

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

History Problems

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



If those words in the title bring a shudder to your psyche, don't worry, we're not back in high school. Interesting how viewpoints change over the years. When young, we have little personal history to ponder. The future is a great unknown and the past is what we study as a requirement to graduate. History is what has happened to other folks and we're told it's valuable to know in order to help us not repeat mistakes that have had regrettable consequences to society, to individuals, to groups, to religions, and to the environment. There are, on the other hand, valuable lessons from the positive events which may show us what can be accomplished by caring people.

It is a consequence of life that, as we grow up, we are creating a history for our family, our neighborhood, our cities, our friends, and ourselves. Does it seem lately that some of your acquaintances have started to value the past more than the future? If you sense danger there, I concur. If a life is to stay vibrant, we should be looking to the future and what we can accomplish, not resting on past events. Yet, hold on a second – we can still admire the past without dwelling on it. This even applies to our lovable hobby – playing bridge.

So this brings us to today, as I've had a few days to recover from my visit to ACBL headquarters in Horn Lake! The visit was intended to work with their per-

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Orlando Motion Results

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun

Orlando Motions

The Orlando NABC was a good tournament, although the table-count of 10,600 was about 3,000 tables short of expectations. Last month I mentioned several votes facing the board in Orlando, so this month I will report on those votes.

Education Foundation

The board voted to sever all ties to the ACBL Educational Foundation. I voted against this motion. As I've noted previously, the proposal was a perfect storm of bad governance – although I strongly share the overall goal of modernizing the Educational Foundation. In fact, I note similarities between this vote and the governance failures behind the \$2 million ACBLscore loss.

The vote is done now, of course, so now we must hope that the risks created by the vote don't materialize. To be sure, if the new Educational Foundation raises anywhere close to the projected \$50 million dollars and spends that money at all efficiently it will be very good news for bridge.

ACBL President

Bob Heller from District 7 was elected the 2017 ACBL President. Bob prioritizes grass roots bridge that drive the ACBL over the concerns of the small number of top players.

Cutting Board Expenses

The board took even more steps to cut board ex-

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- Results of D23 tournaments before 1957.

sonnel to gather historical info on D23 that has been unavailable in the magazines we've been able to collect and read nor on the internet sites constructed by ACBL to date. Rather than trying to explain details of our history search in messages or on the phone, it seemed more polite to explain in person. I hope most D23 folks know that we have been trying to collect our tournament and personnel history for years now and we had run into a virtual stone wall with no new info uncovered in too long a time. The visit was preceded by a long note to their archivist with a list of specifics.

The visit results were helpful but not complete by a long shot. Without boring everyone with all the details, there is a very unfortunate reality that will hamper the completion of the intended task. ACBL tells me that there are very few, if any, computer records of information before 2002 in readable form. I, therefore, ran into another stone wall asking for the following:

- Lists of all D23 players for each year before 2000.
- Listings of the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs rankings in each category for each Unit prior to 2002.
- Listings of the Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs rankings in each category for D23 prior to 2002.

This is bad news for some records areas. Imagine this: If a Unit in our District did not keep records of who won the Mini-McKenney and Ace-of-Clubs races in their Units prior to 2002, that data may not ever be available again! I have not relinquished hope in these searches, however. Stay tuned for future developments.

There were also visit highlights. Keith Wells supplied lots of tournament financial data and Tracy Yarbrow conjured up lots of missing Mini-McKenney and Ace-of-Clubs races data - at least what was computer readable. You will see everything we received on several new "wall" listings at our February 2017 Regional. You will see names that you have not seen in ages and that may bring back memories of some old friends. Perhaps you will be reminded to renew contacts.

As the Holiday season winds down, I hope everyone has thought about plans for the new year. Mine include the Monterey tournament (already packed) and an exciting trip to Italy in the Spring. Lasagna will be happily enjoyed. Hope everyone fits in lots of healthy activities, a little music, lots of hugs, and maybe an eclipse in the coming months. Happy new year to all, and: Go D23!

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier
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Looking for a Club?

Check out

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

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

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penses. I voted in favor of these motions, although now I'm at the point where I oppose as counterproductive any more focus on board cost-cutting. The biggest change was to align our meetings with the Board of Governors meeting which will end up saving \$30K per year.

Technology Committee

The board voted to eliminate the technology committee as a major committee. I strongly opposed this motion. While technically the vote didn't eliminate this committee entirely, my sense is that's the practical result. I voted against this motion because I strongly feel that ACBL technology remains a critical concern. In fact, I advocate for more discussion – not less – on the many technology challenges facing the ACBL.

World Bridge Federation Dues

The motion reducing the WBF dues paid by the ACBL was withdrawn.

Moving Fall board meetings to Mississippi

The board voted against moving the fall board meetings to Mississippi, though it's clear that this issue will re-emerge in the near future.

Board Counsel

The board voted against obtaining its own legal counsel.

I can be reached at: klaned23@gmail.com

**2017 Grand National Teams
Location and Dates**

Flight	Dates	MP Limits
Open	April 22-23	0-unlimited
A	March 25-26	0-6000
B	April 22-23	0-2500
C	March 25-26	Non Life Master <500

Masterpoint limits based on recorded points as of September 6,2016

All Events:

- Location: Long Beach Bridge Center (562-498-8113)
- Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5, or 6 players
- Team flight is determined by player with the most points
- Game Times: 10:00 and 3:30
- Players can enter more than one event (on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in Toronto this summer
- Winning teams to receive partial refund of expenses for trip to the finals
- Complete Conditions of Contest available at <http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/>
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg (310-475-9784) or Janet Logan (949-400-5887)

What do you think?
Send letters to the editor to:

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

November 25 Unit-rated Black Friday Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth, 2nd Hanefi Erten/Oliver Yildiz, 3rd Dominique and Arthur Moore, 4th Louis Shen Xingpin Kang, 5th Jackie Hess/Wayne Otsuki, 6th Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger. In the B flight overalls: 3rd Wayne Rapp/Diane Starbuck, 4th Calvin and JoAnne Walker, 5th Linda Nye/Alan Olschwang, 6th Kay Tseng Rai Scime. In the C flight overalls: 3rd Christine Frumen/John Galligher, 4th Fay Beckerman/Sherry Troeger, 5th Sharon Biederman/Kiyo Nagaishi. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: Nov 16 through Dec 15: In the 499er game Nov 22 Darlene Harrison/Bill Dilks had 77.51%. In the Tuesday evening game Dec 6 John Melis/Jon Yinger had 71%. Congratulations to both pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards: Nov 16 through Dec 15: In the Black Friday game Nov 25 Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth won 4.38mp for 1st, Oliver Yildiz/Hanefi Erten 3.29mp for 2nd. Congratulations to both pairs!

New Members: Carolyn Byrnes, Patty Hansen, Bonnie Shok, Anna Win, Russel Gray, Irene Wascavage. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Club Master: John Houser. New Sectional Master: Don Vallens. Congratulations to you both!

Condolences to the families and friends of Lowell Andrews and Dick Sands both of whom passed away earlier this month.

Get Well Wishes to John Bralliar, Debra Skinner, Mary Thomas and Eileen Nelson

Bridge Brigade, Inc The Long Beach Bridge Center has formed Bridge Brigade, Inc., a 401(c)(3) charity to promote bridge education. Tax deductible donations can be sent to the club and made payable to Bridge Brigade.

Upcoming Events at the Club

January 2-8: Junior Fund Week: Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

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

January 23-29: STaC Week: Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

November 19 Unit-rated game—Clubhouse #1: Betty Scharf/ Bill Robinson 1 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Judy Carter-Johnson/Cooie Dampman 1 in A, 2 in C. Marilyn McClintock/Gary Paugh 3 in A. Verna Burns/Sue Fardette 4 in A. Jeanette Estill/Sibyl Smith 5 in A. Julie Cunningham/Dick Stammerjohn 3 in B, 2 in C. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 4 in B. Russell Gray/Fred Reker 3 in C. Louise Seifert/Stan Johnson 4 in A.

December 15 Club Championship Game—Clubhouse #3: Thad Mikols/Larry Topper 1 in A, 1 in B. Gary Paugh/Bill Linskey 2 in A. Kiyo Nagaishi/Bob Mault 3 in A. Sharon and Al Appel 4 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Gene Yaffee 5 in A, 2 in B. Jeanette Estill/Ted Cooper 6 in A, 3 in B. Christine Frumen/Stan Blitz 4 in B. Cookie Pham/Paul Cen 5/6 in A, 1 in C. Tybee Becker/Nancy Lichter 5/6 in A. Nancy Kasabali/Mike Nielsen 2 in C. Ron Yaffee/Ted Wieber 3 in C. Russell Gray/Fred Reker 4 in C.

Congratulations--70% games: Eileen Kotecki/Marilyn McClintock had a 72.02% game on November 25. Betty Scharf/Bill Robinson had a 71.53% game on December 3.

Get Well: Good seeing Ellen Kice and our Director Diane Sachs back at the games. →



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

"Unit" Game – Saturday, January 21, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – Saturday, January 7, 9:30 a.m., San Dimas

First, some explanations of the column's headers: our Individual game this month is being held at one of our alternate sites – the home of Penny and Gino Barbieri. Penny is justifiably proud of her Christmas village and wants to show it off. (Sound familiar from last year... different show-offer, though...)

And our "Unit" game this month... well... there's been a lot of rumbling ACBL-wide about the 80% increase in the Unit game sanction fee. (When was the last time **you** got an 80% raise?) Units getting table counts in the 20s and 30s have no problem. Small Units, such as ours, just can't justify jacking up the entry fee that much. In spite of the protests, the League has dug in. So Units are being encouraged to **not** hold unit games until after the Spring NABC. We are in the fortunate position of having an unused (mostly) club sanction coincident with our normal Unit game, which we plan to use for January, February, and March. January's game will be a Club Championship, which pays out master points roughly equal to those of a Unit game. So We Shall See...

In the December Unit game, Bill Papa and Vic Sartor ran away from the field, winning by more than three boards. In second came Chuck Lohr - David Ochroch, followed by Margie Hall - Steve Mancini, Rosalie Roberts - Barbara Papa, and Linda Stuart - Linda Tessier.

In the December Individual, Sandy Jones took for the top spot. Not too far behind were Sofi Kasubhai, Al Lax, Lois Snowden, and Steve Mancini.

The top score this month was a huge 74.3% posted by Fredy Minter – in an Individual game. In pairs, the top spot was claimed by Richard Patterson - Roger Ginsburg, with a 70.2% effort. Other winners: Lulu Minter, Sandy Jones, Joe Unis, Genise Hasan, John Barrow, Margie Hall, Herb Stampfl, Al Lax, Norma Appleby, and Amr Elghamry.

Four promotions to report this month: Barbara Andryjowicz to Junior Master, Esther Johnson to Club

Master, Mary Miller to Bronze Life Master, and Genise Hasan has reached the rarified atmosphere of Ruby Life Master. Congratulations, all.

This month's Hand-of-the-Month... well, it's more of a fun hand than anything else. It's a real freak, but Halloween is past. And it's too early for April Fools, so you will have to believe us when we swear that this hand was actually dealt. Hold your breath and hang on for the ride. You are the dealer, and find yourself trying to maintain your composure as you stare at this collection: ♠AKQJT87532 ♥-- ♦8 ♣AT.

Yes, a 10-card suit in a 2-loser hand. Whatcha gonna do, Chief? You can open 1♠, and then fight off what's sure to be a lot of interference. You can open 4♠... and risk missing slam. Or open 6♠, and risk missing the grand. Not easy to bid this hand. For laughs, let's say you open 2♣, strong and artificial. The opponents are silent. Partner further muddies the waters with a jump to 3♥ – an undiscussed bid. Now, your agreement is that 2♥ shows a worthless hand, and 2NT shows at least a trick and a half, and a good heart suit. What could 3♥ possibly mean? And whaddaya gonna do now?

You finally reason that partner must have a pretty good hand, not only a good heart suit but some stuff on the side. No good way to find out, is there? So what the heck, let's just cut the comedy and bid 6♠. And hope! The opening lead is the ♣K, and dummy comes down with: ♠6 ♥AKJT9763 ♦KT94 ♣--.

Well you got lucky! Ruff the lead, pitch your low diamond on the ♥A, ruff a red card high, and claim 13 tricks.

You were even luckier than you hoped. RHO had both missing trumps, so LHO could not lead a trump, which would have held you to the same 11 tricks you started with. And at EVERY other table, the opening lead was the ♦A, holding declarer to 12 tricks. All but two pairs bid 6♠. One pair somehow stopped at 4♠, and one (good) pair had a disaster. Playing a strong 1♣ system, the auction went 1♣ – (3♣) – 7♥ – (pass); %\$#@% by opener. Opener finally called 7NT, which was not a great success after the ♦A was led.

Isn't this game fun... and also maddening?

By the way, according to our calculations, a 10-card suit occurs once in about 60,738 deals (your mileage may vary). That means if you play 5 sessions a week, 24 boards a session, you can expect to pick up one of these beasts about every 9¾ years. If you play less often... well, don't hold your breath!

Quote for the Month: "I hear and I forget. I see →

and I remember. I do and I understand.” (Confucius)
 Until next month ...



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

Congratulations to Ruth Baker and Tracy Boys along with teammates James Garner and Stuart Hemple for winning the Saturday Compact KO Teams, Bracket 5, event at the Palm Springs Regional.

Congratulation to David White and Pat Larin along with teammates Richard and Melissa Price won the Friday-Saturday KO Teams, Bracket 5, event at the Palm Springs Regional.

Congratulations to Sharry Vida and Henry Roediger for their outstanding performance in the Western Conference StaC game on Sunday Afternoon with 64.88%. They were first overall in the Stratified Auxiliary Pairs.

**StaC game results
 Monday, December 5 in Santa Clarita**

North/South

- 1 Lamonte Johnson and Ted Maki - 60.21%
- 2 George MacDonald and Hansford Rowe - 58.75%
- 3 Sharon Hoelscher and Carole Provost - 54.68%
- 4 Tracy Boys and Gary Grey - 52.92%

East/West

- 1 Bill Brodek and Robert McBroom - 67.73%
- 2 Roy Ladd and Bert Stock - 55.91%
- 3/4 Carol and Paul Reukauf - 53.18%
- 3/4 Carol Morton and Paula Olivares - 53.18%

**StaC game results
 Tuesday, December 6 in Santa Clarita**

- 1 Anthony and Irene Toogood - 56.51%
- 2 Bill Brodek and Melarie Moran - 56.01%
- 3 Bill Skotnica and Shirley Ramspeck - 55.58%
- 4 Alene Friedman and Paula Olivares - 53.26%

StaC game results

Friday, December 9 at Joshua Tree

- 1 Phoebe Evans and Hallie Long - 62.22%
- 2 Russ Buker and George MacDonald - 56.67%
- 3 Kay Aiken and Nancy Gronewold - 30%
- 4 Henry Roediger and Sharry Vida - 54.44%

StaC game results
 Sunday, December 11 at Joshua Tree

- 1 Henry Roediger and Sharry Vida - 64.88%
- 2 May Abagi and Sandi Niren - 61.21%
- 3 Rosalee McEntyre and Onorita Pallanti. - 57.14%

**Board of Directors Election
 Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley**

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

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



**San Fernando
 Valley
 by Linda Silvey**

Unit 561 Holiday Bridge/Dinner Party Report

A highly successful Unit 561 Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party was held on Saturday, December 3, at The 750 Club in Woodland Hills. A bridge game of 27 tables was held in the afternoon and ably directed by Mike Fierman. This was followed by dinner catered by Stonefire Grill. Special thanks are due to the Party Committee consisting of Larry Abramson, Dennis Forst, Dennis Hill, Phil Jones, M.J. Jubelirer, Elaine Keyes, Nancy Klemens, Rochelle Lotto, Bill Morton, Terry Morton, Marge Romans, Linda Silvey, and Jan Toppel.

A Unit 561 business meeting was held before the afternoon bridge game. New Unit 561 Board members →

elected for 2017 were Marcia Broderick, Mark LaVine, Frank Pinkus, Susan Raphael, and Barbara Simpson. Continuing Board members who will also be serving in 2017 are Larry Abramson, Ellen Anten, Harold Kahn, Nancy Klemens, and Rochelle Lotto.

Winners in the Open bridge game were: NS – Jim Hawkins – Linda Silvey (A1, B1), Bill Morton – Bill Taylor (A2), Michael Schiff – Marilyn Gaims (A3, B2), Frank Nordyke – Deedy Nordyke (B3, C1), Carol Levin – Donna Bauer (C2), and Leona Frisch – Ave Kleks (C3); EW – Tracy Boys – Eva Seri (A1), Diana Menzer – Greg Stewart (A2, B1, C1), Vera Mandell – Ellen Carrier (A3), Mike Louis – Barbara Parsons (B2), Zanda Schirn – Susan McIntosh (B3, C2), and Aimee Deiter – Abe Frankin (C3).

Special Congratulations

November Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Shoshana Blumenfeld 7.89, Phil Calloway 7.84, Leonard Popowitz 7.82, Ray Primus 7.50, Susan Raphael 7.11, William Raff 6.95, Rochelle Lotto 6.13, Helen Malzer 5.81, Linda Silvey 5.81, and Curt Darden 5.46.

Eight pairs had the distinct honor of earning 70% games in November at The 750 Club. They were Rich Ruby – Joanne Meyer 74.95%, Jerry Goodman – Dwight Hunt 72.74%, Mike Newman – Sherry Newman 72.02, Rick Weiss – Elaine Moore 71.52%, Steve Rosen – Mike Abeles 70.97%, John Van Egmond – Lamonte Johnson 70.45%, Mark LaVine – A.D. Shaw 70.39%, and John Tickner – Bill Raff 70.01%.

Holiday Sharing Week Fund Raiser

The 750 Club observed “Holiday Sharing Week”, December 12 – 16, with a generous donation of \$1,506 to the West Valley Food Pantry, the Club’s next-door neighbor. These funds were provided by \$1.00 from each card fee (thanks to Bill and Terry Morton) and additional monies collected from the day and evening players. The Pantry was most grateful for this contribution that enabled them to purchase Holiday provisions for many needy and hungry families in the San Fernando Valley area.

January 17: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, January 17. 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.

January Special Events at The 750 Club

“Fifty-Two Shades of Play” will be celebrated during the week of January 9–13. This is in recognition of the Club’s listing in ACBL’s “2016 Top Fifty Clubs in North America” (based on the total number of tables played for 52 weeks with 52 two cards in each deck!). A big “thank you” to all the players, helpers, and directors who made this possible for a December ranking (not final) of number 38 out of 50 with 6,066 tables of bridge played through November 30.

Special treats provided during the “Fifty-Two Shades of Play” celebration will be as follows: Monday, Jan 9 – Pizza (morning), Ice Cream and Cake (evening); Tuesday, Jan 10 – Coffee Cakes and Cookies (morning); Wednesday, Jan 11 - Submarine Sandwiches (morning); Thursday, Jan 12 – Pizza (morning), Pies (evening); and Friday, Jan 13 – Bagels (morning).

STaC games (D22, D23) will take place during Monday, January 23 – Friday, January 27. Silver points will be awarded to the winners and there will be a \$1.00 extra fee.

Calendar

Monday, January 9 – Friday January 13, “Fifty-Two Shades of Play” celebration at The 750 Club. See details above.

Wednesday, January 11, Unit 561 Board Meeting will be held at The 750 Club at 2:45 p.m.

Tuesday, January 17, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Monday, January 23 – Friday, January 27, STaC games at The 750 Club.

Saturday, April 29, Unit 561 will host an Awards Luncheon/Bridge Game at The 750 Club. →

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



Torrance-South Bay
by Steve Mager

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club
Club Championship: Monday, January 9, 7:00 p.m.
Club Championship: Saturday, January 14, 2:00 p.m.
Club Championship: Wed, January 25, 11:30 a.m.
Friday Night games on January 6 and 20

Club Championships

The Club Championship on December 2 was won by Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio.

In the A/X pairs at the unit Christmas Party on December 11 Becky and Roger Clough led the way in Flight A with John Janus/Jeff Grotenhuis capturing Flights B and C. The BCD pairs at the Unit party was led by Joan Chrishal/Chris Freeland in Flight A with Kathleen Pecarovich/Marilyn Henshal winning Flight B and Janice Scholler/Lina Ashar on top in Flight C.

The December 19 Club Championship at the SBBC was won by Mary Ann Coyle/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Glenn Musicer/Stan Greengard leading Flight B and Jeannette Betts/Roberta Brown on top in Flight C.

The Club Championship at Veterans park on November 30 was won by Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel in Flight A with Elaine Godin/Robert Fieselman on top in Flight B and Diane Maye/Loretto Russell ahead in Flight C. The December 5 Club Championship at Veterans Park was led by Elaine Godin/Ed Srenco in Flights A and B with Frankie Victor/Marilyn Daeshner ahead in Flight C.

The Club Championship in the afternoon game at Anderson Park on December 2 was headed by Linda Klein/Bob Johnson in Flight A with a tie for Flight B honors between Elaine Godin/Marsha Winer and Clara Trummer/Barbara Catino followed by Joan Lightfoot/Rafael Gishri taking Flight C. The Evening game Club Championship at Anderson Park on December 2 was won by Jean Tamaki/David Cheshire in Flight A with

Melody Harper/Wanda Yao capturing Flights B and C.

Team Winners

November 29: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Bronck Felczer, Jim Dutton

December 6: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Lucy Gellner, Wayne Otsuki

December 20: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Wayne Otsuki, John Brailliar

Western Conference Holiday STAC

Pairs that placed in the overalls during the recent gigantic Western Conference Holiday STAC in games played at TSB Unit sites are listed in the following.

Monday Morning December 5, SBBC
29A 20B Robert Rothman/Mike Welsh

Monday Evening, December 5, SBBC, Aux Pairs
1A 1B Stan Greengard/Mark Raggio
4A Fran Israel/Steve Ramos

Tuesday Morning, December 6, SBBC
3A Arlene Greengard/Gerri Carlson

Wednesday Morning, December 7, SBBC
5A Ed Barad/Bryan Conley
23A Pat Schenasi/Ray Mack
16C Beverly Narahara/Carole King

Wednesday Evening, December 7, SBBC
7A Fran Israel/Mark Raggio

Thursday Morning, December 8, SBBC, 749er Pairs
1A 1B Gerry Ketz/Mike McGory
2A 2B 1C Doug Carlson/Howard Schecter
3A 3B 2C Monique Marti/Marilyn Skolich
4A 4B Bruce Walker/James Deflon
5A Neal Hudson/Greg Gallagher

Friday Morning, December 9, SBBC, AUX Pairs
3A Jeff Strutzel/Shirley Chang
6A Gaye Herrington/Lucy Gellner

Saturday Afternoon, December 10, SBBC, AUX Pairs
1A Betsy Amador/Gabriela Jackson
5/6B 2C Gerry Gastelum/Nancy Raiche →

Orlando NABC Heroes

There was one event at the recent NABC in Orlando, Florida where TSB Unit members dominated. That was the 0-10,000 MP IMP pairs. Ed Piken playing with Steve Cohen won the event while Bruce Horiguchi playing with Atsuko Kurushima were third overall. Bruce also finished 20th overall in the Nationally rated Nail Life Masters pairs playing with Bob Etter. Gerri Carlson made the overalls (18th) of the Super Senior pairs playing with a pickup partner who actually was eligible for the Super Super Senior pairs.

GUV Award

As mentioned above, Bruce Horiguchi distinguished himself in a couple NABC events at the NABC in Orlando. One addendum to the story of his third place overall finish in the IMP pairs is that he and partner were the absolutely last qualifier for the final. To top it off the fish must have been biting pretty good that morning on nearby lakes because he didn't arrive till about 15 minutes late for the first final session of the IMP pairs. For this he received a 3 IMP penalty. As it turned out the penalty didn't change his overall position.

The next day Bruce was scheduled to play in a pair event with the same partner he played in the IMP Pairs with Atsuko Kurushima. About five minutes before game time she asked me to keep a lookout for Bruce. Well the game started and still no Bruce. However about 5 minutes later Bruce was seen sprinting across the playing area displaying speed not seen since his best marathoning days. I don't know if he got any penalties for this.

On the final day Gerri Carlson and I were on a Swiss team with Bruce. In one match we wound up playing the recent ACBL Bulletin coverboys Larry Cohen and Marty Bergen, They were playing against Bruce who held ♠xxx ♥Qxxx ♦-- ♣AKQJT_x on one hand. His LHO opened 1♦ and his partner Mariko Kakimoto overcalled 1♥. RHO passed. I don't know the details of the rest of the bidding but somewhere Bruce took a flying leap to 6♥. His RHO dutifully led a diamond and Bruce's partner had an easy claim for 7. Of course a spade lead would set the slam a trick. This result enabled us to beat the coverboys by a few IMPs.

Gerri had recently been on a bridge cruise where Larry was the manager of the play. Gerri had done quite

well on the cruise. When she brought the result ticket over to Larry's table for verification he said that if he knew they were playing Gerri he would have been shaking in his boots.

Na Zdrowie



West LA
by Robert Shore

Unit Game: January 14, 1:00 p.m., Beverly Hills

Nationals

A longstanding policy of this column is that when a member of this Unit wins a national title, that news leads the column. This month, that honor belongs to Bob and Ellen Kent, who travelled to Orlando and came back as the victors in the 0-10,000 National Swiss Teams event. Congratulations to the Kents on this latest addition to the fine results they so consistently achieve at the table.

Unit Stuff

We have finally scheduled the Unit Game in honor of the Unit's newest Grand Life Master, Pete Benjamin. The game will be held at Beverly Hills at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 14. Please join us to honor Pete, who in addition to achieving this highest of all ACBL ranks, has served for many many years as our Unit's and District's Tournament Chairman. Winning the December Unit-wide Championship were Bill Schreiber and Pete Knee, with a game comfortably in excess of 70%.

Not Just the Usual Suspects

Some additional winners along the tournament trail last month, and not limited to the usual suspects. Howard Einberg added to our Unit's tally of winners in Orlando by winning his bracket of the second Saturday-Sunday Knockout Teams event. At Palm Springs, Alex Wiles won his bracket of the Wednesday Bracketed Teams event, while Stuart Hemple won his bracket of the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams. Pete Benjamin and Pete Knee won the Monday afternoon event in →

the Great Western STAC.

A Little Technique

A technique with a fancy name that's fairly easy to execute is called the Vienna Coup. Here's an example in action.

You're in 6NT with the following hands:

Dummy: ♠JT83 ♥AQT4 ♦Q8 ♣QJT

Declarer: ♠AKQ5 ♥K8 ♦A63 ♣AK84

At the table, I got the opening lead of the ♥J, so I had an easy 13 tricks. But let's see what happens on a club lead. Start by running four clubs, pitching a spade from dummy. Now cash the ♦A and then run four spades. Your LHO has to reduce to four cards, but it turns out he's holding both the ♦K and the ♥J. If he holds on to the ♦K, he has to come down to three hearts and the jack will come down. Why cash the ♦A first? Because otherwise you won't know what to throw from dummy on the fourth spade. Five tables played the hand in no trump, and all of them took 13 tricks.

Welcome Mat

Our Unit's newest members of the ACBL are Carrie Ballinger, Sharon Hulse, James Robinson, and Lester Wood. Transferring into our Unit from elsewhere are Joe Belisari, Julie Kimelman, Alanna Lee Weisberg, and J.R. Wofford. Please extend to these two full tables of new members a warm West Los Angeles welcome.

Around the Clubs

Winning a club championship at Barrington was the partnership of George Wagner and Art Zail. Hitting 70% were Adrienne Green and David Bohnett, Pete Benjamin and Pete Knee, and Roger and Becky Clough.

At Beverly Hills, champions were David Segal and Valerie Aron, Michael Halberstadt and Viktor Anikovich, and Julie Kimelman and Bill Schreiber. Topping 70% were Julie Kimelman and Bill Schreiber, Valerie Aron and David Segal, and Lou Papp and David Segal.

The Marina City Club will resume its Tuesday evening games when remodeling is complete in two or three months. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information.

Climbing the Ladder

Ring in the New Year as our Unit's newest Junior Maaters are Joel Kaplan, Wong-Young McDevitt, Helen and John Romm, Kurt Schneider, Beverly Sugimoto, and Jay Swerdlow. David Peterson and Jackson Tsao are now Club Masters. Elaine Caplow has become a Sectional Master, and Bob Weingarten has reached Regional Master.

Bruce Altshuler has become a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

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310-720-6050

Director-in-Charge:

Ken Horwedel

Tournament Chair: Stan Holzberg
District 23 President: Mike Marcucci

ACBL Sanction: R1702072
Flyer Designer: Mr. F.

Monday, February 6, 2017

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

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

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

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

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

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

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

Thursday, February 9, 2017

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

Friday, February 10, 2017

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

Saturday, February 11, 2017

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

Sunday, February 12, 2017

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

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

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

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

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

D23 Rank Changes
November 2016

Junior Master

Stephen Bauman
Linda Brown
Dennis Burke
Nanci Cohen
James Degner
Daniel Harrington
Carolyn Hatten
Barbara Lash
Charles Miller
Leslie Spitz
Jennifer Wellman

Club Master

Carole Adashek
Margaret Bass
Elizabeth Bowen
Paul Brunton
Burzin Engineer
Vivian Freedman
Betty Gifford
Carole Lebental
Dorene Ross
Nancy Rosser
Peter Schlesinger
Purshottam Tennarangam

Sectional Master

Lina Ashar
Irene Ghassemieh
John Janus
Elliott Mazur
Adrienne Sarmiento
Rosemary Schroeder
David Serbin

Regional Master

Thomas Grove
Ann Turner
Charles Warner III

NABC Master

Paule Ford
Joyce Hart

Advanced NABC Master

Laura Gastelum
Alan Olschwang

Life Master

Nancy Raiche
Phyllis Seeder

Bronze Life Master

Julie Kimelman
Bob Krause
Phyllis Seeder

Silver Life Master

Joseph Hooker
Kiyoko Ohtomo

Ruby Life Master

Susan Raphael
Linda Wood

Gold Life Master

George Wagner
George Welsh

Platinum Life Master

Bruce Horiguchi

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Eddie Kantar, Roger Lee, Mister Mealy-mouth, John Swanson, and Jon Wittes

This month's column is dedicated to Bill Wickham. Bill was a frequent contributor to this panel who died in Chicago on December 18. He was a kind, gentle man with a great temperament at the table, and was one of my favorite partners. Bill understood bridge theory and had an uncanny talent for understanding how bidding systems fit together. He was very good at finding the best bid on tough hands, and was also great at helping partner on difficult defenses. He loved to help out with young bridge players. RIP Bill!

1

MPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
?	1♠	Pass	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠KQ ♥QT864 ♦94 ♣KQ93
What call do you make?

This matchpoint problem has Pass, 1NT, 2♥ and maybe Double as possible balancing actions.

Kantar: 2♥. I'm a simple soul.

How tempting is a balancing no trump?

Lee: 2♥, but 1NT is tempting. This hand is a little slow for NT and likely to play quite well in a heart fit, if one exists. I dislike doubling, especially at matchpoints, which will probably get us to a minor suit contract.

Swanson: 2♥. Pass and double are not contenders, so it's either 1NT or 2♥. After 2♥ we could still get to notrump if it is best.

Bare: 2♥. 1NT is tempting as East is somewhat likely to be short in spades.

Could Pass be the winning action?

Mealy-mouth: 2♥. Close. I'm prepared to apologize to partner for not selling out to 1♠ if 2♥ turns out badly (e.g. minus 200).

Wittes: 2♥. It might actually be right to pass and defend 1♠ at this vulnerability. I'm looking at a scraggly 12 count with a moth eaten five card suit, partner couldn't bid over 1♠ possibly implying spade length, and RHO couldn't even raise to 2♣. Opener could also have a big hand, and the opponents might have a better home in diamonds. I'm almost talking myself into passing, but can't quite do it.

This hand was played at the Long Beach Bridge Club and was given to me by Alan Flower. Alan bid 2♥ and had it work out poorly. His partner, the late Lowell Andrews (an Orange County expert), suggested 1NT, which was the winner on the actual hand. Pass is the second best choice as it was dealt.

2

MPs
NS vul

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

You, South, hold:
♠5 ♥AJ84 ♦AK942 ♣A53
What call do you make?

This problem is far easier for players who play double here as takeout. Old fashioned standard as to play double for penalty, which doesn't solve the problem.

Wittes: Double. Grabel and I play this shows extra values with relative shortness in the opponent's suit.

Swanson: Double. Systemically takeout so this is not a problem for me.

Lee: Double. Hands like this are why I prefer takeout to penalty in this auction. If I were playing penalty doubles (which I believe is old fashioned standard), I would feel like I have to bid 3♦, since 3♣ is going to encourage partner to over-compete.

Mealy-mouth: Pass. No spade stopper, no fifth heart, no sixth diamond, no fourth club, no bid. The Cobbler's Son's Law applies: When no shoe fits, go barefoot. *[No shirt, no shoes, no matchpoints?]*

Bare: 3♣. This is a tough problem. Partner has at least 7 or 8 minor cards. *[If double is penalty, and maybe even if it isn't, I like this creative bid. We have a good playing hand and must have a minor fit. If we play in clubs, the tap will be taken with the short trumps.]*

Kantar: Double. I'm convinced that either-or doubles are the way to go after a 1NT response followed by competition.

Either-or doubles are either: I have a trump stack for my double, or I have shortness in their suit with extra values. You look at your hand and try to let your length in their suit be your guide to what I've got. Most of the time partner can tell which variety of double you have, but occasionally two way doubles do backfire. LA's

3

IMPs
no vul

S	W	N	E
2♦ ?	2♥	2♠	1♥ Pass

You, South, hold:
♠T5 ♥Q863 ♦KQJT87 ♣A
What call do you make?

Some panelists think 3♦ looks automatic here.

Bare: 3♦. What else?

Lee: 3♦. I'm not sure what the alternative is supposed to be.

Some panelists think the alternative is passing.

Kantar: Pass. I don't like 3♦ if partner can't support diamonds holding a singleton heart.

Mealy-mouth: Pass. Playing in spades, partner can stop hearts (he'll ruff them). Playing in diamonds, I may not be able to stop hearts or to use partner's spades. 2♠ may be the last making contract.

Wittes: Pass. We play that 2-level bids in response to partner's overcall are constructive, but not forcing (3 level bids are forcing). I have a fairly minimal 2-level overcall with a modest fit for partner, so nothing further to say.

Swanson: Pass. Partner's 2♠ is defined as forward going but not forcing. Just because the auction indicates he has a singleton heart, doesn't mean he has worthwhile diamond support.

Wittes and Swanson both addressed the issue of whether a two-level advance should be forcing. I agree with their methods. Normal expert agreements are one-level and three-level advances are forcing, but two-level advances are non-forcing but constructive. Transfers help in some auctions, but aren't available in all auctions.



South

?

West

North

East

You, South, hold:

♠A8752 ♥KQ9753 ♦2 ♣2

What call do you make?

Ask enough players and you will get 1♥, 1♠, 2♥ and Pass on this hand.

Lee: 1♥. I try very hard to show a 6-card major if I have one, and this is the best start to that end. The suit texture also leans to hearts over spades. Passing with this much playing strength for both majors is not a serious option to me.

Swanson: 1♥. Waiting around has no appeal for me. I have enough defense and tricks for a simple rebid in hearts. If I open 1♠ and rebid 2♥, we are likely to wind up in a 5-2 spade fit or too high in notrump.

Kantar: 1♥ (changed from 1♠) and hope for the best. If partner responds 2♣ or 2♦, I'm bidding and rebidding spades.

Bare: Pass. There will be a good chance to describe the hand later. If the majors were reversed, I might open.

Mealy-mouth: Pass. I'm a working jack short of a 1♥ opening, so I'll wait for a chance to make a two-suited overcall (level permitting). It's the wrong shape for a weak 2♥ Bid.

Wittes: Pass. I would open in 3rd or possibly even 4th seat, but in first seat I'll pass and hopefully be able to bid Michaels or one of my majors at my next turn.

I'm with the 1♥ openers on this one. With two quick tricks and reasonable spot cards, I think there is too much playing strength to pass. If partner responds 1♠, great! If partner makes a 2/1 response in a minor, I'll bid spades twice. But if partner bids a forcing NT, I'll rebid 2♥. I dislike opening the five card suit with six-five hands, and don't care for weak two bids with a decent five card suit (especially the other major) on the side.

PSP#3 continued from page 14

Larry Cohen and Dick Katz advocated either-or doubles. They once had an either-or double left in at a low level when an opponent with a big fit for his partner's overcall chose not to raise. The overcaller redoubled, but both Dick and Larry left the redouble in, assuming the other one had a big trump stack. One horrid result didn't alter their methods. They laughed and continued playing either-or doubles.

What do you think?
Send letters to the editor to:

bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org

5

MPs
NS vul

S	W	N	E
1♣ ?	3♦	Pass Pass	Pass Pass

You, South, hold:
 ♠AK5 ♥9 ♦KJ7 ♣AQJ953
 What call do you make?

We have tricks, extras and stoppers in their suit. Are we bothered by a small singleton in an unbid suit? Not this panel!

Bare: 3NT. I don't need much.

Swanson: 3NT. Diamonds are stopped, I have lots of high card and a source of tricks. What else?

Wittes: 3NT. If partner has a card or two and even moderate length and strength in hearts, we should have a play for this.

Mealy-mouth: 3NT. Wolff's Law applies (am I the only one who doesn't credit Bob Hamman with it?) *[Yes, that is the first time I have heard the 3NT Rule - if 3NT is a possible contract then bid it! - attributed to anyone other than Hamman.]* Hmm, after a low-diamond lead I count six clubs *[with no dummy entry to even take a finesse?]*, one diamond and two hearts, opposite ♠xxxx ♥QJ10xx ♦x ♣xxx. That's nine, isn't it, and I didn't even have to take off my shoes to count them. *[Now, you are wearing shoes again, Cobbler's Son? My friend Christine claims she is allowed to bid more if she is wearing red shoes. What color are your shoes, Mealy?]* If anything goes wrong, I'll ask my partner in the post-mortem: "Why didn't you make a negative double? We do play them through 3♦, don't we?" *[In this column, a general expert standard is used and negative doubles are assumed to be used up to 5♦.]*

Lee: 3NT. Obviously it might end badly but there really is no alternative on hands like this. *[Roger, who is one of Hamman's regular partners (Hamman calls him "Junior") probably doesn't care who the rule is attributed to, as long as Bob keeps bidding and making 3NT.]*

Kantar: 3NT. For Marshall, who I know is proud of me and smiling. *[Marshall, the previous moderator of this panel, would love to have his old buddy Eddie remember him when bidding 3NT with no stopper in a suit. Marshall would be proud! Marshall might not be so happy to see a reference to Bobby Wolff in this column. Wolff objected to Marshall's team playing in the 2004 Olympiad Senior Teams (Wolff wanted his team to play). But Marshall's team (Leo Bell, Neil Chambers, John Schermer, Jim Robison and John Onstott) survived the political battle with Wolff and then brought home the gold medals.]*

Next Month's Problems
What call do you make?

1. MPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
?	3♠	P	P

You hold:

♠Q5 ♥Q94 ♦AQ6 ♣AJ976

2. IMPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
2♣	P	2♦*	P
3♣	P	3♦**	P
?			

* waiting, ** second negative

You hold:

♠A75 ♥A9 ♦-- ♣AKQJT953

3. MPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
Dbl	P	4♠	3♥
?			P

You hold:

♠AK5 ♥94 ♦AKJT ♣AJ63

4. IMPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
1♣	P	2♣*	2♠
?			

* 4+ clubs, 10+ HCP (Inverted)

You hold:

♠AK ♥K ♦T987 ♣AKJT953

5. MPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
?		1♥	1♠

You hold:

♠K42 ♥J4 ♦Q432 ♣KT32