

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 52, #6

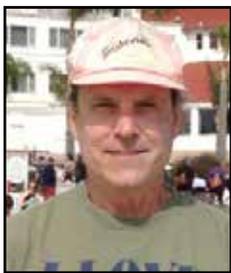
June 2016

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Long Beach Rocks

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



In a few weeks, the Long Beach Hilton will be filled with enthusiastic bridge players wanting their morning coffee and pastry. Will that help their bidding and play? Who knows, but it helps our spirits, if not our game.

It has been two years since we hosted a Regional in Long Beach. Not by choice, of course. We were aced out of our available spots by another organization last year. Just did not work out that contract in time. Your Tournament Committee sees that fair city as a prime location for bridge weeks and we will enjoy our present accommodations for multiple years thanks to Peter, Becky, and Ellen.

If anyone cannot recognize those names, it may be because the District has not been crystal clear in the past about who does what on our Board. We would like to change that very soon by putting our organization chart on our website. Yes, we do have one. Yes, it was on the wall at our last Regional. Much more convenient to everyone in the District will be to have it right on our website for all to see. Look for it after I get back in town in mid-June. The whole Tournament Committee is at the lower left. These are all the hard workers who have arranged everything in Long Beach. They are closing all the loops with the hotel to make Bridge Week this year the best we can. We will lack the dance party of the old Ambassador days, but there is entertainment on our agenda.

Does everyone realize that we have had more than 80 Bridge Weeks in LA? What a great history we have. Not to say that we do not have roadbumps here or there. For example, we seem to have lost the Stoddard Trophy – given to the #1 Masterpoint recipient for this week. Lots of famous names on that trophy. If it cannot be found, we will contract for a new one. Luckily, our Dis-

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

Club and STaC Fees

by Kevin Lane, District Director
*Bridge is a game
and should be fun*



Club and STaC Fees

Many of you may have noticed the fee increases during the recent STaC. The national board voted last year to raise the STaC fee by \$2 per person. Similarly, the national board raised the club sanction fees to \$1 per table.

Many players and club managers in our district and in other districts have expressed concerns about these fee increases. Generally, these fee increases are necessary to ensure a balanced budget which is a key responsibility of the board.

Club per-table sanction fees have not been increased since 2006 which certainly mitigates many concerns. An analysis by ACBL headquarters shows that club sanction fees remain the slowest growing of the several areas where the ACBL raises additional revenues.

The STaC sanction fees are a more complex situation. The calculus for these fee increases includes the projected increase in revenue to the clubs from additional tables and the additional card fees, if any, charged by clubs. Of course, some clubs do charge extra for a STaC and others have tried not to charge extra in the past. I welcome feedback on how D23 clubs handle STaC card fees and to what extent STaCs increase attendance.

DIRECTOR *continued on page 2*

Inside This Issue

Around the Units	page 4
Los Angeles Regional - June 2016	page 3
Problem Solvers Panel	page 10
Rank Changes	page 14

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

strict history files contain an accurate list of all our winners since the first award in 1970. Ed Davis is the first name on that list. He should be trying for a repeat in a few weeks, so be sure to say hi.

One of our biggest worries for most tournaments lately has been to meet the room guaranty in our contracts. It is a worry because penalties result from failing to meet the minimum. We are extremely happy to tell you that there is no such problem this year. As suits our wonderful Long Beach location, we have the opposite problem now, in that our demand exceeds our supply. Our tournament chairman and manager are working hard to accommodate

all our players who cannot get into the Hilton at our bridge rate because of the huge demand for our space. They managed to get an extra 30 room nights above our max for our players, but after those are filled, we may be handcuffed into higher rates. Book early is the word.

Whether staying at the hotel or driving in each day, we hope to see you all enjoying the speakers, the coffee, the smiling directors, and all the restaurants within an easy walk. There should be a multitude of bridge games for all – starting with Gerri’s workshop for 299ers on Monday morning. Who could resist staying for the rest of the week after such a start? I shall be taking names!

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

As I reported in previous monthly messages, the national board cut substantial expenses of their own operation. These cuts were good common sense governance, but they also serve to let the general membership and club community know that the national board is sensitive to the impact of the fee increases.

Feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or opinions on this subject.

Transparency

For those of you readers who want more in-depth information on national goings-on, please visit: <https://acbl23dd.wordpress.com/> My monthly column in the Southern California Bridge News is necessarily focused on District 23 members as a whole. But a distinct subset of our district members have a deeper interest in various national issues not appropriate for this column. For example, in Reno a decision was made to experiment with drop-ins for one event in this summer's NABC. Very few people in our district care about this issue, but those that do care may want to understand the ACBL's perspective.

The forum I created allows me to increase ACBL transparency on issues before the national board of directors: increasing ACBL transparency is key to good governance. I have also included my “policy positions” on several topics. I welcome feedback bearing in mind that the forum is a work-inprogress.

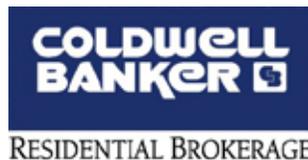
The summer NABC will be held in Washington D.C. In July. Reach me at klaned23@gmail.com

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to: bridgenews@acbl23.org

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Los Angeles Regional

Long Beach, CA
June 27 - July 3 2016



Tournament Highlights

Gold Rush Pairs - Tuesday through Thursday!
New Gold Rush Swiss - Friday!
Star Speakers every day!
299er games every day!
Daylight Schedule all week!



Monday Pro-Am Workshop & Game

Free two-hour bridge lesson on Monday June 27 from 10:30 am to 12:30, followed by lunch and a Pro-Am pairs game.
Card fees for Pro-Am: \$14 (pros play for free)

Registration Required!
Please call Jeff Grotenhuis
310-600-4275

Hilton Long Beach
701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Room rate: \$129 (please refer to ALACBU)
Reserve at 800-445-8667 by Thursday, June 2nd
Self parking: \$7

Card fees: \$14 (\$18 for non-ACBL Members)

Need a Partner?
Diane Sachs
dianesachs@yahoo.com
562-981-4884

Tournament Manager:
Peter Benjamin
ahoneydo@aol.com
310-720-6050

Director-in-Charge:
Ken Horwedel

Tournament Chair: Stan Holzberg
District 23 President: Mike Marcucci

Tournament Sanction: R1607031
Flyer Designer: Mr. F

Los Angeles Regional

Long Beach, CA
June 27 - July 3 2016



Monday, June 27, 2016
299er Free Workshop/lunch Reserv. Rqd.....10:30 am
PRO-AM (single session) Reserv. Rqd.....1:15 pm
AM Side Game Series (1 of 6).....1:15 pm
Single Session Stratified Charity Pairs (ALACBU Scholarship).....7:00 pm

Tuesday, June 28, 2016
AM Side Game Series (2 of 6).....10:30 am
AM 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Marvin Grabel Memorial Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm

Guest Lecture.....2:30 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (1 of 5).....3:15 pm
PM 299er Pairs (single session).....3:15 pm
Dinner Break.....6:45 pm - 7:30 pm
Tue-Wed Evening Swiss Teams (1 of 2).....7:30 pm

Wednesday, June 29, 2016
AM Side Game Series (3 of 6).....10:30 am
AM 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 am
Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Wed. Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Guest Lecture.....2:30 pm

Wednesday, June 29, 2016
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (2 of 5).....3:15 pm
PM 299er Pairs (single session).....3:15 pm
Dinner Break.....6:45 pm - 7:30 pm
Tue-Wed Evening Swiss Teams (2 of 2).....7:30 pm

Thursday, June 30, 2016
AM Side Game Series (4 of 6).....10:30 am
AM 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 pm
Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Stars and Stripes KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Equinox Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
John Wreede Memorial Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Guest Lecture.....2:30 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (3 of 5).....3:15 pm

Friday, July 1, 2016
AM Side Game Series (5 of 6).....10:30 am
AM 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 pm
Stars and Stripes KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Liberty KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Gold Rush Swiss Teams (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Friday Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Guest Lecture.....2:30 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (4 of 5).....3:15 pm

Saturday, July 2, 2016
AM Side Game Series (6 of 6).....10:30 am
Sandy Rink Memorial 299er Pairs (single session).....10:30 pm
Marshall Miles Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Liberty KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Queen Mary Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm
Saturday Open Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:15 pm

Entertainment Event.....2:30 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session).....3:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (5 of 5).....3:15 pm
PM 299er Pairs (single session).....3:15 pm

Sunday, July 3, 2016
Marshall Miles Stratified Pairs (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm
Stratified Fast Pairs (2 sessions).....10:30 am & TBA
Flight A/X Swiss Teams (2 sessions).....10:30 am & TBA
Bracketed Flight B/C/D Swiss Teams (2 sessions).....10:30 am & TBA

Event Colors:
New Events: Gold
Teams: Green
Pairs: Blue
299ers: Black
Breaks: Hot Pink

Stratified Games:
0-1500/1500-3000/3000+
Gold Rush:
0-100/100-300/300-750
Bracketed Flight B/C/D:
Bracketed by average points of team. No player over 3000 MPs
KOs may be handicapped. Games will be stratified by average masterpoints.

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

April 24 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Steve Mager/Gerri Carlson, 2nd Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 3rd Marjorie Michelin/Steve Sturm, 4th Fran Every/Sherman Gao, 5th John Petrie/Sankar Reddy, 6th Bob Mault/Usha Bansal. In the B flight overalls: 3rd Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid, 4th Linda Nye/Terry Primmer, 5th Margie Lee/Don Garner, 6th Bonny Walsh/Karen Watson. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: April 16 through May 15: In the open game April 17 Jo and John Melis had 70.13%. In evening games: April 20 George Welsh/Wayne Rapp had 71.50%, April 22 John Petrie/Earl VanDerVord had 70%, and April 25 Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh had 70.14%. Congratulations to all four pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards April 16 through May 15: In the Unit Game April 24 Steve Mager/Gerri Carlson won 4.67mp for 1st, and Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger won 3.50mp for 2nd. Congratulations to both pairs!

Get Well Wishes to Lois Perovich

New Members: Vicki McDonald, Doreen Wendell, Rae Yan. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Leo Dittmore. New Life Master: Dalia Hernandez. New Silver Life Master: Kiyo Nagaishi. New Diamond Life Master: Steve Skinner. Congratulations to all four!

Upcoming Events at the Club

May 15-21 Grassroots Fund Week. Extra points.

Card fees \$12.

May 26 12:30 Interclub Championship game. Extra points, regular card fees.

May 22 Unit Game. Dessert served during the game. Card fees \$8.

May 30 Junior Fund Game. Extra points, card fees \$12.

June 3 and 4: Worldwide Bridge Contests. Extra points, regular card fees.

June 6-12: Club Championship Week. Extra points, regular card fees.

Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Unit Rated Game April 15 Clubhouse#1: Barbara Vann/Ellen Rice 1 in A, 1 in B. Monica and Paul Honey 2 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Smith 3 in A. Verna Burns/Howard Smith 4 in A. Sue Fardett/Eileen Kotecki 5 in A, 3 in B. Judy Carter-Johnson/Philippe Varda 6 in A, 4 in B. Ernest Ross/Roy Tomooka 5 in B, 2 in C. Sue McHale/Alan Olschwang 6 in B, 3 in C. Betty Scharf/Bill Robinson 4 in C

Club Championship April 16 Clubhouse #1: Judy Carter-Johnson/Cooie Dampman 1 in A, 1 in B. Sharon and Al Appel 2 in A. Cookie Pham/Sylvia Kaprelyan 3 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Verna Burns/Joan Tschirki 4 in A. Sue Fardette/Ellen Kice 5 in A, 3 in B. Larry Slutsky/Chie Wickham 6 in A. Simone Chottin/Jaye Woodington 4 in B. Louise Siefert/Stan Johnson 5 in B, 2 in C. Thuan Gwynn/Bill Porter 3 in C.

Club Championship April 18 Clubhouse #3: Rob Preece/Fern Dunbar 1 in A. Bill Linsky/Larry Slutsky 2 in A. Chie Wickham/Alan Olschwang 3 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Al and Sharon Appel 4/5 in A. John Wiser/Richard Sands 4/5 in A. Diane Sachs/Hank Dunbar 6 in A. George Koehm/Howard Smith 2 in B. Nancy Lichter/Sue McHale 3 in B. Louise Seifert/Stan Johnson 4 in B, 2 in C. Sue Boswell/Pamela Kirkner 5 in B. Lynn Danielson/Midge Dunagan 3 in C. Bettyanne Houts/Melanie Smith 4 in C. →

Club Championship April 22 Clubhouse#1: Simone Chottin/Fred Benedetti 1 in A. Ernie Ross/Roy Tomooka 2 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Rosemarie and Ron Spain 3 in A, 2 in B. Betty Jackson/Bev Shafer 4 in A. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 5 in A, 3 in B. Joan and Ted Wieber 6 in A, 4 in B, 2 in C. Judy Carter-Johnson/Philippe Varda 5 in B. Sharon Beran/Shirley Spinks 3 in C. Sue Boswell/George Koehm 4 in A.

Condolences: To Ron and Gene Yaffee on the loss of their son Steve.

Upcoming Games and Club Championships
Clubhouse #3: July 14. Clubhouse #1: July 15 and July 23. Unit Rated Game: Clubhouse #3: June 13.



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, June 18, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – Saturday, June 4, 9:30 a.m., La Verne Site
Longest Day – Monday, June 20, 9:00 and 1:30,
Knights of Columbus

Yes, it's time once again to support Alzheimer's research by playing bridge (such a hardship), donating, or both. Due to the mismatch between the Gregorian calendar and Earth's orbit, the summer solstice falls on Monday again this year. (It happens to occur at 3:34 p.m. PDT, if you care about such things. (And if so, why???) We'll be holding pairs games as usual. The entry fee is the usual \$6, all of which goes to the Alzheimer's Association. The K of C is donating the rent we would normally pay, and matching it, besides. And the Director is waiving any fee for running the games. How generous of all these people! Should you do less?

You can donate by visiting visit <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>, or at the game(s), or by contacting any Unit Board member.

The April Unit game was reported last month, so look for the May results next month.

In the May Individual, Al Lax took the top spot, followed by Clint Lew, Penny Barbieri, Roger Boyar, and Richard Patterson.

The top game this month was 73.1%, turned in by Richard Patterson and Roger Ginsburg. Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, who often top this list, could only manage a paltry 67.1% game this month. Sic transit gloria mundi. (And Tuesday is even worse.) Other section-toppers were Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Fredy and Lulu Minter, Roger Boyar, Marty and Judy Husted, Sofi Kasubhai, Paul Chrisney, Clint Lew, Walt Otto, Linda Tessier, Gayle Ginsburg, and Pat Radamaker.

One promotion this month. Clara Satterfield is now a Club Master. Congratulations from all of us, Clara.

This month we have two hands to entertain you. The first is an exercise in judgement, and the second... well, wait and see!

Not vulnerable, partner opens 1NT (15-17), and you are looking at: ♠Q75 ♥QJ7642 ♦72 ♣QT.

You transfer with 2♦, partner accepts, and now what? It's matchpoints, by the way. Is this hand worth a raise to 3♥?

In the event, partner held a near-perfect minimum: ♠KT ♥KT95 ♦KJ63 ♣AJ8 and 10 tricks roll home. But it's easy to construct a hand, not even a minimum, with four near-inescapable loses. What now?

In the post mortem, the comments on your hand ranged all the way from "eww, gross" to "what's wrong with 4♦ (Texas)?" It turns out that about half the field bid and made 4♥. Coin flip, anyone?

Our second had is just pure entertainment. Third in hand, you are looking at another semi-balanced hand: ♠-- ♥AK9853 ♦AQJ9632 ♣---

Well, the black suits are perfectly equal in length, and the red suits nearly so. "Semi-balanced." For further entertainment, partner opens 3♠! She happens to be 7=2=2=2 (the spade suit is really moth-eaten, however) and you can make 5♦ or 4♥. Getting there and stopping there is another story, however. (To add to your amusement ... RHO has both black Aces, and has to eat them both.)

Quote for the Month: "Diplomacy is the art of saying 'Nice Doggie!' 'til you can find a rock." (Wynn Catlin)

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 Nell Schanz of Stephenson Ranch:

Nell Schanz was born and raised in Florida. She married an Airforce fighter pilot and they were stationed in Germany. The officer's wives were surprised she didn't play bridge and insisted she learn. Nell immediately fell in love with the game and played as often as she could.

After the military, her husband flew for TWA airlines and was gone quite a bit. Nell entertained herself playing bridge and tennis. She was a sales director for Mary Kay cosmetics and earned a pink Cadillac for four years.

Now a gold life master, she moved to California to be near her son. As a former bridge teacher, she loves to mentor intermediate and novice players. When she is not playing bridge she is talking about bridge and is a wonderful advocate of bridge in our Unit.

Magic Mountain Sectional:

Unit 556 will hold the 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).

Congratulations to the winners of the StaC Game on Saturday, May 7:

North/South

- 1 Kay Aiken and Phoebe Evans - 61%
- 2 Carol and Paul Rekauf - 56%
- 3 Sharry Vida and Henry Roediger - 55.6%
- 4 Kathy Swaine and Rand Pinsky - 52%

East/West

- 1 Onorita Pallanti and Hal Underwood - 59%
- 2 Paula Olivares and Bill Brodek - 55.6%
- 3 Carol Ashbacher and Roshen Hadulla - 52%
- 4/5 Bernie and Sue Guzanski - 49.5%
- 4/5 Paula Millar and Barbara Last - 49.5%

Upcoming Events:

Club Championship at Friendly Bridge Club
Monday, June 13

Longest Day at the senior center in Santa Clarita
Monday, June 20 at 1:00
Card fees at \$10

Magic Mountain Sectional
Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita.
Saturday, September 17 - Sunday September 18



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Longest Day Games

Longest Day Games will be held at the 750 Club on Monday, June 20. These games will be at 11 a.m. (regular limited masterpoint game), 3:00 p.m. (stratified open game), and 7 p.m. (stratified open game). Card fees will be \$10.00/person/game. All proceeds, including card fees, will be donated to Alzheimer's research. Additional donations will be appreciated and accepted in the form of cash or checks made payable to the "Alzheimer's Association." The ACBL and many different nation-wide sports organizations, hold events each year on the Summer Solstice Day to raise money to support Alzheimer's research. And yes, bridge is definitely a brain-exercising sport!

Learn Bridge in A Day?

Absolutely! This is a five-hour seminar designed for bridge beginners, those who have been away from bridge for a long time, or those who have enjoyed →

“party bridge” and want to enter the “duplicate world” of bridge. It is sanctioned by the ACBL Educational Foundation and will be presented at the 750 Club on Saturday, June 11, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. In this entertaining, hands-on workshop-type presentation, participants will receive a handbook with all materials discussed, box lunches with homemade desserts, and be eligible to win door prizes. The fee is \$65/person. Please contact Terry Morton at thmorton@att.net or call (818) 313-9711 to register or for more information.

Special Congratulations

April Top Ten Masterpoints at the 750 Club were: Ray Primus 13.92, Sheldon Levitt 10.26, Susan Raphael 10.26, Dick Berg 10.01, Larry Kussin 9.05, Dennis Hill 8.77, Jim Lechner 7.43, Helen Malzer 7.42, Lenny Popowitz 6.62, and Mike Weiner 6.34. Lenny Popowitz and Shelly Popowitz achieved a 71.43% game.

750 Club Future Events

On Friday, June 3, the Annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held in honor of the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike, who started the 750 Club in 2006. Names of the winners will be engraved on the memorial plaque and there will be extra black points available for no extra fee. Game time is 11 a.m. and a catered Italian lunch will be provided at about noon. Advance reservations are required for this event.

On Monday, July 4, Independence Day, there will be a day game only and the Club will be closed at night.

Calendar

Friday, June 3, Annual Carol Lang Memorial Game at the 750 Club. See details above.

Saturday, June 11, “Learn Bridge in A Day?” seminar at the 750 Club, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. See details above.

Monday, June 20, Longest Day Games at the 750 Club. See details above.

Monday, July 4, day game only at the 750 Club. Closed at night.

Saturday, August 27, Unit 561 Lunch/Game, at the 750 Club. Please save the date!

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 at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Friday, June 3, 7:00 p.m.
Club Championship: Monday, June 13, 11:30 a.m.
Club Championship: Tuesday, June 21, 11:30 a.m.
Friday Night games on June 3 and 17

Club Championships

The Club Championship on April 20 was led by Stan Greengard/Cal Waller in both Flights A and B with Beverly Narahara/Carole King ahead in Flight C. The 8 is enough Swiss team game on April 23 had 15 teams and was won by the quartet of Lucy Gellner, Shirley Chang, Laura Gastelum and Jeff Strutzel. On May 11 the Club Championship was led by Booth Tarkington/Robert Van Lone who won Flights A, B and C. The NLM Club Championship on May 12 saw Sue Jones/Carole Lebental winning Flights A, Band C.

Team Winners

April 19: CVal Gamio, John Jones, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

April 26: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Lucy Gellner, Wayne Otsuki

May 3: Mary Ann Coyle, Gerri Carlson, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

May 10: Carol Mason, Sharon Biederman, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

TSB Unit Overalls in STAC

Following is a listing of pairs who finished in the overalls of the gigantic Western Conference STAC in games played in Torrance South Bay Unit Clubs.

Monday Morning, May 2, SBBC

- 24A John Brailliar/Bruce Horiguchi
- 46A 28B Nanci Schultz/Lutrell Long

Monday Afternoon, Agile Bridge Club, 199er Pairs

- 2A 1B 1C Susie Bowser/Phyllis Fuller
- 4A 3B 3C Joyce Hansen/Carol Lebental
- 6A 5B 5C Linda Brown/Miriam McKenzie

Monday Evening, SBBC, Aux Pairs

- 2A Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott
- 6A Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio

Monday Evening, Agile BC, 499er Pairs

- 6A 3B Joyce Field/Thomas Grove

Tuesday Morning, SBBC

- 6A 3B Al Blinder/Stan Greengard
- 27B Jim Jensen/Al Sheehan

Tuesday Afternoon, Agile BC, 499er Pairs

- 16A 12B Carol Woo/Ed Bucklin
- 13C Johanna and Domenick Cardella

Wednesday Morning, SBBC

- 6A Fran Israel/Nanci Schultz
- 12A Ray Mack/Pat Schenasi
- 29A 14B Carol McCully/Cal Waller
- 26B Robert Rothman/Stan Greengard

Wednesday Evening, SBBC

- 18C Janice Scholler/Laura Gastelum

Thursday Morning, SBBC, 499er Pairs

- 6B Jamila Malikyar/Edward Ruttenberg

Friday morning, Agile BC, 499er Pairs

- 7A 5B 3C Ann Hinchliffe/Pamela Haskins
- 9A 6B Sue Gocke/Deborah Downs
- 13A 10B 6C Carol Decordova/Susan Miller

Friday Evening, SBBC

- 5A Fran Israel/Patty Taylor
- 4B MaryBelle Hoenig/Beth Weinstein
- 3C Laura Gastelum/Booth Tarkington

GUV Award

Recently, Lucy Gellner got upset when pard and

I reached 7NT needing to bring in a Club suit of AKJ facing Txxxxx about a 50% proposition. Well they were 2-2 and we came out smelling like a rose for a cold top. To make it up to Lucy, I will award her this months GUV award from an event that occurred at a Nationals in 2005.

We were playing in the nationally rated Senior KO teams and weren't doing too bad having won two matches that got us to the round of 16. Our team was Lucy playing with John Farr while I was paired with my late wife Jan Nathan. In the upcoming match we were playing against a team which included Mike Passell, Gary Hayden, Tony Kasday, and two top Polish players. After the first 16-board quarter we actually were ahead by a few IMPs.

About halfway through the second quarter Tony (who was sitting on Jan's side of the bidding screen) complained about receiving his cards boxed from the other table. No doubt the card boxer was Lucy and no doubt things weren't going well at the other table. Jan and I both knew this. After that quarter we were down over 20 IMPS and lost some more in the second half.

So Lucy you can thank me for awarding you the GUV award this month after fixing you earlier today.



**West LA
by Robert Shore**

ABA Game

June 5, 2016, at noon (food) and 1:00 p.m. (bridge)

ABA Los Angeles Unit

ABA Dabba Do!

The ABA's turn to host the twice-annual ABA/ACBL game is coming up on June 5 at the ABA's Los Angeles Unit, located at 134 North Market Street, Inglewood, California. I can testify from personal experience that the food is wonderful at these events. The members really go all out to make us feel welcome. Matching their standard is a real challenge. I hope you'll join me there. Food begins at noon, and bridge (a Unit Championship) is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m.

All Quiet on the Western Front

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Not much tournament action this month. Pam Wittes won the Saturday morning pair game at the Oxnard Sectional and Adrienne Sarmiento won the Friday morning 299er pairs game at the Lone Cypress Sectional. Closer to home, our representatives for the Grand National Teams competition at the Washington Nationals in July have been selected. Our District's Flight A team will include Viktor Anikovich and Bill Schreiber, and the District's team in the Championship Flight features Jill Meyers. Good luck to our representatives.

Kansas City, Here I Come!

One of my favorite annual events is beginning again this month. Qualifying at the club level is held during June, July, and August for the North American Pairs Competition. In Flight A, the top three pairs represent our District at the Spring Nationals, to be held next year in Kansas City. In Flights B (0-2500) and C (0-500 non-Life Masters), the top four pairs enjoy that honor. Best of all, the ACBL cuts rather sizeable checks to the top two pairs in each flight, to help offset your expenses. Qualifying games at the club level pay red points on the sectional scale, and you only need to qualify once to participate in the next phase of the event. Look for a qualifying game near you.

When Opportunity Knocks

Playing at IMPs recently white against red, I held: ♠JT542 ♥75 ♦-- ♣AT7643.

Left hand opponent opened a 10-12 no trump and partner said double. RHO bid 2♦, alerted and explained as forcing Stayman. I had my doubts, but my clubs were longer and better anyway, so I bid 3♣. The NT bidder bid 3♠, which made its way back to me.

I was pretty sure they weren't making it. But I was also pretty confident that the 2♦ bid was actually natural and RHO had done the ethical thing by refusing to hear his partner's mistaken explanation and correct to diamonds. Moreover, I wasn't sure we were beating 4♦. So I sat for 3♠.

The bad news is that partner's 19-count and club

fit meant that I could have brought home 6♣. The good news is that I didn't need to. Our counterparts went minus and after partner begin with the ♣K, he shifted to the ace and king of trump and then continued the ♣Q. Dummy had two black doubletons, including the ♣J, so I overtook partner's queen to force out declarer's trump queen. She tried to cash a diamond so I ruffed, drew her last trump, and ran the clubs. In all, we took 6 clubs and 4 spades for down 6 and plus 600.

Welcome Mat

Joining us from other Units this month are J.E. Goerz and Gordon Hubbard. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Club champions last month at Barrington were Anna Benatar and Nelly Gordon. At Beverly Hills, Herbert Ehrmann and Phyllis Kantar won club championships, as did your Humble Scribe and Joe Viola, along with Andy Vinock and Pete Knee. For the first time in my memory, no one reached 70% at either club.

That's not true at the Marina, though. David Pelka and Alan Daniels scored up a 75% game, good enough to get their names in the Bulletin. 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

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Michael Bonesteel, Nancy Hamada, Annie Ives, Susan Spivak, and Diane Taub. Carolyn Brice, Susan Gornel, Harry Levitt, Richard Treiman, and Alex Wiles have become Club Masters. Barbara Glick is now a Sectional Master.

Bob Chen and Herb Singer have reached Ruby Life Master status. Bob Kent is now 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: Mark Bartusek, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Tim Lolli, Rick Roeder and David Sacks

This column is dedicated to District 23 member Bernie Mateer who recently died. Bernie graciously opened her home and her heart to my middle school and high school students for an annual bridge luncheon. She will be missed.

1

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♦	Pass	2♥	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠K ♥AKT72 ♦KQ853 ♣A5

1a) Do you agree with 2♦? 1b) What now?

Some panelist hate the 2♦ bid and think 3♦ was the best bid.

Goldsmith: 1a) No. If partner passes 2♦, how likely are we to miss a game? Give him ♠xxx ♥xx ♦AJxx ♣xxxx and game is pretty good. ♠Jxx ♥Qx ♦Jxxx ♣xxxx and ♠Qxx ♥x ♦Axxx ♣xxxxx also both make game reasonable. 2♦ is clearly an underbid.

1b) 3♦ seems pretty obvious. We'll still miss game versus some of the examples above, but that's water under the bridge. No action I can take now will show a 19-count, so the best I can do is try to recover diamonds or notrump if that's our game.

Bartusek: 1a) No, I would have bid 3♦ (it's a 4-loser hand!). We should have a game somewhere, and 2♦ risks a pass from partner or an impossible problem next round.

1b) 3♣. Impossible problem! 3♦ risks missing a game, but a misdescriptive 3♣ call will often cause partner to choose wrongly. I'll Probably try 3♣ now and pray.

Kantar: 1a) I'm a 3♦ bidder. I wasn't dealt 19 HCP not to make some noise.

1b) I'm still a 3♦ bidder, showing a strong 5-5.

Lolli: 1a) No, I bid 3♦.

1b) 3♦. Forcing. The opposition apparently has at least nine spades, but they are quiet. Thus, I'm confident partner has a useful hand. He can probably bid 3NT.

Another panelist thinks the 2♦ bid is acceptable, but thinks the methods need improving. He wants a jump to 2NT to be an artificial game force. His methods are superior to standard methods, but are more artificial and require some memory work.

Roeder: 1a) No objection to 2♦ NV if burdened by inferior standard methods. After all, extras worked for Dolly Parton. This knotty bidding problem is advertisement #77,927 why a 2NT bid by opener should be an artificial game force. One of the corollaries of this sane treatment is that a 3♦ rebid would show a very highly invitational 55 – exactly what is the case.

1b) 2NT. Viagra cards (aka, "Stiff Kings") usually carry more weight in No Trump. [Excellent point!] 3NT = 90%.

Our final panelist likes the 2♦ bid. David, as a moderator and as a panelist has always advocated going slowly until direction is clear. This was always the philosophy of the great Al Roth.

Sacks: 1a) Yes!



South	West	North	East
1♦ ?	1♠	Pass	Pass

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

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.

PSP#1 *continued from previous page*

1b) 3♦. What would I bid with a small spade instead of the king? The ♠K does not add enough value for some wild bid now.

This hand was held by Matt Klimesh in a Caltech game. He suggested the problem to me. The catch is that Matt was bidding with a beginner, not an expert, nor even an advanced player. Assuming we don't have an invitational 3♦ bid available (a la Roeder), 2♦ seems a little conservative. However, nobody I've ever met is as good at getting results out of beginners. Matt is the champ in that department!

Looking for a Club?

Did you know how easy it is to find a bridge game in LA? This url brings you to a great ACBL page: <https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

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

- by Mike Marcucci

3

IMPs
no vul

S	W	N	E
?			1♦

You, South, hold:
 ♠AQ8763 ♥-- ♦6 ♣J87654
 What call do you make?

Kantar: 1♠ I can't even think of anything else to bid.

Lolli: 1♠. I'll probably show clubs later in the auction. I have a sneaky admiration for clubs first because the bidding is likely going to be at the four-level when it gets back to me.

Bartusek: 1♠. I doubt that 2♠ (my initial thought) will accomplish much in the way of interfering with LHO. Staying low may allow me to introduce my club suit next round at a reasonable level (not to mention staying out of partner's way or avoiding a number on a misfit). Additionally, we may be headed for a plus after my lead director when hearts/diamonds break poorly for the opponents (and I don't clue the opponents in on the freakish distribution).

Sacks: 1♠. In my imaginative youth I would probably have bid 2♠ and then take an impossible bid again in clubs. I still like that bid in a vacuum, but I cannot believe my partner imagining my hand (even though he/she should). There is a Washington DC school [*Kit Woolsey, Peter Boyd, and Steve Robinson are all part of that school. Robinson in particular loves bids like 4♠*] that used to like bidding 4♠ on hands like this. I still don't see it, especially in spades.

Roeder: 2♠. Very likely I am not done. Think Fort Sumter in the Civil War.

Goldsmith: 3♠. Who knows? Any number of spades between one and four is reasonable. I'll pick three today.

4

MPs
no vul

S	W	N	E
Pass ?	Pass	1NT Dbl	2H* Pass

* Hearts and a minor

You, South, hold:
 ♠876 ♥T86 ♦Q62 ♣J876
 What call do you make?

Now for a problem that makes the panelists ill. How do we best avoid a disaster?

Kantar: 3♣. Partner has a max with a small doubleton in hearts, and I hope (pray, actually) that one of his four card suits is clubs. I bet most bid 2♠.

Eddie thinks he knows how the other panelists will answer. He channels the likes of Pete Rose and wants to bet on it. Will he bet correctly?

Bartusek: 2♠. I'll stay low to minimize the likelihood of a telephone number. 3♣ could easily be a 4-3 fit also but one level higher. Chances are decent that the opponents will just play their 8-card heart fit at the 3 level (pew). [*One vote for 2♠.*]

Goldsmith: 2♠. We aren't doubled yet. Even Marshall doesn't think 10xx is a stack with an eleven and a half loser hand. [*Two votes for 2♠.*]

Lolli: 2♠. If that gets doubled, I'll try 2NT. If that gets doubled, partner should pick a suit, and I should pick a new partner. [*Three votes for 2♠.*]

Roeder: 2♠. Since most experts play a double immediately after a 2♥ bid as negative, the corollary is that the 1NT opener has to reopen with a doubleton heart. My bid needs to be made with Donald Trump's confidence! [*That's four votes for 2♠. Eddie, step to the cashier's window and cash your betting slip!*]

Sacks: 2NT. Vomit!

5

MPs
EW vul

S	W	N	E
?		Pass	3♣

You, South, hold:
 ♠QT6 ♥QT6 ♦AQT96 ♣AT
 What call do you make?

Pass, double, 3♦, or 3NT. What's your poison?

Bartusek: Double. Risking the wrath of the Esteemed Moderator, I'll say that this problem seems like a serious waste of ones and zeroes on the internet.

Roeder: Double. This is the only straight-forward problem of the set.

Kantar: Double. Swimming.

Lolli: Double. While not your textbook hand to illustrate a takeout double, I'll still do it. Partner rates to not have too many clubs. This is a tougher problem if the vulnerability is reversed.

Sacks: Double. I am not ashamed to put this dummy down over any bid that partner may make. All those tens do tempt a NT bid, but are not tempting enough.

One panelist answers a question with a question.

Goldsmith: Pass. Partner's a passed hand? I'd lead my stronger major. At Chinese Poker, do you play it as quad tens, queens full, and a set of sixes or put the set of queens up front? *[Chinese Poker is one of the games that comprise Barbu, a four handed non-partnership card game which requires the dealer to look at his hand and call one of several games for that hand. In Chinese Poker, you arrange your 13 cards into two five-card hands and one three-card hand. I'll put the queens up front (three-card hand).]*

What do you think?

*Send letters to the editor to
 bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org*

Next Month's Problems

1. MPs, no vul

South	West	North	East
?			2♥

You hold: ♠K9632 ♥K ♦AT7 ♣QJ76
 South, what call do you make?

2. IMPs, all vul

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

You hold: ♠Q76 ♥7 ♦AKQT76 ♣K97
 South: What call do you make?

3. IMPs, EW vul

South	West	North	East
?			

You hold: ♠-- ♥KQT983 ♦762 ♣KJ97
 South: What call do you make?

4. MPs, no vul

South	West	North	East
Pass	Pass	Dbl	1♥
?			Pass

You hold: ♠KT7 ♥T87 ♦QJ7 ♣A876
 South: What call do you make?

5. IMPs, all vul

South	West	North	East
?*			1NT

* Your methods are Hamilton (Capeletti)
 You hold: ♠A ♥KQJT762 ♦QT87 ♣7
 South: What call do you make?

D23 Rank Changes April 2016

Junior Master
 Allan Baraz
 Robert Celmiker
 Galina Diankiva
 Barbara Dischler
 Jane Franklin
 Vivian Freedman
 Terry Kinigstein
 Abdelrahim Mehilba
 Sirje Puhvel
 Laurel Resnick
 Susan Rosman
 A Shah
 David Swartz
 Tsvetelina Valkov

Club Master
 Hilary Clark
 Robert Geoghegan
 Marv Good
 Daniel Humphreys
 Susan Jameson

John Janus
 Bonnie Ledyard
 Diana Mitchell
 Mark Pash
 Bernard Seal
 Robert Turner
 Alice Wong
 Cheng-Hung Yeh
 Xuhong Zhou

Sectional Master
 Jane Barna
 Yoshie Bell
 Helaine Blatt
 Susan Cohen
 Marianne Cooper
 Charles Dillon
 Joseph Duke
 Christopher Earnest
 Sally Earnest
 John Hagman
 Mari Jacobson

Jim Keese
 Larry Kong
 Kai Liu
 Jacqueline McCarthy
 Jim Mercer
 E Ruttenberg
 Doni Sidell
 Katthy Soltwedell

Regional Master
 Carol Provost
 Marilyn Stephenson
 Larry Wong

NABC Master
 Stuart Hemple
 Beverly McLeod
 Raymond Primus
 Bruce Schelden
 Kathleen Shinkle
 Barbara Wellisch

Adv NABC Master
 Jeff Grotenhuis

Bronze Life Master
 Ruth Baker
 R Gasway
 Phyllis Selig-Kerns

Silver Life Master
 Leon Alexander
 Joyce Henderson

Ruby Life Master
 William Baxter
 James Clarkson

Diamond Life Master
 Michael Mikyska

Platinum Life Master
 John Jones

Los Angeles Regional

Long Beach, CA
 June 27 - July 3 2016



Tournament Highlights

Gold Rush Pairs - Tuesday through Thursday!
 New Gold Rush Swiss - Friday!
 Star Speakers every day!
 299er games every day!
 Daylight Schedule all week!



Monday Pro-Am Workshop & Game

Free two-hour bridge lesson on Monday June 27 from 10:30 am to 12:30, followed by lunch and a Pro-Am pairs game.
 Card fees for Pro-Am: \$14 (pros play for free)

Registration Required!
 Please call Jeff Grotenhuis
 310-600-4275

Hilton Long Beach
 701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Room rate: \$129 (please refer to ALACBU)
 Reserve at 800-445-8667 by Thursday, June 2nd
 Self parking: \$7

Card fees: \$14 (\$18 for non-ACBL Members)

Need a Partner?
 Diane Sachs
 dianasachs@yahoo.com
 562-981-4884

Tournament Manager:
 Peter Benjamin
 ahoneydo@aol.com
 310-720-6050

Director-in-Charge:
 Ken Horwedel

Tournament Chair: Stan Holzberg
 District 23 President: Mike Marcucci