

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Who Says Breaking Up Is Hard?

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



Who says breaking up is hard? It shouldn't be, but sometimes our game of bridge is entertaining in the bad way. Sitting there and listening to the opponents fight with one another is a mystifying spectacle when the voices get loud. Other tables stare. The whispers

start. Sometimes the director is called. Delay, explanations, resolution. As if the Director didn't have enough to do in resolving bridge irregularities, finding the right boards that were passed the wrong way, correcting the scores in BridgeMates when the scores are entered on Bd 15 when Bd 17 was just played. Arguments cause further delays and, later on, some innocent pair who got behind through no fault of their own are rushed along on a board and make a costly mistake, if not having the board taken away to catch up. All because of that personal disagreement three tables back by someone else!

The big question that defies logic is whether those arguments accomplish anything. It's always about a lead, a discard, a bid, a line of play, or a detected mental lapse. Probably didn't finish the list – it might be endless. Sure, there are some innocent enough discussions. Partner answered in 1430 when the card says 3014. A simple reminder settles that for the rest of the game. Those are not arguments, they fall into the category of simple corrections (that should not have happened if the player read the July column on convention card review!)

The ones that do not pay off are the "Why did you bid this rather than that" or "I asked for a diamond and you led a spade." Our minds do not work alike, as much as some players would like to think so. Because they

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Washington DC Bridge

by Kevin Lane, District Director



*Bridge is a game
and should be fun*

Washington DC bridge

Congratulations to all D23 members who succeeded at the Washington DC Nationals. The D23 flight B team won the national GNT flight B in DC last month. I was not on the team this year, but I was on a similar flight B team last year that got knocked out in the round of 16. So, perhaps I helped this year's squad by **not** being on their team! Congratulations to Om Chokriwala, Fred Upton, Nolan Chang, Jack Chang, Zheng Zhang and Jim Perkins.

More Washington DC Board of Directors business

I continue the discussion from last month's report on board business from Washington DC. The most far-reaching discussion item is how to make the board more efficient: 25 board members can't easily engage in a substantive discussion. These talks are in a preliminary stage, but the bottom line for regular ACBL members is that nothing discussed would impact the rank and file members.

My contribution to the board efficiency discussion is two-fold. The board should:

- Identify the major problems with how we operate
- Determine what problems can be fixed without restructuring. I feel strongly about this suggestion because some major problems can be addressed without the need for a contentious re-structuring of the board. Doing so, will improve the board while highlighting problems that need more fundamental change.

I also reported last month on the good news that Horn Lake secured an additional \$500K in revenue for

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see a line of play and try to induce that line of play out of their partner and the partner does not cooperate – wow, do the sparks sometimes fly. Commenting on partner’s playing and bidding during the play, I suggest, does accomplish something – just not what was desired. Just the opposite, I’m afraid. It upsets anyone to be corrected in front of the opponents and then your partner’s concentration is disrupted for the next three hands. Not good for your collective results. The “correction” can even be wrong sometimes! So you think you are infallible? Guess again.

There are published books on how to be a good partner. Articles abound. Some players need to read and heed. On just this particular topic – comments – it is best to say nothing. Observe the top pairs.

They do not comment during the play. Don’t fool yourself into thinking that they have nothing to say. They are thinking plenty. What they are **not** thinking about is correcting anything partner does. They will wait until a break or after the session to discuss things. That is when the learning happens.

So you want to drop a partner? Start commenting during play on bidding or strategies. Keep it up. Comment at the next table, too, and embarrass him in front of a new set of opponents. (You are actually embarrassing yourself more.) It won’t take long for your partner, who is often a friend, to start avoiding future games with you. Breaking up is easy. It’s staying together that’s hard.

There are so many ways to be nice to partners. We’ll talk later!

Another chance to support our District 22 friends in a couple of weeks in Irvine. Go District 23!

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the ACBL from a BridgeBase contract. That’s the good news. To give you some idea of the challenges facing the board, once that good news was shared in detail, proposals for what to do with that extra money would have spent the \$500K several times over! In other words, the ACBL still has strong needs for money to spend, and the board remains acutely aware that fees have increased on clubs, units and districts.

Lastly, I mention an upcoming issue. The board will be considering ways to enhance the ACBL Education Foundation. The central issue is that the ACBL Education Foundation is a charity for tax purposes – which is a good thing. Many board members quite sensibly would like to widen the role of the ACBL Education Foundation. I agree wholeheartedly with this plan.

My only preference is that technology be proactively included in these new Education Foundation plans. Bridge would strongly benefit from a bridge app – for example - that attracts new members to the game and engages current members, just as many of you may play Sudoku or do crossword puzzles on your smartphones. I sense right now I am in the minority of board members who advocate a stronger technology role in bridge education, but I am promoting my cause.

D23 member news

Bill Schreiber has been appointed to a 3-year term on the ACBL Disciplinary Committee.

Reach me at klaned23@gmail.com

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Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

July 24 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Steve Sturm/Phil Hiestand, 2nd Anne Croul/Arne Lier, 3rd Eddie Gruber/Diane Starbuck, 4th Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy, 5th Joseph Chaikin/Xiaoxue Walker, 6th Samuel Wang/Wenjia Yan. In the B flight overalls: 2nd Rosemary Ford/Lynn Johnson, 3rd Bettyann Houts/Nancy Tousseint, 4th Colleen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez, 5th Usha Bansa/Rob Preece, 6th Joyce Henderson/Jane Reid. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: July 16 through August 15: In the 299er game July 23 Bill Heck/Jim Werner had 76.25%. Congratulations!

Big Masterpoint Awards: July 16 through August 15: In the unit game July 24 Steve Sturm/Phil Hiestand won 4.67mp for 1st, Anne Croul/Arne Lier 3.50mp for 2nd. July 25 Loren Hilf/Baum Harris won 4.13mp for 1st, Marcie Evans/Betti Harris 3.10mp for 2nd. July 26 Cliff Goodrich/Jon Yinger won 6.19mp for 1st, Judith Jones/Betty Jackson 4.64mp for 2nd, John Crabtree/Beverly Shafer 3.48 for 3rd. July 27 Phil Schuster/Jon Yinger won 4.88mp for 1st, John and Suzy Hand 3.66mp for 2nd. In the evening game Gayle Grub/Sherry Troeger won 4.13 for 1st, Cliff Goodrich/Robert Gish 3.10mp for 2nd. July 28 Trudi Lamondola/Diane Starbuck won 3.75mp for 1st. July 29 Christine Frumen/John Galligher won 6.56mp for 1st, Jackie Hess Wayne Otsuki 4.92mp for 2nd. July 30 Keith Hafen/John Melis won 3.23mp for 1st. Aug 8 Xingping Kang/Chihwen Chen won 4.31mp for 1st, Steve Sturm/Wei Pei 3.23 mp for 2nd. Aug 9 George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord won 6.75 for 1st, Cliff Goodrich/Diane Starbuck 5.06 mp

for 2nd, Alan Flower/Dalia Hernandez 3.80 mp for 3rd. Aug 10 Paula Nataf/Iftikhar Baqai won 5.63 mp for 1st, Fred Willbanks/Joe Fiorica 4.22 mp for 2nd, Jack Chao/Tien Zee 3.17 for 3rd. Aug 11 Marcie Evans/Steve Skinner won 3.94 mp for 1st. Aug 12 Kay Tseng/Roblert Bakovic won 6.56 mp for 1st, Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth 4.92 mp for 2nd, Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein 3.69 for 3rd. And in the evening game Donna North/Pat Rottschaefer won 3.00 mp for 1st. Aug 13 Richard and Robert Bakovic won 4.31 mp for 1st, Fern Dunbar/Pamela Cole 3.23 mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

Status Changes: Junior Master: Mark Beize. New Club Masters William Power, Barbara Wallace. New Regional Master: Faustina Floyd. New NABC Maser: Shirley Knopf, Alan Olschwang. New Life Masters: Usha Bansal, Colleen Gardner, Bernard Hader. New Ruby Life Master: Renee Hoffman. New Gold Life Master: Richard Wasser. New Sapphire Life Master: John Ionescu. Congratulations to all!

Upcoming Events at the Club

August 21: Unit Game. 1:00 p.m. 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.

Sept 11: swiss teams

Sept 11-17: International Fund Week. Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

Sept 18-24: Club Championship week. Extra points, regular prices.

Sept 22: Inter-Club Championship game. Extra points, regular prices.

Sept 25: Unit Game. Card fees \$8. New players play for free. 199ers play for \$1.99. Dessert will be served during the game. →

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

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship: July 15--Clubhouse #1: George Alemshah/Bob Mault 1 in A. Sharon and Al Appel 2 in A. Judith Jones/Emma Trepinski 3 in A. Verna Burns/Howard Smith 4 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Philippe Varda 5 in A, 1 in B. Eileen Kotecki/Gary Paugh 6 in A. Jeanette Estill/Marilyn McClintock 2 in B. Monica and Paul Honey 3 in B, 1 in C. Sharon Baran/Nancy Licher 4 in B. Carmen Gross/Jack Dampman 5 in B, 2 in C. Michelle Brenner/Mark Singer 3 in C. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Paul Chen 4 in C.

Club Championship: July 23-- Clubhouse #1: Linda Nye/Alan Olschwang 1 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Marilyn McClintock/Diane Sachs 2 in A. Dorothy Favre/Bud Parish 3 in A. Baum Harris/Larry Slutsky 4 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Howard Smith 5 in A, 2 in B. Stephen Licker/Richard Sands 6 in A. Joyce Henderson/Dalia Hernandez 3 in B. Cookie Pham/Chuck Cutchshaw 4 in B, 2 in C. Monica and Paul Honey 5 in B, 3 in C. Ellen Kice/Barbara Vann 4 in C.

Club Championship: Aug 11—Clubhouse #3: Marilyn McClintock/Gary Paugh 1 in A. Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 2 in A. Thad Mikols/Larry Topper 3 in A. Sharon and Al Appel 4 in A. Sharon Beran/Henefi Erten 5 in A, 1 in B. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 2 in B, 1 in C. Winnie Warga/John Hagman 3 in B, 2 in C. Sue Fardette/Bud Parish 4 in B. Miriam Kelley/Judy Mathias 5 in B, 3 in C. Ellen Kice/Russell Gray 6 in B, 4 in B.

Get Well Wishes to Jaye Woodington, Sibyl Smith

Upcoming Club Championship Games: Clubhouse #3: September 12, November 14 and December 15. Clubhouse #1: Oct 7

Unit Rated Games: Clubhouse #3 Unit Rated Game Clubhouse #1: Nov 19

Special Game: Clubhouse #3 Sept 22

Phone Number for Clubhouse #3 - Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner--After 12:00 noon: 562 481 7368.

Any Leisure World 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 – Sat, September 17, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – Sat, September 3, 9:30 a.m., La Verne Site

Our August Unit game (the new publishing deadline lets us sneak in these results in a more timely manner) was won by Richard Patterson - Roger Boyar, edging out, Walter Otto - Clinton Le and Timothy Finlay - Eileen Finlay, who tied for second. Yours Truly - David Ochroch took fourth, and Linda Tessier - Paul Chrisney rounded out the top five.

In the August Individual, Dale Quasny took the top honors with a nice 66% game. Donald Logsdon was second, followed by Al Lax, Paul Chrisney and Steve Mancini.

The top game this past month was a scorching 74.1%-er by Richard Patterson – Claudia Cochran. This beat out another 70%+ and a couple of 67%-er's. Others topping the leader board were Lulu-Minter, Fredy Minter, Walt Otto, Clint Lew, Hanan Mogharbel, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Joe Unis, Genise Hasan, Judy Feder, Roger Boyar, Don Logsdon, Gayle Ginsburg, Rita Stachniak, Paul Chrisney, Bob Kakade, Amr Elghamry, Sofi Kasubhai, Sandy Jones, Penny Barbieri, Herb Stampfl, and Yours Truly.

Only one promotion this month: Dea Toutoungy is now a Club Master. Keep up the good work, Dea.

In other news, David Ochroch attended the TAP seminar at the recent NABC, and is now a certified bridge teacher. We now have several certified (and at least one certifiable) teacher in the unit. Now for some students...

For this month's Hand of the Month, we present "You Make the Call... Genius, or Madman?" You are South, both sides vulnerable. The scoring is matchpoints. West deals and opens 1NT. Pass, 2♥ (transfer), 2♠, pass, pass to you: ♠9 ♥KT863 ♦75 ♣Q9842. Your call?

Yes, normal people will pass. At one table, South, deciding the game wasn't going well for his side, and figuring North for some values, ventured 3♣! South, looking at ♣AJxxx, played the red card, pass, pass, →

3♥!!! (Never mind the rest of the auction, you wouldn't believe it anyway. Or maybe you would, given the auction so far ...)

3♥ turns out to be unbeatable, and 4♥ goes down one only if South leads ♣A and another, giving partner a ruff. North turned up with a 1NT opener of her own, along with ♥JTxx; East's spades were 8-high. Well?

Quote for the Month: "There's nothing new under the sun, but there are lots of old things we don't know." (Ambrose Bierce)

Until next month...



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Magic Mountain Sectional on September 17-18

Unit 556 will hold our Magic Mountain Sectional this year 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).

Unit Game Results - August 12 Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

- 1 Onorita Pallanti and Beth Morrin - 58.3%
- 2/3 Russ Buker and Barbara York - 57.6%
- 2/3 Phoebe Evans and Sonja Plahn - 57.6%
- 4 Nora Fincher and Rosalee McEntyre - 52.8%

STaC Game Results - August 22 Friendly Bridge Club in Santa Clarita

North/South

- 1 Theodore Maki - Lamonte Johnson - 66.07%
- 2 Hansford Rowe - George MacDonald - 64.29%
- 3 Bill Brodek - Alene Friedman - 57.14%

East/West

- 1 Roy Ladd - Bert Stock - 60.12%
- 2 Paul Gill - Viviane Dinehart - 59.23%
- 3 Roshen Hadulla - Don Rosen - 58.33%

Next Board Meeting

Sunday, October 16 at 5:00 after the Unit Game (1:00 p.m.) in Palmdale at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club.

New Mentor Program

Unit 556 and Friendly Bridge Club are offering a six-week mentor program for newer players. The program is designed to ease newer players (mentees) into the fun of competition and also to increase Unit membership and participation.

It will benefit mentors as well, enhancing their performance and encouraging their creativity.

Mentee requirements: 50 or less masterpoints, membership in ACBL Unit 556, pay for half the mentor's card fee (Unit 556 will pick up the other half), and available either Monday or Tuesday from 12:30 to 4:00).

Mentor Requirements: Willingness to work with beginning principles of the game and commit to six sessions, either Monday or Tuesday from 12:30 to 4:00.

How the Program Works

Prospective mentees and mentors should register with the Membership Coordinator. After the mentee receives a mentor, she or he will contact the mentor and arrange a schedule. When the six sessions are completed the mentee will contact the coordinator. At that time the mentor will receive two free-play cards, one funded by the Unit and one funded by Friendly Bridge.

Players interested in participating in this program should contact Paula Olivares at paula@pacbell.net. →

Looking for a Club? Check out: <https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Unit 561 Unit Luncheon/Game Report

A very successful Unit Luncheon and Game were held on Saturday, August 6, at The 750 Club. Eighty-eight enthusiastic bridge players participated with the following winners in the Open game: NS – Jim Gardner – Bill Taylor (A1, B1), Michael Klemens – Martin Hurwitz (A2), Carol Levin – Barbara Haines (A3, B2, C1), Ruth Pash – Mark Pash (B3, C2), and Frank Nordyke – Deedy Nordyke (C3).

EW winners were Elaine Moore – Thomas Shudic (A1), Rhoda Weisler – Bryan Conley (A2), Ivan Faggen – Saul Leonard (A3, B1), Phil Calloway – Sandra Berman (B2), Philip Berk – Ravnesh Amar (B3), Dennis Hill – Audrey Hill (C1), Lilli Kalmenson – Diana Menzer (C2), and Ave Kleks – Terry Morton (C3).

December 3: Bridge/Dinner & 2017 Board Election

Unit 561 will host a Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party on Saturday, December 3, at The 750 Club. An Open, Stratified Game will start at 2 p.m., followed by a festive dinner at approximately 5:45 p.m. The election of 2017 - U561 Board Members will take place at a Unit meeting before the bridge game. Look for further information about these events in the San Fernando article in the October issue of this newsletter.

Jack & Carla's 75th Anniversary Party

Extra special congratulations go to Jack and Carla Weingarten who recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary! A lovely party was held in their honor at The 750 Club at lunchtime on Wednesday, August 10. Carmela Kochman, Sandra Hunt, Jody Lombardo, and Susan Raphael organized and sponsored this event.

Jack and Carla, who were born in Vienna, Austria, were married in Israel on August 12, 1941. They have been playing bridge together for more than fifty years and are strong competitors who play once or twice a week at The 750 Club. Bravo, Jack and Carla – you are both truly an inspiration to all who know you!

Special Congratulations

New Life Master Achievements by Unit 561 players were: Rochelle Blumenfeld, William Raff, Frank Rappaport, and Marjorie Romans (Life Master); Barry Cooper, Robert Gasway, Larry Kussin, and Phyllis Selig-Kerns (Bronze); and Ronald Malkin (Ruby – 1,500).

July Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ron Malkin 7.52, Ray Primus 7.42, Susan Raphael 7.21, Larry Kussin 6.72, Bill Raff 6.60, John Tickner 6.60, Alan Golden 4.88, Linda Silvey 4.79, Bob Rice 4.54, and Dick Berg 4.48. The following achieved 70% games in July: Doug Timmer – Ann Dupont 74.70% and Mike Klemens – Marty Hurwitz 70.66%.

July Top Ten North American Pair Partners at The 750 Club were Bill Raff – Lee Skupen 6.94, Bob Rice – Sheila Singer 5.21, Mort Light – Bob Soll 4.88, Paul Endler – Bobbi Endler 3.90, Dwight Hunt – Claude Le Feuvre 3.76, Dennis Hill – Helen Malzer 3.47, Carol Bell – Harris Blumenthal 2.93, Bernie Davidorf – Herb Zweig 2.75, Jim Hawkins – Linda Silvey 2.43, and Susan Koenig – Peter Koenig 2.06.

September 20: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, September 20. Dinner is \$18 per person and starts at 6 p.m. and the bridge is \$5 per person and begins at 7 p.m. This is an ACBL sanctioned game and the first place NS and EW winners will receive coupons for Braemar's Wednesday night "Pastabilities" dinner. For reservations and/or partnerships contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071. →

The 750 Club Future Events

Supervised Play Games (for beginning or novice players) will be held on Thursday nights, beginning September 1, from 7 – 9 p.m. The supervisors will be Jim Gardner and Bill Morton. Card fees will be \$9. Please reserve ahead by calling (818) 313-9711 or by email to thmorton@att.net

The 750 Club will open for the day game on Monday, September 5 (Labor Day) and closed for the night game.

Club Championship Week will be held Monday - Friday, September 12 – 16. This is an opportunity to earn extra black points for no extra fee! →

The 750 Club will be closed on Monday, October 3 (Rosh Hashanah) and Wednesday, October 12 (Yom Kippur).

A four-session “Mini-Course on Bidding”, taught by Jim Gardner, will be offered on Wednesday afternoons, October 5 and 19, and November 2 and 9, from 3 – 5 p.m. Fee will be \$50. Contact jamesjgardnerjr@yahoo.com or thmorton@att.net for more information.

Calendar

Thursdays, September 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, Supervised Play Game Nights, The 750 Club, 7 – 9 p.m. See details above.

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

Monday, September 12 – Friday, September 16, Club Championship Week at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, September 20, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Monday, October 3 (Rosh Hashanah) and Wednesday, October 12 (Yom Kippur), The 750 Club will be closed.

Wednesdays, October 5 & 19, November 2 & 9, “Bidding Mini-Course”, The 750 Club, 3-5 p.m. See details above.

Monday, October 17, Unit 561 Board Meeting, 750 Club, 2:45 p.m.

Saturday, December 3, Unit 561 Election for 2017 Board Members, Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party, at The 750 Club. Please save the date and plan to attend!



**Torrance-South Bay
by Steve Mager**

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

Apology

Sorry I found myself in Washington DC last month having to write a column in a hurry and missed a few things I should have included. I will try to catch up here.

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Club Championship: Monday, September 12, 11:30 .
Club Championship: Friday, September 16, 7:00
Club Championship: Tuesday, September 27, 11:30
Friday night games on September 2 and 16

Club Championships

The July 20 Club Championship on July 20 was led by Norm Imberman/Bruce Merchant in Flights A and B. The North American Pairs Qualifier on July 25 was won by Maurice Suhre/Harry Wessells in flight A with Bob Rothman/Mike Welsh taking Flight B honors and Ruth Ann Poppa/Regina Boll on top in Flight C. The NLM Club Championship on August 4 was captured by Gerry Ketz/Marilyn Morton in Flights A and B with Freda Main/Madge London leading Flight C. The North American Pairs Qualifier on August 15 was led by Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Stan Greengard/Glen Musicer taking Flight B. On August 17 the Club Championship was headed by Stan Greengard/Cal Waller in Flights A and B with Marie Lynch/Charlotte Lewin winning Flight C.

On July 18 the Club Championship at Veterans Park was led by Betsy Miller/Barbara Shortwell in Flight A and Judy and Jim Scott in Flight B. The July 20 Club Championship at Veterans Park was led by Alice Yacoubian/Lynn Finkel in Flight A with Anne Andres/Jeanette Betts taking Flight B and Pat Berg/Pam Gudish ahead in Flight C. On July 22 the Beach Cities BC Club Championship was won by Florence Niwa/Bill Malcomb in Flight A with Judy Colianni/Clara Trummer ahead in Flight B and C. The July 22 evening game at Inglewood Beach BC saw David Cheshire/Jeanne Tamaki winning Flight A with Jane Tourino/Lee Sagen-dorf leading Flight B and Jeff Grotenhuis/Jenni Pham taking Flight C.

Team Winners

August 2: Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, Mike Savage, John J. McDermott

August 16: Sharon Biederman, John Jones, Ed Picken, Steve Ramos

Unit Winners at Bridge Week

Torrance South Bay unit players who won →

events at the Bridge Week tournament in Long Beach are as follows.

Pro-Am Pairs Flights B and C: Stan Greengard
 Tue/Wed Evening Swiss: Bruce Horiguchi
 Tuesday Stratified Swiss B and C: Jeff Grotenhuis
 Wednesday Open Pairs Flt X: Stan Greengard/Cal

Waller

Wednesday Afternoon 299ers D & E: Diane Maye/
 Carol Hansen

Thursday Open Pairs Flts X&Y: JoAnne and Cal
 Waller

Thursday Gold Rush Pairs: Karen & Mike McKit-
 trick

Thursday Stratified Swiss: Kim Wang

Friday AM 299er Flights D&E: Kathleen Shinkle/
 James DeFlon

Friday Gold Rush Swiss Flts B&C: Gerald Ketz,
 Michael McGory, Manzoor Ursani, Bruce Schelden

Saturday AM, 299er Flts D&E: Deborah Downs/
 Pamela Boyer

Saturday PM Side Game, Flts A&B: L i l y a n
 and Ernie Frank

Equinox Compact KO: Lutrell Long, Lorna Wal-
 lace, Carole, Mason, Gloria Brown-Cook

STAC Overall placers in TSB UNIT Games

Following is a listing of pairs who finished in the
 overalls of the recent District 22/23 STAC in games
 played in TSB unit clubs.

Monday Morning , July 11, SBBC

2A Lucy Gellner/Gaye Herrington
 3A Gabby Jackson/Jeanette Betts
 5A 1B 1C Stan Greengard/Glen Musicer
 7A 2B 2C Marianne David/Harold Koletsky
 5B Bob Bacharach/Henry Crowder

Monday Evening Side Pairs, July 11

Veterans Park, SBBC

1A 1B Alyssa Kennedy/Michael Piken
 2A 2B 2C Ed Srenco/Elaine Godin
 3A 3B Stan Greengard/Mark Raggio
 4A 4B 2C David Rosak/David Brull
 5A Laura Gastelum/Ray Mack
 3C Roberta Gottfried/Jim Alstad

Tuesday Morning, July 12, SBBC

3C Pat Berg/Roberta Brown

Wednesday Morning, July 13, SBBC

5A 3B Claire Hulett/Bob Bacharach
 8A Ray Mack/Robert Rothman
 9A 5B 6C Marie Lynch/Charlotte Lewin (Tie)
 5A 5B 6C Keith Davidson/Bruce Merchant (Tie)
 6C Norm Imberman/Pat Berg

Wednesday Afternoon, July 13, Veterans Park

4A 2B Paula Hall/Annette Morgan
 17A 7B David Cheshire/Bill Malcolm
 24A 11B 4C PatriciaWells/Susan Hoose
 12B 5C Sally and Chris Earnest
 7C Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman

Wednesday Evening, July 13, SBBC

5A Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel
 6A 3B Janice Scholler/Mark Raggio
 6C Madhu and David Singhal

Thursday Morning, July 14, 499er Pairs, SBBC

1A 1B Bruce Walker/James DeFlon
 2A Anne Andres/Marilyn Morton
 3A 2B Doug Carlson/Howard Schecter
 4A 3B Bonnie Morris/Nanct Raiche
 5A 4B Nancy Carnes/Joyce Field

Friday Morning, July 15, SBBC

4A Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel
 6A 4B Mary Belle Hoenig/Hank Sheehan

Friday Afternoon, July 15, Beach Cities BC

16A 5B 3C Clara Trummer/Lee Sagendorf

Friday Evening, July 15, Inglewood Beach BC

1A 1B Joseph Thomas/Roy Young
 2A 2B David Cheshire/Jeanne Tamaki
 4/5B 2/3C Jane Tourino/Lee Sagendorf
 4/5B 2/3C Cornelia Dabija/Linda Nye
 4C Betsy Nicassio/Wanda Yao

Saturday Afternoon, July 16, SBBC

5A Fran Israel/Gabriela Jackson
 7A 5B Mark Raggio/Sheryl Kohlhoff

Learn Bridge in a Day

On September 15 the AGILE Bridge Club offers
 the “Learn Bridge in a Day” class that covers the basics
 of Bridge. To register call Jeff Grotenhuis (310-600- →

4275) or E-Mail (jeffgro@gmail.com). The class starts at 9:30 a.m.

The “Learn Bridge in a Day” class will also be offered at the South Bay Bridge Club on October 9. The cost is \$20 and includes lunch and a student book.

SBBC Happenings

The South Bay Bridge Club now has premade hands and hand records after the game. Also a lesson series is now in progress on weekends at the SBBC. For further information call the SBBC at 310-325-7222.

In addition to the “Learn Bridge in a Day” class, the SBBC will be offering the following lessons.

October 15: Advanced Intermediate two over one Bridge

October 16: Beginning Bridge/Bridge Basics

October 16: Intermediate 2 over 1 Bridge

For lesson information call Laura (310-738-5960)

GUV Award

After attending the Washington DC NABC I probably should have a good story or two but can't seem to remember any.

I would like any of you who have an opinion on the following hand to tell me if you have a chance. You hold: ♠-- ♥AJxxx ♦xxx ♣AQxxx Nobody vul, in second seat. RHO passes. You open 1♥, LHO doubles, and partner makes a non-forcing 2♦ call. RHO bids 2♠ and you bid 3♦. LHO passes and partner bids 3NT. After a pass by RHO do you think pulling 3NT to 4♣ or 4♦ is a 100% call, a strong favorite to be the right call or a debatable call?

Any opinions would be appreciated.

Na Zdrowie



West LA
by Robert Shore

A National Champion

We'll start this month's column with a report from the Summer Nationals held in our nation's capital. Jim

Perkins and the rest of his team won a national title by prevailing in Flight B of the Grand National Teams. The win had more than its share of drama. With one quarter to go in their semifinal match, Jim's team was trailing by 47 IMPs. They came storming back, though, earning a 55 IMP advantage in the last quarter and winning the match by 8. In the finals, the tables were very nearly turned. Jim's team had a 48 IMP lead going into the final stanza, but their opponents recovered 47 IMPs in the last quarter, leaving Jim and his teammates national champions by the slimmest possible 1 IMP margin. Also picking up a win at the Nationals was Bob Kent, whose team won the Boss Lady Thursday-Saturday Knockout Teams event.

Another STAC of Winners

A number of Unit members also took home wins in the recent STAC. Becky Clough won the Tuesday afternoon game and Pete Knee won on Tuesday evening. Ted Glaessner and Chuck Maltz were the Thursday afternoon winners, and Aram Bedros topped the Thursday evening field. Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten paired up with Jim Perkins to win the Saturday afternoon event. Finally, moving down the San Diego Sectional, Ifti Baqai won the Friday morning Open Pairs.

Looking Ahead

Our annual Fall Sectional is just around the corner. Held as always over Labor Day weekend, 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.

Bidding Problem

As dealer red against white at matchpoints, I held one of my better hands: ♠-- ♥AKJ65 ♦AKQ986 ♣J2. I rarely open two-suiters 2♣ and there were 13 spades divided among the other three hands, so I thought there wasn't much chance of hearing three passes and I decided to open 1♦. Partner bid 1♠ and I reversed with 2♥, as planned. Partner bid 3♣ (artificial and game forcing) so I patterned out with 3♥. Partner bid 4NT and I bid 5♣ to show 3 key cards (or none). Partner could →

have asked for the heart queen, but instead he bid 5NT, promising all of the key cards. Since partner didn't ask about the trump queen, I assumed he was looking at it. His two black aces would take care of my clubs and any diamond holding should give me a pretty good chance to ruff out the suit, so I simply bid 7♥. Partner had four hearts to the Q10, a diamond void, and both black aces as expected. Also both red suits behaved nicely so 13 tricks were easy.

This turned out to be a cold top when no one else in the room reached the grand. Upon reflection, I realized why. Imagine how the auction goes if you open this monster 2♣. Your next bid will be 3♦ and you'll already be at 4♥ before you have the chance to pattern out this monster. Partner can still use Blackwood to give you the news that you have all the key cards, but it's a much harder auction for the partnership to handle. My take-away from this hand: it's very rarely right to open 2♣ with a two-suiter.

Welcome Mat

We need an extra large welcome wagon this month. New members of the ACBL who have added to our Unit's ranks are Otis Birnbaum, Marvin Gelfand, Patricia Keller, Won-Young McDevitt, Nancy Noever, Cynthia and Selwyn Super, and Joan Weinbaum. Joining us from other Units are Sharon Bolton and Jean Schultz. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Quite a few club championships at Beverly Hills last month. David Segal and Jeri Berger picked up a win, as did Dovid Crum and Gil Stinebaugh. Mauricio Epelbaum and Alan Schneider picked up a win, as did Chuck Fonarow and Sam Namer, Chuck Fonarow (again) with Lou Papp, and Sara Friedman and Viktor Anikovich. Hitting 70% were Alan Schneider and Viktor Anikovich along with David Raphel and David Segal.

Barrington club champions were Rob Perlsweig and Peter Knee. Hitting 70% at Barrington were Anna Benatar and Nelly Gordon, along with Aram Bedros and Om Chokriwala and George Wagner and Art Zail.

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

Peter Schwab is our Unit's newest Junior Master. Peter McKernan has become a Club Master. Jaelyn Hatfield and Jill Thesman are now Regional Masters. Our Unit's newest NABC Masters are Mike Louis, Tate Shafer, and Judy Zucker.

Rochelle Blumenfeld and Lee Hausner have reached Life Master status. Constance Abell has become a Bronze Life Master. Herbert Ehrman and Jim Perkins have become Silver Life Masters. Your Humble Scribe is now a Sapphire Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

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WINNERS

Grand National Teams, Flight B
Thanks to my Teammates

July DC NABC District 23 Winners

The following is a list of all District 23's master-point winners from the Washington DC NABC in July.

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Jill Meyers, Santa Monica - 149.63 | 31 | Dwight Hunt, Granada Hills - 22.65 |
| 2 | Mitch Dunitz, Sherman Oaks - 135.3 | 32 | Gerry Geremia, La Verne - 22.5 |
| 3 | John Jones, Santa Fe Spgs - 107.81 | 33 | Mark Leonard, Long Beach - 22.33 |
| 4 | Nolan Chang, San Gabriel - 95.8 | 34 | Doug Kushner, Valencia - 21.7 |
| 5 | Bob Kent, Marina Del Rey - 91.67 | 35 | Jordan Kushner, Valencia - 19.58 |
| 6 | Om Chokriwala, Sherman Oaks - 88.02 | 36 | John Ramos, West Hollywood - 17.93 |
| 7 | Ed Piken, Palos Verdes Pn - 75.32 | 37 | Ellen Anten, Encino - 17.26 |
| 8 | Jack Chang, San Gabriel - 70 | 38 | Steve Gross, Westlake Vlg - 17.26 |
| 9 | Jim Perkins, Los Angeles - 70 | 39 | Bob Shore, Los Angeles - 17.14 |
| 10 | Fred Upton, Van Nuys - 70 | 40 | Gerri Carlson, Rancho Palo Vds - 16.78 |
| 11 | Zheng Zhang, Arcadia - 70 | 41 | William Chu, San Marino - 16.38 |
| 12 | Ron Feldman, Redondo Beach - 69.17 | 42 | John Herriot, Los Angeles - 15.78 |
| 13 | Bill Schreiber, Valley Glen - 69.17 | 43 | Jonathan Holmes, Van Nuys - 14.73 |
| 14 | Ifti Baqai, Irvine - 64.53 | 44 | Judy Hyde, Pacific Plsds - 14.34 |
| 15 | Viktor Anikovich, Los Angeles - 56.26 | 45 | Abdelrahim Mehilba, Rancho Cucamonga - 14.02 |
| 16 | Joseph Lieberman, Los Angeles - 48.22 | 46 | Alan Schneider, Beverly Hills - 13.76 |
| 17 | Joe Viola, Altadena - 46.26 | 47 | Sherie Schneider, Beverly Hills - 13.76 |
| 18 | Phil Feldman, Los Angeles - 45.36 | 48 | Alfred Lee, Rancho Palo Vds - 12.95 |
| 19 | Ed Davis, Seal Beach - 44.27 | 49 | Jeff Goldsmith, Tujunga - 12.86 |
| 20 | Carol Frank, Burbank - 42.5 | 50 | Sophia Chang, San Gabriel - 12.7 |
| 21 | Paula Nataf, Beverly Hills - 41.49 | 51 | Lucy Zhang, Arcadia - 12.7 |
| 22 | Mike Mikyska, Los Angeles - 40.55 | 52 | Pam Wittes, Venice - 12.07 |
| 23 | Ellen Kent, Marina Del Rey - 39.49 | 53 | Alex Chen, Arcadia - 11.32 |
| 24 | Jonky Chung, Cerritos - 32.94 | 54 | Yunkai Song, Downey - 11.32 |
| 25 | Tai-Che Chung, Cerritos - 32.94 | 55 | Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten, Los Angeles - 9.05 |
| 26 | Alex Kolesnik, Los Angeles - 29.69 | 56 | Kevin Lane, Long Beach - 7.87 |
| 27 | Steve Mager, Hermosa Beach - 26.11 | 57 | Bobbi Le Feuvre, Van Nuys - 7.71 |
| 28 | Claude Le Feuvre, Van Nuys - 23.83 | 58 | Rand Pinsky, Valencia - 7.14 |
| 29 | Charles Kelley, Pacific Plsds - 23.81 | 59 | Kathy Swaine, Valencia - 7.14 |
| 30 | Jo Anne Kelley, Pacific Plsds - 23.81 | 60 | Gerry Bare, Altadena - 5.75 |
| | | 61 | David Ochroch, Claremont - 5.5 |
| | | 62 | Joan Johnson, Palos Verdes Es - 4.09 |
| | | 63 | Sharon Beynon, Los Angeles - 2.74 |
| | | 64 | Carolyn Heyn, Palos Verdes Es - 2.45 |
| | | 65 | S Hunt, Granada Hills - 1.7 |



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



Our article last month on the July 2016 District 23 Regional left out a few news pieces. One picture we did not have at press time was of our Stoddard Trophy winner, Bob Etter. We caught him at another happy occasion.

We know that Bob enjoys LA in July. He achieved Grand Life Master status here in July 1997. Congrats again, Bob.

- by Stan Holzberg
D23 Tournament Chair

Announcements

District 23 NAP in Process
by Marcus Evans,
D23 NAP Coordinator

The qualifying games for Kansas City in March 2017 are over now. Haven't seen the results, but, if history holds, there should be close to 1000 qualifiers in our District. We are scheduling the Unit Finals tentatively at Long Beach BC and the Beverly Hills BC in October and November. See the Finals flyer on this page. Now the serious play begins! See you there.

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.





District 23

Kansas City - HERE WE COME

Sanction: 1880377




North American Pairs

Flt A, B, & C Finals

Sunday 15 Jan 2017, 11:00 AM

San Marino Comm. Center
1800 Huntington Dr.

2 Sessions with a break

Snacks @ Sodas @ Coffee @ Gold/Red Points

Marcus Evans - 714 342-2822

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Wafik Abdou, Mark Bartusek, Tim Lolli, Mike Shuster, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
NS vul

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

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

The problems from this set are hands that were played on the East Coast. This problem involves a difficult third bid. 15 HCPs looks like significantly too much to pass without significant risk of missing game. Which game is best? 3NT, 4♠, and 5♦ and maybe even 4♥ are all possibilities. Most of the panelists try 3♠, although it normally shows three card support. I was surprised at the number of panelists who said they would or might open 1NT (Bartusek mentioned it verbally, so every panelist except Wittes gave it some consideration). Despite the difficult third round bid we have encountered, I am of the opinion that opening 1NT with five hearts, four diamonds and a small doubleton is just unthinkable. You'll never get the distribution across and may have wrong-sided the contract.

Lolli: 3NT. Hopefully partner can join in with some clubs. I wouldn't object to opening 1NT with this hand.

Shuster: 3♠. I expect partner to have a good diamond fit and about 10 - 11 HCP, often with a singleton heart. That means that partner will nearly always show up

with the ♣A or ♣K, so don't sweat the club control. If partner holds five spades and four diamonds, we will often belong in 4♠. If he holds five diamonds and four spades, then 5♦ will be our target. 3♠ seems the most natural continuation, catering to both contracts. By the way, I would have opened 1NT.

Abdou: 3♠. I'm end played into bidding it, although it normally shows 3 cards. However, nothing else is appealing. Why didn't I open 1NT?

Bartusek: 3♠. Probably doesn't guarantee three spades, since the obvious concern is a club stopper (a 5-2 spade fit might be the best spot). Note that if I held 3=5=4=1 with extras, I would probably jump to 4♠ here.

Wittes: 3♠. I know this tends to show three spades, but if partner doesn't have a club stopper, the 5 - 2 spade fit might be our best chance at game. My two spades are probably as good as any three spades partner might expect from me.

2

IMPs
NS vul

S	W	N	E
?			

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

Nice hand, but Mark is correct that I should have asked the 2♣ bidders what their plan was.

Bartusek: 2♣. This hand is much too strong to open 2NT, and 1♣ could easily miss a game. The posed problem should really have been what to rebid after opening 2♣. I play that a 3NT rebid shows a running minor with about nine tricks: if you go through Kokish and then bid 3NT, it shows a strong balanced hand (28-30) to break up the Kokish point range (2NT after Kokish being 25-27 or 31+). *[Mark's Kokish methods here are not expert standard, but I think his methods are a small improvement on what is more standard. I asked him to include his version].*

Lolli: 2♣. I have a good chance for nine tricks on this hand if partner has ♥JTxx without anything else. I wouldn't like 1♣ Pass Pass Pass.

Shuster: 2♣. I can make game opposite a balanced zero count, so any non-forcing opening is out. If we get to game and it doesn't make, such is life. However, I am not willing to miss game with this monster.

Wittes: 2♣. I have too many tricks in my own hand to consider any other alternative.

The above panelists all thought the chance of being passed out in 1♣ was too significant to risk. By contrast, Wafik thinks 2♣ is too clumsy to easily handle a smooth auction. I tend to agree. Holding six clubs, the chance someone bids is pretty high. I'd open 1♣, and over a 1♦ or a 1♥ response, I'd jump shift into 2♣. If partner responds 1♠ I would reverse into 2♦ and then support spades. The 1♣ bid is not only lower, but it is a natural bid, so it is significantly ahead in describing the hand.

Abdou: 1♣. This hand is too good and positionally wrong for 2NT, and too cumbersome for 2♣, unless you play control responses. The problem is on the next turn after partner responds! I'll bid a fake jump shift into 2♣, or a fake reverse into 2♦ over a spade response.

D23 Rank Changes July 2016

Junior Master

Jonky Chung, Marilyn Conzonire
 Robert Mallano, Kathy Preisler
 Betty Sander

Club Master

Susan Adkins, Andrea Forman
 Gordon Hull, Irwin Jaeger
 Susan Morse-Lebow
 Anni Pack

Sectional Master

Walter Bodlander, Richard Bratkovich
 Bonnie Cox, Melody Harper
 Lynn Harvey, Linda Klebs
 Peter Koenig, Susan Koenig
 Helene Levine, Jerome Paul
 Inga Stoops, Charles Strathman
 John Vacca, Janis Wells
 Esther Zacks
 Debra Zelman

Regional Master

Paul Chrisney
 Sadika Elewy
 William Heck
 Andreda Pruitt

Adv NABC Master

James Christiansen
 Carole Collins
 Stephen Page

Life Master

Steve Shanker

Bronze Life Master

Beverly Goldner

Ruby Life Master

Bryan Conley

Diamond Life Master

Julie Sheerin

3

MPs
NS vul

S	W	N	E
1♠ ?	Dbl	Rdbl	1♦ 1NT

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

What does the redouble mean? In my partnerships it normally would show Ax, Kx or Qx of partner's overcall. Regardless of what it means, are the backs of the cards all the same color? It certainly looks as if someone used a pinochle deck on this deal.

Lolli: Pass. Partner is forced for one more bid, so I want to hear what he's about. If anyone is thinking this is a three card showing spade bid, I believe he/she is misguided.

Shuster: Double. Modern partnerships will have defined my partner's redouble. Lacking a special agreement, it shows values and desire to defend. I have extra values, so I'd like to encourage that game plan. If they wind up in a suit, we will destroy them with spade ruffs.

Wittes: 2♣. Even if partner has a reasonable hand with something like ♠Qx or ♠Jx, the texture of my spades could mean three trump losers in a spade contract with the free 1NT bid in front of me (KJ10x or KQ10x for examples). If we have a game, 5♣ seems the more likely contract. If partner bids 2♠ over 2♣, I would not bid more than 3♠ despite the six card suit and good distribution.

Bartusek: 2♠. I play that partner's redouble specifically shows a doubleton spade with some values. Thus, 2♠ seems the spot to play which also stops LHO from bidding 2♦ or 2♥ (which could easily get raised by RHO). A 2♣ rebid doesn't interfere with LHO. Even if the redouble only showed something like honor doubleton of spades, 2♠ is probably the best tactical bid.

Abdou: 4♥/double. If redouble is support, I bid 4♥ as a self-splinter to clue partner in over the impending favorable sacrifice. Clearly 1NT is a joke. *[Quite likely!]* If redouble is power, I settle for a double for now. This is a 50 point deck?

4

MPs
NS vul

S	W	N	E
2♥ ?	5♣	1♠ P	2♣ P

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

It's critical to ascertain whether pass is forcing on this auction. Does the 2/1 force us to double or bid on? I think the answer is yes unless we are non-vulnerable versus vulnerable opponents who bid game. I think that vulnerability and level are even more important than form of scoring. I would always have an invitational sequence create a force at these colors. Mike spoke eloquently on this debate, so he gets first crack.

Shuster: 5NT. Much hinges on whether partner's pass is forcing. While a 2/1 in competition doesn't generate a game force, I believe it ought to create a force when the opponents bid to the five level. However, recent panels on Bridgewinners [bridgewinners.com] show that my view on this aspect of partnership bidding is not standard. Regardless, I have a positive hand for slam and the opponents are blasting away in my shortness. Whatever partner holds is working, so I think we rate to have slam. I'll try 5NT to try to get to the stronger major suit fit.

Mark is clearly in the non-forcing camp.

Bartusek: 5♠. Vulnerable at MPs I think 5♠ is a fairly good description of the hand. Obviously partner's pass is non-forcing, so a 5♦ bid by me would be natural (not a cue bid). I don't think we'll get 5♣ enough to compensate for the vulnerable game. There is no way to make a slam try here.

Jon's comment doesn't state specifically that he thinks pass is forcing, but it's clear he is in the

PSP#4 *continued from page 15*

“pass is forcing” camp.

Wittes: 6♣. Toughest problem in this set. Hopefully this implies some kind of spade fit, and we’ll land in the best fit between spades and hearts. Preempts can be a bitch sometimes. LOL.

Tim and Wafik discuss follow-ups by the passer, so they are also clearly in the “pass is forcing camp”

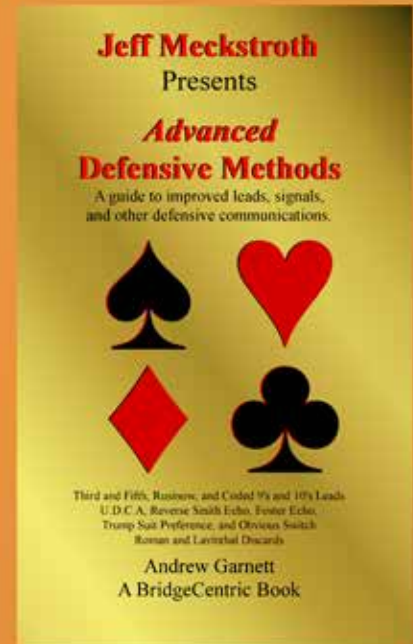
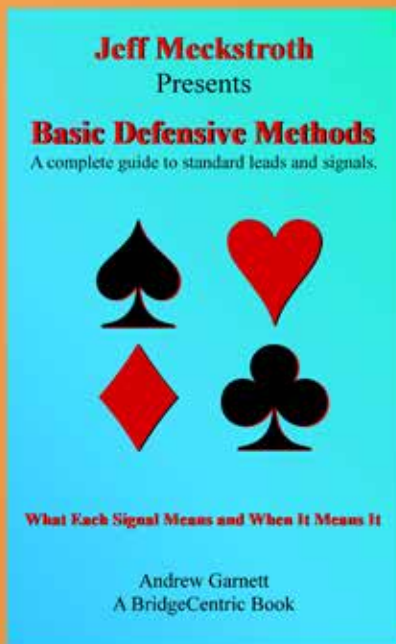
Lolli: 5♠. This should be a very useful hand for partner, but just not quite enough to insist upon slam. If partner is kind enough to bid 6♣, I’ll gladly bid 6♦ to probe for 7♥ or 7♠.

Abdou: 5NT pick a slam. A thoughtful partner would bid 6♣ with ♠AQ, ♥K and ♣A to allow me to bid a grand!

What do you think?

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

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5
 MPs
 all vul

S	W	N	E
1♠ ?	Pass Pass	1♣ 3NT	Pass Pass

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

3NT differs significantly from 2NT in this auction. 2NT shows 18 to 19 HCP balanced. 3NT shows running (or almost running depending on partnership agreements) clubs, and frequently a singleton in partner's suit. 3NT has less HCP but more tricks than a 2NT bid would advertise. OK, the entire panel all knows what 3NT means, but where do we go from here? Is there a way to ask for aces? Do we insist on slam? Is it worth considering a grand?

Lolli: 5♣. 4♣ is a slam try in clubs, so 5♣ is Super Gerber. *[I agree!]* Partner has seven solid clubs, so if he shows two aces, I'll bid the laydown 7♣.

Bartusek: 6♣. Partner should have solid clubs, red suit stoppers, and probably a stiff spade. I have no agreements with partners as to how I would ask for keycards here. Maybe 5♣ should be Super Gerber, with 4♣ forcing to game? *[That sounds right to me.]* Perhaps if I cue bid 4♦ and partner responded 4♥ I might be confident enough to blast 7♣?

Shuster: 4♣. I'm driving to 6♣, but want to bid key card along the way, in case we have a grand. The way to do that is to set trump with 4♣ and then bid 4NT over partner's 4♥ cuebid. If partner tries 4NT over 4♣, then I'll give up on seven and just bid six. The heart ace and diamond king are enough for seven. Note that 6NT is safe opposite the ♥AK and no diamond king, so I'll be asking for specific kings and bidding seven myself if I find diamonds.

Abdou: 4♣. If partner has short spades, solid clubs and side stoppers as advertised, a club slam is odds on, and 4♣ will clue him in. I have a terrific hand with three quick tricks and a ruffing value. If he signs off in 4NT, I will have a difficult time not trying again, and will bid depending on the state of our game!

Last word to the man who has played enough bridge to know that partner rarely produces the perfect hand.

Wittes: 6♣. In a perfect world, partner should have a long running club suit, spade shortness and an ace or king in the other two suits. We could even be missing seven if partner has something like ♠x ♥Axx ♦Kx ♣AKQxxxx, but perfect hands seem to come up rarely.

Next Month's Problems

1. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
1♥	2♣	2♥	?

You hold:
 ♠QT976 ♥K8 ♦A4 ♣QT863

2. IMPs, EW vul

S	W	N	E
		P	P
2♣	P	2♦*	P
?			

* Waiting, shows at least an ace, king, or two queens

You hold:
 ♠A3 ♥K86 ♦AQ ♣AKQ976

3. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
P	P	1♠	2♦
?			

You hold:
 ♠JT64 ♥AKT987 ♦9 ♣74

3a) Do you agree with the initial pass?

3b) What now?

3c) If LHO bids 5♦ and partner passes, is that a forcing pass?

4. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
1♥	P	1NT*	P
2♥	P	?	

* semi forcing
 ♠Q9 ♥-- ♦QJ754 ♣AQ8432

5. IMPs, EW vul

S	W	N	E
♠ ?	P	2♥	P

♠AK97653 ♥863 ♦A2 ♣A