

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 53, #7

July 2017

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Travel Tales

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



I'd love to have access to some of ACBL's data on tournaments. Of course, I don't even know if they consolidate their data files in the way I'm thinking, but there are questions I'd certainly like to have data on. One is the number of players who only play in their local

clubs, the number who travel to tournaments within 50 miles, the number who travel within 300 miles, and, finally, the number who travel unlimited distances.

We would then, therefore, be able to look at target audiences and be able to judge possible attendance results vs expected attendance results. It would be so very nice to be able to afford to treat attendees at tournaments to singular experiences that they would treasure. We are all playing a game that we appreciate greatly, that we look forward to playing, and that we want to enjoy every time we sit down and pick up those crazy cards. Affording all the logistics that surround a tournament depends on both the present and past attendances, though. The Club needs to be in decent financial shape to provide local niceties. The Unit needs a decent budget to make their Sectionals unforgettable events. Your District tries desperately to provide spectacular Regional tournaments and then there is ACBL itself for Nationals.

It all boils down to attendance. Everyone except ACBL has to be self-sustaining. There is no other income to a Club, Unit, or District than those direct game fees. No one else is helping out here with subsidies or grants or other tricks to bolster the budget. Your entry fees are used to pay the bills. Those bills are sometimes huge and are mostly growing in size, not shrinking. After the bills get paid, the organizers can then give back to the players in many imaginative ways. Recall those \$2 coupons that Palm Springs distributes in De-

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Pro-Am, New ACBL CEO

by Kevin Lane, District Director



*Bridge is a game
and should be fun*

Long Beach Regional Pro-Am

Every year the summer regional we hold a pro-am to foster tournament play by our new players. It's a huge endeavor to organize but well worth it: the "ams" love it. If you are an experienced player please consider volunteering one afternoon playing bridge for free in order to promote tournament bridge in our district.

New ACBL CEO

The ACBL national Board of Directors has hired a new CEO: Bahar Gidwani. My personal views are that we are fortunate to have a highly qualified candidate with strong technology experience. What follows below is an ACBL press release:

Bahar Gidwani of New York will assume the post of American Contract Bridge League chief executive officer on July 1. He succeeds Robert Hartman, who has been the organization's chief executive since October 2011. "Bahar brings a wealth of experience to this critical leadership role," says ACBL President Bob Heller in making the announcement, "and that includes a tremendous background in technology. Most importantly, he'll be good for bridge."

"I have long had a passion for the game," Gidwani says. "I've played bridge since I was 8 years old. I look forward to being a part of ensuring a bright future for a

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ember. Las Vegas this week was handing out \$3 food coupons! First time I've seen that. Free snacks at night. Free lunches on Sunday. Nic-er quality winner prizes. If you've ever been involved in actually running a bridge event, you know that the single objective of all the work is to provide the nicest possible game experience to all the players that attend. But let me give you a little hint if you don't already know. Venues all over the country are making it

harder and harder to do that for the volunteers who are working for you. The prices that they are asking these days are making it hard to keep a sense of humor when negotiating.

Los Angeles has it's own problems with hotels suitable for our tournaments. Most folks know we had to drop the October 16 spot. Our luck with a February 17 location failed to meet expectations. We will not go back to the airport until we get mayoral help with the traffic and parking. We are anxiously looking forward to July 2017 at the Long

Beach Hilton and December 2017 at the Glendale Hilton. These should both be absolutely wonderful bridge weeks. After that, we are working hard to fill in our Regional schedule - but only with superb locations.

Getting back to the problems, if you want to get a sense of what your volunteer committees go through, please look up the Daily Bulletin from June 24 at the Las Vegas Regional. You will be treated to an eye-opening documentary on the trials and tribulations that bridge volunteers go through in dealing with tournament issues on a long-term basis. Our District 23 folks know that District 17 and District 22 are experiencing similar scheduling issues to ours and we are not alone in the old discomfort zone. What does it come down to? Understanding that we are all on the same page here-- having great bridge experiences at an affordable price. That is the crux for us - keeping the entry fees down. To do that and afford the fixed expenses that the hotels and ACBL saddle us with, we need support in the form of players at the tables. Please help us get those attendance numbers up and we will work hard to give all the extras back to you.

Our flyers for Long Beach (starting July 3) mention Eat, Sleep, Bridge! Hey - forget the sleeping. Let's hit the tables with a vengeance, have a great time playing, and marvel at the new Tom Stoddard Trophy that will be on display. Sign up for the Pro-Am on Monday and see what "Pro" sits down to entertain you for the afternoon (or what 299r sits down to do the same!)! In any case, I will see you there. I'm always available for questions and suggestions. Suitable answers not guaranteed!

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier
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Southern California Bridge News
 Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.
 410 Mill Creek Lane, San Gabriel, CA 91775 Phone: 626-281-2179
 email bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

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Subscription Rates: \$12.00 per year, private; \$2.00 as portion of District 23 dues; \$3.00 Units outside District 23 if subscribed by entire unit. Copy deadlines: advertising and editorial material by 10th of month; unit columns by 15th of month. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

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
AM Side 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

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

May 28 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Nancy Schwantes/Virginia Thompson, 2nd Betty and Warren Harris, 3rd Marilyn McClintock/Bill Linskey, 4th Cliff Goodrich/Bob Gish, 5th Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth, 6th Xiaoxue Walker/Joseph Chaikin. In the B flight overalls: 3rd Janet Logan/Lucille Hovland, 4th Paul Pettler/Barbara Shuping, 5th Pam Kirkner/Jean Matz. In the flight C overalls: 2nd Alan and Barbara Olschwang, 3rd Bill Dilks/Virginia Brewer. In the 199er section overalls Diana Johnson/Katharine Siebert were 1st, Melissa and Mark Jones were 2nd. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: May 16 through June 15: In the open game June 7 Brandon Sheumaker/Mariko Kakimoto had 71.96%. Congratulations to Brandon and Mariko!

Big Masterpoint Awards: May 16 through June 15: May 22 Earl VanDerVord/George Welsh won 3.35mp for 1st. May 22 Mike Ullman/Barbara Shuping won 4.96mp for 1st, Kim Wang/Chien-San Hun 3.72mp for 2nd. May 24 Bob Mault/Steve Rowe won 3.94mp for 1st. May 25 Mike Welsh/Lorna Wallace won 3.06mp for 1st. May 26 Ed Barad/Carol McCully won 3.9mp for 1st E/W and Rich Wasser/Jon Yinger won 3.96 for 1st N/S. In the unit game May 28 Nancy Schwantes/Virginia Thompson won 4.08mp for 1st, Betti and Warren Harris won 3.06mp for 2nd. In the evening game June 2 Kevin Lane/Murat Veysoglu won 3.38mp for 1st. June 3 John Melis/Colleen Gardner won 4.38mp for 1st, Bruce Altshuler/Joel Schiff 3.23mp for 2nd. June 5

Kay Tseng/John Melis won 3.65mp for 1st. June 6 Penny Wentworth/Eva Mroz won 4.38mp for 1st, George Welsh/Aaron Jones 3.29mp for 2nd. June 7 Mariko Kakimoto/Brandon Sheumaker won 3.94mp for 1st. June 9 Jo and John Melis won 4.67mp for 1st, Steve Mager/Gerri Carlson 3.50mp for 2nd. June 10 Kay Tseng/Sankar Reddy won 3.21mp for 1st. In the unit team game June 11 the winning team of Kay Tseng/John Melis/John Petrie/Jon Yinger each won 1.87mp for first place. June 12 Marcie Evans/Betti Harris won 4.50mp for 1st, John and Cory Hand 3.38mp for 2nd. June 13 Cliff Goodrich/Jon Yinger won 6.19mp for 1st, Jon Petrie/Linda Renkus 4.64mp for 2nd, Kevin Lane/Renee Hoffman 3.48mp for 3rd. In the afternoon game June 14 Aaron Jones/George Welsh won 4.31mp for 1st, Suzi and John Hand 3.23mp for 2nd. In the evening game Al Lum/Steve Hirsch won 3.94mp for 1st. And in the open game June 15 John Jones/Steve Ramos won 3.94mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

New Club Members: Dawn Haldane, Miriam McLeod, Lita Kent. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Junior Masters: William Gray, Carol Welsh. New Life Master: Rae Yan. New Silver Life Master: Hank Dunbar. New Ruby Life Master: Betty Witteried. New Sapphire Life Master: John Petrie. Congratulations to you all!

Condolences to family and friends of Earl VanDerVord who passed away this month. Earl was a gem: smart, funny, talented and a great bridge player. He will be sorely missed.

Get Well Wishes to Marcie Evans, Debra Skinner and Mary Thomas

Upcoming Events at the Club

July 3-9: During the Long Beach Regional, regular schedule at the LBBC except:

No games Weds evening July 5, Friday evening July 7, Sunday 1 p.m. July 9

July 10-16: NAP Pairs qualifying week. Extra points, \$1 surcharge. →

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

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Game May 19, clubhouse #1: Bill Brooks/Tom Felice 1 in A, 1 in B. Sharon Beran/Hanefi Erten 2 in A. Sue Fardette/Howard Smith 3 in A, 2 in B. Jeanette Estill/Marilyn McClintock 4 in A, 3 in B. Sally Fenton/Judy Percer 5 in A, 4 in B, 1 in C. Sylvia Kaprelyan/George Alemshah 6 in A, 5 in B, 2 in C. Jane and Jerry Reid: 3 in C. Ellen Kice/Russell Gray 4 in C.

Congrats to: Howard Smith who participated in the Garden Grove Sectional earning 1.26mp as part of a swiss team.

Get Well: Barbara (Bobbi) Vann

Reminder: ACBL classifies Leisure World bridge games as “invitational” meaning non-resident guests must secure an advance reservation. Games are held on Monday/Thursday at clubhouse #3 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Monday—Midge Dunagan (562) 594-9686. Thursday—Cookie Pham (562) 431-6453. Phone number for clubhouse #3---Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner--After 12:00 noon: (562) 481-7368. Games are also held on Friday/Saturday at clubhouse #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday—Jeanette Estill (714) 647-2609. Saturday—Sue Fardette (714) 995-5879.

Any news for next month's column, please email me at hcj90740@gmail.com Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

Unit Game – Saturday, July 15, 11:00 a.m.

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



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

First up, thanks to everyone who participated in The Longest Day. Special thanks to Margie, who organizes the refreshments, and Penny, our Treasurer.

In Longest Day game results, we had a weirdie in the morning session: a 3-way tie for first overall! Karen

McCarthy - Mary Miller, Genise Hasan - Vic Sartor, and Steve Mancini - Margie Hall topped the field with 64.2%. Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson were fourth, and Paul Chrisney – Bob Kakade took first in C.

In the afternoon session – a smaller, but not easier, field – Tom Lill – Pat Rademaker took first with 69.3%. Looking up at them (a fair distance, if we may be so immodest) were Genise Hasan - Vic Sartor second, then Steve Mancini - Margie Hall.

In the regular Unit game, Joseph Viola - Amr Elghamry captured the top spot. Margie Hall - Ann Raymond were second, and Linda Tessier - Vic Sartor tied for third with Kerry Sartor - Barbara Papa.

In the June Individual, Linda Tessier tied with Clint Lew for first, at 66.7%. Sofi Kasubhai was third, and Steve Mancini fourth.

There were two scores over 70% this month. The top one was 76%, posted by – hold your breath – Yours Truly and Paul Chrisney. The other was by Penny and Gino Barbieri, 71%. Both were slightly tainted by being achieved in 3-table games. The best score in a “real” game was posted by, ho hum, Vic Sartor and Bill Papa, 66.8%. Others topping the leader board: Genise Hasan, Claudia Cochran, Linda Stuart, Hanan Mogharbel, Karen McCarthy, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Linda Tessier, and Clint Lew.

One promotion to report: Frances P DeRuyter is now a Sectional Master. Congratulations, Rita.

For our Hand of the Month, we visit the Surprise Party department. Vulnerable against not, in fourth seat, you pick up this promising collection:

♠KQT532 ♥AT ♦A6 ♣A86

With visions of sugar plums dancing in your head (yes, we are a bit out of season here), you await your turn to call... and see LHO open 1♠. Aieeeee. Pass, pass, to you. Now what?

INT is certainly possible... but LHO figures to have ♠AJxxx, so you will win 3 aces and 3 spades if partner is broke. You could double and then “correct” to 2♠ ... except partner is unlikely to take 2♠ as natural. Or you could pass, and hope to beat 1♠. Ready? Rien ne va plus ...

Here's what happened. 1♠ makes, because your hand keeps getting end played, ruffing whatever slim values partner has and leading into declarer. INT will make 2 on a spade lead, but on a heart lead, you are toast. And the one pair who played in 2♠ (don't ask →

me!) went down 1. Dummy came up with the stiff ♠J, and partner had ♥Qxx and ♦QJT98, all useless to you on either offense or defense. Sigh.

Quote for the Month: “Any idiot can face a crisis. It’s day-to-day living that wears you out.” (Anton Checkhov)

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, (bbrodek@yahoo.com).

**World Wide Bridge Contest Results
Saturday, June 3rd**

- 1 George Lewis – Hal Underwood 60.00%
- 2 Sharry Vida – Barbara Yorke 59.17%
- 3 Rand Pinsky – Kathy Swaine 58.33%
- 4 Robert McBroom – Elaine Moore 54.58%
- 5 Kristi Kubo – Rita Vannatter 52.08%

**Eight is Enough Team Unit Game (Ten Teams)
Monday, June 12**

- 1 Vibeke Gilbreath, Ruth Baker, Bert Stock, Roy Ladd
- 2 Bernard Seal, John Vacca, Roshen Hadulla, Arif

- Shah
- 3 George MacDonald, Hansford Rowe, Bob Brothers, Sam Khayatt
- 4 Ted Maki, Lamonte Johnson, Sharon Hoelscher, Aggi Oschin
- 5 Paul Gill, Viviane Dinehart, Mira Rowe, Anita Walker

**The Longest Day Game
Wednesday Afternoon, June 21**

- 1 Sue Guzenske – Charles Morrin 59.72%
- 2 Kay Aiken – Phoebe Evans 56.25%
- 3/4 Ruth Baker – Anita Walker 54.17%
- 3/4 Bert Stock – Rita Vannatter 54.17%

Upcoming Events

STaC Week: July 10–16

Monday: Friendly Bridge Club, Senior Center, Santa Clarita at 12:30

Tuesday: Valencia Bridge Studio, Senior Center, Santa Clarita at 6:45

Thursday: Valencia Bridge Studio, Sports Center, Castaic at 10:00

Friday: Joshua Tree Bridge Club, Palmdale at 12:30

Sunday: Joshua Tree Bridge Club, Palmdale at 1:00

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

Swiss Pairs Game: Friendly Bridge Club, Senior Center in Santa Clarita Monday, July 17th at 12:30. Please RSVP to Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net) →

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San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

August 5: Unit 561 Luncheon/Game

Unit 561 will host a Luncheon and Game on Saturday, August 5, at the 750 Club, 5700 Rudnick Ave, Woodland Hills. A catered lunch will be served buffet style at noon, followed by an Open, Stratified game at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$13.00 and reservations are requested. A sign-up sheet will be available at the 750 Club or email Rochelle Lotto at nanalotto@yahoo.com for reservations/partnerships.

Results of the Carol Lang Game

The annual Carol Lang Game was held on Friday June 9 at The 750 Club. This was in celebration of the 11th Anniversary of The 750 Club that was established in 2006 by the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike. A delicious catered Italian lunch was provided and there were 22 tables of bridge, ably directed by Terry Morton. The overall winners were the EW pair of John Van Egmond – Mike Fierman (A1). Their names will be engraved on the memorial plaque and they each will receive a certificate of achievement.

Other winners were: NS – Jeffrey Hartmann – Beverly McLeod (A1, B1), Rochelle Lotto – Mimi Baker (A2), Ruth Pash – Mark Pash (A3, B2, C1), Daniel Strauss – Aramis Simion (B3), and Sandy Hunt - Dixie Matte (C2); EW – Aimee Deiter – A Fradkin (A2, B1), Gary Baxley – Ray Primus (A3), Sheila Singer – Jerry Shapiro (B2), Dick Bratkovich – Donald Rosen (B3), Jack Tabbush – Linda Tabbush (C1), Sue Berrnstein – Georgette Tarantini (C2), and Robert Lapin – Michael Schiff (C3).

Special Congratulations

May Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ray Primus 14.11, Gary Baxley 8.04, Phillip Calloway 7.89, Susan Raphael 6.63, Barbara Astrin 6.61, Alan Golden 6.37, Gloria Feerst 6.10, Michael Wiener 5.52, Shoshana Blumenfeld 5.50, and Ravnesh Amar 5.36.

The following achieved 70% games in May: Cheri Bitar – Ray Primus 74.22%, and Eddie Samander – Nazli Zahedi 70.83%.

July 18: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, July 18. 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.

July 24 – 28: North American Pair Games

North American Pair Qualifying Games will be held during the week of July 24 – 28 at The 750 Club. Half red and half black points will be awarded to the winners. There is a \$1 extra fee/person for each of the games.

July Events at The 750 Club

During the weeks of July 3 – 14, all The 750 Club games will be held in the Family Center since the Church will be using the usual bridge room for their Vacation Bible School. The Family Center is the A-frame building on Rudnick Ave., just north of the Church. The 750 Club will be open on Tuesday, July 4 (Independence Day) for the 11 a.m. game. Expect fireworks at the bridge table! STaC games will be held during the week of July 10–14. Silver points will be awarded to the winners and all STaC games are \$1 extra/person.

Calendar

Monday, July 3 – Friday, July 14, all The 750 Club Games will be held in the Family Center on Rudnick Ave.

Tuesday, July 4, Regular 11 a.m. game at The 750 Club.

Monday, July 10 – Friday, July 14, STaC games at The 750 Club. See details above.

Tuesday, July 18, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Monday, July 24 – Friday, July 28, North American Pair Qualifying Games at The 750 Club. See →

details above.

Wednesday, July 26, Unit 561 Board Meeting at The 750 Club at 2:30 p.m.

Saturday, August 5, Unit 561 "Sizzling Summer" Luncheon and Game held at The 750 Club. Lunch will be at noon 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

NAOP Qualifying: Saturday, July 1, 2:00 p.m.
District 22/23 STAC: Monday, July 10-15
NAOP Qualifying: Monday, July 17, 6:30 p.m.
Club Championship: Wednesday, July 19, 11:30 a.m.
Club Championship: Monday, July 31, 6:30 p.m.
Friday night games on July 21

Club Championships

The SBBC Club Championship on May 22 was won by Jeanette Betts/Roberta Brown in Flights A, B and C. On June 3 the Club Championship was won by Betsy Amador/Fran Israel in Flight A and Gerry Gastelum/Nancy Raiche in Flight B. The North American Open Pairs Qualifier on June 5 was led by Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott in Flight A with Betsy Amador/Harry Wessells on top in Flight B and George Wakabayashi/Jack Stewart capturing Flight C.

The Veterans Park Club Championship on June 5 saw Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel winning Flight A with Barbara Shortwell/Betsy Miller on top in Flight B and Marilyn Daeshner/Frankee Miller ahead in Flight C. The Veterans Park Championship on June 7 was led by Carole Mason/Lutrell Long in Flight A with Thomas Robinson/Norm Ingberman on top in Flight B and Marilyn Daeshner/Frankee Miller leading Flight C. On June 9 at Anderson Park the Afternoon Club Championship was led by Bob Bacharach/Hank Sheehan with

Joe Packey/Valerie Takahashi winning Flights B and C. The June 9 evening Club Championship was captured by Dean Kaloudis/Byron Steffenrud in Flight A, Jane Tourino/Lee Sagendorf in Flight B and Corneliu Dejaba/Paul Marjoram in Flight C.

Team Winners

May 23: Sharon Biederman, Carol McCully, John Jones, Ed Barad

June 6: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Broniek Felczer, Jim Dutton

June 13: Fran Israel, Gabriela Jackson, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

Torrance South Bay Sectional Heroes

The Torrance South Bay sectional was once again held over Memorial Day Weekend. Players from the TSB Unit who fared well were as follows.

Michael Piken managed to carry his father Ed Piken to first overall in the Saturday Open Pairs. Sara Doktor/Petra Green won the Saturday NLM Pairs. MasaeKato/Gerri Carlson were third overall in the Sunday morning Pairs game, Steve Ramos/Luis Gamio were second in A and first in B in the Sunday afternoon Pair game followed by Arlene and Stan Greengard 3rd in A and 2nd in B. In the Memorial Day Swiss Henry Crowder. Hank Sheehan, Shirley Chang and Jeff Strutzel were third in A and first in B followed by Laura Gastelum, Kiran Kumae, Nancy Toussaint, Rosemary Ford third in B and first in C Plus Booth Tarkington, Jim Jensen, Elaine Godin Harold Koletsky second in C.

GUV Award

Well you don't see my name in the previous paragraph but I was a member of a pair that most likely went for the biggest number of the sectional and I never bid anything but pass on the hand in question. It went 3♣ on my right pass by me with a stiff spade and pretty much a yarborough, much thought by LHO and finally 4♥. My pard holding ♠Axxxx ♦Qxxxx ♣xx and maybe the ♥A at all Non Vul chose to bid 4♠ passed back to my LHO who thought Christmas had come early and doubled holding ♠KQJT9. Down 8 for minus 2000.

The opponents who were relative newcomers spoke to me the next day and were very excited at getting a top on this board. I might have mentioned they →

could play this board forever around the world and they still would get a top. I promised my pard I wouldn't mention his name here and would't bring it up while he was directing the Monday morning SBBC game.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

Let the Fireworks Begin!

This month's big event, of course, is Bridge Week. We've reclaimed our successful Long Beach location (and will have it for the next several years) and are looking forward to a very successful tournament. Play begins this year on July 3 and continues through July 9. Look for the ad in this paper or for a flyer at your local club, and if you haven't already arranged your partners, it's certainly not too late. If your favorite partners can't make it, the tournament's Partnership Desk can undoubtedly set you up with a game you'll enjoy.

Also this month (and next month), club-level qualifying continues for North American Pairs. As usual, ACBL will write nice checks to the District winners in all three flights (including non-Life Masters). This is a chance to have ACBL pay you a decent stipend to attend the Spring North American Championships, which in 2018 will be held in Philadelphia. Qualifying games pay boatloads of points, and the District winners in all three flights earn gold points, even if they choose not to attend the National Finals. Look for a qualifying game near you and give it a try.

The Warm-Up Act

Members of our Unit should be in fine fettle to take home many laurel wreaths from Bridge Week. There are a ton of winners to report from last month's action. Starting at the regional level, Judy Hyde went to Salt Lake City and took home a win in the Wednesday Open Pairs game. Up in Penticton, British Columbia, Mike Mikyska earned top honors in the Thursday ABY Open Pairs game.

Joan and Steven Little enjoyed their time at the

Monterey Sectional, as evidenced by their win in the Saturday morning Open Pairs event. At the South Bay Sectional, Len Holtz won the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs event while Roger and Becky Clough used their win in the Sunday morning Stratified Open Pairs event to share the top of the master point winners list from that tournament. Mike Savage won the Saturday afternoon Stratified Open Pairs event at the Garden Grove Sectional and backed it up by winning the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams event at the Glendale Sectional of Pasadena. Also in Glendale (Pasadena), your Humble Scribe paired with Bruce Altshuler to win the Saturday morning Open Pairs event, and enjoyed enough other successes at that tournament to top all master point winners there.

Don't Be Proud. Get Help When You Need It!

Playing 3NT after the lead of the ♣Q, I saw the following hands:

Dummy: ♠AK984 ♥Q3 ♦K96 ♣A96

Declarer: ♠3 ♥K9652 ♦AQ4 ♣KT43

I let the club ride to my ♣K and counted tricks. Assuming the opening lead was an honest card (and even if it wasn't), I was scoring 3 clubs, 3 diamonds, 2 spades, and at least 1 heart. I decided to work on hearts as my attempt at an overtrick. I started by taking the club hook, which won as expected, and then returned to my hand with the diamond A (they should work out that I also have the Q, but why advertise the fact?) and led a heart to the Q, which held, RHO contributing the ♥7. I continued a heart back to my hand and RHO pitched a diamond.

Well, that was an interesting development. I assumed LHO probably started with 4♣ and now I knew for a fact that she had 5♥s. That didn't leave her with many cards in the other two suits, and in fact I'd already seen one diamond. At this point, I had my plan. I played the heart 9, lefty winning the 10, and she got out with a low club, forcing dummy's ace as RHO threw a spade, confirming that clubs were 4-2. I simply cashed two spades and my remaining two diamond winners, ending in my hand. LHO followed to both spades and pitched a heart on the third diamond. Now I threw her in with my last club and she was forced to lead from her ♥AJ around to my king. Making four for a nice match-

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

group that I have proudly been a member of since my sophomore year of college.”

Gidwani’s professional experience includes executive management in companies large and small. He has founded, grown, and advised tech-based businesses for 30 years. He has served on the boards of a number of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

“As with any not-for-profit organization, ACBL needs to retain and add new members while remaining true to its mission to grow and sustain the game of bridge,” Gidwani says. “I believe I am good at ‘public listening.’ To effectively lead an organization that includes thousands of volunteers, one must be willing to spend as much or more time listening as one does speaking.”

Jay Whipple, District 9 Board member, headed the CEO Search Committee. “We’re lucky to have had a pool of extremely talented candidates vying for the position,” he says. “We had a thorough search-and-review process. Bahar not only meets all our needs, but he surpassed our expectations.

Selecting him to lead the ACBL was a decision unanimously ratified by the board members in attendance at a special meeting.”

In 2007, Gidwani co-founded CSRHub LLC, Inc., and served as its CEO. The company provides information on the corporate social responsibility (CSR) performance of 17,000 companies in 133 countries to more than 15,000 corporate managers, activists, journalists and students.

In 1991, Gidwani launched the first online stock photo agency – Index Stock Imagery – and built it into one of the largest companies in the photo industry. It was one of the first e-commerce sites on the Internet and one of the top 1000 web sites in overall traffic 1993–2006. Gidwani completed his undergraduate work in astronomy and physics at Amherst College (magna cum laude), and earned an MBA from Harvard Business School with highest honors (Baker Scholar).

His professional credentials include being a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) and being one of the first 70 people awarded the Fundamentals of Sustainability Accounting (FSA) designation. He worked on Wall Street with Kidder, Peabody & Co. and served as a consultant with McKinsey & Co.

Gidwani was born in Columbus, Ohio. His wife is a doctor working in cancer research. Besides his interest in bridge, he races sailboats in both the summer and winter.

I can be reached at: klaned23@gmail.com

District 23 Rank Changes May 2017

Junior Master

Robert Davis, Donna Grogan, Kim Gundlach
Don Hughes, Stanley Korenman
Gloria Markowitz, James O'Dowd

Club Master

Susan Briest, Dagmar Dimster-Denk
Lynn Rapaport, David Shultz
Patricia Sullivan, Mary-Sue Wright, Wanda Yao

Sectional Master

Don Adler, Paul Chen, Jerrold Felsenthal
Peter O Keeffe, Kousi Pathi, Gwen Pollyea
Janice Ronci, Mark Singer, Robert Turner

Regional Master

Rosemary Abrahamson, Jack Christy, Dee Clary
Porter Clary, Barbara Federman, Mary Gillett
Warren Harris, Daniel Sonner

NABC Master

Sue Boswell, Ralph Brunson, James Hawkins
Audrey Hill, Linda Silvey, Shoreh Toufanian

AdvNABC Master

Virginia Brewer

Life Master

Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten

Bronze Life Master

Melanie Smith, Mori Taylor, Caroline Vincent

Silver Life Master

Harriet Elston, Mildred Graybill
Stephen Massman, Patricia Taylor

Ruby Life Master

Janet Logan

Gold Life Master

Joyce Lelah, George Thompson

Diamon Life Master

Robert Gish, Frances Israel

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones Panelists: Wafik Abdou, Gerry Bare, Aaron Jones, Eddie Kantar, Tim Lolli, Mister Mealy-mouth, Rick Roeder, John Swanson and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	1♣	Pass
?	Pass	2♣	2♥

You, South, hold:

♠AQ42 ♥Q43 ♦A42 ♣654

What call do you make?

Aaron Jones is one of Southern California's youngest experts. We welcome him to the panel.

East has overcalled 2♥ over 2♣ after passing over 1♣. This is a strange sequence, and might have some effect on our bid. Only Wittes mentioned the unusual overcall sequence. He thinks the suit might be weaker. If the delayed overcall indicates a weak suit, the normal desire to put the Qxx of the opponents' suit in the dummy is lessened. If partner has ♥Ax or ♥Kx, West might have ♥Ax or ♥Kx and lead a heart, to his chagrin. I agree with Wittes that 3♥ doesn't accomplish much. Further, it might be construed as game forcing. Our choices then come down to choosing between a conservative 2NT and an aggressive 3NT. With some of the anemic opening bids I've seen recently, put me down for 2NT.

Mealy-mouth: 3♣. The safest part score if we have no game. If we belong in 3NT, we probably belong there from partner's side. *[Merely competing with this hand will virtually never get us to game. 3♣ could be quite a bit weaker.]*

Bare: 2NT. Not quite strong enough to force to game and too strong for 3♣.

Kantar: 2NT. This looks right to me so there must be a catch.

Jones: 2NT. I'm bidding 2NT. There's no real alternative.

Roeder: 2NT. Partner will know to go high with excellent clubs and go low otherwise. Insisting on game is awfully optimistic when not vulnerable. 3♥ will likely be the winning bid when partner has ♥Kx, and perhaps when he holds ♥Q10x or ♥Jxx. However, I do not think this offsets the fact that you propel yourself too high on many other hands. After all, this hand is more sterile than a castrated male. *[Ouch!]*

Wittes: 3NT. If partner has specifically ♥Kx, it might be right to bid 3♥ so partner can bid 3NT. If I do bid 3♥, and partner has something like ♥Jx or ♥Jxx of hearts, we won't get to the only game that has a chance of making. RHO doesn't rate to have a great suit, since there was no 1♥ overcall over 1♣.

Lolli: 3NT. While it would be nice to have the ♥J, the third club in my hand is almost as good. Also, the opposition hasn't shown much enthusiasm in their bidding, so partner should have a useful hand.

Swanson: 3NT. What other call makes sense? 3NT doesn't have to be the best contract but looking for another spot with an artificial, un-informative sequence is more likely to induce partnership angst than find a winning 4♣ contract.

Abdou: Double. Double here should show cards and invitational values. *[Modern style doubles allow partner to use judgment. If partner bids 2NT, I'm sure Wafik will boost him to 3NT, but if partner repeats his clubs, Wafik will pass.]*

2
 IMPs
 no vul

South	West	North	East
	Pass	Pass	1♦
Dbl	3♦	Pass	Pass
Dbl	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:

♠AKJ2 ♥AJ2 ♦--- ♣AKQJT4

What call do you make?

I should have turned this into two problems. The first problem should have been the third call on this offensive monster. I think most of the panel would have preferred 4♣ (not quite forcing) versus the 4♦ cuebid I actually assigned them. Doubling twice, cue bidding and then bidding 5♣ would be interpreted as a slam try by some players. I rather tied the panelists' hands by giving them the 4♦ bid.

Jones: Pass. I would've bid 4♣ over 3♥. That would definitely get some aspects of my hand across better. I think I'm stuck passing here. I did already double, double again, then cue bid, and partner knows I have a moose.

Swanson: Pass. I would have bid 4♣ over 3♥.

Abdou: 6♣. Seems like the value bid, if partner is short he can convert to hearts. ♠xxx, ♥T98xx, ♦xxxx, ♣x is 75% for heart slam, maybe less because of 4-1 break but not bad odds.

Kantar: 5NT. The Grand Slam Force, looking for the ♥KQ, though it is unlikely partner has the ♥KQ having passed 3♦. At the very least I'll settle for 6♣. *[Eddie's clever GSF will get to an almost cold 7♥ if partner has both missing heart cards. The problem is that 6♣ will take some luck to make given that at least one of the critical heart honors is missing. This hand is an argument for why the negative response to GSF should be 6♣.]*

Roeder: 5♣. Your failure to bid 4♣ or 5♣ on the previous round indicates that you have interest in other suits. Not only can you not be 100% sure partner has four hearts, it would not surprise me in the least

if partner has a 3-carder. However, you have to give partner a chance to take a positive view of as little as ♥Qxxxx and out.

Bare: 5♣. If partner has something in the majors and club length, it might make a slam. If not, 5♣ will be better than 4♥ if partner has only four hearts.

Wittes: 5♣. Partner doesn't rate to have more than 2 or 3 points and could have nothing at all. Worst case scenario, partner could have something like ♠xx ♥xxxx ♦xxxx ♣xxx. If that's partner's hand, 5♣ could be our best shot at game. If partner has the magic hand of ♥Qxxxx or ♥Kxxxx, we might even make a slam, but that's a long shot. 5♣, after doubling twice and cue bidding, should still show a huge hand. So if partner has anything at all, he/she is not precluded from bidding on.

Mealymouth: 5♣. Partner does not show more than four hearts, as I've tortured him with my second double and subsequent cue bid. How else would he bid with a flat normal hand like ♠986 ♥9865 ♦986 ♣986? Partner may have the weakest Yarborough since I held a six-high hand four or five decades ago. I would not have cue-bid 4♦. To parody Baseball Hall of Famer Wee Willie Keeler's "Hit 'em where they ain't!": "Bid 'em where they is." To parody Hamman's Law: "If a cue bid is one of your options, choose another option."

My bad! I couldn't include Lolli's response because but Tim dealt with a different auction than the other panelists. Tim handled the auction he was given extremely well, dealing with an opponent's psych. However, the psych was not intended. My fault!

3

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
?			

You, South, hold:
♠AK ♥43 ♦AQ9832 ♣AJ9
What call do you make?

I think 3♦ looks like the Baby Bear bid: "Just right." I think AQ98xx is a fine suit on the sequence. It's obvious that several of my panelists disagree with me. They want a stronger suit to bid 3♦ and need to game force aggressively with 3♣ or go low bid 2♣, hoping it won't get passed.

Mealymouth: 3♦. Bid 'em where they are. If 3NT makes, it may make only from partner's side. Game is not certain.

Bare: 3♦. 3♣ is an overbid, catering to a heart stopper and ♦K, but losing to many distributions.

Roeder: 3♦. This is a very nice hand but there is no need to get carried away not vulnerable. If we were vulnerable, 3♣ would be quite tempting.

Wittes: 3♦. A slight underbid, but without a diamond fit, my hand isn't as great as it appears. If partner bids 3♥, I'll bid 3NT. Over 3♠, I'll bid 4♠.

Lolli: 3♦. It might be a trifle heavy for 3♦, but I am missing some intermediate spots. If partner bids 3♥, I bid 3♠ and hope we land on our feet.

Swanson: 2♣. If partner passes, we are probably high enough. One prefers to hold a better suit for 3♦.

Jones: 2NT. I would've opened 2NT. It looks like 20 balanced to me. *[This may get us to a wrong sided 3NT or 3NT with no heart stopper, but neatly avoids the problem of showing a strong hand without guessing how many clubs to bid.]*

Kantar: 3♣. I like this hand, and I do not want to play it in 2♣.

Abdou: 3♣ 2NT is antipositional. 3♦ undervalues the strength of the hand and the quality of the suit. I'll rebid diamonds, if partner raises clubs.

UNITS continued from page 9

point score.

Welcome Mat

Our Unit's newest members of the ACBL are James and Robert Bennett, Justin Chin, and Julia Sladek. Moving to West Los Angeles from other Units are Lisa Figus, Fred Marcus, Amal Murad, Sandy Schmitz, and Gail Stone. As always, please give these new (or new to us) players a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

The new Tuesday night game continues at Beverly Hills. Be sure to check it out. Club Champions at Beverly Hills over the last month were Lisa Karako and Rose Boot, Chuck Fonarow and Alan Wollman, Aram Bedros and Rob Perlsweig, Phyllis Kantar and Brian Rose, Wayne Karson and Aram Bedros, and Chuck Fonarow and Richard Glikzman. Winning the Charity Club Championship were Rhoda and Lew Himmell, who also had a 70% game, along with Farideh Sigari and Jonathan Holmes and Steve Mager and Pete Benjamin.

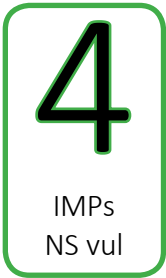
At Barrington, Hans Kraepelien and Michael Nash has a 70% game. Adrienne Green and Mim Spertus won a club championship.

Climbing the Ladder

Starting the climb up the ladder of bridge achievement are our Unit's newest Junior Masters, Judy Blits, Bill Kessler, and Jill Sattinger. Kurt Schneider and Jay Swerdlow have reached Club Master status, while Jan and Thea Drayer are now Sectional Masters. Ellen Travis has become a Regional master and Ira Thierer has reached NABC Master status.

Our Unit's newest Life Masters are Margot Hartman and Dawn Lee. Kris Sommer has become a Silver Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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



South	West	North	East
?	1♣	Pass	3♣*

* limit raise

You, South, hold:
 ♠-- ♥K43 ♦AJ64 ♣KQ9876
 What call do you make?

It is very likely the opponents will bid 4♠, whether they can make it or not. This hand boils down to three choices: 1) Pass, and hope partner has nothing but will make a reasonable opening lead. 2) Bid 4♣, hoping that it won't be doubled and a club lead is best against their spade game. 3) Double, catering to partner's having some cards and a suit of his own so that we might make something. Double is best on most hands where it turns out to be our hand.

Roeder: Dbl. 4♣ aims at a much narrower target. [4♣ needs clubs to be our best strain, not go for a number when it's wrong, not get us too high when partner has a fit, and be a reasonable opening lead. I agree with Rick, that's too long a parlay.]

Wittes: Dbl. I'd like to have four hearts, but nothing is perfect, and this gives us the most flexibility. Double also gives partner a better chance of doubling 4♠ than bidding 4♣ would, if double by partner is right.

Abdou: Dbl. This may lead to a bad 4♥ contract when clubs might be better, but has a chance of a juicy penalty if partner has good spades.

Kantar: Dbl. Not perfect, but what is?

Jones: Dbl. Not close. 4♣ just freezes you totally after lefty bids 4♠, and it doesn't really get our ability to play a red suit across.

Swanson: 4♣. I have too much offense to pass. I might get my wrist slapped, but double seems even more risky because 4♥ may play very poorly and 4♣ may be more difficult for the opponents to double. Passing is simply not much fun.

Mealy-mouth: 4♣. Bid 'em where they is. Not double, as partner will bend over backwards to reply to a double in a four-card heart suit.

Lolli: 4♣. I can't bid 3NT and I don't like double if partner bids 4♥, since he might only have four. I'm expecting 4♠ by the opposition. If partner doesn't double, I'll bid 4NT and hope he has something in the minors.

Bare: Pass. If 4♣ makes, partner will bid too much. Against some pairs who bid extra light. bidding might work out, but even then sometimes opponents have extra values.



<http://bridgewebs.com/acb123/>



South	West	North	East
2♣ ?	Pass	2♦*	2♠

* waiting. Does not show values, denies a five card suit with 2 of the top 3 honors.

You, South, hold: ♠K4 ♥AQ97 ♦AKT95 ♣AQ
What call do you make?

The panel is divided between pass (implying a minimum NT hand), double (if takeout), 2NT, and 3♦. All four calls have some merit. I'm a passer but don't feel tremendously strongly about it.

Lolli: Pass. I'll leave it to partner to make the next move. I can always bid 3NT after his bid. He may just make a bid that helps clarify my next move.

Swanson: Pass. This should indicate a balanced 20-21 with better offense than defense while double would be balanced with better defense. 2NT or 3♦ would be a reasonable alternative, but I would want a bit more offense for either.

Jones: Dbl. Assuming it is takeout.

Roeder: Dbl. Should be takeout oriented. My view is that pass shows a balanced 22-24 without a double spade stopper (otherwise 2NT). That is what you have but your nice diamond suit and the well-placed ♠K suggests more proactivity. You can still elect to bid 3NT if partner disappoints you with a 3♣ response.

Abdou: Dbl. Depends on agreements, if pass shows a balanced hand then I double for take out, I can correct

clubs to diamonds. If double shows a balanced hand, I may still double anyway.

Mealy-mouth: 2NT. In my book, this shows a balanced 23-24 HCP, which this hand is easily worth. I won't bid 3♦, which triggers the most awkward of omnibus 2♣ sequences.

Wittes: 2NT. Describes my hand, and if LHO doesn't raise spades, gives us a chance to get to hearts, if that's the right spot. Incidentally, I would play a double of 2♠ shows a 2NT rebid with good spades, and invites a sit by partner. 3NT could be right if partner has as little as the ♦Qxx and out, but I don't like playing for the perfect hand from partner. It's rarely there. *[I've been writing a book over the 43 years I've been playing bridge. It's called "Perfect Hands Partner Has Held." I've found enough perfect hands to get to page 3.]*

Kantar: 3♦. I expect finesses to be working, but the first order of business is to find the right trump suit.

Bare: 3♦. If partner is broke, 3♥ or 3♦ should be better than 2NT. *[Can we get out in either of those spots?]*

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.