

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Gal In Town

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



Over the course of a year, many volunteers in your Units and in your District are working hard on their various committee objectives, sight unseen to the hundreds or thousands of other bridge players in D23. One of those District Committees is our Scholarship Founda-

tion – in existence since 1992 when Jan Cohen came up with the idea, galvanized the backing of all 13 Units at that time, and enlisted Paula Oliver as the first Chairperson.

Paula set the early groundrules, enlisted enthusiastic committee members, formulated criteria for the student scholarships, educated the district Units and members on the timelines and objectives of this new committee, and started the donation and awards program that exists today. Paula worked harder than anyone (except her committee members) could imagine, and cared deeply for all those students who passed through her process. She moved to Northern California in 2004 and handed the reins over to Morris Lorber. He, in turn, passed the job along to Peter Szecsi in 2006 who has managed the process since.

While Paula managed our Foundation, we awarded 38 students \$67,000 in scholarships, thanks to all our District 23 Units and their generous members. With Morris in charge, we awarded 13 students \$21,000 in scholarships. Peter's stats read as 38 students and \$78,000 in scholarships. Our district and all 3,600 play-

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Kansas City Board Meeting

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun

In this column and next month's, I'll share outcomes of our Kansas City board meeting.

CEO Search

The board approved \$100K for the CEO search committee to spend on a headhunter to find a CEO, if necessary. The \$100K is a standard rate for what is being proposed. I expressed the view that if we are seeking a person with bridge experience we should not require a headhunter. My reasoning is that any bridge-active potential CEO should know that the ACBL looking for a CEO.

I expect we'll get feedback from our CEO help wanted ads in the next few weeks. We had plenty of qualified candidates five years ago, so I anticipate plenty of candidates this year, given enough time. In fact, I'd prefer to not be in a rush because I would like our board to have substantive discussions about how the board could be more effective.

The board voted to allow the CEO search committee broad discretion in which candidate(s) they present and recommend to the full board. My vote was driven by my preference for much more consensus building, rather than politics on the board.

International Bridge

The ACBL will be reducing by \$50K per year the amount of money we spend to support the World Bridge Federation. We deferred a motion to formalize the \$50K reduction in our spending to allow some informal negotiations to pan out prior to the summer NABC.

I favor reducing these international expenditures,

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ers can be very proud of our record so far. I'm not completely sure, but have heard that no other District in ACBL has a program such as ours.

Recently, even though Peter is in his 80's, he has decided to take up marathon running and golf, and has told us that training time will be moving to top priority, not leaving enough time to devote to the Foundation. A long-time member of the committee, Barbara Nusbaum, has jumped at the chance to fill the vacuum.

As of this month, Barbara is formulating her strategy, collecting names, and preparing to contact all the Unit Presidents with her vision for the future. Those letters to all the Units are a doubly good idea because lately I'm getting the idea that a lot of players do not know or

have forgotten the procedure for making donations to our Scholarship Fund. We have received many calls this year asking about how to do it, so passing along that protocol to the Units is a good way to start spreading the word again. As I look at our website, we do not have the procedure even there, so we certainly deserve the questions! Glad to get them! Barbara will explain every aspect in full and try to make the process as painless and clear as possible.

In the way of a short summary for today, the way to initiate a donation is to write a clear letter to the D23 Treasurer, Joe Viola, explaining the amount you are contributing, for what purpose you are donating, and any instructions on how you want it used – for example, the memorial donations for a friend. Anything else, plus Joe's mailing address will

be included in Barbara's Unit info.

A new idea that I've asked Barbara and her committee to consider is to broaden the donation spectrum to include full scholarships. At present, that amount is \$3,200 to give a four-year stipend to one student. We wish it were higher and maybe that will be possible in the future. Right now, we can afford only \$800 per year to our students. These days, that doesn't go as far as it used to. Imagine a student's pride in knowing exactly who they owe their scholarship to, rather than bits and pieces from 100 different individuals/groups. We do have several very generous individuals in D23 who have contributed more than that four-year number in the past, but we did not have such specificity allowed in our process. We'll let the committee decide whether it's a good idea or not.

I will pass along one little trick that every player should keep in mind about donations. They are all fully tax deductible. The Scholarship Foundation is an accredited 501c3 organization thanks to Rand Pinsky's diligence. In other words, when a Unit contributes, it doesn't really have any tax consequences. They are non-profits. But when an individual contributes, that money comes right off your taxes in April. There's still a little time before April 15th to update that IRS paperwork!

To close on a separate note, we're still working on the game schedule for the Glendale Holiday tournament. Our normal 7-day event series has to be squeezed into 6-days. It takes a master juggler to make all the pieces fit. Can you imagine – we used to have 10 days for those Ambassador tournaments?

Happy Springtime. See you at the tables.

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The Perks of Pick-Up Teams

by Bob Kent

The next time you are hesitant to play in a bridge tournament with a pick up partner or pick up teammates, consider what we have accomplished at the Kansas City Nationals. Our pick up teams there won the 0-10K Knockouts and the Sunday Swiss!

But that's only part of our story. In fact, my wife Ellen Kent and I first met at the Palm Springs Regional in December 2006, when we were fixed up to play together on the team headed by Rhoda Walsh. At the time, Ellen was living in Chicago, whereas I resided locally and had since first joining the ACBL in 1961. We were married two months after that first meeting which was mere minutes before our first bridge game.

Although we were members of the winning team in the 0-10K Swiss at the November 2016 Orlando Nationals, and had two seconds and one third in other recent 0-10K National events, the day before the start of the 0-10K Knockout in Kansas City, we still did not have teammates. Then I ran into a former partner and teammate from the late 1970s, David Pelka. David, retired from bridge for almost 35 years and only recently returned to the game, was playing with Alan Daniels. Both are members of District 23.



Winners of the Kansas City 2017 Spring Nationals 0–10,000 Knockout Teams: Alan Daniels, Igor Milman, Viktor Anikovich, Ellen Kent, Bob Kent, David Pelka. Alan, Ellen, Bob, and David are all District 23 Members.

I asked David if he was playing in the Knockouts and David responded that he was playing on a team with Viktor Anikovich. Victor was a sometimes partner and a teammate of mine on the flight A GNT team for District 23 that won the National Championship in March 2012 and has had two other third place finishes in the GNT. We agreed to play together and our team put together at the last moment went on to win the 0-10K Knockout with five members of the team from District 23. See our happy accompanying picture.

Then, on the day before the national Swiss over the last weekend of the Nationals, we again found ourselves without teammates. A mutual friend told us of some players from New York who were looking for another pair. Another blind date was made.

This team assembled at the

last moment unfortunately failed to qualify for the second day of the national Swiss event, just missing out on qualifying. Although only a Regionally rated event, the final Sunday Swiss was loaded with world champions, internationalists and other players with numerous National championships - as tough a field as you will find in a Regional event. Paired with our “blind date” teammates, we again were victorious.

So the next time you are thinking about passing on an opportunity to play in a bridge event because you don't have a partner, take a chance as you might meet a new partner for the future, or teammates who can carry you to victory. While broadening your bridge horizons, you just might also make some wonderful new friends in the process.

What do you think?

Send letters to the editor to:

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

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but – as with so many other programs – I prefer to have a plan in place rather than ad hoc votes. Currently, for example, the ACBL votes on WBF representatives, but if other groups are paying our WBF dues, it's appropriate for these other groups to select WBF representatives. Yet, the deferred motion only deals with the \$50K reduction, not with who will be electing WBF representatives in North America.

Stop Card

The stop card is an issue more directly affecting bridge players. A motion proposed to eliminate the stop card – based on a unanimous recommendation of the Competitions and Conventions committee.

The board voted to defer the decision until the summer NABC. I voted against deferral because I think the board should support unanimous outside committee recommendations that are narrowly tailored.

I attended the Competitions and Conventions committee meeting in Orlando in November. That committee was well-run, and I was impressed that they made a conscious decision to narrow the scope of their stop card recommendation to the mandate given them by the board.

Attendance at the NABC appears to be slightly short of expectations, but not nearly as disappointing as the Orlando Fall NABC tablecount last year.

I'll have more to report next month. I can be reached at: kland23@gmail.com

2017 Grand National Teams D23 Qualifying Events

Flight B (0-2500 masterpoints) and The Open flight for the 2017 GNT qualifying will take place beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Long Beach Bridge Center on Saturday April 22 and continuing on Sunday April 23.

The winning team in each flight will be eligible to represent our district in this summer's NABC in Toronto. This is your chance to win a generous helping of Gold Points while staying near home.

The complete schedule and information can be found on the district website or by e-mailing Howard Einberg, (howardeinberg@yahoo.com).

The Flights A and C qualifying events were held last month. Results were:

Flight A

- 1) Ed Piken, Mark Leonard, Bob Kent, Paul Markarian
- 2) Howard Einberg, Randy Howard, Lance Kerr, Tom Reynolds

Flight C

- 1) Rae Yan, Wenjia Yan, Andrew Rottenbacher, Joerg Rottenbacher
- 2) Jeff Grotenhuis, Bruce Schelden, Zu Ming Cheng, Manzoor Ursani

Flight	Dates	MP Limits
Open	April 22-23	0-unlimited
B	April 22-23	0-2500

Important GNT Qualifying FAQs:

- Masterpoint limits are based on recorded points as of September 6, 2016
- Teams must have 4, 5, or 6 players
- Team flight is determined by player with the most points
- Game Times are 10:00 and 3:30
- Players can enter more than one event (on separate weekends)
- Winning teams 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)

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.

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- 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



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Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

February 26 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Subba Ravipudi, 2nd Xiaoxue Walker/Joseph Chaikin, 3rd Len Beck/Larry Bolls, 4th John and Jo Melis, 5th Kay Amdon/Cathy Bauer, 6th Steve Love/Alberto Feihaber. 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: Feb 16 through Mar 15: In the open game Feb 22 Marcie Evans/Debra Thorpe had 72.25%. Feb 25 John and Jo Melis had 70.83%. and in the unit game Feb 26 Subba Ravipudi/Om Chokriwala had 72.22%. Congratulations to all three pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards Feb 16 through Mar 15: In the unit game Feb 26 Joseph Chaikin/Xiaoxue Walker won 3.50mp for 1st in section 1 and Subba Ravipudi/Om Chokriwala won 3.50mp for 1st in section 2. Mar 13 John Petrie/George Thompson won 3.50mp for 1st. Mar 14 Peggy Waite/Colleen Gardner won 4.67 for 1st, Markus Evans/Steve Rose 3.50 for 2nd. Mar 15 Jackie Hess/Earl VanDerVord won 3.35mp for 1st. Congratulations to all six pairs!

New Club Members: Beth Byrnes, Sue Ernst, Rick Gonser, Nancy Smith, Robert Wherry. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Club Master: Mark Beizer. New Sectional Master: Stan Johnson, Louise Seifert. Congratulations to you all!

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

Upcoming Events at the Club

April 6: ICC Game. Extra points, regular prices.

April 17-22: Charity Week: Extra points, regular prices.

April 23: Unit Game. Card fees \$8. Dessert served during the game.

April 27: ACBL-Wide Charity Game. Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Game Feb 24—clubhouse #1: Sibyl Smith/Fred Reker 1 in A. Verna Burns /Gary Paugh 2 in A. Marlene McIlroy/Ted Cooper 3 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C . Emma Trepinski/Jack Dampman 4 in A, 2 in B. Sue Fardette/Marilyn McClintock 5 in A. Linda Renkus/Bill Brooks 6 in A, 3 in B. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Mark Singer 4 in B, 2 in C. Ellen Kice/Russell Gray 5 in B, 3 in C. Cookie Pham/Paul Chen 4 in C.

Unit Rated Game March 10--clubhouse #1: Melanie and Jerry Smith 1 in A, 1 in B. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 2 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Smith 3 in A. Marianne Klinger/Howard Smith 4 in A, 3 in B, 2 in C. Dorothy Favre/Simone Chottin 5 in A. Mark Singer/Larry Slutsky 6/7 in A. Colleen Gardner/Jane Reid 6/7 in A, 4 in B. Nancy Lichter/Bill Dewell 3 in C. Joy Rosenthal/Daniel Leb 4 in C.

Congrats to: Linda Nye and Betty Jackson for earning master points at the L A Regional.

Congrats to District 23— Top ten Ace of Clubs in each category: 500-1000 mps: Howard Smith 8th 50-100 mps: George Koehm 9th 20-50 mps: Ellen Kice 1st.

Congrats to: Louise Seifert and Stan Johnson - new Sectional Masters

Get Well: Get well wishes to Dick Stammer- →

john.

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



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, April 22, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, April 1, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

Our Unit game this month will be one week later than usual to avoid conflict with the Easter holiday. We will be honoring the Ace of Club and Mini-McKenny winners before the game. If you won your bracket (either award), you will have received word from your Membership Chairman by now. If you didn't win, you can see how close you came by logging in to the My-ACBL section of the League's web site.

In the March Unit game, Margie Hall - Ann Raymond outdistanced the field by more than two full boards. Bunched up behind – second place topped sixth place by less than one full board – were Vic Sartor – Bill Papa and Claudia Cochran - Hanan Mogharbel (tied for second), Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Roberts, Chuck Lohr - David Ochroch, and Clinton Lew - Patricia Radamaker. This was the last of our "club" Unit Games. In April we resume regular Unit games (paying more points), our mild protest against the fee hike no doubt being greeted with disdain in Horn Lake.

In the March Individual, Flight C players took the top two spots. Paul Chrisney was the winner, followed by Linda Tessier, Richard Patterson, Genise Hasan, and a three-way tie for fifth: Clint Lew, Lois Snowden, and Yours Truly.

The top score this month was 77.2%, posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter. Others topping the leader board were Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Genise Hasan, Richard Patterson, Hanan Mogharbel, Margie Hall, Linda Anan-aea, Claudia Cochran, and Gayle Ginsburg.

Just one promotion to report this month. David Ochroch is now an NABC Master.

We are now officially registered for The Longest

Day. It 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. If you wish to donate, you can do so most easily by visiting <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>. (You will wind up on Yours Truly's home page ... the Team Captain. No huhu, it all goes to the same place.)

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we revisit the "Better Lucky Than Good" school. North deals, no one is vulnerable. You are East, holding: ♠AJT74 ♥Q73 ♦6 ♣K654.

The auction is straightforward, if primitive. After three passes, West opens 1♦. North passes, East says 1♠, and that becomes the final contract. The opening lead is the ♣9, and partner faces the following dummy: ♠32 ♥AKT5 ♦J943 ♣AJ3.

It's not entirely clear why partner passed your 1♠ bid. Perhaps she was impressed with the hand's trump support, or has ESP and sensed the five decent spades opposite. It turns out that with average defense, you will make 1♠ with overtricks. But, you say, won't you be outscored by those pairs in the more normal 1NT contract?

Not a chance! Look at the full deal:

	♠ Q5
	♥ --
	♦ AQT872
	♣ QT872
♠ 32	♠ AJT74
♥ AKT5	♥ Q73
♦ J943	♦ 6
♣ AJ3	♣ K654
	♠ K986
	♥ J98642
	♦ K5
	♣ 9

That's right! Hearts are 6-0. Diamonds are 6-2, and Clubs are 5-1. If West makes the normal rebid of 1NT and plays it there, the opponents run off the first six tricks in Diamonds and then watch you have fun playing on the black suits. You can make 1NT, since North shows out when you lead to the ♥Q... if you do that before playing on either black suit. Not likely!

At the table, 1♠ made 4 (+170) due to friendly defense, while at the other tables, the scores ranged from 300 to 500 (both ways!). Just another so-so board... →

but nobody makes INT.

Quote for the Month: "Nothing is more fairly distributed than common sense: no one thinks he needs more of it than he already has." (Rene Descartes)

Until next month ...



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

This year's Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 22-23 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. For more information, contact tournament chair, Bill Brodek, at bbrodek@yahoo.com.

Unit Game Results Sunday, March 19

- 1 (N/S) Hansford Rowe & Paul Gill - 68.06%
- 2 (E/W) Kay Aiken & Charles Morrin - 62.5%
- 3 (N/S) Bill Brodek & Paula Olivares - 61.57%
- 4 (E/W) Rosalee McEntyre & Phoebe Evans - 57.87%
- 5 (E/W) Rand Pinsky & Kathy Swaine - 56.25%
- 6 (N/S) Roy Ladd & Bert Stock - 55.56%
- 7 (N/S) Mary Ellen Downs & Beth Morrin - 55.09%

Unit Game Results Thursday, March 23

- 1 Bill Brodek and Roy Ladd - 59.72%
- 2 Rand Pinsky and Kathy Swaine - 54.86%
- 3 Lamonte Johnson and Richard Stark - 53.47%
- 4 Roshen Hadulla and Hansford Rowe - 52.78% →

ACBL-wide Senior game Monday March 27

- 1 Robert Gish & Eddie Rose - 64.88%
- 2 George MacDonald & Hansford Rowe - 63.39%
- 3 Kathy Swaine & Rand Pinsky - 63.10 %
- 4/5 Bert Stock & Roy Ladd - 60.71%
- 4/5 Bernard Seal & John Vacca - 60.71%

Next Board Meeting: Sunday, July 16 after the STaC game at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale.

Upcoming Events

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

Western Conference STaC games: Monday, May 8 and Tuesday, May 9 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita; Friday, May 12 and Sunday, May 14 at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale.

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

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

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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.

Special Congratulations

Recent "New Life Master Achievements" by Unit 561 players were: Michael Camras (Life Master); Jerry Goodman (Bronze); Norman Bloomfield and Rhoda Weisler (Silver – 1,000); Dwight Hunt (Ruby – 1,500); Claude Le Feuvre and Joel Schiff (Gold – 2,500); and, Om Chokriwala (Sapphire – 3,500).

February Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ronald Malkin 10.82, Susan Raphael 10.00, Ray Primus 9.81, Gary Baxley 9.68, Dick Bratkovich 8.45, Gloria Feerst 8.13, Martin Hurwitz 7.92, Mark LaVine 7.57, Larry Kussin 7.31, and Vera Mandell 7.10. Claude Le Feuvre and Dwight Hunt scored a 71.59% game in February.

The 750 Club April and Future Events

Club Championship week will be held during the week of April 17 – April 21. Winning players will be able to earn extra black points for no extra fees during the day and evening sessions.

On Friday, June 9, the Annual "Carol Lang" Game will be held in honor of the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike, who started The 750 Club in 2006. Winners will receive an award certificate and their names will be engraved on the memorial plaque. Advance reservations will be required for this event.

"Longest Day" Games will be held on Wednesday,

June 21. The 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. games will both be Open, Stratified events. All proceeds, including card fees and additional contributions will be donated the "Alzheimer's Association."

Calendar

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

Monday, April 17 – Friday, April 21, Club Championship week at The 750 Club.

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

Tuesday, May 16, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations or partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Friday, June 9, the Annual "Carol Lang" Game will be held at The 750 Club.

Wednesday, June 21, "Longest Day" Games will be held at The 750 Club.



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: Wednesday, April 5, 11:30

Club Championship: Friday, April 7,, 6:30

Club Championship: Monday, April 10, 6:30

Club Swiss Team Championship: Tues, April 25, 7:00

Friday Night games on April 7 and 21

Club Championships

The February 21 Club Championship saw Arlene Greengard /Mike Savage on top in Flight A with Sandy Rathbun/Michael McGory taking Flights B and C honors, On February 27 the Club Championship was won by Jim Jensen/Booth Tarkington in Flights A and B with Jeanette Betts/Roberta Brown taking Flight →

C. On March 4 the Club Championship was led by Lucy Gellner/ Sharon Biederman in Flight A and Ernie Frank/Barbara Shortwell in Flight B.

Team Winners

February 21: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Broniek Felczer

February 28: Mark Leonard, John Jones, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

March 7: John Jones, Wayne Otsuki, Carol McCully, Ed Barad

March 21: Fran Israel, Stan Greengard, Jim Dutton, Broniek Felczer

Everything is up to date in Kansas City

Well a few of us TSB players had some success there in National events. Stan Greengard and Cal Waller had a very credible 15th place finish in the North American pairs Flight B. Ed Piken (playing with Steve Cohen) finished in the overalls in the Silver Ribbon pairs. Everything wasn't up to date for yours truly who suffered through a miserable tournament in National events. Maybe I have lost it.

GUV Award

Every now and then I can't resist bringing up my favorite all-time hand (even though I only got 2 matchpoints on it). I held ♠AKJTxxxxxx ♥-- ♦Qx ♣--. That's right, an 11-card spade suit. I had gotten to know a ranking expert at the time, the late Hal Kandler. I remembered him telling a lot of funny stories about making gross underbids and then to keep on bidding to where the opponents doubled him in a cold contract. So I decided to put this into practice on this hand.

My RHO opened 2♣. I overcalled a brave 2♠ followed by 3♦ on my left, 3♥ on my right, another brave call of 3♠ by me, 4♥ on my left, 4NT on my right, 5♠ by me, double on my left, all pass.

As the opening lead was being made I was patting myself on the back for the brilliance of my strategy when a very unexpected dummy came down. You may wonder where the opponents found the cards for all this bidding but dummy slammed down ♠Qx ♥xxx ♦Axxxx ♣KQx along with the comment how lucky I was to catch all these cards. I probably mumbled maybe not so lucky and with the ♣A onside made 7.

Most everybody else was in slam but I did receive 2 matchpoints. I can't remember the opponents exact distribution, but my RHO was obviously very distributional. At one table maybe both the RHO and player holding my hand had also taken lessons from Hal Kandler and both actually fooled around by passing. So I got one matchpoint when this was followed by two quick passes for a passout. At another table another matchpoint was garnered when Norm (GUV) Hogarth decided to defend the opponents heart slam and laid down a spade affording the opposition a ruff sluff and enabling them to make slam.

Thank you Hal.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

The Kansas City Kings

I've said it before and I'll say it again. When you win a national event, you lead the next month's column. A team consisting largely of members of our Unit came, saw, and conquered in the national 0-10,000 Knockout Teams event at the Spring Nationals in Kansas City. The winning team included Viktor Anikovich, Bob and Ellen Kent, David Pelka, and Alan Daniels. Many of the team members had won previous national titles. Be sure to congratulate them when you see them.

Ellen and Bob Kent backed up their performance by winning the final Sunday A/X/Y Swiss teams event, while your Humble Scribe managed a win in the Monday Compact Knockout Teams event. That's it for this month on the tournament trail.

However, last month's column had an omission. In the Sunday STAC, I omitted a winner from our Unit. Congratulations to Teri Benaron on her victory, and my apologies for the omission.

What Would You Bid?

All red at IMPs in second seat, with a pass to you, you hold this collection: ♠J954 ♥Q10862 ♦A865 ♣--.

→

You pass, of course, and then the auction gets interesting. Lefty opens 1♣, announced as “could be short,” and partner bids 2NT. RHO, a passed hand, bids 3♠. What would you like to do? I’ll tell you the rest of the story next month.

Spring Has Sprung

It’s springtime, and with it comes the Unit’s annual Spring Sectional, to be held at Barrington on May 5 and 6. I hope you’re making your plans to play. If you don’t feel like waiting that long for higher-stakes bridge, April 22 and 23 bring us our second set of District Finals for the annual Grand National Teams competition, with the national finals to be held at the Summer Nationals in Toronto. At stake in Long Beach will be the opportunity to represent our District in Flight B (0-2500 points) and the Championship Flight (0-unlimited). Good luck to all entrants.

Welcome Mat

I missed last month’s new members, so this month’s column brings us a double dose of fresh blood. Joining the ACBL through our Unit in January were Wendy Adams, Edward Benda, Gillian Cooper, Susan Hull, Linda Lessing, Steven Novak, Anne Rimer, and June Siegel. Even newer members are Iris Antola, Jane Donahue, Dina Gonen, and Timothy Pennington. Transferring into our Unit over the last two months were Norma Gross, Harriet Miller, Florence Siegel, Martha Weaver, Robert Williams, Margaret Bassett, Colin Josepah Clark, Judy Light, Daniel Rothwell, and Walter Schulte. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Hitting the 70% mark at Barrington last month

were Rob Perlsweig and Peter Knee, Wayne Karson and Art Zail (twice), and Sally Karbelnig and Danny Kleinman. Reaching 70% at Beverly Hills were Alan Chapman and Susanne Menck, Alan Wollman and Jacob Libman, and Yi Ouyang and David Chen. Neither club scheduled a club championship last month.

The Marina City Club has resumed its regular Tuesday evening schedule. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information, or watch this space for an update.

Climbing the Ladder

Reaching Junior Master in January were Patricia Brown, Lindsay Gronich, Charles Guinn, Nabil Nahman, Victor Palmieri, Julie Rosen, and Howard Rosin. Hitting Club Master were Ronald Bloom, William Osterman, and Joseph Sessa. Teri Benaron became a Sectional Master, and Brenda Rosin reached Regional Master status. Judy Freeman became an NABC Master, while Leslie Brucker joined the ranks of Advanced NABC Masters.

Michael Camras became a Life Master. Peggy Levin earned her Silver Life Master card, while Norman Cressy and D. Geffner became Ruby Life Masters.

Moving on to last month’s promotions, Wendy Adams and Jill Smith are our Unit’s newest Junior Masters. Nancy Hamada, Patricia Jaeger, and Helen and John Romm became Club Masters, and Sharon Fadem reached Sectional Master. Becoming Regional Masters are Tony Mirchandani and S.T. Peterson, while Cheri Bitar, Marsha Bocan, Saul Priefer, and Jill Thesman have become NABC Masters.

Reaching Bronze Life Master status were Jerry Goodman and Jeanne Tamaki. Paul Ryan has become a Gold Life Master. Ifti Baqai and Steve Onderwyzer are now Emerald Life Masters. Got news? Send it to me at 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 Teams10:30 am & TBA
Bracketed Swiss Flight B/C/D10:30 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: Wakik Abdou, Gerry Bare, Ross Grabel, Eddie Kantar, and Jon Wittes

This column is dedicated to my friend and occasional teammate, Teri Atkinson. Teri lived in Bakersfield until her death earlier this year. She was one of my favorite people in the bridge world. She was extremely kind and pleasant, and taught an enormous amount of people to play bridge. Teri organized many bridge tournaments, mostly for D22. She was great at taking care of the little things that make tournaments successful. She frequently partnered with Jan Wickersham. I remember them at a Ventura Regional with their Tweedledee and Tweedledum Halloween costumes. The problems from this month were taken from the 2012 Bakersfield Sectional. Teri and Jan were my teammates, and I was played with Doug Blagdon (who helped me collect these problems). We were teammates again last year and they helped me get over 10,000 masterpoints. We'll need a new fourth when we play the Bakersfield Sectional later this month, but Teri will be our non-playing captain.

1

MPs
NS vul

South

West

North

East

?

4♠*

* The opponents have a stronger 4♠ bid available.

You, South, hold: ♠72 ♥4 ♦KQT ♣AJ98742

What call do you make?

This is the 6th board of a 7-board match and you are up between 20 and 25 IMPs.

Bare: Pass. I may go for a number and if partner has a good hand we will get too high.

Wittes: Pass. To me this is a no brainer considering the state of the match and the vulnerability. If we were behind by that margin, I might venture a 5♣ bid.

Grabel: Pass. The color is wrong, I have too many spades, and not nearly enough hand!

Kantar: Pass with a capital P. I have too many losers to jeopardize our lead.

Convinced yet? No expert would consider bidding with these conditions! Right? Wrong! Read this counter!

Abdou: 5♣. What would the person in my seat at the other table do, thinking he is behind?

Don't ever let someone tell you bridge is easy or for the timid. Four experts want no part of acting here, but the ever creative Wafik bids confidently.

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.

2

IMPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
Dbl	2♥	1♦	1♥
4♠	5♣	2♠	Pass
?		Pass	Pass

You, South, hold: ♠Q853 ♥7 ♦AQ9742 ♣87

What call do you make?

Grabel: 5♠. Partner is almost certainly 4-4-4-1 and if he had anything in hearts, or 4-4-3-2, he would double to warn against bidding 5♠

Kantar: 5♦. If a bid stands out like a store thumb, make it!

Bare: 5♦. If partner can't double I can't either.

Abdou: 5♦. This looks like cheap insurance on a two-suited fit hand. Partner didn't double, so hopefully he has a pure hand with the pointed suits.

Wittes: 5♦. There's a good chance partner has a stiff

club since the 1♥ overcaller passed 5♣, and partner didn't double, in a situation where pass is forcing.

Jon hit on a very important point. Pass is forcing! There shouldn't be much of an argument at these colors. 5♦ bidders have to be prepared for the opponents to save again in 5♥. I think it is helpful for partner to know that we have a diamond fit. I bid 5♦ at the table. It went 5♥ to my left and my partner made a good 5♠ bid holding ♠AKTx. Trumps broke 4-1 with four on my left, but careful play brought us home. 5♥ at the other table got doubled but only went down two for an 8 IMP pickup.

3

IMPs
NS vul

West	North	East	South
3♦	Pass	5♦	?

You, South, hold:

♠AK974 ♥AKT976 ♦K ♣4

What call do you make?

Wittes: Double. Partner rates to have a fit for at least one of my majors, but for 6♦ to be right, partner probably also needs the queen of spades. If partner bids 6♣, I'll bid 6♥.

I think partner will bid 6♣ too often to make double the long run winner.

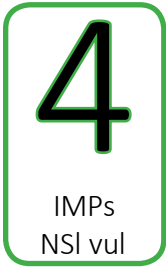
Grabel: 5♥. It's not quite good enough to commit to slam in hope of insuring best strain. I hope that partner can bid again when right.

Kantar: 5♥. I'm a 5♥ bidder. I can see too many things going astray if I bid anything else.

Abdou: 6♦. Maybe a bit too high but at least I will find the correct strain. 5♥ could be wrong if we have spades, and double with this shape could create a disaster.

Bare: 6♦. Partner might pass a double and opponents don't know I'm not void in a minor.

It's a great point that the 6♦ bidders leave the opponents with the last guess. They don't know you aren't void in a minor. Double also may make the opponents guess last.



South	West	North	East
		1NT (15-17)	Pass
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass
3♣	Pass	3NT	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠KJ97 ♥K7 ♦A ♣KJT972
 What call do you make?

Wittes: 4♣. Although I have a strong hand, I'm not going to insist on a slam unless partner cooperates.

Kantar: 4NT. Too much to pass and I'm definitely influenced by those spot cards in clubs.

Abdou: 4♣. This is definitely worth a slam try, will pass 4NT but push on if partner cue bids.

Evaluation doesn't appear to be a problem here. All panelists are making one more slam try, but not forcing to slam. However, there are three different bids here. It's unclear which of the three is best in the long run. However, any of the invitational calls will get you to 6♣ making on the actual hand.

Bare: 4♦. I plan to play 5♣ or 6♣.

Grabel: 4NT. Worth one more try.

LOMITA OPEN SECTIONAL (UNIT #568)

MAY 27TH, 28TH, & 29TH 2017 SANCTION NO. S1705165

WE WILL HAVE TWO LOCATIONS FOR OUR GAMES

**Saturday, May 27: At the South Bay Bridge Club
 24100 Narbonne, Lomita, CA**

**Sunday and Monday, May 28 & 29: At the Tom Rico Center in Lomita Park
 24424 Eshelman Ave. Lomita, CA
 On Eshelman Ave. just north of Lomita Blvd.**

<p>SATURDAY, MAY 27TH 12:00 PM -Stratified Open Pairs Single Session</p> <p>-Stratified NLM Pairs Single Session</p>	<p>SUNDAY, MAY 28TH 10:00 AM -Stratified Open Pairs Single Session</p> <p>-Stratified Junior Pairs Single Session</p> <p>3:00 PM -Stratified Open Pairs Single Session</p> <p>-Stratified Junior Pairs Single Session</p>	<p>MONDAY, MAY 29TH 10:00 AM -Swiss Teams 1st of 2 Sessions</p> <p>-Junior Swiss 1st of 2 Sessions</p> <p>TBA Approximately 45 min. after end of 1st session</p> <p>-Swiss Teams 2nd of 2 Sessions</p> <p>-Junior Swiss 2nd of 2 Sessions</p> <p>Food will be available for purchase at registration</p>	<p>Tournament Director: Peter Knee</p> <p>Tournament Manager: Ernie Frank erniefrank@cox.net</p> <p>Partnership Chair: Gabby Jackson 424-263-4639</p> <p>Card Fees: ACBL Members - \$14 per session Non-members - \$17 per session</p> <p>Stratifications: May 27: 0-1000/1000-3000/3000+ NLM Pairs: 0-50/50-200/200-300 (No player over 300 points) May 28: 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+ Junior Pairs: 0-50/50-300/300-500 (No player over 500 points) May 29: Stratification by team average Open: 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+ Junior Swiss: 0-50/50-300/300-500 (No team member over 500 points)</p>
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5

IMPs
NS vul

S	W	N	E
?	4♠*	Pass	Pass

* = The opponents
do not have a stronger 4♠ bid.

You, South, hold:
♠2 ♥AK72 ♦9742 ♣KQ53
What call do you make?

This one is really close.

Grabel: Double and hope I'm feeling lucky.

Wittes: Double. Pass is a strong second. With this distribution, I feel I have to take action. If partner bids, I'm extremely worried about diamonds unless partner has a very strong holding in that suit, since the diamonds rate to be poorly placed. What swings me toward a double is the possibility that partner has a weakish hand with secondary spade values.

Kantar: Double. I'm not sure I can live with myself if I pass.

Bare: Double. It's a coin toss between double and pass.

Abdou: Pass. I HATE this! Anything could be right, I certainly have the shape for double, though slightly underpowered and partner may pass with balanced weakness when we can't beat it. Reluctant pass!

Wait! The creative Wafik Abdou is the only passer? I doubled at the table, but was wrong. Partner bid 5♦ and struggled to hold it to down one, while 4♠ would have failed by a trick.

Next Month's Problems
What call do you make?

1. MPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
?	1♠	2♣	2♣

You, South, hold:
♠T6 ♥K965 ♦A3 ♣T9854

2. IMPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
2♥ ?	3♦	1♠ 4♦	Pass 5♦

You, South, hold:
♠32 ♥AK7654 ♦AK4 ♣54

3. IMPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
?	4♠	Pass	Pass

You, South, hold:
♠-- ♥QT3 ♦J95 ♣AJ97654

4. MPs, no vul

S	W	N	E
1♣ ?	1♥	Dbl	Pass

You, South, hold:
♠K74 ♥AK74 ♦7 ♣KQJ74

5. MPs, no vul

S	W	N	E
?	Pass	Pass	3♥

You, South, hold:
♠J973 ♥AK ♦7 ♣AQ8765

What do you think?
Send letters to the editor to:
bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org

D23 Rank Changes February 2017

Junior Master

Marilouise Bowker, Ardis Laine
Jennifer Lerner, Marci Valner

Club Master

Jeanette Avery, Glen Drogin
Harriet Finebaum, Anne Kaplan
Terry Kinigstein, Ellen Levitt
Sirje Puhvel, Susan Strassner
Jane Zamanzaden

Sectional Master

Dabija Corneliu, Gayle Dennis
Paul Goddard, Marcia Hoffman
Carol Katzman, Russell Lefevre
Susan Miller, Selma Minerd
Bonnie Okamoto, Marilyn Rohlin, Carnell Wingfield

Regional Master

Sue Gocke, Tajie Major
Stephen Rosen, Janice Scholler
Aramis Simion, Mary Williams

NABC Master

Lisa Caras, Judy Anne Keaney

Adv NABC Master

Hsuehching Chang

Life Master

Suzanne Borenstein, Marianne David
Brenda Schonfeld, Debra Stern
Manzoor Ursani, Katherine Weisberg

Bronze Life Master

Michael Abeles, Richard Buhl
Marianne David, Brenda Schonfeld, Sharry Vida

Silver Life Master

Tracy Boys, Brian Rose

Sapphire Life Master

Mario Mory

Diamond Life Master

Viktor Anikovich, Raymond Mack