

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Folks – 2% Explained

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



Last week I talked to an old friend who has been one of our Unit's most tireless workers over the last 45 years. There are a thousand different topics to talk about concerning our game, but what came up was a question about the size of our District. I mentioned that it peaked

in 1968 with about 9,700 members, then steadily declined to the 3,500 range by about 2005 and has remained there for the last 10 years. We can't seem to make that membership count rise and it may even again be decreasing.

My friend asked if there was anything she could do about that. Well, there's a question that anyone, including me, has a 100 different suggestions for. I'm sure I can't keep my ideas to one column. There should be staff studies, blue-ribbon panels, and high-paid consultants working on that one. Books should be written and they should be required reading for all players.

Then, earlier this week, I ran into an old friend whom I had not seen in 40 years. Lots of catch-up and glasses of wine later, we hit on retired activities and I hit a gold mine. He golfs a few times a week and plays bridge a few times a week.

Now there's a friend. Too bad he lives up in the SF area. Upon closer exam, I learned that it was not duplicate bridge, but just games with friends. I, of course, launched into stories about the advantages of duplicate and the new places and new friends that come from tournaments around the US. Then the bomb hit – as it has many times before. "Oh, I don't go out to those kinds of games because those people are too serious. Play the wrong card once and they pounce on you with loud cries for the director, etc." How deflating was that?

But there is the start of a solution. Don't all of us know friends like that? They love bridge and may actu-

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Upcoming D23 Elections

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun

Are you interested in contributing to the district? If you want to run for an officer position, please contact either me or District President

Mike Marcucci.

District officer elections occur this July. I chair the nominations committee. The District 23 President traditionally serves two terms. Mike is finishing his first term, so this election is akin to a "mid-term" election. But the district always needs volunteers, so if you would like to contribute please contact me or Mike and we can discuss the best way for you to advance bridge in Los Angeles County.

Kansas City Board Meeting

This month I continue to report on the Kansas City board meeting.

CEO search: Last month I reported that the board had approved \$100K for the CEO search committee to spend on a headhunter to find a CEO, if necessary. This month, I'm pleased to report, the search committee has determined that they will not need to hire a \$100K headhunter because a sufficient pool of qualified candidates has expressed interest in the CEO position.

More cost cutting efforts: More cost-cutting was discussed in Kansas City. At this point, I fear our board has gone way overboard in addressing a lower priority

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issue.

Our board has cut administrative expenses dramatically already, but the Board of Governors requested we re-visit holding yearly meetings in Memphis instead of at the fall NABC. The Board of Governors expressed that annually visiting headquarters might be useful. This reasoning was confounded by the fact that we have an NABC in Memphis in the not too distant future and many of us had just come from visiting headquarters for orientation. But perhaps more importantly, the supposed savings from the location of the fall board meeting is just not there.

I advocated strongly for the idea that spending an hour of the full board's time to try to save \$15K is itself the waste of money when the board faces serious problems such as the recent CEO resignation, efforts to make the board more efficient, and multiple six-figure budget issues.

Fallout from dues increase: The board voted to increase the membership dues structure in Kansas City. I request feedback on one particular element of that vote. The increase was implemented mid-year before the new forms could be easily distributed to clubs. I've heard some reports of problems from clubs not having the right forms. If you have encountered problems with enrolling new members, please email me with the details.

I can be reached at: klanded23@gmail.com

2017 GNT D23 Qualifiers

by Howard Einberg

Four teams won the right to represent District 23 at the national finals this July in Toronto. The results are listed below. Several players won more than one event and will need to choose which to compete in. Players can be added to winning teams according to published rules as long as at least three of the winning team players remain on the final roster.

Winners are listed below.

Open Flight

1. Ed Piken, Ron Feldman, Viktor Anikovich, Rama Linz, Ellen Kent, and Bob Kent
2. Howard Einberg, Randy Howard, Lance Kerr, and Tom Reynolds

Flight A

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

Flight B

1. Alex Chen, Tompson Jin, Chi-Chong Yu, Frank Shih, and Liang Fan
2. Rae Yan, Wenjia Yan, Andrew Rottenbacher, and Joerg Rottenbacher

Flight C

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

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier
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ally play a lot, but their experiences when they venture out to clubs or tournaments are disappointing. Their viewpoint: Folks don't smile. Folks don't joke around. They don't talk. They rush you. They are not polite. Some are downright nasty. The director may rule unfavorably. They find out rules that they never knew about before! On and on and on!!

It still seems to be "unfavorable game or tournament experiences" that turn folks away from regular attendance or even ACBL membership. We have loads of bridge players around the US that are content to play at home because they have ventured afar and have been pounded into the sand by some unforgettable incident or some thoughtless opponent lighting into some innocent action that the newbie did not even know was not allowed. We have all witnessed such incidents at nearby tables and quietly hoped that the director is quelling the issue peacefully and amiably to all parties. Too bad they cannot always do that.

It is undeniable that most of us

have discussed treatment of new players with our friends and have all concluded that being nice to them (and everybody else) makes our game more attractive and enjoyable for all. If you can recall such conclusions, you are probably part of the 98% of players who not only think that way but also act that way. Congratulations.

But continually running into home players who were **more** impressed by their bad experiences than the good, makes me wonder whether too smiley a picture was painted for them and they were shocked by the "incident" – so much so that their conclusion was not to return. And thus our numbers dwindle rather than climb. I describe not all of the problem, but it is a part.

So I wonder if taking the shock value out of a new player's experience needs some work. My point here is that, when talking to new players, I have always concentrated on the 98% of players who are friendly and wonderful to play with when describing their competition. Talking up the positive without warning them about the negative may have a much bigger impact on

their experience than I have thought. Maybe getting them prepared to encounter the 2% so they will not be taken aback quite so much is more proper.

I am going to try changing my approach from now on in talking to new players. I am not going to concentrate quite so much on how nice a time they are going to have in the "bigger" arena. I am going to encourage them as much as possible to join us for duplicate games, but positively point out that we cannot seem to get rid of that last 2% of angry and unthinking players who are only concerned about themselves and could care less about that new player across the table who is dumbfounded at their thoughtless action during the game. The correction in a nasty or impatient tone. The director call without even trying to nicely point out what just happened.

Maybe preparing the new player for real life by not ignoring the negative issues we still deal with (even after 80 years of trying to eliminate them) will allow them to enjoy all duplicate has to offer and psychologically withstand that possibly negative incident they may encounter. Attitude is everything.

Even if only one issue out of hundreds that may encourage more players to engage in our favorite game, painting the whole picture for them falls into the full disclosure arena. We'll let you know if the approach works. It may take some time.

Happy Springtime. See you at the tables.

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JULY 3-9, 2017

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 Pairs (single session)..... 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

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

Yearly awards were presented at the April Unit Game for categories including Life Masters of various types, Ace of Clubs, and Mini-McKenney. Congratulations to all recipients! Please see the accompanying picture from the banquet of our New Life Masters for 2017. Pictured left to right are: Dalia Hernandez, Marty Lipman, Colleen Gardner, Bernie Hadel, John Berg, and Usha Bansal.

March 26 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Marcie Evans/Mary Kiechle, 2nd John and Jo Melis, 3rd Janet Logan/Nancy Schwantes, 4th Rob Preece/Usha Bansal, 5th Earl VanDerVord/Jon Yinger, 6/7: Kim Wang/Louis Shen tied with Gerri Carlson/Steve Mager. In the B flight overalls: 2nd Hank and Fern Dunbar, 3rd Judith Jones/Wayne Rapp, 4th Betty Witteried/Christine Frumen, 5/6 Hashim Mahmood/Peggy Waite tied with Dalia Hernandez/Robert Bakovich. In the 199er section overalls Julie Deluccio/Jenn Ernest were 1st, Mark Singer/Paul Chen were 2nd, Bill Cray/Sandra Schlosser were 3rd. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: Mar 16 through Apr 15: In the open game Mar 21 John Petrie/Mariko Kakimoto had 71.96%. Apr 8 Greg Tapia/Les Rawitt had 70%. And Apr 15 John Melis/Colleen Gardner had 72%. Congratulations to all three pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards: Mar 16 through Apr 15: Mar 16 Diane Starbuck/Trudi Lamandola won 3.21mp for 1st. Mar 17 Jackie Hess/Steve Skinner won 3.94mp for 1st. Mar 18 Michael Savage/Steve Sturm won 3.06mp for 1st. In the unit game Mar 26 Marcie Evans/



Mary Kiechle won 3.50 mp for 1st. Congratulations to all three pairs!

New Club Members: George Norman and Laura White. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Master: Ardis Laine. New Bronze Life Master: Richard Buhl. Congratulations to you both!

Get Well Wishes to Verna Baccus, Earl VanDerVord, Mary Thomas, Debra Skinner and Eileen Nelson.

Upcoming Events at the Club

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

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

May 8-14: GW STaC. Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

May 21-27: Grass Roots FUND week. Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

May 28: Unit Game. Card fees \$8. Dessert served during the game.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Game. March 20 - clubhouse #3: Bill Linskey/Larry Slutsky 1 in A. Bettyanne Houts/Melanie Smith 2 in A, 1 in B. Jeanette Estill/ →

Marilyn McClintock 3 in A. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Russell Gray 4 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Sue Fardette/Joan Tschirki 5 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Harshad Vora 6 in A, 3 in B. Monicva Gettis/Peggi Spring 4 in B. Sue McHale/Paul Chen 5 in B, 2 in C. Fred Reker/Mark Singer 3 in C. Claudette Barrack/Ylia Ross 4 in C.

Congratulations: Linda Nye made Life Master while playing at the 2017 Spring NABC in Kansas City, Mo in the President's Cup North American Pairs Flight C. Linda and her partner Alan Olschwang represented District 23 at the North American Pairs. The pair finished 16th in the event earning 7.62 master points. Linda was featured in the Tues. March 14 edition of the Spring NABC'S Daily Bulletin.

70% Game: Marilyn McClintock and Gary Paugh had a 72.92% game on Thurs 4/6 at Clubhouse #3.

Culbertson's Hand, the Mississippi Heart Hand, the deal from the Bennet Murder case, and a hand from Victor Mollo's (actually published by Phillip and Robert King) "The Hog in the 21st Century." The hand was played by Walter the Walrus in INT ... when 7♥ is cold as the cards lie! If you don't know the three "real" deals, hit Google immediately if not sooner. And the book is worth reading, also.

The May Individual will be a FunD game. If that means nothing to you ...well, think "extra master points." No extra entry fee! A portion of the take goes to support the District's North American Pairs and Grand National Teams entrants.

The top score this month was 70.63%, posted by Fredy and Lulu Minter. That just edged out Linda Stuart and Hanan Mogharbel at 70.13%. Others topping the leader board were Vic Sartor, Bill Papa, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Richard Patterson, Walt Otto, Pat Radamaker, Karen Olin, and Mary Miller.

Not a single promotion to report this month. First time in a long time for that!

Don't forget about The Longest Day, coming up next month. If you wish to donate, you can do so most easily by visiting <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>.

Our Hand-of-the-Month this time is a double feature, entitled "Falling in Love with Your Hand." One is a "please do," the other is a "please don't." Here we go: Sitting East, vulnerable against not, you deal and find yourself looking at: ♠A7 ♥AKQJ8642 ♦-- ♣J82.

Decisions, decisions! It's a bit heavy for 4♥, and perhaps a bit thin for 2♣. As it turns out, if you open 1♥ the opponents will enter the auction via Michaels and find their 5♣ contract, making unless you get an unlikely diamond lead. So for laughs let's open 2♣. The auction will continue thus:

East	South	West	North
2♣	Pass	2♦*	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT/3♣*	Pass
?			

* Waiting

** Bust hand – no trump support, no Ace, King, →



Pomona Covina
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, May 20, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, May 6, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

Our Unit Game this month falls after the submission deadline for this article. Sorry about that. Look for two sets of results next time.

In the April Individual, Al Lax again outdistance the field. Hmmm, getting to be a regular occupant there. Handicaps, anyone? (Actually, ACBLScore won't let you run an Individual as a handicap event. Of course there are ways to adjust the score ... heh heh heh.) The event was closely contested: Roger Boyar and Linda Tessier tied for second, with Clint Lew and Margie Hall tying for fourth.

Given the date on which the April game was held... the Director decided to have some fun. Contestants were presented with four... interesting!... hands: the Duke of

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void, or singleton

Yuck. You have nine tricks in hand – and that’s what you’re going to wind up with, since partner seems trickless. Don’t fall in love with this hand – sign off in 3♥ and take your plus score! It will be a top.

Now for the second half of our double feature. Sitting South, as dealer, at favorable vulnerability, you pick up: ♠AJT97 ♥-- ♦A7 ♣QJ9872. It looks like a normal 1♠ opening, and that’s what you do. LHO overcalls 2♥, partner raises to 2♣, and RHO jumps to 4♥. And you?

It’s pretty clear the opponents have a massive heart fit, and partner doesn’t rate to have more than one defensive trick for your side. 4♠ it is. Pass, pass, 5♥, and ... ? Now it’s time to fall in love with your hand. It’s even less likely that partner has wasted values in hearts, so go 5♠. Even if it’s off 3 somehow, you show a profit, assuming 5♥ makes. (It does, unless the opponents cash the ♠A at trick 1.)

Your birthday comes early when partner puts down ♠Q863 ♥A93 ♦QT6 ♣643.

So far so good, but it gets better! The opening lead is the ♣A, followed by a low diamond. You guess to stick in the ♦10, and RHO contributes the ♦K! No diamond losers. You lead your ♦7 to dummy and run the ♠Q... which holds! Clubs divide 1-3 (needless to say the ace was stiff) and so 11 tricks roll home on a paltry 20 HCP. If you had misguessed the diamonds, your loser would go on the ♥A.

Quote for the Month: “Economy is a way of spending money without getting any pleasure out of it.” (Armand Salacrou)

Until next month...



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

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

D23 March 27 ACBL-wide Senior Pairs Results

- 1 Robert Gish & Eddie Rose - 64.88%, 10 MPs
- 2 George MacDonald & Hansford Rowe - 63.39%, 7 MPs
3. Rand Pinsky & Kathy Swaine - 63.10%, 5 MPs
- 4/5 Roy Ladd & Albert Stock - 60.71%, 2.75 MPs
- 4/5 Bernard Seal & John Vacca - 60.71%, 2.75 MPs

Upcoming Events

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

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 at 12:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. in Palmdale. Signup with Paula (paula@pacbell.net) or Beth (morrin@sbcglobal.net) →

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San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

Special Congratulations

Recognition of Unit 561 players as 2016 National Winners in the ACBL Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs contests are: Raymond Primus – Ace of Clubs (#12, 125 MPs) in the 100 – 200 category; Dwight Hunt – Mini-McKenney (#11, 441 MPs) in the 1,000 – 1,500 category; and, Om Chokriwala – Mini-McKenney (#14, 585 MPs) in the 2,500 – 3,500 category.

March Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ray Primus 23.47, Susan Raphael 21.74, Vera Mandell 12.86, Jim Gardner 11.13, Gary Baxley 10.77, John Tickner 10.56, Carol Bell 9.65, Phil Berk 9.13, Jerry Goodman 8.50, and Larry Kussin 8.27. The following achieved 70% games in March: Elaine Moore – Tom Shudic 70.53% and Ron Stewart – Mike Wiener 70.14%.

“Longest Day” Games

“Longest Day” Games supported cooperatively by Unit 561 and The 750 Club will be held at The 750 Club on Wednesday, June 21. These games will be at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., and both games will be Open, Stratified Games. Card fees will be \$10/person/game. All of the proceeds including card fees and directors’ fees will be donated to Alzheimer’s research. Additional donations will be appreciated and accepted in the form of cash or checks made payable to the “Alzheimer’s Association.”

May 16: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, May 16. 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 Kl-emens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Annual “Carol Lang” Game

On Friday, June 9, the Annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held at The 750 Club in honor of the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike, who started the club in 2006. Names of the winners will be engraved on the memorial plaque and certificates will be awarded. Game time is 11 a.m. and a catered Italian lunch will be provided at about 12noon. Reservations are required for this event. Please contact Terry Morton at thmorton@att.net (818) 815-8826.

May Events at The 750 Club

The 750 Club will be participating in the Great Western STaC games during the week of May 8 – 12. All card fees will be \$10/person/game. On Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day), there will be a day game as usual, but there will be no night game.

Calendar

Monday – Friday, May 8 – 12, Great Western STaC Games held at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, May 16, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Monday, May 29, Day game only at The 750 Club. Closed for night game.

Friday, June 9, Annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Wednesday, June 21, “Longest Day” Games will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Wednesday, July 12, Unit 561 Board Meeting at The 750 Club at 2:45 p.m.

Saturday, August 5, Unit 561 “Sizzling Summer” Luncheon and Game held at The 750 Club. Lunch will be at 12noon and an Open, Stratified Game at 1 p.m. **Please save the date!** →





Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568

SBBC: www.southbaybridgeclub.com

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

NLM Club Championship: Thursday, May 4, 10:30
 Club Championship: Tuesday, May 9, 11:30 a.m.
 Club Championship: Wednesday, May 17, 6:30 p.m.
 Club Championship: Monday, May 22, 11:30 a.m.
 Friday Night games on May 5 and 19

Torrance South Bay Unit Sectional

The annual Torrance South Bay Unit Sectional will once again take place on Memorial Day Weekend May 27-29. Saturday there will be a one session pair event at the South Bay Bridge Club, 24100 Narbonne in Lomita starting at noon. The Sunday and Monday events are at the Tom Rico Center, 24424 Eshelman in Lomita a few blocks from the South Bay Club. Sunday there will be Open Pair and Junior Pair events starting at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. On Monday, Memorial Day, there will be Swiss and Junior Swiss events starting at 10 a.m. Food will be available for purchase at registration.

Club Championships

The March 24 Club Championship was won by Cal Waller/Betsy Amador in Flight A and Judith Tomic/Norm Imberman in Flight B. On April 5 Gaye Herrington/Jeff Strutzel led Flight A with Beverly Narahara/Carole King ahead in Flight B. The April 7 Club

Championship was captured by Arlene and Stanley Greengard in Flight A with Georgeann Dorn/Joan Johnson on top in Flight B. On April 10 the Flight A leaders were Laura Gastelum/Ray Mack with a tie for Flight B honors between Arlene Greengard/Ernie Frank and Stan Greengard/Mark Raggio.

Team Winners

March 28: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronck Felczer

April 4: Carole Mason, Beverly Narahara, Ernie Frank, Mike Savage

April 18: Gabriela Jackson, Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Mike Savage

GUV Award

Last month I brought up what I thought was an all-time crazy hand. There is a hand from the recent San Diego Regional that may have topped it.

It occurred in a Swiss match and I held a rather dull holding of: ♠xxx ♥A8xx ♦Jxxx ♣xx. My pard Mike Savage opened 1♦ and RHO Doubled. I thought about just raising diamonds to some level figuring it unlikely on the auction that we had a heart fit. However I did bid 1♥ and boy was I wrong about the heart fit. LHO cue bid 2♦ and Mike leaped to 6♥ which RHO doubled after some thought. The ♠K was led and Mike presented me with ♠-- ♥QT9xxx ♦AKxxxxx ♣--. RHO had all the missing hearts and it was easy enough to play him for them and make the slam. LHO should have listened to his pards Lightner Double and led a diamond for the ruff and a 1-trick set. The opponents are cold for a Grand Slam in either black suit so even down 1 should have been a good result except..... Our teammates doubled 5♥ making with an overtrick.

Na Zdrowie

→





West LA by Robert Shore

Television Review

Thanks to some on-line friends for calling this to my attention. Have you been watching the anthology series Fargo on the FX cable network? Neither was I, until I was told that a bridge tournament prominently featured in the action. I caught up with the episode on line, and sure enough, we spent significant screen time at a regional. Moreover, the first two episodes are called “The Law of Vacant Spaces” and “The Principle of Restricted Choice.” Even without the bridge connections, the show was to my taste, but with them, it becomes Must See TV for your Humble Scribe.

By the Shores of Lake Erie

This year’s summer Nationals will be held in Toronto, and by the time this column sees print, the District will have selected its teams for all four flights. Last month, the Flight A (0-6,000) champions were selected and the winning team included Unit member Bob Kent. Bob has won the national Flight A title in the past and we hope he can repeat the feat this year.

Elsewhere on the tournament trail, Ifti Baqai won the Tuesday-Wednesday evening Swiss team event at the San Diego Regional. At the same tournament, Stuart Hemple doubled up, winning his bracket of the Thursday Bracketed Swiss Teams event as well as his bracket of the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams. Moving up the coast, Phoebe Chang won her bracket on the Sunday Bracketed Swiss at the San Jose Sectional while your Humble Scribe executed the Swiss Gambit to perfection in the course of winning the Sunday A/X Swiss at the Garden Grove Sectional.

The Rest of the Story

I presented this hand in last month’s column. All red at IMPs in second seat, with a pass to you, you hold this collection: ♠J954 ♥QT862 ♦A876 ♣--.

Lefty opens 1♣, announced as “could be short,” and partner bids 2NT. RHO, a passed hand, bids 3♠. I had

a red partner who did this at IMPs opposite a passed hand and he was missing quite a few cards in his suits. Also, RHO probably had six spades, but they weren’t good enough for her to open 2♠. I certainly didn’t have the missing honors and partner probably didn’t either so it looks like my opponents can probably diagnose the double fit. I decided I wasn’t selling out short of the six level, so I jammed the auction immediately by bidding 6♥. Probably not what partner was expecting to hear from a passed hand, but he didn’t have to play it. LHO doubled.

The opening lead was the ♣K and partner tracked with: ♠-- ♥KJ954 ♦KJT94 ♣AJ3.

I won on dummy, dropping a spade, and led a trump. LHO won the ace and led the ♠K, ruffed in dummy. I drew the last trump, RHO following and then had to tackle the diamonds. After a lot of thought, I finally decided that RHO probably didn’t bid 3♠ red with two red doubletons and hooked LHO for the ♦Q. This time it was right, scoring up 1660 and 14 IMPs. Teammates were -200 in 4♠ doubled, so finding the diamond was a swing of 23 IMPs.

Go for the Silver

Last chance to make your plans for the Unit’s annual Spring Sectional, to be held at Barrington on May 5 and 6. Game time for Saturday’s single-session events (and a Compact Knockout) will be 10:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. The Sunday Swiss will start at 10:30 a.m. and Sunday morning also will feature a single-session Stratified Open Pairs. As a reminder, Unit members who play in our Sectionals are competing for the Jill Meyers Trophy and the Mary Jane Farrell Trophy. Good luck to all entrants.

Welcome Mat

Our Unit’s newest members of the ACBL are Sybil Goldrich, Susan Graber, John and Kimary Miller, Jan Schmidt, Cynthia Swiler, and Thomas Stikes. Transferring into our Unit were Frances Freedman, Mary Meadow, and Clara Stovitz. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Beverly Hills club champions over the last month were Roger and Becky Clough, Rhoda and Lew →

Himmell, and Viktor Anikovich and Joan Oliver. The Cloughs had a pair of 70% games, as did Viktor and Rama Linz.

Rob Perlsweig and Pete Benjamin won a club championship at Barrington last month. Stephen Yaffe and Aram Bedros hit 70%.

After resuming play in March, Robin Thayer has decided to shut the doors of the Marina City Bridge Club. We will miss her hospitality but look forward to seeing more of her at the table. Robin has asked this reporter to pass along her thanks to all of the players who have supported her game over the years.

Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Marilouise

Bowker and Marci Valner. Harriet Finebaum, Anne Kaplan, and Ellen Levitt have become Club Masters. Reaching Sectional Master status are Gayle Dennis, Carol Katzman, Bonnie Okamoto, and Marilyn Robin, while Mary Williams has become a Regional Master. Lisa Caras and Judy Anne Keaney are now NABC Masters.

Joining the ranks of Life Masters this month were Suzanne Borenstein, Brenda Schonfeld, Debra Stern, and Katherine Weisberg. In fact, Brenda became a Bronze Life Master, along with Michael Abeles. Brian Rose has reached Silver Life Master status, while Mario Mory has become a Sapphire Life Master. Viktor Anikovich is now a Diamond Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

<p>LOMITA OPEN SECTIONAL (UNIT #568) MAY 27TH, 28TH, & 29TH 2017 SANCTION NO. S1705165</p>			
<p>WE WILL HAVE TWO LOCATIONS FOR OUR GAMES</p> <p>Saturday, May 27: At the South Bay Bridge Club 24100 Narbonne, Lomita, CA</p> <p>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>			
 <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>

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Mark Bartusek, Mitch Dunitz, Jeff Goldsmith, Tim Lolli,
Jill Meyers, and John Swanson

1

MPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
?	1♠	2♣	2♠

You, South, hold:

♠T6 ♥K965 ♦A3 ♣T9854

What call do you make?

It's great to have five-card support for partner. It's bad that they own the spade suit. Do we count our hand as a simple raise, limit raise, preemptive raise or focus on hearts with a responsive double? Nothing is a perfect fit.

Arguing for a simple raise.

Goldsmith: 3♣. Second choice is to double, but if partner bids 3♦, retreating to 4♣ would show an extra king *It would be an overbid. I'd argue the fifth trump is partial compensation for the overbid.*

Meyers: 3♣. There's not enough distribution for 4♣.

Arguing for a limit raise.

Swanson: 3♠. I have too much offense for a single raise; too much defense (and perhaps offense) for a preemptive raise.

Arguing for a preemptive raise.

Dunitz: 4♣. This feels right on playing strength. Partner will probably choose to defend 4♠ with more than one and will likely bid on with spade shortness.

Bartusek: 4♣. This is close between 3♣ and 4♣. This

hand is basically clubs, and if we miss a heart fit, then too bad. Since I am vulnerable, this call can't be made on trash. I assume that the opponent with club shortness will practically always compete to 3♠ over a simple 3♣ raise. Hopefully, this jump, implying a lot of distribution, will stop an opponent from doubling to collect +200 (which would be easier to do if we bid 3♣ and then 4♣). I believe the odds are that they can make exactly 3♠, and that we'll be down one in 4♣. *That's a rather narrow target. I like the field if that's the bet.*

Arguing for a responsive double.

Lolli: Double. This is responsive, hoping to find a 4-4 heart fit. If they bid up to 4♠ and we haven't found a heart fit, I'll bid 5♣ and hope for the best.

A responsive double would be almost mandatory if their suit were hearts, and we had a side spade suit. On this hand, if we have a two-suit fit, they will have a two-suit fit and own the spade suit. So, finding a heart fit may not do us much good. If this problem was presented at IMPs instead of matchpoints, I suspect that some panelists would have suggested that their preferred action on this imperfect hand were to bid 5♣ and hope that West had a difficult decision whether to bid over 5♣.

2

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
2♥*	3♦	1♠	Pass
?		4♦	5♦

* Game forcing

You, South, hold:
♠32 ♥AK7654 ♦AK4 ♣54
What call do you make?

It's rare to see experts have a significant difference of opinion on problems where evaluating what a hand is worth in an auction is the crux of the issue. We have a significant difference of opinion here. One panelist wants to warn partner that his hand is not fully working. Another panelist wants to invite a slam. Two panelists just bid a small slam, both commenting they are worried about missing a grand. The two most aggressive experts cuebid at the six level to invite a grand.

The panelist who wants to stop the train.

Bartusek: Double. It's mandatory to warn partner that I have diamond wastage and to stop bidding. How valuable do you think my diamond tricks are on offense when partner rates to have something like 6=3=0=4 distribution. We should collect at least 500, if not 800. [500 doesn't even cover for our vulnerable game, and 800 is inadequate compensation if we have a small slam, much less a grand.]

Utilizing the forcing nature of the auction to let partner help decide if there is a slam.

Swanson: Pass. Despite the likelihood that my ♦AK is facing a void, this is a great offensive hand. Why not throw this problem back to partner to find out what he

thinks? If he bids the expected 5♥, I'll try slam.

A pair of panelists bid 6♥, hoping they haven't missed 7♥.

Lolli: 6♥. I'm more concerned about making seven than I am about making six. I'd like to bid 6♦, but I don't want to tip them off that I have first round control in their suit, just in case partner's club holding is a little shaky [You sneaky devil!]

Dunitz: 6♥. If the ♦K were somewhere else, I would bid 6♦. But I love the top honors and sixth heart, so I will bid 6♥.

Last, we'll hear from the two experts who made a grand slam try.

Goldsmith: 6♦. Partner's 4♦ is a strong raise of hearts, so I have a slam drive. Yes, partner may be upgrading with a diamond void, but he can have as little as ♠AQxxx ♥Qxxx ♦void ♣KJxx, and we'll have play.

Meyers: 6♦. I am not ruling out a grand slam, and I am counting partner to have controls in the blacks; possibly ♠AKQxx ♥xxxx ♦x ♣Axx.

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.

3

IMPs
all vul

S	W	N	E
?	4♠	P	P

You, South, hold:
♠- ♥QT3 ♦J95 ♣AJ97654
What call do you make?

Unlike the previous problem where the panel had some significant differences of opinion, the panel is unanimous on this one. Even with the brass ring prize of a possible double game swing in the mix, they all agree that bidding is against the odds.

Goldsmith: Pass. If we are making 5♣, we won't play there.

Dunitz: Pass. A computer simulation would probably show a wide range of results on this hand. Searching for a middle of the road action, I give LHO a one-loser suit in spades and an outside card, **and** then split the remaining high cards between North and East. This leads me to pass.

Swanson: Pass. I have too many potential losers, including several in clubs, to guess that we have a paying save. Who knows, they may be down in 4♠.

Bartusek: Pass. Sure, bidding 5♣ could be right; but bidding on these hands will forever damage the integrity of our bids. Partner will never know whether we have values or not.

Lolli: Pass. I may get a miracle catch from partner, but I'm chicken to enter the auction with this assortment. With West vulnerable at IMPs, I expect him to have some semblance of a hand.

Meyers: PASS. A big resounding pass! I have so many losers.

4

MPs
no vul

S	W	N	E
1♣ ?	1♥	Dbl	P

You, South, hold:
♠K74 ♥AK74 ♦7 ♣KQJ74
What call do you make?

Three of the panelists try 1♠ on this difficult rebid problem. Their thoughts aren't the same though. Mark likes to play that 1♠ shows only three. Mitch and Tim are trying to get a low level bid in and hope something good happens thereafter.

Bartusek: 1♠. Easy, this is the only bid that actually describes our hand. *[Playing that 1♠ shows three is great for this hand, but is not expert standard. Standard is that 1♠ shows the bottom end of a normal 2♠ rebid, more or less four spades, with a dog meat hand. However, the three spade treatment has merit.]* Systemically we would always jump to 2♠ with four trumps and a minimum opening bid; thus, this shows exactly three spades without a better bid available. I will be better placed if and when the auction continues (especially if partner gives a preference back to clubs with four card support – something to keep in mind for those considering a penalty pass here!)

Lolli: 1♠. This is the most flexible call for the time being. Partner's next call should determine our course of action.

Dunitz: 1♠. This is a good problem. 1NT and 2♣ understate my values, 2♥ overstates my values. I'm inclined to bid 1♠. What can possibly go wrong? *[It might be interesting to make a list!]*

Some compromise with 2♠.

Meyers: 2♠. What I am lacking in number of spades I make up for in distribution and HCP.

Swanson: 2♠. My jump shows a minimum range hand with four spades, not exactly a perfect description. I could show extra values with 3♠, but at matchpoints the first objective is a plus score. Other calls, such as Pass and 2♥ deserve consideration but are too unilateral for me.

Goldsmith: 2NT. An overbid, but I have tricks. I'd much rather overbid than underbid with this hand, and the alternative is to misbid. *I'd like 2NT better if we added the ♣T, but with a good suit and excellent controls, a vulnerable game might be a nice prize.*

5

MPs
no vul

S	W	N	E
	Pass	Pass	3♥
?			

You, South, hold:
 ♠J973 ♥AK ♦7 ♣AQ8765
 What call do you make?

East was non-vulnerable in third chair, the dreaded Cole Porter position. We all know the tune, "Anything Goes," and East has given us a real headache. Pass, Double, 3NT, 4♣, and maybe even 5♣ are also in the running. We might like to double, but where do we go when partner bids 4♦?

Swanson: Pass. Did I make that pass in tempo? If partner wasn't a passed hand I would probably double and hope for something good to happen, which doesn't include a diamond bid from partner.

Lolli: 4♣. It's very possible we have a spade fit. But I go for the blah bid of 4♣. On a lucky day, partner will bid 4♦, so we can bid 4♠, and everything is right with the world.

Meyers: 4♣. I would love to say double but I can't stand to hear the dreaded 4♦ bid.

Dunitz: 3NT. Double can certainly work out, but I will get nauseated if partner bids 4♦. So I opt for 3NT. What can possibly go wrong?

Bartusek: 3NT. It's a tough choice between this and passing hoping partner reopens with a double allowing us to get to a spade game). It seems too risky to pass when 3NT might easily make opposite a few key cards in partner's hand. I'm bolstered by the fact that LHO can't make a penalty double, being a passed hand!

Goldsmith: 3NT. Double is flawed, and 4♣ has very little upside, so why not try for the brass ring?

Double has more merit at MPs than it would at IMPs. Most of the advances that partner could make over double are great for us.

Next Month's Problems
 What call do you, South, make?

1. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
		1♦	2♣
Dbl	3♣	3♠	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠K54 ♥6543 ♦AT43 ♣A7

2. IMPs, no vul

S	W	N	E
1♣	1♥	1♠	4♥
?			

You, South, hold: ♠K4 ♥K ♦AJ65 ♣AKJ654

3. IMPs, NS vul

S	W	N	E
			1♥
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Dbl	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠J4 ♥KT94 ♦T8765 ♣Q2

4. IMPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
	1♠	2♣	2♠
Pass	3♦	3♥	Pass
?			

You, South, hold: ♠KT74 ♥2 ♦K ♣J976532

5. IMPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
	1♣	Pass	3♣*
?			

* weak

You, South, hold: ♠A ♥KQJ4 ♦AJT763 ♣KQ

District 23 Rank Changes March 2017

Junior Master

Steve Auer
 Freddie Benson
 Richard Borgen
 Allene Buchanan
 Maria Elena Cano
 Juliane Deluccio
 Jenny Ernest
 Susan Graber
 Bob Knowles
 Sol Leff
 Adair Paul
 Marlene Roscher
 Olympia Salmas
 Marion Solomon
 Rita Stachniak
 Sherry Tunnell

Club Master

Judi Brown
 Won-Young McDevitt
 Monica McKenna
 Ginny Sand
 Wendy Wilson

Sectional Master

Judith Eber
 Phillip Rohlin
 Bernard Seal
 Andrei Verona
 Maria Verona

Regional Master

Carol Lopresti
 Joan Oliver

NABC Master

Joyce Roberts
 Kathleen Tejada

Adv NABC Master

Stuart Hemple
 Life Master
 Linda Nye

Bronze Life Master

Suzanne Borenstein
 Paul Gill
 Debra Stern

Silver Life Master

Robert Johnson
 Donna Massman
 Elaine Moore

Ruby Life Master

Suzanne Hand
 Douglas Kuschner

Gold Life Master

Randy Howard

Sapphire Life Master

Algis Lasas

What do you think?

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