

# Southern California Bridge News

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### New Xmas News

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



The new year has started off well. We have an anxious set of NAP winners waiting for Kansas City. We had an enjoyable LAX Regional at the 4-Points Sheraton. It was a small crowd, but enthusiastic. Toward the end of the week when thinking ahead, a lot of the conversations were about looking forward to the Long Beach Regional which everyone enjoyed last summer. The crowd will be larger this July. After that, our tournament picture looked bleak until a few weeks ago when we secured a brand new site for a brand new time slot in your bridge planning.

A year ago, I was writing about how a Christmas tournament would not be convenient around the LA area, mostly because of a perceived difficulty that the Rose Parade and Rose Bowl game would crowd us out of any venue or hotel. Well, I have been proven wrong because the Glendale Hilton offered us very reasonable terms at a first-class location. Get set for a 26-31 December D23 Regional in Glendale. Should I say the first of many? That is what we hope.

This Regional may be a hit, not just in LA, but around the country. There are several year-end regionals already. One is in New York City, one in Myrtle Beach, and the last is in Kansas City. If you live west of the Mississippi, what would your choice be if you desired to fill your holidays with bridge? How many TV viewers on Rose Parade day are watching the blue skies in LA as their driveways are getting plowed for that two feet of snow that just got dumped on them? Those blue

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## 2016 Reflections

by Kevin Lane, District Director



*Bridge is a game and should be fun*

### District 23 officer elections

The District holds elections at our July board meeting. If you would like to help our district improve please consider getting involved. I'll share more details on the election process in the coming months.

### CEO search

The search committee continues its efforts to find a new CEO. Many of you may have seen the advertisements on the ACBL website and in the Bridge Bulletin. I am among several board members advocating that the board takes the opportunity to review the relationship between the board and management. The ACBL will be most effective if we simplify the board-CEO relationship along the lines of similar well-run organizations.

### Reflecting on 2016

I've been on the national board for a year now. Here are my thoughts:

The biggest surprise to me is how motion-driven the board meetings are. Most of our board meetings are dominated by a lengthy list of motions that must be voted on. I am among several board members trying to shift our focus more to strategic and big-picture issues.

Our 2016 President Ken Monzingo deserves credit for moving the board more toward high-level discus-

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skies shining down on the Glendale Hilton and the San Gabriel mountains are beckoning those cold weather players to our shore and to our ballroom decorated for the holidays. All the better to be in the vicinity of your next tournament – be it Monterey or Hawaii. East coast players will get two- or three-for-one on their trips.

What’s the message here? Book early – that’s the message - especially if you need the latter days of the tournament. The closer we get to New Year’s, the scarcer the hotel rooms. NYE is already a premium night. An ESPN event will fill the local area starting then and we may have trouble leaving for our parties or the camping spots along Colorado Blvd.

We are working on the flyer now - filling those days with fun events and entertainment along the way. The Hilton is, literally, about 45 seconds from the freeway and our parking arrangement is super. Hope you start forming your teams and pairings soon. The Reno tournament, always fun, ended in 2014 and had a great run of 40+ years. They used to have year-ending attendance of 1,700 tables, so there is no reason we can’t start the same trend this year.

If anyone has not seen the Glendale Hilton in person, there’s nothing wrong with checking things out early. You’ll like what you see.

Meanwhile, let’s wish all our players luck in Kansas City, your neighborhood club, or any game you enter. There are lessons to be learned.

Ciao.

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sions and away from micromanagement.

The board took numerous steps to dramatically reduce our own costs. We reduced the President's budget by \$20K, we eliminated \$80K in board meeting expenses by condensing our schedule, and we implemented several other cost-savings that result in another \$20K in savings. Personally, I think we've cut board costs a little too much in some areas, but I wholeheartedly support the fiscal responsibility.

My biggest concrete personal contribution is to save the ACBL \$70K on a budget request that I noted was superfluous by virtue of my professional technology background. The budget request was subsequently withdrawn, underscoring the importance of continuing board oversight of Horn Lake.

The biggest challenge to the organization is to improve the effectiveness of the board. This effort is important but a long-term goal. It's very difficult to get 25 board members to agree. Our board business is a mix of traditional business oversight and a variety of bridge-specific decisions.

I advocate a mainstream common sense role for the board. Several 2016 motions indicate that other board members have a different vision for the board. One motion proposed to allow a minority of board members to impose decisions on the majority. Some other motions placed the CEO in a position to oversee and direct the board instead of the reverse. These examples show that my most important contribution is to support basic good governance.

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~~~~~ Letters to the Editor ~~~~~

**Whose Bridge Club is it?  
The Board's or the Members'?**

*Om Chokriwala, manager of the Beverly Hills Bridge Club responds:*

Dear Editor:

Here is the history of the Bridgmate display at Beverly Hills Bridge Club:

- First, the Bridgemates showed bids and scores.

- Then the Board changed the display to percentages only.

- In November a petition was circulated and it was clear that the members wanted to see the bids and scores again. A presentation was made to the Board wherein the Petitions were submitted, and the Bridgemates were accordingly changed back to showing bids and scores.

- Then at the end of January the Board turned off all Bridgmate feedback and simultaneously circulated a list of rules and regulations entitled "Penalties for Behavioral Infractions." Among the infractions are "Announcing Results/loud discussions" and "slow play," the two arguments the Board had originally set forth as the reasons for removing the display of bids and scores.

- So now that these rules were clear and were going to be enforced, one would expect the return of the display of bids and scores in accordance with the wishes of the majority of members. Not so! The Board at Beverly Hills Bridge Club has overruled the clear mandate of the Club members, and the Bridgmate display remains blank. The clear preference of the members appears to be unimportant. Is this any way to run a bridge club?

- Eileen Miech and  
Andrea McNichol

*The leadership at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club is making a concerted effort to improve the player experience by making the club environment more friendly, respectful, enjoyable, and ethical. The club has decided to enforce ACBL's ZT policies more vigorously and make other changes that will contribute to this goal.*

*As part of this effort last fall the club stopped showing the results of other tables on the Bridgemates during the game. The showing of results for other tables was causing several problems. There were loud discussions of results that were being heard by other players who had not yet played the board. Many times there were unpleasant conversations between partners and opponents based on the results at other tables. At times there was gloating by some players when they had achieved good results. The showing of the results also slowed down the game. This problem is more acute in bigger afternoon games when we have 15+ tables compared to the smaller evening games. The club does make available full results of the game on its website within minutes of completion of the game and provides printed hand records at the end of the game. Many players and directors noticed and commented on the improvement in the game as a result of not showing the results on the Bridgemates. However, some players did miss not seeing the results of other table.*

*In November, some players did present a petition to the board and requested that the club should resume showing of the results of other tables on the Bridgemates. Based on this request from the players, the board decided to resume showing the results on Bridgemates on a trial basis with the understanding that if the undesirable behavior returned then the club would have to stop showing the results again. The club tried for more than a month and discovered that the undesirable behavior did return. As a result the board once again decided to stop showing the results of other tables on the Bridgemates.*

*The club is receiving both positive and negative feedback. Many players have commented that games are more peaceful, enjoyable, and smoother when the results from other table are not shown. We will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary. Our club's goal continues to be making the club environment more friendly, respectful, enjoyable and ethical for our players. We have demonstrated our willingness to listen to all feedback and act on such feedback. We ask those players, who would like to see the results on the Bridgemates, to give some time to this new approach and see the impact of this new approach.*

- Om Chokriwala  
Manager, BHBC

**What do you think?**

**Send letters to the editor to [bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org)**

### 2016 District 23 Mini-McKenney Top 10s

Mini-McKenney medallions are given to the players who earn the most total master points in the year. All points are counted.

|        |    |                     |        |    |                   |       |
|--------|----|---------------------|--------|----|-------------------|-------|
|        | 4  | Alfred Lee          | 316.1  | 3  | Bert Stock        | 213.9 |
|        | 5  | Herman Helber       | 312.2  | 4  | Roy Ladd          | 203.2 |
|        | 6  | Ed Piken            | 296.6  | 5  | Marion Tumen      | 198.2 |
|        | 7  | Connie Kang         | 288.4  | 6  | Alex Chen         | 195.6 |
|        | 8  | John Melis          | 283.7  | 7  | Nolan Chang       | 180.7 |
|        | 9  | Rae Murbach         | 282.5  | 8  | Fran Every        | 175.5 |
|        | 10 | Wayne Karson        | 263.6  | 9  | Joyce Henderson   | 174.6 |
|        | 10 |                     |        | 10 | Paula Nataf       | 147.0 |
| 10000+ |    |                     |        |    |                   |       |
| 1      |    | Mitch Dunitz        | 1184.6 |    |                   |       |
| 2      |    | Steve Gross         | 1046.6 |    |                   |       |
| 3      |    | Ellen Anten         | 1040.0 |    |                   |       |
| 4      |    | Steve Mager         | 621.4  |    |                   |       |
| 5      |    | Rebecca Clough      | 413.3  |    |                   |       |
| 6      |    | Jill Meyers         | 328.7  |    |                   |       |
| 7      |    | Roger Clough        | 319.6  |    |                   |       |
| 8      |    | Mike Savage         | 267.0  |    |                   |       |
| 9      |    | Pam Wittes          | 239.6  |    |                   |       |
| 10     |    | Jeff Goldsmith      | 216.7  |    |                   |       |
|        |    | 2500-3499           |        |    |                   |       |
|        | 1  | Om Chokriwala       | 579.9  |    | 300-500           |       |
|        | 2  | John Petrie         | 464.7  | 1  | Barry Heller      | 194.9 |
|        | 3  | Bob Shore           | 395.2  | 2  | Dalia Hernandez   | 169.7 |
|        | 4  | Robert Perlsweig    | 358.6  | 3  | Kiran Kumar       | 163.9 |
|        | 5  | Gerri Soffa Carlson | 348.7  | 4  | Ruth Baker        | 141.0 |
|        | 6  | Sankar Reddy        | 341.6  | 5  | Stuart Hemple     | 136.5 |
|        | 7  | Kim Wang            | 266.4  | 6  | Dwight McCormick  | 118.0 |
|        | 8  | Robert Bass         | 239.2  | 7  | William Raff      | 117.6 |
|        | 9  | Maria Pendergast    | 236.2  | 8  | Gary Baxley       | 114.4 |
|        | 10 | Amr Elghamry        | 206.9  | 9  | John Tickner      | 112.5 |
|        | 10 |                     |        | 10 | Linda Silvey      | 108.6 |
|        |    | 1500-2499           |        |    |                   |       |
|        | 1  | Dr Claude Le Feuvre | 428.0  |    | 200-300           |       |
|        | 2  | George Welsh        | 263.3  | 1  | Rae Yan           | 176.6 |
|        | 3  | Steve Ramos         | 256.5  | 2  | Russell Van Cleve | 144.8 |
|        | 4  | Neal Kleiner        | 223.2  | 3  | Lisa Karako       | 121.0 |
|        | 5  | Louis Papp          | 214.5  | 4  | Jeff Grotenhuis   | 106.9 |
|        | 6  | Les Rawitt          | 207.1  | 5  | Leslie Brucker    | 103.0 |
|        | 7  | Kay Tseng           | 205.1  | 6  | George Cheng      | 100.4 |
|        | 8  | Cliff Goodrich      | 197.5  | 7  | Misook Jung       | 92.4  |
|        | 9  | Marta Monheim       | 188.7  | 8  | Joyce Field       | 87.0  |
|        | 10 | Kevin Lane          | 186.2  | 9  | Lynn Danielson    | 83.4  |
|        | 10 |                     |        | 10 | William Dilks     | 77.9  |
|        |    | 1000-1500           |        |    |                   |       |
|        | 1  | Dwight Hunt         | 439.0  |    | 100-200           |       |
|        | 2  | Doug Kuschner       | 216.4  | 1  | Alan Olschwang    | 220.2 |
|        | 3  | Stan Greengard      | 205.8  | 2  | Ray Primus        | 181.7 |
|        | 4  | Susan Raphael       | 203.2  | 3  | Laura Gastelum    | 134.1 |
|        | 5  | Karen Schwartz      | 190.2  | 4  | Virginia Brewer   | 116.4 |
|        | 6  | David Peim          | 180.9  | 5  | Beverly McLeod    | 109.4 |
|        | 7  | Richard Gliksman    | 165.6  | 6  | Stephen Page      | 101.8 |
|        | 8  | Alyssa Kennedy      | 153.9  | 7  | Shirley Chang     | 99.0  |
|        | 9  | Mike Welsh          | 149.8  | 8  | Sin Orensztin     | 96.7  |
|        | 10 | Janet Cooper        | 142.8  | 9  | Bruce Schelden    | 94.6  |
|        | 10 |                     |        | 10 | Adam Barron       | 91.3  |
|        |    | 500-1000            |        |    |                   |       |
|        | 1  | Joe Viola           | 527.5  |    |                   |       |
|        | 2  | Earl Van Der Vord   | 511.1  |    |                   |       |
|        | 3  | Robert Kent         | 340.6  |    |                   |       |
|        |    | 3500-4999           |        |    |                   |       |
|        | 1  | Joe Viola           | 527.5  |    |                   |       |
|        | 2  | Earl Van Der Vord   | 511.1  |    |                   |       |
|        | 3  | Robert Kent         | 340.6  |    |                   |       |
|        |    | 500-1000            |        |    |                   |       |
|        | 1  | Jim Perkins         | 419.4  |    |                   |       |
|        | 2  | Kiyo Nagaishi       | 216.2  |    |                   |       |

Mini-McKenney continued on page 5

Mini-McKenney continued from page 4

### 2016 District 23 Ace of Clubs Top 10s

The Ace of Clubs is a certificate given to the players who earn the most master points in club games during the calendar year. Only black points are counted; points earned in STaCs and other special games paying "pigmented" points don't count. The ranking level you compete in is the one within which you started the year.

|        |                   |       |
|--------|-------------------|-------|
| 50-100 |                   |       |
| 1      | Jill Thesman      | 121.6 |
| 2      | Sadika Elewy      | 121.6 |
| 3      | Brian Fielding    | 79.2  |
| 4      | Ralph Brunson     | 67.8  |
| 5      | Mrs S Hunt        | 63.2  |
| 6      | Joshua Kushner    | 59.0  |
| 7      | Thomas Grove      | 54.2  |
| 8      | Jerold Rose       | 54.1  |
| 9      | Gregg Alsdorf     | 52.3  |
| 10     | Linda Mackenzie   | 51.0  |
| 20-50  |                   |       |
| 1      | John Hagman       | 89.5  |
| 2      | Bob Weingarten    | 81.1  |
| 3      | Ellen Kice        | 53.0  |
| 4      | Daniel Sonner     | 51.9  |
| 5      | Janice Scholler   | 49.4  |
| 6      | Yoshie Bell       | 47.9  |
| 7      | Mike Connell      | 44.9  |
| 8      | Peter Koenig      | 43.9  |
| 9      | John Vacca        | 42.6  |
| 10     | Yunkai Song       | 40.9  |
| 5-20   |                   |       |
| 1      | Alexander Wiles   | 60.6  |
| 2      | Howard Schecter   | 34.7  |
| 3      | Jon Pack          | 31.1  |
| 4      | Anni Pack         | 30.5  |
| 5      | Stan Johnson      | 30.3  |
| 6      | Louise Seifert    | 30.3  |
| 7      | Jill Terrell      | 27.2  |
| 8      | Bernard Seal      | 25.7  |
| 9      | Russell Lefevre   | 24.0  |
| 10     | Jordan Kushner    | 23.9  |
| 0-5    |                   |       |
| 1      | John Janus        | 88.0  |
| 2      | A Shah            | 51.1  |
| 3      | Dabija Corneliu   | 35.2  |
| 4      | Johanna Cardella  | 32.2  |
| 5      | Dominick Cardella | 32.0  |
| 6      | Robert Hall       | 30.9  |
| 7      | Frank Roig        | 30.0  |
| 8      | Allan Baraz       | 27.8  |
| 9      | Paul Chen         | 27.2  |
| 10     | Louise Shoemaker  | 20.8  |

|            |                   |       |           |                    |       |
|------------|-------------------|-------|-----------|--------------------|-------|
| 10000+     |                   |       | 6         | Herman Helber      | 157.7 |
| 1          | Steve Mager       | 207.8 | 7         | Jackie Hess        | 142.8 |
| 2          | Steve Gross       | 180.2 | 8         | Baum Harris        | 139.0 |
| 3          | Rebecca Clough    | 151.6 | 9         | Joe Viola          | 126.4 |
| 4          | Ellen Anten       | 133.1 | 10        | Wayne Karson       | 125.3 |
| 7500-10000 |                   |       | 2500-3499 |                    |       |
| 5          | Roger Clough      | 97.1  | 1         | John Petrie        | 242.7 |
| 6          | Pam Wittes        | 53.8  | 2         | Sankar Reddy       | 183.6 |
| 7          | Mike Savage       | 38.6  | 3         | Om Chokriwala      | 145.1 |
| 8          | Gerry Bare        | 18.9  | 4         | Farideh Sigari     | 144.0 |
| 9          | Mitch Dunitz      | 16.8  | 5         | Robert Levy        | 131.7 |
| 10         | Jeff Goldsmith    | 5.0   | 6         | Kim Wang           | 131.7 |
| 5000-7500  |                   |       | 7         | Mario Mory         | 125.5 |
| 1          | Aram Bedros       | 330.2 | 8         | Phyllis Mory       | 123.3 |
| 2          | Gil Stinebaugh    | 171.8 | 9         | Robert Perlsweig   | 121.6 |
| 3          | Andy Vinock       | 141.4 | 10        | Maria Pendergast   | 120.6 |
| 4          | Rhoda Himmell     | 138.7 | 1500-2499 |                    |       |
| 5          | Peter Benjamin    | 124.2 | 1         | George Welsh       | 211.3 |
| 6          | Bruce Horiguchi   | 47.6  | 2         | Louis Papp         | 186.9 |
| 7          | John Jones        | 22.9  | 3         | Kay Tseng          | 176.9 |
| 8          | Bill Sides        | 22.2  | 4         | Sheri Rivera       | 132.3 |
| 9          | Dr Sid Brownstein | 18.6  | 5         | Richard Plumer     | 129.7 |
| 10         | Alex Kolesnik     | 9.2   | 6         | Anna Benatar       | 120.7 |
| 1000-1500  |                   |       | 7         | Alan Wollman       | 115.1 |
| 1          | David Segal       | 231.1 | 8         | Ted Glaessner      | 112.0 |
| 2          | Dr Marty Blain    | 186.1 | 9         | Richard Wasser     | 110.1 |
| 3          | Betty McClellan   | 170.8 | 10        | Patrick Cardullo   | 107.1 |
| 4          | Danny Kleinman    | 154.1 | 1000-1500 |                    |       |
| 5          | Peter Szecsi      | 142.2 | 1         | Karen Schwartz     | 156.3 |
| 6          | Lewis Himmell     | 140.1 | 2         | Dwight Hunt        | 127.9 |
| 7          | Peter Knee        | 138.6 | 3         | Richard Gliksman   | 123.8 |
| 8          | Adrienne Green    | 127.2 | 4         | Mike Welsh         | 122.0 |
| 9          | Jon Yinger        | 121.4 | 5         | Susan Raphael      | 118.1 |
| 10         | Viktor Anikovich  | 118.9 | 6         | Lamonte Johnson    | 115.4 |
| 3500-5000  |                   |       | 7         | Al Appel           | 105.8 |
| 1          | Earl Van Der Vord | 339.6 | 8         | Ron Malkin         | 104.9 |
| 2          | John Melis        | 244.2 | 9         | Marilyn McClintock | 96.0  |
| 3          | Marcie Evans      | 202.6 | 10        | Vera Mandell       | 95.1  |
| 4          | Rahim Israel      | 165.4 | 1000-1500 |                    |       |
| 5          | Don Crum          | 160.2 | 1         | Karen Schwartz     | 156.3 |

Ace of Clubs continued from page 5

500-1000

|    |                 |       |
|----|-----------------|-------|
| 1  | Kiyo Nagaishi   | 147.0 |
| 2  | Joyce Henderson | 119.6 |
| 3  | Jim Perkins     | 117.5 |
| 4  | Fran Every      | 103.1 |
| 5  | Martin Hurwitz  | 96.6  |
| 6  | Roy Ladd        | 90.0  |
| 7  | Robert Bakovic  | 89.3  |
| 8  | William Smith   | 89.0  |
| 9  | Bert Stock      | 89.0  |
| 10 | Mark Lavine     | 88.4  |

300-500

|    |                 |      |
|----|-----------------|------|
| 1  | Linda Silvey    | 81.0 |
| 2  | William Raff    | 79.0 |
| 3  | Carol Bell      | 75.2 |
| 4  | John Tickner    | 74.8 |
| 5  | Barry Heller    | 73.8 |
| 6  | Gary Baxley     | 71.0 |
| 7  | Larry Kussin    | 70.1 |
| 8  | Dalia Hernandez | 67.9 |
| 9  | John Galligher  | 63.4 |
| 10 | Dick Berg       | 62.9 |

200-300

|    |                     |       |
|----|---------------------|-------|
| 1  | Lisa Karako         | 105.2 |
| 2  | Homa Nasser         | 68.2  |
| 3  | Roberta Brown       | 60.4  |
| 4  | Shoshana Blumenfeld | 56.6  |
| 5  | Madge Weinstein     | 53.2  |
| 6  | Joyce Field         | 51.2  |
| 7  | William Dilks       | 51.2  |
| 8  | Patricia Berg       | 50.1  |
| 9  | Mike Louis          | 45.6  |
| 10 | Jeff Grotenhuis     | 43.9  |

100-200

|    |                 |       |
|----|-----------------|-------|
| 1  | Ray Primus      | 125.3 |
| 2  | Alan Olschwang  | 122.5 |
| 3  | Virginia Brewer | 77.1  |
| 4  | Laura Gastelum  | 73.7  |
| 5  | Sin Orensztein  | 71.4  |
| 6  | Adam Barron     | 68.4  |
| 7  | Sunny Lee       | 58.1  |
| 8  | Loretto Russell | 55.9  |
| 9  | Beverly McLeod  | 55.6  |
| 10 | Jaclyn Hatfield | 52.7  |

50-100

|    |                   |      |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 1  | Brian Fielding    | 71.3 |
| 2  | Jill Thesman      | 64.6 |
| 3  | Sadika Elewy      | 56.2 |
| 4  | Bill Renter       | 50.5 |
| 5  | Mrs S Hunt        | 45.0 |
| 6  | Linda Mackenzie   | 42.7 |
| 7  | Joe Duke          | 41.0 |
| 8  | Ralph Brunson     | 41.0 |
| 9  | George Koehm      | 38.4 |
| 10 | Katthy Soltwedell | 38.0 |

20-50

|    |                 |      |
|----|-----------------|------|
| 1  | Ellen Kice      | 52.6 |
| 2  | John Hagman     | 45.6 |
| 3  | Mike Connell    | 42.8 |
| 4  | Bob Weingarten  | 38.2 |
| 5  | Yoshie Bell     | 38.2 |
| 6  | Abraham Kleks   | 32.7 |
| 7  | Linda Klebs     | 30.0 |
| 8  | Brigitte Prince | 29.8 |
| 9  | Janice Scholler | 29.3 |
| 10 | Tom Keese       | 27.6 |

5-20

|    |                   |      |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 1  | Howard Schecter   | 24.1 |
| 2  | Jon Pack          | 22.5 |
| 3  | Anni Pack         | 22.5 |
| 4  | Robert Hildreth   | 20.7 |
| 5  | Alexander Wiles   | 20.3 |
| 6  | Jill Terrell      | 20.2 |
| 7  | Tracee Dezzutti   | 19.7 |
| 8  | Don Houser        | 18.8 |
| 9  | Robert Turner     | 18.0 |
| 10 | Susan Morse-Lebow | 17.7 |

0-5

|    |                   |      |
|----|-------------------|------|
| 1  | John Janus        | 63.8 |
| 2  | A Shah            | 41.6 |
| 3  | Robert Hall       | 30.9 |
| 4  | Dabija Corneliu   | 27.7 |
| 5  | Allan Baraz       | 26.1 |
| 6  | Frank Roig        | 25.8 |
| 7  | Johanna Cardella  | 25.4 |
| 8  | Dominick Cardella | 25.2 |
| 9  | Louise Shoemaker  | 20.8 |
| 10 | Paul Chen         | 19.5 |

## 2016 District 23 Top 30

Each year in November, the ACBL publishes the "Top 100" masterpoint holders of all time. Sometimes they even go further down the list.

Here is the 2016 listing. Jeff Meckstroth, not a District 23 member, was the top of the list. The next six here are District 23 members who also appeared on the National list. And the remainder of the list round out District 23's Top 30.

This list represents lots of work and skill over the years!

|     |                  |        |
|-----|------------------|--------|
| 1   | Jeff Meckstroth  | 82,716 |
| 51  | Steve Gross      | 26,316 |
| 92  | Ellen Anten      | 21,663 |
| 112 | Jill Meyers      | 20,234 |
| 133 | Mitch Dunitz     | 18,833 |
| 188 | Rebecca Clough   | 16,859 |
| 6   | Steve Mager      | 16,637 |
| 7   | Roger Clough     | 15,183 |
| 8   | Gerry Bare       | 15,141 |
| 9   | Ed Davis         | 15,002 |
| 10  | Pam Wittes       | 12,617 |
| 11  | John Swanson     | 11,326 |
| 12  | Eddie Kantar     | 10,892 |
| 13  | Jeff Goldsmith   | 10,520 |
| 14  | Mike Savage      | 10,385 |
| 15  | John Jones       | 10,210 |
| 16  | Peter Benjamin   | 10,200 |
| 17  | Bruce Horiguchi  | 10,043 |
| 18  | Jonky Chung      | 10,033 |
| 19  | Aram Bedros      | 9,559  |
| 20  | Gil Stinebaugh   | 9,100  |
| 21  | Alex Kolesnik    | 9,079  |
| 22  | Andy Vinock      | 8,790  |
| 23  | Rhoda Himmell    | 8,481  |
| 24  | Bill Sides       | 8,081  |
| 25  | Ellen Kent       | 8,015  |
| 26  | Sid Brownstein   | 7,993  |
| 27  | Steve Onderwyzer | 7,409  |
| 28  | Gene White       | 6,852  |
| 29  | David Segal      | 6,708  |
| 30  | Peter Szecsi     | 6,701  |

# 2017 New England Bridge Cruise "Queen Mary II"

**September 22 - September 29, 2017**  
**Hosted by Jeff Grotenhuis**



**Jeff Grotenhuis** is the founder of the fastest growing bridge club on the West Coast. The following are a few of his accomplishments:

- No one has introduced more people to bridge in California this decade.
- Regional champion who took his team to first place in a two-day Knock Out.
- Los Angeles County co-chairman of newcomers to bridge tournaments.
- Hosted largest 299r Sectional in 2016.

When not teaching, directing, or playing bridge, Jeff enjoys ballroom dancing.

## You will LOVE our cruise!

- Fall Foliage Experience in Lovely New England
- Old & New Friends from the Agile Bridge Club
- Welcome and Farewell Cocktail Parties
- Exclusive Daily Lectures
- Sanctioned Bridge Games
- Ample Time for Sightseeing



### Cruise Itinerary

| Day  | Date     | Destination | Arrive  | Depart   |
|------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|
| Fri  | Sept. 22 | New York    |         | 5:00 pm  |
| Sat  | Day 2    | Newport, RI | 8:00 am | 4:00 pm  |
| Sun  | Day 3    | Boston      | 9:00 am | 11:00 pm |
| Mon  | Day 4    | At Sea      |         |          |
| Tue  | Day 5    | Nova Scotia | 9:00 am | 5:00 pm  |
| Wed  | Day 6    | At Sea      |         |          |
| Thur | Day 7    | Quebec City | 8:00 am |          |
| Fri  | Sept. 29 | Quebec City |         | 9:00 am  |



## Early Bird Advantage!

Queen Mary 2 is an elegant ship. It rarely sails to New England. The oceanview and unobstructed balconies are already in short supply. For more information, or to make your reservation, please call Rosemary Roberts at GalaxSea Cruises & Tours.



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# Around the Units in District 23



## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

[www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
[www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

**January 22 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Xiaoxue Walker/Mark Leonard, 2nd Kay Tseng/John Melis, 3rd Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 4th Xingpin Kang/Zu Ming Cheng, 5th Rob Preece/Usha Bansal, 6/7 tie between Verna Burns/Joan Tschirki and Steve Sturm/Ellis Feigenbaum. In the B flight overalls: 3rd Hanefi Erten/Oliver Yildiz, 4th Judith Jones/Al Appel, 5th Barbara and Alan Olschwang. In the C flight overalls Colleen Bilas/Dalia Hernandez were 3rd. In the 199er Section Mark Singer/Michelle Brenner were 1st, Allene Buchanan/Sandra Delson were 2nd. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games:** Jan16 through Feb 15: In the open newcomer pairs game Jan 30 Rich Gonser/Lois Mullin had 75%. In the open game Feb 3 Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley had 71.85%, Feb 4 Diane Starbuck/Wayne Rapp had 70.14%. Congratulations to all pairs!

**Big Masterpoint Awards:** Jan 16 through Feb 15: In the unit game Jan 22 Mark Leonard/Xiaoxue Walker won 3.50mp for 1st. Feb 4 Wayne Rapp/Diane Starbuck won 3.94mp for 1st. Congratulations to both pairs!

**New Club Members:** Joan Cossani, Deann Huddleston, Maryss Williams, Marcie Lane, Mark Singer, Donal Smith. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New Regional Master: John Haggman. New Advanced NABC Master: Lynn Danielson. New Diamond Life Master: Mark Leonard. Congratulations to you all!

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

## News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

**Club Championship** Game Feb 28—clubhouse #1: John Bralliar/Baum Harris 1 in A. Joyce Henderson/Dalia Hernandez 2 in A, 1 in B. Verna Burns/Sue Fardette 3 in A. Louise Seifert and Stan Johnson 4 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Russell Gray/Fred Reker 5 in A, 3 in B. Sharon Baren/Sue Boswell 6 in A, 4 in B. Joyce Basch/Dorothy Favre 5 in B. Margaret and Don Williams 2 in C. Julia Cunningham/Dick Stammerjohn 3 in C.

**Unit Rated Game Feb 13**—clubhouse #3: Simone Chottin/Jeanette Estill 1 in A. Emma Trepinski/Bill Brooks 2 in A. Diane Sachs/Rob Preece 3 in A. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 4 in A. Gene and Ron Yaffee 5 in A, 1 in B. Betty Jackson/Larry Slutsky 6 in A. Cooie Dampman/George Alemshah 2 in B. Fred Reker/Mark Singer 3 in B, 1 in C. Sue McHale/Paul Chen 4/5 in B. Stan Blitz/Harshad Vora 4/5 in B. Ellen Kice/Cookie Pham 3 in C. Carmen Gross/Norma Krueger 6 in B.

**70% Game:** Bill Linskey/Gary Paugh had a 72.12% game January 23 at Clubhouse #3

**Get Well Wishes:** Chuck Cutchshaw

**Welcome:** Mike Ullman as our Thurs Director at Clubhouse #3. **A big thanks** to Diane Sachs for her years of directing and helping all of us.

**Reminder:** ACBL classifies Leisure World bridge games as “invitational” meaning non-resident guests must secure an advance reservation. Games are held on Monday/Thursday at clubhouse #3 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Monday—Midge Dunagan (562) 594-9686. Thursday—Cookie Pham (562) 431-6453. Phone number for clubhouse #3---Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner--After 12:00 noon: (562) 481-7368. Games are also held on Friday/Saturday at clubhouse #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday—Jeanette Estill (714) 647-2609. Saturday—Sue Fardette (714) 995-5879. Any news for next month’s column, please e mail me at [jcj90740@gmail.com](mailto:jcj90740@gmail.com) Results of all Leisure World games are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org) →





## Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

“Unit” Game – Saturday, March 18, 11:00 a.m.  
Individual – Saturday, March 4, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

Once again, our “Unit” game this month will be a club game – no word yet on how things are developing in Horn Lake regarding the uncalled-for increase in Unit game sanction fees. Next month we plan to resume normal Unit games.

In the February Unit game, Vic Sartor – Bill Papa were the winners, followed by Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson, Genise Hasan – Tom Lill, and Timothy and Eileen Finlay.

In the February Individual, Donald Logsdon took the top spot. Roger Boyar was next, then Paul Chrisney, and Steve Mancini.

It’s awards time again. We will be presenting the Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards to the Unit winners at our April game, which will be a week late (April 22) due to the Easter holiday. If you won your bracket, you’ll be receiving a notice from our Membership Chairman – email, snail mail, or something.

The top score this month was an 80% whopper posted by Roger Boyar and Herb Stampfl. However, this is somewhat tainted by being the result of a 2½ table Howell, where anything can happen, and usually does. The next best effort – in a “real” game” – was by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa, who fell from last month’s monster to “only” 70.8%. As for the rest of us, the winners were Walt Otto, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Fred and Lulu Minter, Pat Radamaker, Claudia Cochran, Hanan Mogharbel, Linda Stuart, Susie Emminger, Joe Unis, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, and Yours Truly.

Five promotions to report this month. In ascending order, Nicholas Koskelo and Tom Sessions are now Junior Masters, Darlene Sessions is a Club Master, Wendy Wanderman is a Sectional Master, and Margie Hall is now a Bronze Master. Way to go, all.

Although our Unit was reasonably well represented at our District’s Winter Regional (I counted 14 members attending), no one brought home very much in the way of wins. In total, the Unit came home with

only 33.44 masterpoints. Top scorer was Yours Truly... truly a triumph of persistence, since it took 14 sessions (that’s 392 boards, folks) to score 14.15 points. In second was Penny Barbieri with 7.09, then Genise Hasan with 4.13. Sadly, attendance at the tournament was disastrous – down around 150 tables from 2016. The comments heard were almost universally variations on the theme “where did this yucky schedule come from???” Well, for what it’s worth, we won’t be going back to the Four Points Sheraton next year (as of this writing – stay tuned!), and the Bridge Week schedule is back to the 10 a.m. / 3 p.m. version. See you there!

And... stay tuned: our District has garnered the sanction vacated by Reno, and is hosting a Regional in Glendale (at the Hilton) from December 26 – 31. So make your plans now, as rooms will be at a premium (should you need one). Plans for a New Year’s Eve bash are uncertain, as there is already one scheduled that night at the Hilton. (ESPN will be taking over the hotel that day... gee, I wonder what else might be going on then?)

Advance notice: our Unit plans to participate once again in the Longest Day. This falls on Wednesday, June 21 this year. We will be holding games at the Knights of Columbus, at 9:00 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. (And if enough players want to hang around, we can have an evening session starting at 6:00 p.m.) All entry fees and other donations go to the Alzheimer’s Association, and are tax deductible.

Our Hand-of-the-Month is a bit different. No freak, no rock crusher, just a run-of-the-mill hand... sort of! You are South, and find yourself looking at:

♠A9x ♥JTxxx♦KTxx ♣x

The auction is straightforward:

| LHO | You  | RHO | Partner  |
|-----|------|-----|----------|
| 1♠  | pass | 2♣  | pass     |
| 3♠  | pass | 4♠  | all pass |

Partner leads a high heart spot, dummy comes down with: ♠ QJ ♥ x♦ Qxxx ♣ AQTxxx and declarer wins in the closed hand. Declarer leads a trump, you win the ♠A, and ... well? Are you going to beat this contract?

Well, let’s think. If declarer has ♣Kx or better, the answer is “no.” Declarer surely has the♦A and can get back to his hand to draw trumps and run the clubs, →

finessing if necessary. What if declarer has a stiff club, and has red-suit losers?

Returning your stiff club into that major tenace turns out to be a killer. Declarer has the stiff ♣K, which he wins. He leads a trump to dummy and tries to cash the ♣A. You ruff and get out safely, and it's two down. Any other return, even ducking the trump ace, lets the contract through (declarer will end-play you in a red suit). Nice going!

Quote for the Month: "A committee is a group that keeps minutes and loses hours." (Milton Berle)

Until next month...



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

Districts 22-23 held their first STaC games of the year during the week of January 23 to January 29. Unit 556 held two games at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club. Russ Buker and Linda Young had an outstanding game of 68.98% in the Friday Afternoon Open Pairs (out of 134 tables). They were first overall and received 17.16 silver points.

**Friday, January 27th Results**

- 1 Russ Buker and Linda Young - 68.98%
- 2 Bill Brodek and Paula Olivares - 60.19%
- 3/4 Barbara York and Onorita Pallanti - 49.54%
- Carol and Paul Reukauf - 49.54%
- 5 Rosalee McEntyre and Phoebe Evans - 47.22%

**Sunday, January 29th Results**

- 1 George MacDonald and Barbara York - 60.37%
- 2/3 Rand Pinsky and Kathy Swaine - 57.41%
- Henry Roediger and Sharry Vida - 57.41%
- 4 Nora Fincher and Hal Underwood - 56.67%
- 5 Les Spitz and Charles Morrin - 55.93%

The Unit will hold our annual Awards Luncheon and Unit Game on Sunday, March 19th at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale. We will present awards to the winners of the Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney races for 2016. Please contact Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net) or Beth Morrin (morrin@sbcglobal.net) if you need a partner.

**Upcoming Events**

ACBL-wide Seniors Pairs Game: Monday, March 27th at 12:30, Friendly Bridge Club, Senior Center, Santa Clarita (please RSVP to Paula).

ACBL-wide Charity Game: Thursday, April 27th at 10:00 AM in Castaic.

Worldwide Bridge Contest: Saturday, June 3rd at 12:30, Joshua Tree Bridge Club.

The Longest Day: Wednesday, June 21st at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club

Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 16th and 17th at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita.

Next Board Meeting: Sunday, March 19 after the Unit Game.



**2017 Grand National Teams  
Location and Dates**

| Flight      | Dates              | MP Limits                      |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Open</b> | <b>April 22-23</b> | <b>0-unlimited</b>             |
| <b>A</b>    | <b>March 25-26</b> | <b>0-6000</b>                  |
| <b>B</b>    | <b>April 22-23</b> | <b>0-2500</b>                  |
| <b>C</b>    | <b>March 25-26</b> | <b>Non Life Master &lt;500</b> |

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)



## San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

### April 29: Unit 561 Awards Luncheon/Game

A Unit 561 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 29, at the 750 Club. The catered lunch will be served buffet style at 12noon, followed by the presentation of awards, and then an Open, Stratified game at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$13 and reservations are required. A sign-up sheet will be available at The 750 Club in early April or email Rochelle Lotto at nanalotto@yahoo.com (by April 26) for reservations/partnerships.

### Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Winners

Bravo and congratulations to all of the U561 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners for 2016! These players are as follows: 0-5 – A.D. Shaw (MM, AC); 5-20 – Jill Terrell (MM, AC); 20-50 – Yoshie Bell (MM, AC); 50-100 – Brian Fielding (MM, AC); 100-200 – Raymond Primus (MM, AC); 200-300 – Barbara Astrin (MM) and Shoshana Blumenfeld (AC); 300-500 – William Raff (MM) and Linda Silvey (AC); 500-1,000 – Frederick Upton (MM) and Martin Hurwitz (AC); 1,000-1,500 – Dwight Hunt (MM, AC); 1,500-2,500 – Claude LeFeuvre (MM, AC); 2,500-3,500 – Om Chokriwala (MM, AC); 3,500-5,000 – Joan Rubin (MM) and Donald Crum (AC); 5,000-7,500 – Martin Blain (MM, AC); 7,500-10,000 – Andrew Vinock (MM) and Gilbert Stinebaugh (AC); and, over 10,000 – Mitch Dunitz (MM) and Steve Gross (AC).

### Special Congratulations

Special congratulations to Om Chokriwala (Sherman Oaks) who has been named to the “2017 Aileen Osofsky ACBL Goodwill Committee.” This is a lifetime appointment initiated by ACBL D23 Director, Kevin Lane. Those of us who are fortunate enough to have met Om will certainly agree with this award!

The “Top 10 Goodwill Gestures” as listed on the ACBL website are: *Greet and welcome opponents; Al-*

*ways say, “Director, please”; Lead or place dummy before you write; Mentor a new player; Say, “Thank you, partner”; Compliment opponent’s play; Discuss hands after the game; Accept defeat and victory with grace; Leave a table tidy; and, Smile often.*

January Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ray Primus 12.03, Susan Raphael 10.12, Daniel Strauss 8.25, Mark LaVine 7.91, Carol Bell 7.62, Ravnesh Amar 6.10, Sheila Singer 6.09, Bill Morton 6.02, Linda Silvey 6.00, and Harris Blumenthal 5.92.

### March 21: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, March 21. 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.

### March Special Events at the 750 Club

Monday – Friday, March 13 - 17 will be Club Membership Week. Extra black points will be awarded for no extra fees. Both players must be members of ACBL (“instant” membership forms available at the Club).

Pies will be served at lunchtime, Tuesday, March 14 (3/14) in celebration of *Pi* (rounded off to 3.14) *Day*. St. Patrick’s Day will be celebrated on Friday, March 17 with drawings for free plays at the game. Players must wear green to be eligible.

### Calendar

Monday-Friday, March 13-17, Club Membership Week at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, March 14, Pi Day celebrated at The 750 Club.

Friday, March 17, St. Patrick’s Day celebrated at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, March 21, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Wednesday, April 5, Unit 561 Board Meeting, at The 750 Club, at 2:40 p.m.

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



## Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: [www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568](http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568)  
SBBC: [www.southbaybridgeclub.com](http://www.southbaybridgeclub.com)

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club  
Club Championship: Saturday, March 4, 2:00 p.m.  
Club Championship: Friday, March 24, 11:30 a.m.  
Friday Night games on March 3 and 17

### Club Championships

There were several Club Championships listed in the club website and this column for the past month but only one was scored as such. the February 15 Club Championship was won by Patty Taylor/ Fran Israel in Flight A with Chris Freeman/Joan Chrishal leading Flight B.

### Team Winners

January 24: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, Wayne Ot-suki, John Brailliar

### 2016 TSB Unit Masterpoint Leaders

Following are the leaders in each category in the TSB Unit for the 2016 Mini McKenney and Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs masterpoint races.

#### Mini McKenney

|           |                          |          |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------|
| 0-5       | .....John Janus          | ..... 90 |
| 5-20      | .....Howard Schecter     | .....45  |
| 20-50     | .....Janice Scholler     | .....49  |
| 50-100    | .....Thomas Grove        | .....54  |
| 100-200   | .....Laura Gastelum      | .....136 |
| 200-300   | .....Russell Van Cleve   | .....145 |
| 300-500   | .....Richard Bakovic     | .....100 |
| 500-1000  | .....Elaine Godin        | .....135 |
| 1000-1500 | .....Stanley Greengard   | .....206 |
| 1500-2500 | .....Steve Ramos         | .....256 |
| 2500-3500 | .....Gerri Soffa Carlson | .....348 |

|            |                        |          |
|------------|------------------------|----------|
| 3500-5000  | .....Alfred Lee        | .....316 |
| 5000-7500  | .....Lucy Gellner      | .....155 |
| 7500-10000 | .....Bruce Horiguchi   | .....703 |
| 10000+     | .....John J. McDermott | .....627 |

#### Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs

|            |                         |          |
|------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 0-5        | .....John Janus         | .....63  |
| 5-20       | .....Howard Schecter    | .....24  |
| 20-50      | .....Linda Klebs        | .....29  |
| 50-100     | .....Linda Mackenzie    | .....42  |
| 100-200    | .....Virginia Brewer    | .....77  |
| 200-300    | .....Roberta Brown      | .....61  |
| 300-500    | .....Shameem Rahimtoola | .....61  |
| 500-1000   | .....Elaine Godin       | .....83  |
| 1000-1500  | .....Mike Welsh         | .....121 |
| 1500-2500  | .....Steve Ramos        | .....90  |
| 2500-3500  | .....Kim Wang           | .....131 |
| 3500-5000  | .....Fran Israel        | .....111 |
| 5000-7500  | .....Lucy Gellner       | .....69  |
| 7500-10000 | .....Bruce Horiguchi    | .....47  |
| 10000+     | .....John J. McDermott  | .....207 |

### TSB Unit fares well in District 23 North American Pairs Finals

There were 11 spots up for grabs to qualify for the North American Pairs finals at the upcoming Kansas City NABC in Flights A (3), B (4) and C (4). The entrants from the Torrance South Bay did well in the finals. Four TSB pairs qualified for the final in KC. Bruce Horiguchi playing with one of Gerri Carlson's students won Flight A. David Peim and Neal Kleiner won Flight B with Cal Waller and Stan Greengard finishing third. John Janus and Jeff Grotenhuis qualified in Flight C finishing fourth. Good luck to all in KC.

### TSB Unit Winners at the recent LAX Regional

The recent District regional at LAX saw some TSB Unit members finishing first overall.

Manzoor Ursani/Bruce Schelden won Flight D in the Tuesday afternoon 299ers. Kathy Soltwedell/Mari Jacobson won Flight A,B and C in the Wednesday afternoon 299ers. CVal Gamio playing with Sanford Holzberg led Flight B in the Wednesday Open Pairs. The Wednesday Gold Rush Pairs was led by Sandy Rathbun/Rae Yan in Flight A with Gerald Ketz/Mike McGory on top in Flight B. Kathy Soltwedel/Marie →

Jacobson also won the Thursday 299er pairs Flight A with Jennifer Wellman/Gordon Hull winning Flight C.

The Friday afternoon side game was led Roberta Brown/Lena Hoomani in all flights. Rae Yan playing with Kiran Kumar won the Friday Gold Rush Pairs.

A team with Lena Hoomani/Jeff Grotenhuis topped Flight B in the Thursday Board a Match teams. In this same event Rae Yan/Sandy Rathbun were on a team which topped Flight C.

Alfred Lee paired with Denis Racine won the Saturday evening Side game Flight A with Roberta Brown playing with Carol Holihan winning flights B and C. The Sunday Bracket B Swiss was won by Lutrell Long, Carol Mason, Stephanie Young and Carnell Wingfield.

**District 22/23 STAC**

Players who finished in the overalls of the recent District 22/23 STAC in games played in TSB unit clubs are listed in the following.

Monday Morning, January 23, SBBC, Open Pairs

- 1A Kim Wang/Lutrell Long
- 2A Carul McCully/Ed Barad
- 3A Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott
- 6A 2B Robert Rothman/Mike Welsh
- 3B Gerri Carlson/Mary Belle Hoenig
- 5B Betsy Amador/Harry Wessells
- 6B Jim Jensen/Booth Tarkington
- 2C Marianne David/Harold Koletsky
- 3C Lorraine and Michael Kammerman

Monday Afternoon, January 23, Agile BC, 199er Pairs

- 1A 1B Elaine Wagner/Sharon Massey
- 2A 2B Inga Stoops/Brigitte Prince
- 3A 3B Linda Krebs/Frank Roig
- 5A Kathy Soltwedell/Richard Hargrove
- 6A 4B Joseph Duke/Carolyn Hatten
- 5B 1C Nancy Hamada/Allan Baraz
- 5C Robert Turner/Robert Culbert

Monday Evening, January 23, Agile BC, Open Pairs

- 1A 1B 1C Russell Lefevre/Roselyn Martov
- 5A 2B 2C George Wakabayashi/Barbara Heughins
- 4B 4C Robert Hildreth/Florence Cooper
- 5B 5C John Janus/Tom Keese
- 6B 6C Jeff Grotenhuis/Nancy Karnes

Monday Evening, January 23, Side Game, SBBC

- 1A Kim Wang/Ray Mack
- 2A 1B Stanley Greengard/Mark Raggio
- 3A Fran Israel/Steve Ramos
- 2B Arlene Greengard/Ernie Frank

Tuesday Morning, January 24, SBBC, Open Pairs

- 2A 1B Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan
- 3A 2B Jeanette Betts/Ernie Frank
- 5B Arlene Greengard/Gerri Carlson
- 5C Chris Freeland/Rafael Gishri
- 6/7C Elaine Godin/Ed Srenco
- 6/7C Mike McGory/Edward Ruttenberg

Tuesday Afternoon, January 24, Agile BC, 499er Pairs

- 3A Marlene Felix/Ronnie Loeser
- 9A 3B 1C Dominick and Johanna Cardella
- 7B Edward Bucklin/Carolyn Woo
- 3C Kathy Soltwedell/Mari Jacobson

Wednesday Morning, January 25, SBBC, Open Pairs

- 1A 1B Stanley Greengard/Cal Waller
- 5A Gerry Carlson/John J. McDermott
- 8A 3B 1C Marie Lynch/Charlotte Lewin

Wednesday Evening, January 25, SBBC, Side Game

- 1A 1B 1C Joan and Robert Stillwell
- 2A 2B 2C Chris Freeland/Joan Chrisal
- 3A Booth Tarkington/Nancy Guenther

Thursday Morning, January 26, SBBC, NLM Pairs

- 1A 1B Jamila Malikyar/Edward Ruttenberg
- 2A 2B Sandy Rathbun/Rae Yan
- 3A Suzanne Kuuskmae/Shameem Rahimtoola
- 4A 3B Bruce Walker/James DeFlon
- 5A Charlotte Lewin/Marie Lynch
- 6A Jane and Tom Barna
- 4B Madge Weinstein
- Myron Mitzenmacher
- 5B Freda Main/Linda Gasset

Thurs Afternoon, January 26, Agile BC, 199er Pairs

- 1A 1B Angie Speliopoules/Sue Gocke
- 2A 2B Susan Miller/Betz Salmont
- 3A 3B Barry and Sharon Rogerson

Friday Morning, January 27, Agile BC, 499er Pairs

- 1A Betsy Nicassio/Judith Estes
- 2A 1B Thomas Fisher/Charles Strathman →

- 3A Bruce Schelden/George Wakabayashi
- 4A Marlene Felix/Ronnie Loeser
- 5A Carol Decordova/Linda Mackenztw
- 6A 2B 1C Dominick and Johanna Cardella
- 3B 2C Roselyn Martov/Carol Simonoff
- 4B Linda Krebs/Frank Roig
- 5B Kathy Soltwedell/Mari Jacobson
- 6B Kelley Butcher/Barbara Fuller
- 13C Allan Baraz/Nancy Hamada
- 14C Glen and Caryn Musicer
- 15C Petra Green/Brigette Prince

Friday Morning, January 27, SBBC, Side Pairs

- 1A 1B Betsy Amador/Cal Waller
- 2A 2B Pat Schenasi/MaryBelle Hoenig
- 3A Judith Tomic/Jill Bornstein

**GUV Award**

There are two GUV award winners this month. Both occurred at the recent LAX Regional.

CVal Gamio deserves some kind of accolade for bidding and making a 6♥ contract playing a 3-3 fit. The bidding to reach this contract probably is best left undescribed, but CVal’s play no doubt was magnificent.

Some sort of a record must have been set when I was playing with an unnamed female partner in a pair event. The record was fewest trump tricks in history taken by defenders with a combined trump holding of KQJTx. My pard held QJx of trump and for some strange reason she decided to lead the trump queen spearing my ten. Later declarer led a trump out of his hand and (You guessed it) pard was right there with the J while I was taking the trick with the King. Only 1 trick for our magnificent trump holding.

Na Zdrowie



**West LA  
by Robert Shore**

**Quite a Showing**

We’ll start this month’s report with an account of the LAX Regional. Grab a seat. This is gonna take a

while. Adrienne Sarmiento started things off by winning the Monday afternoon 299er Pairs event. Not to be outdone, Jeanette Christy picked up a win of her own in the Friday 299er Pairs event. Moving on to more experienced players, Leslie Brucker was a winner in the Tuesday Gold Rush Pairs.

But wait, there’s more! Ifti Baqai won the Monday Charity Pairs event. Mike Mikyska was a winner in the Wednesday Open Pairs. Pete Knee joined the fun with a win in the Wednesday-Thursday morning Swiss, while Peter Benjamin’s team won the Thursday Board-a-Match Team event. On Friday, Howard Einberg and Bill Schreiber teamed up to win the Open Pairs. Your Humble Scribe picked up a win in the Saturday Compact Knockout. On Sunday, Stephanie Young won her bracket of the Flight B Swiss, as did Marion Tumen, Jodie Rachmil, Peggy Levin, and Bella Feniger. Saul Prieuer capped things off with a tie for first in his bracked of the event.

**More Regional and Tournament News**

We heard an exciting announcement at the tournament. For many years, Reno held a year-end regional between Christmas and New Years. It was an exciting tournament because top players from across the country would show up to put the finishing touches on a run at the Barry Crane Top 500. That tournament ended a couple of years ago when Reno switched from District 17 to District 21, which already had four successful tournaments and had no room for a Reno regional on their schedule. Sensing an opportunity, our District Board leapt. We have signed a contract with the Glendale Hilton to hold a regional tournament from December 26 through December 31. This will be the only regional tournament that weekend west of Kansas City, so we’re expecting a big turn-out. I plan to play most or all of the tournament myself, and I hope to see many of you there as well.

Returning to our catalogue of winners, our Unit turned in a series of yeoman performances over the last month. Judy Hyde went all the way to the Bermuda Regional to score a win in the Sunday Swiss. At the Riverside Regional, Jill Meyers took home wins in the Saturday Compact Knockout and the Sunday Open Swiss. Ifti Baqai warmed up for LAX by winning the Thursday Swiss at Riverside. In the STAC, Marion Solomon won the Monday afternoon event. Rhoda and Lew Himmell topped the field in the Wednesday after- →

noon event, while Aram Bedros was a winner Thursday evening. Lou Papp even found someone who could carry him to victory in the Sunday afternoon game.

### Good Luck Wishes

The Spring Nationals are this month, at Kansas City. I know you'll join me in wishing all of our District 23 contestants the best of luck, particularly in the North American Pairs. Our District's Grand National Teams competition gets underway this month, with Flights A (0-6000) and C (0-500 non-Life Masters) competing March 25 and 26 for the right to represent our District in Toronto. The Championship (open) Flight and Flight B (0-2500) will take their shot next month. I hope you're putting a team together. The District will help defray the expenses of the winning teams.

### Pat on the Back

It's not often I get to say I outplayed a national champion, and this hand helped us to victory in the LAX Compact Knockout, so I feel compelled to share. All white at IMPs, RHO opens 1♥. After your 1♠ overcall, LHO raises to 2♥. Partner makes a fit-showing jump to 4♣ and your 4♠ bid ends the auction. The opening lead is a small heart. Spots are approximate below

Dummy: ♠AT5 ♥73 ♦K8 ♣AQ9875

Declarer: ♠KQJ84 ♥KJ6 ♦J94 ♣63

RHO won the ace and sent a heart back. I decided I didn't need the extra heart trick so I rose with the king and took a club hook, which won, RHO playing the jack. There wasn't much I could do if clubs weren't breaking, so I cashed ace (lefty playing the king) and ruffed a third club high (RHO started with J10x, while LHO threw a heart). At the other table, my counterpart had taken a successful heart finesse at trick 2 and then, like I did, played 3 rounds of clubs.

Here's where our lines differed materially. My counterpart cashed his winning heart to pitch a diamond. I simply led a high trump from my hand, followed by a trump to dummy. When RHO showed out, I was still alive. I cashed a club, throwing my last heart as LHO ruffed. After a diamond shift, I played low from dummy as RHO won the ace. He tried a heart, but I ruffed high in my hand, led a trump to dummy to draw LHO's last trump, and dummy was high. In contrast, at the other table two rounds of diamonds forced dummy and there was no longer any way to handle the bad

trump split. Our side picked up 10 IMPs on the hand.

### The Spoils of Victory

Congratulations to our Unit's 2016 Mini-McKenney winners. Our Rookies of the Year were John and Helen Romm. Alex Wiles was our Junior Master of the Year. Bob Weingarten won the Club Master of the Year award, and Jill Thesman was our Unit's Sectional Master of the Year. Sin Orensztein headed the field in the Regional Master of the Year race, and Lisa Karako was our NABC Master of the Year. Stuart Hemple was the Unit's Advanced NABC Master of the Year.

Jim Perkins was the Unit's top Bronze Life Master. Karen Schwartz was the Silver Life Master of the Year, and Lou Papp won the inaugural Ruby Life Master of the Year race. Your Humble Scribe was the Unit's top Gold Life Master. Bob Kent topped all competitors among Sapphire Life Masters. Ifti Baqai was our Diamond Life Master of the Year. Pete Benjamin closed his career as an Emerald Life Master by winning that race, while Becky Clough was our Unit's Grand Life Master of the Year.

### Around the Clubs

Hitting the 70% mark at Barrington last month were Aram Bedros and Art Zail (twice). Becky Clough also hit the mark twice, once with Bill Schreiber and once with Roger.

At Beverly Hills, Om Chokriwala notched a pair of 70% games, once with Aram Bedros and once with Michael Abeles. Rhoda and Lew Himmell also hit the mark, as did Nino Lingad and Daniel Herscher. Club champions last month were Karen Schwartz and Vera Mandell, Aram Bedros and Om Chokriwala, and Rick Turner and Charles Kelley.

The Marina City Club will resume its Tuesday evening games when remodeling is complete, perhaps this month. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information, or watch this space for an update.

### Climbing the Ladder

My apologies to those who earned promotions in the last month. I have not received the customary report that informs me of your achievements. Congratulations to all on your achievements.

Got news? Send it to me at [Bob78164@yahoo.com](mailto:Bob78164@yahoo.com).

# LOS ANGELES LONG BEACH REGIONAL

**JULY 3-9, 2017**

## TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

**DAYLIGHT SCHEDULE! 299ER GAMES EVERY DAY!**  
**PILE UP YOUR GOLD POINTS IN OUR GOLD RUSH PAIRS!**  
**STAR SPEAKERS EVERY DAY! SATURDAY SPECIAL SHOW!**  
**MASTER SOLVER LIVE WITH JOHN JONES AND LEO BELL!**

### Need a Partner?

**Diane Sachs**  
 dianesachs@yahoo.com  
 562-981-4884

### Tournament Manager:

**Peter Benjamin**  
 ahoneydo@aol.com  
 310-720-6050

### Director-in-Charge:

**Ken Horwedel**

**Tournament Chair: Stan Holzberg**  
**District 23 President: Mike Marcucci**

### Monday July 3rd.

**Free 2-hour Bridge Workshop**  
 10:30 - 12:30 am  
 Followed by lunch

**Gerri Soffa-Carlson**  
 Gold Life Master

**Pro Am Game at 1 pm**  
 Card fee for Ams: \$14

**Please pre register before 6/25**  
 gsoffa@aol.com  
 310-377-0316



### Hilton Long Beach

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

**Room rate: \$134 (Free Wifi)**

**(please refer to ALACBU)**

**Reservation must be made by Friday, June 9.**

**800-445-8667 or 562-983-3400**

**Card fees: \$14 for ACBL Members**

**\$18 for non-ACBL Members**

**Self parking: \$6**

Tournament Sanction: R1707013  
 Flyer Designer: Liang Fan.

### Monday, July 3, 2017

299er Free Workshop/Lunch (Reserv. Rqd).....10:30 am  
 AM Side Game Series (single session)..... 1:00 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (1 of 6)..... 1:00 pm  
 Stratified Charity Pairs (single session)..... 7:00 pm  
 Starburst KO (1 of 4)..... 7:00 pm

### Tuesday, July 4, 2017

Starburst KO (2, 3 & 4 of 4).... 10:30 am, 3:00 & 7:30 pm  
 Pro-Am Game Series (1 of 5)..... 10:30 am  
 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am  
**Mark Schreiber Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)**.....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Guest Lecture ----- 2:30 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (2 of 6)..... 3:00 pm  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

### Wednesday, July 5, 2017

AM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 10:30 am  
 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am  
**Bernie Mateer Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)**.....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Guest Lecture ----- 2:30 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (3 of 6)..... 3:00 pm  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 7:30 pm  
 Dodger Turbo Swiss (1 of 2)..... 7:30 pm

### Thursday, July 6, 2017

AM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 10:30 am  
 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am  
**Pat Banks Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)**.....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
**Pasadena Unit 559 Stratified Swiss Teams (1 & 2 of 2)**.....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Guest Lecture ----- 2:30 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (4 of 6)..... 3:00 pm  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 7:30 pm  
 Dodger Turbo Swiss (2 of 2)..... 7:30 pm

### Friday, July 7, 2017

AM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 10:30 am  
 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am  
 0-99 Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am  
 Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
**Anand Kumar Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs ... (1 & 2 of 2)**.....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Liberty Bell KO (1 & 2 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Guest Lecture ----- 2:30 pm  
 Aft Side Game Series (5 of 6)..... 3:00 pm  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

### Saturday, July 8, 2017

AM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 10:30 am  
 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am  
**Charlotte Sturm Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)**.....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm

### Saturday, July 8, 2017

Liberty Bell KO (3 & 4 of 4).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
 Old Glory Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2).....10:30 am & 3:00 pm  
**Master Solvers Live ----- 2:30 pm**  
 Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6)..... 3:00 pm  
 Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm  
 PM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

### Sunday, July 9, 2017

Ft Henry Stratified Fast Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & TBA  
 WLA Player of the Year ... Mike Savage ... Flight A/X  
 Swiss Teams .....10:30 am & TBA  
 Bracketed Swiss Flight B/C/D .....10:30 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+  
 Stratiflighted Games:**  
 0-3000 / 3000-5000 / 5000+  
**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**  
**Turbo Swiss Teams: 3 x 8 boards**



# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Jeff Goldsmith, Tim Lolli, Eddie Kantar,  
Mister Mealy-mouth, Rick Roeder and Jon Wittes

*This column is dedicated to my friend and occasional teammate, Peter Rank. Peter died on February 11 at his home in Palm Springs. Peter was active in the ACBL in many different roles. He was the general counsel for the ACBL for many years, wrote several bridge musicals which were performed at nationals, and won the 1965 McK-inney Trophy (now the Barry Crane Trophy) for the most masterpoints won in a year. He will be missed.*

# 1

MPs  
NS vul

South

West

North

East

?

1♦

1♥

2♦

You, South, hold:

♠K92 ♥84 ♦K75 ♣KQT85

What call do you make?

*The deck looks fairly split. They have established a diamond fit. My old partner Gene Freed used to say "If they have a fit, then we have a fit." How do we make progress towards finding that fit?*

**Wittes: Double.** I should have four spades for this double, but I have enough values to compete, and don't want to sell out to 2♦. If partner bids 2♠, I'll bid 3♣.

**Mealy-mouth: 3♣.** I love three-honor suits, and I want partner to lead my three-honor suit against West's 3♦ (after receiving a raise from East, any red-blooded West will take the push).

**Bare: 3♣.** No bid stands out, but it's our hand.

*I suspect if I surveyed several club players that 2NT would be a popular choice. Do the panelists like 2NT?*

**Lolli: Double.** I don't want to bid 3♣ since I'm not good enough, and I'm too good to pass. See what partner has to say and go from there. I'd prefer to have more than one diamond stopper to bid 2NT.

**Goldsmith: Double.** I have balanced values with nothing obvious to bid. Isn't that what double means? 2NT is too much with no aces and only one diamond stopper.

**Roeder: 3♣.** 2NT is too rich with only one stopper opposite a measly 1-level overcall.

*The panelists are not at all certain what to bid, but they are firm in believing that 2NT is not the answer. I agree! 2NT must be wrong. We likely have only one stopper, only about half the deck in HCP, no running suit, and a lack of aces. 2NT is way off the mark. Is Pass, hoping for partner to balance, a reasonable shot?*

**Kantar: Pass.** I don't quite have a 3♣ bid and partner has another chance to bid. If he is short in diamonds I expect him to reopen with a double. If he has six hearts, I expect him to rebid 2♥. If he has what my partners usually have, I expect him to pass.

*Hot off the presses: Eddie Kantar is named the ACBL Sportsman of the Year for 2017. Established by Sidney Lazard Sr. in memory of his son, the ACBL Sportsmanship Award recognizes high-level players who strive to win with class and dignity. Eddie has always been an exceptional paddle tennis, tennis and ping pong player. I know he strives to show outstanding sportsmanship in everything he does. We can be very proud of Eddie.*

2

MPs  
all vul

| South    | West       | North      | East      |
|----------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 2♠*<br>? | 1♣<br>Pass | Pass<br>3♥ | 1♠<br>3NT |

\* natural, showing spades

You, South, hold:  
♠A987542 ♥KJ4 ♦A3 ♣5  
What call do you make?

**Kantar: 4♥.** I'm playing partner for a slew of hearts and a weak hand. He had a chance to overcall 1♥ and didn't. I can't wait to find out what the other panelists thought 3♥ meant.

**Lolli: 4♥.** Partner has seven hearts to the ten and not much else. East probably has ♥AQ. It's very possible we can make 4♥. If not, it should be a profitable sacrifice.

**Mealy-mouth: 4♥.** Wowie, zowie! Three-card support, four working cards, and a singleton. Though I might smoke East out by doubling 3NT (I'd expect him to run to 4♣), I'd rather let partner chalk up a vulnerable game or double East when he sacrifices in 5♣. So 4♥ it is. Poor West won't know who's sacrificing against whom.

**Bare: 4♥.** Might not make but if responder has six clubs, 3NT might make. Also, partner may not have a heart honor, for some reason he did not bid hearts originally.

**Roeder: Pass.** Lead the ♥K. Even if the opponents have two heart stoppers, your two aces may help you win the race. I think I have a reasonable chance to beat 3NT, but a double might push them into a making 4♣. A 4♥ bid is anti-percentage, not only because of your reasonable defensive prospects but partner probably needs ♥Qxxxxxx to have any shot of coming close to a make.

*Some panelists think the auction is off the tracks.*

**Goldsmith: 4♥.** I'm sure what happened was that 2♠ was explained as hearts and a minor (or maybe hearts and diamonds). Any action other than raising hearts is taking advantage of unauthorized information. Partner didn't overcall 1♥. Is that authorized information sufficient to make it clear that there has been a misunderstanding? No. Maybe partner has ♠x ♥QT9xxx ♦Kxxxx ♣x and chose not to preempt vulnerable on his first turn.

**Wittes: Pass.** Are we playing with a pinochle deck? I lead the ♥K, and expect to beat 3NT. Partner couldn't overcall 1♥ over 1♣ and couldn't preempt in hearts. This is supposed to be an expert game, so partner surely can't misconstrue my 2♠ bid as Michaels. Partner must have something like ♥QTxxxxx of hearts and out. The 3NT bidder must have a huge fit for partner's 1♣ opener. Unless partner has an unlikely slow trump trick, the opponents have to be cold for 5♣!

*The panelists who think something is off are correct. This is an actual hand, and your world class, normally reliable partner initially missed the 1♣ bid. Thus, he initially thought your 2♠ bid was Michaels. After he advanced 3♥ he noticed the 1♣ bid. When he was asked what 2♠ was, he (having now arrived at the party) answered "Natural... a spade overcall." However, he had already bid 3♥ on ♥Qxx. The unusual situation generated a significant discussion at the East Coast regional where this occurred.*

District 23 on the web:

<http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/>

3

MPs  
all vul

| South   | West | North | East |
|---------|------|-------|------|
| 1♣<br>? | Pass | 1♠    | Pass |

You, South, hold: ♠7643 ♥-- ♦A52 ♣AKJT42  
What call do you make?

*This evaluation and methods problem brings hand evaluation and partnership agreements into play. Do we force to game or just invite? Does 3♥ force to game, or can we bid 3♥ and then pass a 3♠ rebid?*

*We'll start with the conservative bid.*

**Mealymouth: 3♠.** Weak spades deter me from stronger action (e.g. a double-jump reverse into 4♥ to show a void). Besides, 18 support points is still within range for an invitational jump.

*Now the "overbidders" (their description, not mine).*

**Lolli: 4♥.** Probably an overbid, but I like my hand. Four trumps and controls in the other suits. I hope partner doesn't have ♠Jxxx.

**Wittes: 4♥.** This is a huge overbid, but anytime partner has five good spades we're in the slam range. Of course if partner has ♠Qxxx and some secondary heart values, we might be in trouble. But it is matchpoints, so only one board, and if partner has a good spade suit, this might drive us to a makeable slam.

*Does 3♥ force to game?*

**Kantar: 3♥.** This is compromise game-forcing splinter, theoretically showing a singleton heart. In order to show a heart void I would have to jump to 4♥, but I can't get myself to do it with this spade holding. I can live with 3♠ but I want to show heart shortness. If partner has strong spades and nothing wasted in hearts we could have a spade slam.

*Eddie plays that 3♥ is game forcing, but I think it is more common to play that 3♥ does not establish a game force.*

**Bare: 3♥.** I play that a jump reverse is not a game force.

**Roeder: 3♥.** What a fabulous 12 count! Point counters might bid 2♠. When you could make a slam on ♠Axxxx, those point counters lack any imagination.

*The call I like best!*

**Goldsmith: 4♣.** It's close, but we might make game vs. some pretty bad hands, say ♠Axxx ♥xxx♦Kxx ♣xxx. I think I have to drive to game. If North has good trumps, we can make a grand slam opposite. as little as ♠AKQxxx ♥xxx♦x ♣Qxx, and partner will know it. The auction might continue 4♦; 4♥-4NT; 5NT-7♠.

## D23 Rank Changes January 2017

### Junior Master

Wendy Adams  
Barbara Heughins, Don Hilmer  
Sue Holliday, Jill Smith

### Club Master

Mark Beizer, Leni Corwin  
Nancy Hamada, Patricia Jaeger  
Helen Romm, John Romm  
Kiyohisa Wakabayashi

### Sectional Master

Sharon Fadem, Stan Johnson  
Mike Mintz, Carol Reukauf  
Betz Salmont, Louise Seifert

### Regional Master

Mari Jacobson  
Tony Mirchandani  
Sybil Nimoy, Deedy Nordyke  
S Peterson, Kathy Soltwedell

### NABC Master

Ilene Berg, Cheri Bitar  
Marsha Bocan, Carol Levin  
David Ochroch, Saul Prieuer  
Jill Thesman

### Bronze Life Master

Jerry Goodman, Jeanne Tamaki

### Silver Life Master

Norman Bloomfield  
Rhoda Weisler

### Gold Life Master

Claude Le Feuvre, Paul Ryan

### Sapphire Life Master

Om Chokriwala

### Diamond Life Master

Bob Johnson

### Emerald Life Master

Iftikhar Baqai  
Steven Onderwyzer

# 4

MPs  
all vul

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| ?     | 3♠   | 4NT   | 5♠   |

You, South, hold:  
 ♠2 ♥AKJ8753 ♦J9 ♣JT8  
 What call do you make?

**Lolli: Pass.** I play 4♠ is a good minor suit hand, while 4NT is a sacrificial lamb. So since I know we can't make a game, I hope to beat them. *[That is a great agreement to have, and makes this hand easier.]*

**Goldsmith: Pass.** I suspect both 6♣ and 5♠ are going down one, but I don't want to stop partner's bidding again with 6-6, and while it is normally right to take out insurance on freak hands, this time it might cost 9 IMPs.

**Roeder: Double.** Since one does not preempt over a preempt; Partner has reasonable values. You cannot unilaterally bid six but the double offers a small window to get to a makeable slam since your double cannot be based on a trump stack on this auction.

**Kantar: Double.** A toughie. I'm hoping they can't make 5♠, and I doubt we can make 6♥, +200 should be a good score.

*Some of our panelists confidently step up to the plate with 6♣. They are hoping to draw a 6♠ sacrifice from*

*the opponents, who don't know what we can make. The difference between 5♠ doubled and 6♠ doubled should gain 300 for a 7 IMP win. There is a principle involved here. If you must guess on a bid, and one of your choices will make the opponents guess after you, select the bid that makes them guess last.*

**Mealy-mouth: 6♣.** In for a penny, in for a pound. If partner was willing to force to five of a minor, I'm willing to gamble six with my ♥A and small stuff in his suits. Perhaps a 7-IMP gain if my counterpart faces the same auction and doubles 5♠, collecting only +200 while I collect +500.

**Bare: 6♣.** Not clear what you can make but might as well defend 6♠ rather than 5♠.

**Wittes: 6♣.** Partner has to have a huge distributional hand to bid 4NT vulnerable. Partner could be as good as ♠x ♥x ♦AKQxxx ♣AKQxx. At worst we should be down one. If that's the case, the opponents might be making 5♠.

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*Trusted Advisor*

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 Asset Protection • Incorporation  
 LLC Formation



| South   | West | North | East |
|---------|------|-------|------|
| 1♥<br>? | 3♦   | Dbl   | Pass |

You, South, hold: ♠KT ♥AQT865 ♦T ♣AT97  
What call do you make?

**Mealy-mouth:** 4♥. Three answers required, as partner's double can have any of three meanings. Though Bridge World Standard uses Sputnik through 3♠, ACBL Standard (the tattered old Yellow Card) uses Sputnik only through 2♠, and a compromise (through 3♦) might be optimal. Or Marty Bergen's "Thrupp Doubles" (doubles of 3♦, 3♥ and 3♠ beg opener to bid 3NT with a stopper) may be optimal and my partner may have talked me into using them. Whether playing Sputnik or Thrupp Doubles, I must pull, and I like my hand (look at those prime values and tens!) well enough to gamble game by jumping to 4♥. Playing old-fashioned business doubles, or Yellow Card, I'd pass partner's penalty double, as I have enough shape to pull at the two-level but not at the three-level. Is that mealy-mouthed enough for you, Marshall? Of course, if you should spring back to life and play with me again, I'll make a third call, 3NT, and run off the next 11 tricks opposite your♦Jxx when, virtually certain that I'd bid 3NT with a singleton♦K, West leads the♦A and a low diamond to East's doubleton king.

*[Oh my! Where do I start with that comment? First, the late Marshall Miles last moderated this column in 2008. He resigned as moderator after D23, in one of their saddest decisions, eliminated the four free plays he was receiving annually. Those free plays were his only compensation for the approximately 30 hours of effort Marshall was putting into his column monthly. Subsequent to Marshall's authoring this column, the column has been moderated by Leo Bell, David Sacks, Mitch Dunitz, Rebecca Wernis, Fred Upton and me. Second, in this column, we use standard expert style negative doubles through 5♦. We don't play Yellow*

*Card, nor Thrupp doubles. Third, negative doubles sometimes used to be called Sputnik doubles, but that ended in the 1970s. Since then, negative doubles have become more refined and specific than their Sputnik cousin. Marshall was the first expert to suggest in print that doubles (by responder after an overcall) shouldn't be penalty. But his doubles (he called them co-operative) were still more penalty oriented than today's negative doubles, and they preceded Sputnik.*

**Wittes** 4♥: If partner has a doubleton heart, or better yet ♥Kx or ♥Jx and values in the black suits, 4♥ is very likely to be a winner. Terrific set of problems John! *[See Mealy, some panelists do know who the moderator is!]*

**Lolli:** 4♣. I might miss a club slam if I don't bid clubs now.

**Bare:** 5♣. Great fitting cards.

**Kantar:** Pass. I can't resist. Partner has fewer than three hearts and East didn't raise diamonds. I like my position with a heart lead. Incidentally, the bid I crossed out this time was 4♥.

**Goldsmith:** 3♥. What else? The double doesn't promise clubs, and I'm not going past 3NT nor bidding it myself on such a robust diamond stopper.

**Roeder:** 3♥. Do you think I am so easily seduced to overbid by four tens? If yes, please do not tell me as it would hurt my feelings. *[Rick never met a ten he didn't like. Bo Derek is one of his favorites.]*

**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.