1, C1), Alan Golden – Jerry Rose (B2), and Jennifer Lerner – Ray Primus (C2).

Afternoon Pairs: NS – Frank Rappaport – Jeff Hartmann (A1, B1) and John Gray – Joan Swedelson-Gray (A2, B2). EW – M.J. Jubelirer – Rochelle Lotto (A1, B1), Kevin Lane – Marel Bates (A2), and Lorraine Buhai – Marvin Buhai (B2).

Evening Pairs: NS – Michael Klemens – Martin Hurwitz (A1), Gilbert Stinebaugh – Donald Crum (A2), Beverly McLeod – Anne Hurwitz (B1), and Sol Leff – Toni Stitt (B2). EW – Brian Rose – Phyllis Kantar (A1), James Hoose – Billy Blanchard (A2, B1), Herbert Zweig – Bernard Davidorf (B2), Michael Winston – Jane Winston (C1), and Bunnie Blender – Don Adler (C2).

Special Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Unit 561 players who were overall first-place, gold-point winners in various events at the recent Long Beach Regional: Gary Baxley, Doug Beagle, Phil Calloway, Janet Cooper, Mitch Dunitz, Joan Feldman, Jim Gardner, Alan Golden, Leila Greenfield, Dwight Hunt, Mike Klemens, Claude Le Feuvre, Ray Primus, and Bill Raines.

June "Top Ten" Masterpoints at the 750 Club were: Martin Hurwitz 14.55, Susan Raphael 9.93, Carol Bell 9.82, Ray Primus 9.66, Linda Silvey 8.69, Ron Malkin 7.94, Mike Weiner 7.55, Gloria Feerst 7.49, Jerry Goodman 7.21, and Frank Rappaport 7.21. Susan Raphael and Fuad Kouri achieved a 70.42% game.

750 Club August Special Events

North American Pair Qualifying Games were held in June and July. Many 750 Club players have been able to qualify for the next level of competition. Additional games will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, August 9, Thursday, August 11, and Friday, August 12. Half red and half black points will be awarded to the winners. There is a \$1 extra fee for each of these Open, Stratified games.

Calendar

Saturday, August 6, Unit 561 Lunch/Game, at the 750 Club. See details above.

Tuesday, August 9, Thursday, August 11, and Friday, August 12, *North American Pair Games, 750 Club, 11 a.m.

Monday, September 5 (Labor Day), 750 Club open for day game, closed for night game.

Tuesday, September 20, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Saturday, December 3, Unit 561 Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party, at the 750 Club. Please save the date!





Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568
SBBC: www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc

Upcoming Events

Club NLM Championship: Thursday, Aug 4, 10:30
Club Swiss Team Championship: Tuesday, August 9, 7
NAP Qualifier: Monday, August 15, 6:30
Club Championship: Wednesday, August 17, 7:00
NAP Qualifier: Wednesday, August 24, 11:30
Club Championship: Friday, August 26, 11:30
Friday Night games on August 5 and 19

Club Championships

The North American Pairs Qualifier on June 20 was led by Gerri Carlson/Marybelle Hoenig in Flight A with Betsy Amador/Harry Wessells taking Flight B. On June 21 the Club Championship was captured by Fran Israel/Hank Sheehan in Flight A with Nancy Collinge/Laura Gastelum on top in Flight B. On July 6 the North American Pairs Qualifier saw Stan Greengard/Bob Rothman leading in Flights A and B and Pat Berg/Sheryl Kohlhoff ahead in Flight C. On July 9 the Club Championship was led by Fran Israel/Laura Gastelum in Flight A and Betsy Amador/Pat Berg in Flight B. On July 11 Stan Greengard/Mark Raggio led the way in Flights A and B with Roberta Gottfried/James Alstad ahead in Flight C.

Swiss Team Events

The following are results from recent Swiss Team events.

July 5: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Lucy Gellner, Wayne Otsuki

July 12: Sharon Biederman, John Jones, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

July 19: Luis Gamio, Carole Mason, Wayne Otsuki, John J. McDermott

GUV Award:

On a recent Monday at SBBC I sat down to start the game with Lucy Gellner and an empty seat sitting the other direction. Lucy was complaining about how her partner (Unnamed here) was always late and might even forget a date now and then. She finally called him and vehemently said how could he forget their date for today Monday July 25. There was only one problem. Today was actually Monday July 18.

I am writing this column from Washington DC at the last minute and it is rather abbreviated. I apologize and promise to have a more complete column next month.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

The All-Seeing Eye

You might think that if you went to the trouble of travelling across the continent to play a tournament, you could enjoy your victories in quiet anonymity. You might think that, but in this Unit, at least, you'd be wrong. We begin this month's column with a dispatch from the Can-At Regional in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where Judy Hyde emerged from the Friday A/X Pairs with a victory. Congratulations, Judy, and may your next win be closer to home.

Speaking of closer to home, Bridge Week was last month at Long Beach and we had quite a tournament. Thank you to all of the players, near and far, who turned out to make the event such a rousing success. We have to start our report with Alex Kolesnik and John Ramos, who scored up a three-peat, winning the Betsy Ross Knockout Teams, the Stars and Stripes Knockout Teams, and the Tuesday-Wednesday evening Swiss.

Kolesnik and Ramos had a lot of company from our Unit in the winner's circle, including a number of our less experienced players. Zorina and Ed Pelant won the Wednesday morning 299er Pairs game. Pamela Boyer ended up atop the Saturday morning 299er Pairs game. Stuart Hemple won his bracket of the Queen →

Mary Compact Knockout Teams, as did Lisa Caras, Brenda Schonfeld, and Pat Bessone. Diane Licht and Sue Ann Simon won their bracket of the Firecracker Knockout Teams, while Marion Tumen took top honors in her bracket of the Bracketed B Swiss Teams event, as did Rochelle Blumenfeld, Jerry Smith, Vicki Ebin, and Carolyn Taff. Your Humble Scribe joined the party by winning the Saturday Open Pairs.

Looking Ahead

As always, there's more on the horizon. August marks the last month of North American Pairs qualifying at the club level. The Unit will pick up your extra dollar at the qualifying game held on August 7 at Beverly Hills, in conjunction with an ice cream social. Another Unit event is waiting on August 28, when we will hold a picnic and Unit Championship at Beverly Hills. The picnic starts at 5 and bridge will begin at 6.

As always, Labor Day weekend will see our annual Fall Sectional. We will again be graciously hosted by Barrington. Saturday will feature Compact Knockout Teams and Stratified Pairs games at 10:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Sunday, of course, will have a Stratiflighted Swiss starting at 10:30. Take your shot at winning the Jill Meyers Trophy or the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy.

Guessing Shoes

After opening a 12-14 NT in fourth seat at match-points, white against red, I bought it there. The opening lead of the heart J gave me the following challenge:

Dummy: ♠J6 ♥K85 ♦K865 ♣J874

Declarer: ♠A982 ♥962 ♦A103 ♣KQ5

My first guess was to insert the king immediately. RHO won the ace and sent a heart back to the 10. My luck was in when LHO took a while in thought (indicating that I'd successfully blocked the suit) before returning the ♠4. I played low from dummy, fetching the queen, and since I was pretty sure that hand held all the outstanding hearts, ducking seemed like a bad idea. After winning the ace, I sent back another spade and LHO won the K10 (I threw a heart and a diamond from dummy) and then put me back in with the last spade, his partner throwing a heart.

I played the ♣K, winning, and then the ♣Q. LHO won the ace and exited with the ♣10, his partner throwing another heart on the third club. Now I exited with

dummy's last club, and when RHO threw a diamond, I dumped my now-useless heart. When LHO exited with a low diamond that rode to my 10, I scored up my contract with three diamonds, two clubs, and two spades. If he'd led a high diamond, I'd have had to make another guess, somehow working out to play RHO for the ♦9 instead of the other diamond honor. A cute variation on a simple squeeze.

Welcome Mat

We have two and a half tables of new members in our Unit this month, almost enough to form a game of their own. New members of the ACBL are Marjorie Alden, David Chen, Suzie Demer, and Benjamin Duncan. Transferring in from other Units are Carol and Joel Gillis, Clifford and Michael Noronha, Seymour Phillips, and Stanley Small. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Sam Haveson and Alan Schneider won a club championship last month at Beverly Hills. The club had quite a few 70% games. Susanne Menck and Zalman Perelman hit the mark, as did Susan Rosenwasser and Al Franken, Nancy Heck and Danny Kleinman, Norman Avrech and Doug Green, and Aram Bedros and Om Chokriwala.

Hitting 70% at Barrington were Pete Knee and Rob Perlsweig, Ted Glaessner and Chuck Maltz, and Ellen Anten and Becky Clough.

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

Climbing the Ladder

Stanley Kangas has reached the rank of Club Master. Our Unit's newest Regional Masters are Val Romoff, Izydor Wilchfort, and Annette Wolos.

Bob Shapiro is a new Life Master. Nancie Barrier has reached Bronze Life Master status. Kenneth Kidd is now a Silver Life Master. Lou Papp has become a Gold Life Master and Jordan Chodorow has become a Diamond Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Eddie Kantar, Roger Lee, Tim Lolli, Rick Roeder, and David Sacks

1

MPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
Dbl	3♣	Pass	3NT
Dbl	Pass	Pass	4♣
?	Pass	5♥	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠AQ985 ♥A4 ♦A98 ♣AJ5
What call do you make?

It's hard to envision what partner might have to pass over 3NT doubled, but to make a slam try over 4♣ doubled. Does he have very long hearts and a rather weak hand? Does he have a stronger hand with marginal hearts? We have enough extras to bid some slam, but what is the best strain?

Kantar: 6♥. I'm playing partner for eight hearts and no outside king. He must have been afraid to overcall hearts for fear his partner would think he had a better hand.

Lolli: 6♥. Partner was content to play 3NT doubled, but he judged the penalty wouldn't be enough

against 4♣ doubled. Thus, he has good hearts and wants to play a slam instead if I can bid it. I'm more concerned about missing seven and making six.

Sacks: 6♥. Preempts work! I have two first round controls more than the minimum that I could have, so let us see what happens.

Should we suggest playing the hand in spades, and if so, what's the best try?

Bare: 5♠. This leaves all options open.

5NT suggests two places to play.

The 5NT bidders are going to correct 6♦ to 6♥ to give partner a choice of 6♥ or 6♠. I'm a 5NT bidder.

Lee: 5NT. Surely we have enough to bid more, since partner would not be stretching to bid 5♥ in this position. I'll offer a choice between 6♥ and 6♠ since I don't think my hearts are good enough to insist on them. If partner pulls 6♥ to 6♠, I'd think that's right on average.

Roeder: 5NT. This hand is slam worthy, but I do not want to unilaterally commit to hearts. If partner has six good hearts, they will be rebid.

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What do you think?

**Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org**

2

IMPs
NS vul

S	W	N	E
?			2♦*

* 2♦ was described as
weak but random

You, South, hold:
♠AJ ♥AKQ964 ♦A2 ♣Q74
What call do you make?

We have an excellent hand. How do we best make progress?

Roeder: Double. No bid by partner can embarrass you. Even if partner bids 4♠, you will not be ashamed to rebid 5♥.

Sacks: Double. Maybe we will glean some information with partner's response. If partner responds 3♣ he will have some values [David is assuming the Lebensohl convention, of which virtually all expert pairs use some variation] as opposed to 2♠ or 2NT, which could be broke.

One bidder considered double, but went a different route.

Lee: 4♥. It's tempting to double first to try to go slower. However, I play that partner is expected to pull 4♥ to 4♠ with most hands with five spades and fewer than three hearts, which we certainly don't want with this hand.

Two bidders beg for partner to bid with a solid trick.

Lolli: 3♥. 3♥ shows a very good hand so I expect partner to react accordingly.

Bare: 3♥. Top of the range for 3♥, but best anyway.

Our final bidder selects my choice, the NT game!

Kantar: 3NT. Where there are eight there will be nine. Where there are nine (bidding 4♥) there may not be ten.

D23 Rank Changes June 2016

<p>Junior Master</p> <p>Morris Asch Mark Beizer Susanne Bowser Dona Clark Jeannine Isaacs Robert Rosenberg Peter Schwab Louise Shoemaker Jane Zamanzaden</p>	<p>Sandy Rathbun James Rozzell Tate Shafer Judy Zucker</p>
<p>Club Master</p> <p>Dominick Cardella Johanna Cardella Tracee Dezzutti Jane Dietz May Ho Peter McKernan Jon Pack William Power Jerry Rabinowitz Joan Riback Marvin Robbins Denise Simon Dea Toutoungy Barbara Wallace</p>	<p>Adv NABC Master</p> <p>Gary Baxley Jeffrey Hartmann</p>
<p>Sectional Master</p> <p>Lynn Edelson Patricia Kraus Marilyn Limbach</p>	<p>Life Master</p> <p>Usha Bansal Rochelle Blumenfeld Colleen Gardner Mark Gersh Bernhard Hadelor Lee Hausner Marjorie Romans Russell Van Cleve</p>
<p>Regional Master</p> <p>Ilene Berg Deanna Berrin Faustina Floyd Jaclyn Hatfield Glenn Silcott Jill Thesman</p>	<p>Bronze Life Master</p> <p>Constance Abell Barry Cooper Mark Gersh Larry Kussin</p>
<p>NABC Master</p> <p>Dick Berg Barbara Haines Gerald Ketz Shirley Knopf Mike Louis Alan Olschwang</p>	<p>Silver Life Master</p> <p>Steven Dagel Herbert Ehrmann James Perkins Markle Vandervort</p>
<p>Sapphire Life Master</p> <p>John Ionescu Robert Shore</p>	<p>Ruby Life Master</p> <p>Stanley Greengard Renee Hoffman Ronald Malkin</p>
<p>Diamond Life Master</p> <p>John Bralliar Alfred Lee Jeff Strutzel</p>	<p>Gold Life Master</p> <p>Richard Wasser</p>

3

IMPs
all vul

S	W	N	E
1♠	P	2♥	P
2♠	P	3♣	P
?			

You, South, hold:
♠AKQ653 ♥7 ♦J4 ♣Q652
What call do you make?

Bare: 4♠. This might be best spot, but a club slam is quite possible. *[At matchpoints I think we would get more 4♠ bidders.]*

Kantar: 4♣. Hoping to have a chance to bid 4♠ if partner bids 4♦ or 4♥.

Lee: 4♣. I have great club support, so I raise clubs. These spades are not good enough to rebid again with such an attractive alternative.

Lolli: 4♣. I don't have a great hand, but partner is looking for the best game or slam. I'll assume we have the mechanism to stop in 4NT if necessary.

How do we show club support with a singleton heart? David suggests bidding around the heart suit to show a singleton.

Sacks: 4♣. There was a time I would bid 3♦ to see where partner was coming next. If that bid followed by 4♣ over 3NT guaranteed a singleton heart I might still do that. Bidding 4♣ is easy; the tough part is what to do over partner's bidding 4♥ next.

Rick suggests the answer I like, 4♥.

Roeder: 4♣. Glad you did not give as a matchpoint problem. *[Matchpoints would make it a more difficult problem].* If a 4♥ bid is a splinter, as I suspect it should be, that would have much merit. One of the most difficult bidding evaluations is to know whether your stiff, opposite partner's length, is a good thing or a bad thing. That is why 4♥ would be invaluable as a splinter here. Practical bridge dictates that partner be aware.

4

MPs
all vul

S	W	N	E
?			

You, South, hold:
♠95 ♥K986542 ♦AJ83 ♣--
What call do you make?

What's the best call here: Pass, 1♥, 2♥, 3♥ or 4♥?

Lee: Pass. Any preemptive number of hearts is a misdescription, and 1♥ is a strange bid with such little defense/HCP. If I had to open I would open 1♥.

Sacks: Pass. I pass, unless the state of the match is such that I am looking for a swing. I am not up to the current state of affairs so as to open 1♥.

Lolli: 2♥. Once I ruled out pass and 1♥, I made my ugly bid. A seven card suit, a void, and a side 4 card suit aren't my cup of tea, but this is a tough hand.

Bare: 3♥. A pass followed by a high-level bid usually shows a two-suiter and the diamonds don't quite make it a two-suiter. Also, the hand should be stronger as well as two-suited for most high level bidding.

Kantar: 3♥. Not exactly what partner will expect, but on the other hand, not exactly an easy hand to describe. Please don't tell me I missed a game or a slam in diamonds, please, John.

Roeder: 3♥. I know preempts are getting looser, but even considering a 4♥ with this moth-eaten suit should result in a 30 masterpoint penalty. *[Ask your buddy Ifi Baqui!]*

For the latest news...

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

5

IMPs
NS vul

S	W	N	E
P	P	3♥	3♦
?			P

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

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 heart fit.

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.

Next Month's Problems

1. IMPs, NS vul

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

You hold: ♠AQ ♥K9865 ♦AQ86 ♣86
 South, what call do you make?

2. IMPs, NS vul

South	West	North	East
?			

You hold: ♠AK8 ♥86 ♦A8 ♣AKQT86
 South: What call do you make?

3. MPs, NS vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	Dbl	Rdbl	1♦
?			1NT

You hold: ♠A87642 ♥6 ♦AJ ♣KJT6
 South: What call do you make?

4. MPs, NS vul

South	West	North	East
2♥	5♣	1♠	2♣
?		Pass	Pass

You hold: ♠K86 ♥AQ9865 ♦AQ6 ♣J
 South: What call do you make?

5. MPs, all vul

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

You hold: ♠AK86532 ♥8 ♦A86 ♣86
 South: What call do you make?