

Southern California Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Travails for the SCBN

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



How times change. In the brief time I've been playing bridge, I at least go back far enough to remember getting the Southern California Bridge News in the actual mail every month. In many conversations since then concerning the SCBN, the prevailing opinion has been that

it was very much enjoyed by folks when it showed up on their door. Many have said that they headed straight to their Unit column and caught up on all the local news. Then they perused all the sectional flyers to plan their next few months tournament attendance and then they hit all the other Unit columns to see what else was happening around LA. Once in a while there was even some good bridge advice in there.

The District studied the costs of publishing and mailing our paper very hard back in 2008, briefed the situation to all the Units, and decided that we just could not afford the hard-copy mailing anymore. It was not a hard decision. Believe it or not, it was costing the District almost \$17,000 a year to distribute that paper to everyone and with the Units' contribution at less than \$7,000, that was a loss too great to bear. In changing over to an online copy, we still sustain a loss of about \$2,000 per year, but that was better than the alternative.

Fast forward to today. At the last ALACBU meeting in Long Beach, a discussion on usefulness of our paper was started. Who reads it? Is the information worthwhile to anybody? Can the Units do it more efficiently themselves? It was a disappointing discussion to me because it was more about money than whether the paper is the right product for the District. For anyone clueless about our policy, each Unit contributes \$2 per member per year to offset the costs of the paper—mostly the hard job of editing and putting everything together. (That is where the \$7K above comes from.)

PRESIDENT continued on page 3

Progress at ACBL

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun

Toronto Report

I write from the board meetings in Toronto, the first board meetings held with our new CEO Bahar Gidwani.

The most noteworthy change at the board meetings is that the new CEO has actively embraced – on his own initiative – the need to support the many bridge organizations with whom the ACBL conducts business.

Let me back up. When I first attended a board meeting in Denver during November, 2015 I was struck by how much the meetings focused on Horn Lake's operations to the detriment of clubs, units and districts. Since that time, I have advocated that the board should consider the larger bridge community itself – not just the ACBL organization – in making policy decisions such as CAP reimbursement levels.

The board needs to support the bridge “ecosystem” not just the organization over which we have the most formal control. CEO Gidwani echoed these exact sentiments in saying that if the ACBL is financially healthy but the clubs, units and districts are bankrupt he will have failed.

I am chair of the club task force this year and one of my primary goals is to increase support for clubs at these board meetings. CEO Gidwani's advocacy for the bridge “ecosystem” means I have surpassed my goals for the year even before my task force – or a parallel

DIRECTOR continued on page 11

Inside This Issue

Around the Units	page 4
Problem Solvers Panel	page 12
Rank Changes	page 17

Agile Bridge Club Moves

New location in Redondo Beach offers room to move, play, and park

by Jeff Grotenhuis

The Agile Bridge Club will host a grand re-opening to celebrate its new location on August 11.

For the past six years, members of the Agile Bridge Club in Southern California's South Bay beach cities have enjoyed everything about their

duplicate bridge games – except for the cramped parking lots.

Both of the club's original venues in Hermosa Beach and El Segundo were experiencing a growing number of interested players, which led to too many cars and too few spaces.

To cure their claustrophobic condition, the club discovered a source of prompt relief in the form of a fresh meeting place. The new

digs, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church at 706 Knob Hill in Redondo Beach, are located just a few miles south of the club's original locations. The new space includes a 47-space parking lot, ample street parking, and plenty of room to play.

To kick off this new phase in the club's colorful history, a Grand Re-Opening event is planned for Friday, August 11th. Game time is 10:00am. The 499er Game will be free.

The event will offer both club members and non-members a chance to stroll around the grounds, see the roomy new meeting space, and get to know both old friends and new. There will be refreshments and snacks, spirited game play, and professional bridge tips from director and head instructor Jeff Grotenhuis.

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**What
 Do
 You
 Think?**

Send letters
 to the editor to:

**bridgenews@
 acbldistrict23.org**

I will admit that it is very difficult to tell how many of our 3,400 players still take the time to look at the SCBN on our website. Unless we had a way to count “hits” or took a comprehensive poll, it boils down to opinions. But that has little to do with the “purpose” of creating the paper.

Our SCBN dates back to 1964 when ALACBU was just starting. All the 20 or so Units at that time wanted a common newspaper to be published each month. They wanted a place to advertise their sectionals (we used to have several pages of sectional ads); they wanted one location for ALL the Unit columns (how did friends do?); they wanted their local club results to be discussed, both past and future (in time to be useful); they wanted to know who was traveling, who played bridge in Australia, who was celebrating an anniversary or birthday or birth of a child, who had the 75% games, who played against Eddie Kantar and got a nice compliment from him, etc, etc. The Unit columns were FILLED with all this news. (I could NOT have reconstructed all our D23 history from 1970 to 2000 without the SCBN info.) To lose track of all that information connecting us all, each Unit will become insular and, actually, would lead to less and less personal contact with any of the day-to-day bridge news in all the other Units. We would be going backwards in an information age that is supposedly better than the old days!

EVERY district has some kind of District publication. I don't have the split between hard-copy vs on-line, but my guess is that most are still contributing to keeping our US Postal Service in business. Heaven knows they need the help.

We are not alone in trying to contain costs while maintaining a quality product. Some of the other Districts in the country have beautiful publications of various sizes, some in color. See the Table below for some representative examples.

Costs are a rising problem for more than just D23. From the table, you can see that D7 now publishes 4 times a year. They are cutting back to 3 times for, gee, I wonder what reason. It cannot be to make their info more timely. Much of it is already not timely! They risk making it more so!!?? Do you want to see your game results from a tournament three months ago or do you want to read about it within a few weeks? That is one reason D23 has continued to publish each month – to keep all the info current. Look at the resources those other Districts have to service a publication. You'll see that D23 does an awful lot with a minimum of resources. A tidbit: do the math: each SCBN issue costs each player in D23 just 17¢. If the SCBN is worth that much to you, please let your Unit Reps know your opinion.

Are there alternatives? Sure. Too little space in this column to cover them. Suffice to say, an individual would be able to find out lots about their own Unit, but if it's too much trouble to click twice to get the SCBN, how about multiplying that by 9 to find info on the other Units?

Is there a reason to continue publishing each month? YES. Nothing has changed with respect to the social aspects of SoCal bridge away from the tables or at the tables. And the info must be timely. I personally think even 6 times a year loses its effectiveness.

Anyone who does not take the time to click a few times on their computer and read our SCBN each month is losing their connection with our bridge world in LA. Try using some of that Facebook or Twitter time where you are connecting with the rest of the world and reconnect with all your friends who are enjoying your hobby of bridge. There are 3,399 other really nice folks in this District that you ought to get to know!

I'm sure the book is just opening on this subject and we'll hear more later. Meanwhile, I've got a Sectional tomorrow and I'm going to go enjoy at least a few hundred of those D23 players I spoke of. Looking forward to it!

District Newspapers				
District	Type, color, pages	Issues/Year	Units	Members
6: MD, VA, DC	Magazine, color, 22 pages	4	8	7,330
7: GA, TN, NC, SC	Magazine, color, 32 pages	4	14	13,250
9: Florida	Magazine, color, 64 pages	6	5	20,895
16: Texas	Newspaper, B&W, 16 pages	6	16	8,810
20: WA, OR, NV, HI	Newspaper, color, 20 pages	4	23	3,990
22: CA	Newspaper, color, 16p pages	12	25	7,025
23: LA	Online, B&W, 15 pages	12	9	3,400

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

June 25 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Abby Triback/Sadika Elewy, 2nd Usha Bansal/Rob Preece, 3rd Kiyo Nagaishi/Al Beebe, 4th Judith Jones/Wayne Rapp, 5th Baum Harris/Larry Slutsky, 6th Jackie Hess/John Jones. In the B flight overalls: 4th Renee Alpert/Joan Kaye, 5th Barbara Shortwell/John Janus, 6th Dalia Hernandez/Liang Fan. In the 199ers overalls: 1st Paul Chen/Mark Singer, 2nd Julie Deluccio/Jenny Ernest. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games June 16 through July 15: In the NLM evening game June 19 Bill Dilks/Darlene Harrison had 70.30%. In the 499er game June 20 Bill Heck/Jim Werner had 71.25%. In the evening game June 30 Jo Melis/Jon Yinger had 70.38%. And in the open game July 12 Baum Harris/John Bralliar had 74.80%. Congratulations to all four pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards June 16 through July 15: June 16 Mike Welsh/Robert Rothman won 5.25 mp for 1st, Al Appel/Judith Jones 3.94 mp for 2nd. June 17 Mark Leonard/Robert Shore won 4.50 mp for 1st, Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi 3.38 mp for 2nd. June 18 Robin Hill/Joan Johnson won 3.19mp for 1st. June 21 Kiyo Nagaishi/Wayne Rapp won 4.67mp for 1st, Usha Bansal/Rob Preece 3.21mp for 2nd in the afternoon game and Orhan Gurbuz/Hayim Ninyo won 3.21mp for 1st in the evening game. In the unit game June 25 Abby Triback/Sadika Elewy won 4.38mp for 1st, Usha Bansal/Rob Preece 3.29mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all!

New Club Members Alexandria Larossa, Rusty

Harrison, John Bralliar, Ted Teweles. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Sectional Masters: Paul Chen, Mark Singer. New Regional Masters: Dee Clary, Porter Cary, Warren Harris. New NABC Masters: Sue Boswell, Ralph Brunson. New Bronze Life Master: Melanie Smith. New Ruby Life Master: Janet Logan. New Gold Life Master: George Thompson. 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 Debra Skinner and Mary Thomas

Upcoming Events at the Club

NAP qualifying games Aug 2--12:30 pm, Aug 4--12:30 pm, Aug 12--12:30 pm

Aug 18--4:15pm, Aug 30--7pm, Aug 31--12:30pm. Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

August 6: Celebration of Earl VanDerVord's life: lunch 1:30pm, game 1pm

August 20: Swiss Teams 1pm

August 23-26: Short STaC week

August 27: Unit Game. 1 pm. Card fees \$8. Dessert served during the game.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

Unit Rated Game—June 15--Clubhouse #3 Mike Nielsen/Stanz Blitz 1 in A, B and C. Joan and Ted Wieber 2 in A, 2 in B. Winnie Warga/John Hagman 3 in A, 3 in B. Sue Fardette/Sibyl Smith 4 in A. Thad Mikols/Larry Topper 5 in A. Sally Fenton/Chie Wickham 6 in A, 4 in B, 2 in C. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 5 in B, 3 in C. Paul Chan/Fred Reker 6 in B, 4 in C.

Club Championship Game—June 14--Clubhouse #1 Jeanette Estill/Linda Renkus 1 in A, 1 in B. →

Joyce Henderson/Dalia Hernandez 2 in A. Fred Reker/Larry Slutsky 3 in A. Pamela Cole/Alan Oschwang 4 in A, 2 in B. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 5 in A, 3 in B, 1 in C. William Dewell/Mark Singer 6 in A, 4 in B, 2 in C. Joan and Ted Wieber 5 in B. Joyce Basch/Stan Blitz 3 in C. Louise Seifert/Stan Johnson 4 in C.

Club Championship Game—July 13--Clubhouse #3 Joyce Henderson/Rob Preece 1 in A, 1 in B. Thad Nikols/Larry Topper 2 in A. Judith Jones/Al Appel 3 in A. Karen and Dave Johnston 4 in A, 2 in B. Marilyn McClintock/Sibyl Smith 5 in A. Fay Beckerman/Betty Jackson 6 in A. Lynn Danielson/Chie Wickham 3 in B, 1 in C. Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 4 in B. Judy Carter-Johnson/Carman Gross 5 in B. Russell Gray/Fred Reker 6 in B. Louise Seifert/Stan Johnson 2 in C. Donna and Jim Shaffer 3 in C. Winnie Warga/John Hagman 4 in C.

70% Game: congratulations to Marilyn McClintock/Diane Sachs on their 70.14% game Saturday July 1.

Long Beach Regional: Among the players from our Club that played the following earned Master Points: Betty Jackson, Joan Tschirki, Sherry Troeger and Howard Smith. Congrats to all.

Condolences to the family and friends of Chuck Cutchshaw who passed away on July 9. He will be missed.



Pomona Covina
by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, August 5, 11:00 a.m.
Individual – Saturday, August 19, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

Our biggest news this month has nothing to do with bridge. One of our members – Dr. Hanan Mogharbel – IS NOW A U.S. CITIZEN!!!! Congratulations, Hanan, and we thank you for the trouble you have gone through. As an aside... we wonder, how many of us who were born in the USA could, right now (no studying), pass the citizenship test?

Sad news... long-time Unit member, Bronze Life Master, and all-around Great Guy, Walt Otto passed away on Saturday, July 15. He will be greatly missed.

Our Unit was well represented at the Bridge Week regional. Fifteen members brought home a total of 152.67 masterpoints. Notable successes: Vic Sartor and Bill Papa took first place in an open pairs event, garnering a whopping 33.11 points. Steve Mancini earned his first gold points, with a 9th place finish in Gold Rush. A team with Penny Barbieri and Yours Truly took second in the Bracket-3 Compact KO. Clint Lew, Hanan Mogharbel, and Richard Patterson were ¾ of a team placing third in Bracket-2 of the Sunday B Swiss. Amr Elghamry was on a team placing fifth overall in an open Swiss event. Jack Chao was on the winning team in a Bracket-2 KO. And Chuck Lohr was on a team tying for second in the Bracket-4 of the Sunday Swiss.

In the July Unit game, Amr Elghamry – Joseph Viola edged out Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, followed by Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson and then Kiran Kumar – Avice Osmundson. Bridget O’Sullivan and Yours Truly took first in Flight C.

In the July Individual, Linda Tessier took first, followed by Don Logsdon, Clint Lew, and Steve Mancini tying for fourth with Pat Radamaker.

Once again, there were two scores over 70% this month. The best was a monstrous 79.33%, posted by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. The other one was by – hold your breath again – Yours Truly and Penny Barbieri, 70.88%. (That’s not bad considering that 79% pair was in the field.) Others topping the leader board: Genise Hasan, Paul Chrisney, Bridget O’Sullivan, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, C.Y. Chang, Roger Boyar, Gino Barbieri, Amr Elghamry, and Lulu Minter.

Two promotions to report: James O’Dowd is now a Junior Master, and Daniel Sonner is now a Regional Master. Congratulations to you both.

Coming soon ... well, not real soon, but soon enough: our annual two-session Championship Game, and Unit Board elections, both scheduled for Saturday, October 21. We plan to return to Sergio’s for lunch/dinner, between sessions. Our annual Membership Meeting takes place at the same time. We NEED some new blood for the Board ... it’s hardly any work at all, and new ideas are always welcome. Interested? Contact any Board member.

For our Hand of the Month, we have this “how do you evaluate your hand?” exhibit. Vulnerable against not, as dealer you pick up this nice hand: ♠A32 ♥KQT76 ♦AK ♣AT83.

Well, let’s see now. A balanced 20 HCP. Worth 2NT, no? Actually, no. It’s not really a hand you →

want led up to, is it? (Besides, partner has been picking up bubkes all day ... if you are superstitious.) So let's open it 1♥ and see what happens.

Aack! What happens is, the auction continues pass – pass – pass, and there you are in 1♥. The opening lead is a diamond, and partner contributes this mess to your effort: ♠Q5 ♥98 ♦T6533 ♣T752

Ewwwww. Well, the ♥98 help some. It turns out that trumps are 5-1 (of course) with ♥AJxxx behind you. 2NT would get destroyed, just about everything being wrong. (Clubs are 4-1, diamonds are 5-1, and who cares about the spades?) 1♥ will make 2 or 3 depending on the defense, while 2NT goes down, down, down. We suppose it's a matter of style, but if partner is broke, do you really want to be at the two level?

Quote for the Month: "An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile -- hoping it will eat him last." (Winston Churchill)

Until next month...



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

This year's Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 16 and 17 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium, 19345 Avenue of the Oaks in Santa Clarita. On Saturday, September 16th, there will be two single session events, Stratified Open Pairs and Limited Masterpoint Pairs at 10:00 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. On Sunday, September 17th, there will be a play-through Stratified Open Swiss Teams event at 10:00 a.m. For more information, contact tournament chair, Bill Brodek, (bbrodek@yahoo.com) or partnership coordinator Tracy Boys (abigquack@sbcglobal.net) if you need a partner.

Unit 556 Board Members Hansford and Mira Rowe recently went on a cruise with Roberta & Arnold Salob from bridgeholidays.com. Here is a report by Mira of their wonderful experience:

"My husband and I are in the sunset of our lives. We can only travel with assistance, comfort and safety. The cruise ship left from San Pedro, traveled to Hawaii and back. There were four days at sea as we sail for Hawaii, visiting the islands of Honolulu, Maui, Lahaina

& Kona, then sail back for four days, dock in Ensenada before the ship brings us back home to San Pedro.

A hundred bridge players are cruising with the couple Arnold and Roberta Salob, who own the travel agency, bridgeholidays.com in New York City. There are lectures in the morning at 10, then a duplicate game of bridge in the afternoon. The bridge director, Roberta Salob, owner of the travel agency, is a lovely, vivacious effervescent woman. Bridge is a learning game. Roberta brought materials with her and taught bridge using her "New York voice" and lots of humor. Each lecture was about half an hour, which seems to be the maximum attention span for seniors. We lunched individually, then played duplicate bridge for an hour and a half. Bridge games last three hours and a half at home, but this is a shortened session and just fine for preserving the energies of the senior players.

Roberta made the arrangements for dinners each night. "Don't be rude," she kept saying, "let me know if you're not showing up for dinner so I can replace you." She pre-arranged tables for groups of 6, 8, or 10 people. She made sure we sat only with people we like. She also joined the dinner tables alternately. Dinner was finished in time to watch Broadway caliber shows and energetic young kids dancing despite the rocking ship.

Bridge Holidays Travel Agency is superb. Another couple recommended her to us, and since she always had a full page ad on the bridge bulletin, we decided to try it. She has a schedule that is well paced and not hectic. We have been to bridge cruises before where they played bridge non-stop. Once the captain of the ship said he could have just stayed docked in port and no-one would have noticed.

Each night Roberta would have notes for us about the next day's schedule, and have a gift. Sometimes a Teddy Bear, parasol, bridge book, purse, even pistachio nuts for our trip home. Just something to make us smile.

Roberta also went with the group on land trips. She made sure everyone was present, negotiated assistance if needed, and was like a mother to all the seniors who are all older than she is. Yes, this lady is caring and capable too. Her husband, a retired stock broker from Merrill Lynch in New York City, hovered and assisted her all the time. Another couple, Barry & Mary, both directors, helped supervise the game.

My husband Hansford and I listened to lectures by Ambassador Paul Ginsberg who talked about ISIS, terrorism & current politics; Jean Michel Costeau who →

talked about Orcas, Whales & the environment. Dr. Jay Wolf discussed the history of each island we visited. There was a female vocalist with a four man orchestra in the lobby, a rock and roll band, an orchestra in Palm Court for ballroom dancing (the cruise line provided "ambassadors" who danced with the ladies), a comedy show, nightly movies, a casino, and a pool band. The ship also had a Jacuzzi & spa. The fitness center had modern equipment and provided lectures. There were chef cooking exhibitions. The food in this cruise ship was the best of all. One could go to buffets, or have pastries at the Bistro, light lunches at Tastes and nightly sit down dinners, bars or afternoon tea where a young group of female violinists played classical music. It was an open bar. Dinners were superb. Steaks, lobsters, oysters, caviar, truffles, crab, you name it, they have it. Of course my husband and I both gained almost ten pounds by the time we got off the ship.

One couple we had dinner with, had taken 12 cruises, another had taken 23, with this same travel agency. This is our first with Roberta. This cruise was pricey and on our bucket list. Princess Cruises charge about half or even less than what this cruise line charges. My husband and I have been sailing for ten years now with other cruise ships, but Crystal will spoil you. My husband and I agreed that it is too pricey to do again, yet by the time we left the ship, we signed up for a future booking.

District 22-23 STaC Results
Monday Afternoon, July 10

1	Bernard Seal – John Vacca	63.83%
2	Paul Gill – Viviane Dinehart	63.45%
3	Bill Brodek – David White	62.69%
4	Melisse Benson – Tom Day	62.31%
5	Tracy Boys – Russ Buker	59.85%
6	Gay Gipson – May Ho	59.28%

District 22-23 STaC Results
Friday Afternoon, July 14

1	Russ Buker and David White	63.55%
2	Bill Brodek and Paula Olivares	63.02%
3	Bernie and Sue Guzenske	58.85%
4	Henry Rodiger and Sharry Vida	57.81%

District 22-23 STaC Results
Sunday Afternoon, July 16

1	Henry Rodiger – Sharry Vida	57.87%
2	Paul Reukauf – Carol Reukauf	56.02%
3/4	Bill Brodek – Paula Olivares	54.17%
3/4	Hansford Rowe – Mira Rowe	53.07%

Upcoming Events

NAP Qualifying

Monday, August 7: Friendly Bridge Club, Senior Center, Santa Clarita at 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 10: Valencia Bridge Studio, Sports Center, Castaic at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, August 27: Joshua Tree Bridge Club, Palmdale at 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 29: Valencia Bridge Studio, Senior Center, Santa Clarita at 6:45 p.m.

Handicapped Swiss Teams: Monday, August 14th at Senior Center, Santa Clarita at 12:30 p.m. - Please RSVP to Paula Olivares (paula@pacbell.net)

Next Board Meeting: Conference call on Thursday, September 28 at 5:00 p.m.



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, August 3, 10:30

Club Championship: Friday, August 4, 6:30

Club Championship: Wednesday, August 16, 6:30

Great Western STAC, Monday, August 21-26

Club Championship: Monday, August 28, 11:30

Friday night games on August 4 and 18

Club Championships

The June 21 NAOP qualifier at the SBBC resulted in a tie for first place in Flight A between Carole King/Beverly Narahara and Ray Mack/Harry Wes- →

sells. Carole and Beverly took Flight B honors. On June 23 the Club Championship resulted in another tie between Pat Schenasi/Gabby Jackson and Harry Wessells/Hank Sheehan. The July 1 NAOP Qualifier was led by Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel in Flight A with Patty Taylor/Mark Raggio leading Flight B and Janice Scholler/Ramani Ravikandan ahead in Flight C. The Club Championship on July 17 was won by Fran Israel/Steve Ramos in Flight A with John Janus/Tom Keese leading Flights B and C.

Team Winners

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

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

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

June 20: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronck Felczer

Agile Bridge Club News

Effective August 11 all of the Agile Bridge Club games will take place at the Immanuel Lutheran Church located at 706 Knob Hill in Redondo Beach.

Upcoming Events at the Agile Bridge Club

Friday, August 11, 10, 499er and 49er game...Free
 Monday, August 14, 12:15, 299er Club Championship
 Tuesday, August 15, 12:15, 499er expanded Club Championship
 Thursday, August 17, 12:15, 299er Club Championship
 Friday, August 18, North American Pairs, 499ers
 August 21-25, Great Western STAC
 Tuesday, August 29, North American Pairs 499er

Torrance South Bay Bridge Week Heroes Heroes

Players from the Torrance South Bay Unit who won events at the recent Bridge Week Regional in Long Beach are as follows. There were a lot of other TSB players who finished high up in the various events but space does not allow us to list them.

Tuesday AM 299ers: Terry Hane/Lina Asher
 Wednesday Morning 299ers Bracket E & F: Bri-

gitte Prince/Petra Green

Thursday Morning 299er, Bracket E: John Janus/Tom Keese

Thursday Afternoon Side Game: Laura Gastelum/Ray Mack

Friday Morning Side Game: Fran Israel/Stan Greengard

Friday Morning 299er Flight E: Brigitte Price/Petra Green

Friday Open Pairs Brackets B and C: Ted Gibbs/Mike Welsh

Friday Afternoon Side Game Bracket B: JoAnne and Cal Waller

Saturday Am Side Game Brackets ABC: Barbara Shortwell/John Janus

Saturday PM Side Game Flights A and B: Gerri Soffa/Barbara Benson

Friday/Saturday KO Bracket 2: David Peim/Neal Kleiner

Sunday Fast Pairs Bracket B: Ed and Michael Piken

District 22/23 STAC

Following are unit pairs who finished in the overalls of the recent District 22/23 STAC in games played in TSB unit Clubs. It should be mentioned that the Fran Israel/Terry Hane winner on Wednesday night was a 78.33% game Wow.

Monday Morning July 10 SBBC:

3A	Maurice Suhe/John J. McDermott
5A 2B	Jim Jensen/Booth Tarkington
6A	Ted Gibbs/Steve Ramos
4B	Henry Crowder/Bob Bacharach
3C	Gerry Gastelum/Nancy Raiche
4C	Jamila Malikyar/George Wakabayashi

Monday Afternoon, July 10, 299er Pairs, Agile BC

1A 1B	Deborah Downs/Rami Razouk
2A 2B	Joyce Hansen/Robert Culbert
3A 3B	Freda Main/Pamela Haskins
4A 4B	Inga Stoopps/Brigitte Prince
5A 5B	Linda Klebs/ Frank Roig
1C	Nan Carnes/Judi Brown
2C	Patricia Balzano/Marty Foster
3C	Esther Zacks/Bob Knowles

Monday Evening, July 10, Auxillary pairs →

2A 1B Stan Greengard/Mark Raggio (SBBC)
 4A 3B 1C John Janus/Tom Keese (SBBC)
 6B 3C David Rosak/Margaret Brull (Veterans PK)
 6C Marilyn Daeshner/Frankie Victor (Veterans PK)

Tuesday Morning, July 11, SBBC

3A 2B 2C Suzanne Kuuskmae/Edward Ruttenberg
 4/5B Neal Hudson/Ernie Frank
 4/5B 4C Charlotte Lewin/Jack Stewart
 6B 5C Roberta Brown/Pat Berg

Tuesday Afternoon, July 11, 499er Pairs, Agile BC

3A Madge Weinstein/Myron Mitzenmacher
 6A 2B 1C Douglas Carlson/Howard Schechter
 3B 2C Margaret Bass/Valeriev Turner
 4B Deborah Downs/Pamela Boyer
 5B Sue Gocke/Jim Mercer
 3C Marcia O,Conner/Betz Salmont
 4C Andre DeMarco/Gordon Hull
 6C Mary Williams/Adrienne/ Sarmiento

Wednesday Morning, July 12, SBBC

10A Patty Taylor/Fran Israel

Wednesday Afternoon, July 12, Veterans Park

9A Joyce Nakasaki/Joe Thomas
 13A Dean Kaloudis/Byron Steffenrud
 22A 6B Bill Malcomb/David Cheshire
 11B Betsy Miller/Barbara Basila
 17B Paula Hall/Annette Morgan
 6C Nancy Collinge/Ruth Ann Poppa
 7C Jack and Jeanette Christy

Wednesday Evening, July 12, SBBC, Auxillary Pairs

1A Fran Israel/Terry Hane
 2A Ray Mack/Laura Gastelum
 3A 1B Janice Scholler/Marl Raggio
 2B Lina Ashar/Norman Futami

Thursday Morning, July 13, SBBC, 499er Pairs

1A 1B Doug Carlson/Howard Schectet
 2A James Deflon/Joyce Field
 3A Gerry Ketz/Jamila Malikyar
 4A Laura Gastelum/Edwaed Ruttenberg
 5A Charlotte Lewin/Marie Lynch
 6A Betsy Miller/Joyce Klossner
 2B Carole Lebental/Sue Jones

3B Marlene Felix/Ronnie Loeser

Friday Morning, July 14, Agile BC, 499er Pairs

1A 1B 1C Kathy Soltwedell/Rami Razouk
 6A Joyce Field/James Deflon
 5B 2C Sue Tewksberry/Betz Salmont
 6B 3C Dominick and JoAnne Cardella
 4C Florenc Cooper/Jennifer Wellman
 6C Wendy Wilson/Mary Sue Wright

Friday Afternoon, July 14, Beach Cities BC

15B Linda Klein/Robert Johnson

Friday Evening, July 14, Inglewood Beach BC

1A Dean Kaloudis/Byron Steffenrud
 3A 1B 1C Corneliu Marjoram/Paul Marjoram
 4A Maurice Suhre/John J. McDermott
 5A 2B Barbara Shortwell/Henry Crowder
 6A Shirley Chang/Jeff trutzel
 3B David Cheshire/Jeanne Tamaki
 3C Susan Prescott/Bella Bicer
 4C Joan Chrishal/Pearl Karon

Saturday Afternoon, July 15, SBBC, Auxillary Pairs

1A Pat Schenasi/Lisa Cote
 2A Patty Taylor/Mark Raggio
 3A Fran Israel/Arlene Greengard
 4A Gabriela Jackson/Pat Berg
 1B Madhu and David Singhal
 2B Gerry and Laura Gastelum

GUV Award

The most amazing ridiculous matchpoint result for me during the recent Long Beach Bridge Week was the following.

You hold ♠KQxx ♥KTx ♦KJx ♣Axx. All VUL. Your pard opens 2♦ and RHO says 3♦. You try 3NT back to RHO who bids 4♥. You are not too sure about any other contract so you take the sure plus and double. Too bad it wasn't a sure plus. RHO held ♠Axxxx ♥AQJxxxx ♦-- ♣-- and she wrapped it around your neck. The even worse news is that 5♦ makes and even 4NT is a great down 1 sacrifice. The good news is that you got 9.5 matchpoints out of 17 (An average plus) as everybody was belting 4♥ and some made 5.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

Do You Believe? Then Clap Your Hands

Your Unit Board, among others, will be making a big decision, most likely between now and the end of the year. The Board is starting to wonder whether the money paid to bring the Bridge News to you is a worthwhile investment. We have agreed to pay the bill necessary to keep it running for the rest of 2017, but we have also advised the District that the Board will seriously consider ending our financial support for the paper after this year.

The question comes down to this. Do you find the Southern California Bridge News useful? Is it a worthwhile expenditure of your Unit's money? Our primary source of funds is a portion of the dues you pay to the ACBL each year, supplemented by our profits (if we make any) from our annual sectional tournaments. So if you have an opinion, either way, on whether we should continue to fund the Bridge News, let one of your Unit Board members know. If you want a direct say in the decision, we'll be posting election sign-ups some time in September, and we're always looking for people willing to join the Board.

For those who may be wondering, by the way, neither I nor (as far as I know) any of the other columnists are compensated for their contributions to the Bridge News. We're all volunteers. Most of the money is paid to format and typeset the paper so that it has a professional appearance and reads easily. (Our Unit pays some extra money to provide hard copies for the clubs as a convenience to those who can't or won't read the paper on their computer screen.) As one who spent a year doing that task for our regional tournaments' Daily Bulletin, I can attest that this is a difficult, time-consuming task that is being performed for significantly less money than we could ordinarily expect to pay. I don't think anyone on the Board is of the opinion that we are overpaying for this service. The question at hand is whether the results have enough value to our Unit members to continue to make it worthwhile.

The Conquest of Long Beach

Has anyone seen Ghostbusters? "We came! We saw! We kicked its . . ." Bridge Week, back at Long Beach this year (and for the next three years) saw our Unit continue its string of victories at our regional tournament. Starting things off on the Fourth of July, Jill Meyers won the Open Pairs event and Michael Abeles won the Gold Rush Pairs. Ifti Baqai contributed a win in the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event. Alex Kolesnik topped the field to win the Pat Banks Memorial Pairs. Anna Benatar, Joyce Lelah, and Richard Glikzman teamed to win their bracket of the Wednesday-Thursday Knockout Teams.

Our Unit dominated the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams event. Sid Brownstein's team won the event, while Bob and Sandy Carroll's team won their bracket and Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten paired with Jim Perkins to win their bracket. Viktor Anikovich partnered with Stephen Massman to win the Sunday Fast Pairs. Marion Tumen and Rhoda Weisler were on the winning team in their bracket of the Flight B Swiss, and Leslie Brucker also contributed a bracket win in the same event.

Another pair of wins to report as well. In the recently concluded District 23 STAC, Peter Benjamin won the Monday afternoon event and, with Aram Bedros, crushed the field Sunday afternoon with a game over 75% to win that event as well.

Philadelphia Freedom

Next year's Spring Nationals are in Philadelphia and we all have the chance to get ACBL to give us a check for hundreds of dollars to make the trip. August is the last month for qualifying at the club level to play in the North American Pairs championship. The event has three flights: Flight A (Open), Flight B (0-2500) and Flight C (0-500 non-Life Master). The winning and second-place pair from the District in each flight get a nice check from ACBL to help defray their expenses. Card fees in the event at the national finals are free, and the winners are national champions. Last year's Flight B winners in fact came from our District. Don't miss out. Play a qualifying event and keep an eye out for one of the two Unit Finals that will be scheduled in the fall.

Fall Sectional

Thanks once again to the good graces of the Bar-

rington Bridge Club, we have scheduled our Unit's annual Fall Sectional. It will take place at Barrington on October 7 and 8. Keep an eye out for flyers, which we expect will be distributed soon.

Welcome Mat

The ACBL continues to thrive in West Los Angeles, with the last month seeing 10 new members added to our Unit's ranks. Joining the ACBL are Carol Ames, Norma Arbisser, Mark Borovitz, Ilene Gerber, Lisa Gottlieb, Masayo Hale, Debbie Hamilton, Philippe Perebinosoff, Harriet Rossetto, and Allyn Shapiro. Moving here from another Unit is Michele Dilorenzo. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Club champions at Beverly Hills were Patrick Cardullo and Om Chokriwala. Hitting 70% at Beverly Hills were Becky and Roger Clough, David Segal and Lou Papp, Anne Bazil and Taewoong Kim, Aram Bedros and Peter Benjamin, and Myrna Blaufarb and Delia Juul-Dam.

No club championships to report from Barrington in the last month. Reaching 70% there were Hans Kraepelien and Michael Nash, Aram Bedros and Art Zail, Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten and Jim Perkins, Steve Mager and Pete Benjamin, and Pete Knee and Bill Schreiber.

Climbing the Ladder

Stanley Korenman is our Unit's newest Junior Master. Dagmar Dimster-Denk and Mary-Sue Wright have become Club Masters and Don Adler, Jerrold Felsenthal, Peter O'Keeffe, and Janice Ronci have reached Sectional Master status. Barbara Federman is now a Regional Master, while Jim Hawkins and Shoreh Toufanian have become NABC Masters.

Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten has become a Life Master. Mori Taylor and Caroline Vincent are now Bronze Life Masters. Harriet Elston and Stephen Massman have reached Silver Life Master. Joyce Lelah is a newly minted Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

Board of Governors club committee – have completed our work.

While there are numerous challenges the board faces, I am very optimistic that some key problems seem to be quickly fading into the background.

Toronto Miscellany

We have just begun our meetings. The board has been implementing some change in practices in the past year and a half to make our meetings more productive. So far, I consider this meeting the most productive meeting I've attended – although we are just starting down the path of improved efficiency.

The board approved Phoenix as a replacement for the Orlando 2023 fall NABC which was canceled.

The board also approved Chicago as a summer 2023 NABC location. The board has undertaken cost-cutting measures for ourselves over the past year. My sense is that the board realizes that we've gone too far in paring down our own meetings: trying to compress too many meetings into too few days. I consider this a good sign; there's no problem in going too far in cost-cutting so we can truly understand what the important business is that we need to accomplish and why we need time to meet our goals.

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.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Mark Bartusek, Ed Davis, Jeff Goldsmith, Fred Hamilton,
Tim Lolli, David Sacks, and Michael Shuster

1

IMPs
NS vul

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

You, South, hold:

♠KQ4 ♥T7 ♦JT9 ♣T9642

What call do you make?

The opponents probably have an eight card heart fit, and might have a nine-card heart fit. It seems like a Law of Total Tricks violation to let them play in 2♥. I like 2♠, but I expected more panelists to be in favor of 3♣ which will be right if partner has three strong clubs and four poor spades.

Lolli: Pass. If partner can't bid 3♣, then neither can I with this assortment. *Tim didn't mention the vulnerability, but that is an argument in favor of passing.*

Sacks: 2♠. The concealed Moysian fit is so tempting. There are two honors for entries (the third spade is for the heart ruff) . Good texture for taking minor finesses. So tempting in fact I bid 2♠.

Davis: 2♠. With six HCP, connected honors in all our suits plus a five-card suit, my hand is easily good enough to take another call over 2♥. It is also likely the opponents have enough hearts that they a) may make 2♥ and b) may take a push to 3♥. 2♠ by me shows only three spades since with four spades I would usually bid 1♠ rather than 2♣. Partner has the option to pass my 2♠ bid or bid 3♣. If partner ends up on lead against 3♥, my 2♠ bid may get partner off to the best lead (likely spades) since I am more likely to bid 2♠ on three to an honor than three small.

Shuster: 2♠. I'd like to push them up a level and this is the safest way to do so. It sounds like partner has three hearts, suggesting a modern offshape kind of double,

but even so, a 4-3 spade fit ought to play alright. *[I thought the modern world was more disciplined with shape and less disciplined with HCP. ♠Kxxx ♥x ♦Kxxx ♣Kxxx is an acceptable double to me. However, ♠Kxx ♥Kxx ♦Kxxx ♣KJx is not an acceptable takeout double. I agree with Mike's analysis that the opponent's lack of aggression in bidding hearts does make it look like partner's holding three hearts.]*

Bartusek: 2♠. Seems mandatory to compete when the opponents are likely to have a 9-card Heart fit. All my high cards should be working and the 2-level should be safe if partner has four spades (if he doesn't then we'll end up in at least an 8-card club fit). No need to bid 3♣ now which would hang partner if he doubled with 4=2=5=2 distribution.

Goldsmith: 2♠. They have a probable nine-card heart fit. We probably have a six- or seven-card spade fit and an eight or nine- card club fit. It looks as if the high card strength is roughly evenly split, so we should be competing to the three- level. Most likely, since they have nine hearts, they'll take the push, and I'd rather defend 3♥ than 2♥. Partner will probably correct to 3♣ if he doesn't have four spades or if he has four clubs, so this will usually be safe. If this partner is prone to takeout doubles with 3343 shape, *[Yuck! That's an awful style to have.]* however, I'd better pass. At match-points, I'd consider passing, as West might be able to double for down one, and East is far more likely to



South	West	North	East
1♥ ?	Pass	1♠	2♦

You, South, hold:
 ♠43 ♥AKQ543 ♦-- ♣AT654
 What call do you make?

We'll hear first from the lone objector to a 3♣ bid.

Sacks: 2♥: This is a calculated risk that the auction won't end. I will even bid 4♣ if lefty bids 3♦ (and partner doesn't bid 3♠). The fact that they bid vulnerable indicates they have good diamonds and increases the likelihood of our dealing with a 30 point deck. At first glance 3♣ seemed routine, but it really does jam the auction.

Now we'll hear from the 3♣ bidders.

Davis: 3♣. I can make game in hearts on this hand opposite very little. Thus bidding 3♥ or 4♥ is possible. But it caters to too small a target (a heart game) and it doesn't help partner evaluate his hand. We may belong in slam in either hearts or clubs (maybe even a club grand slam, e.g., opposite ♠Axxx ♥x ♦xxx ♣KJxxx) and the best way to find out is to bid 3♣ which describes my hand better than a jump in hearts. With my diamond void there may be competition from the opponents and if partner has length in clubs this may be the only convenient point in the auction for one of us to show clubs.

Bartusek: 3♣. A guess, but the hand has too much potential for a simple 2♥ rebid. Admittedly a 3♥ rebid might work out best, but I do show extra values with my club bid. This bid doesn't exclude getting to 4♥, but might allow us to reach a club game or slam. Note that this also allows me to easily back in with 3♥ after the opponents compete with 3♦.

Lolli: 3♣. No reason to get excited [*getting bridge advice from Jimi Hendrix or Bob Dylan?*] with this hand yet. Let's hear more from partner before we venture forth.

Goldsmith: 3♣. I very much doubt the auction will end here, and I'd like partner to be involved in the upcoming five level decision. We might miss a game if it goes all pass, but my diamond void suggests that someone will act.

Hamilton: 3♣. This will let partner know my shape (5-5 or 6-5) I seldom would bid a new four card suit at this level and will compete with 3♥ if they bid 3♦. A 2♥ bid does not do justice to this great playing hand, leaves clubs out of the picture, and a 3♥ bid also leaves clubs out. If partner has ♠Axxxx ♥x ♦xxx ♣KJxx you'll have play for 6♣. However, if you re-bid hearts and partner has that hand you might play a heart partscore.

Shuster: 3♣. I'm not going to hide my five card club suit, as that could be the best strain for game or slam. If partner passes, we might miss 4♥, but it isn't like 3♣ shows a weak hand - and I only have 13 HCP, and I am void in diamonds, so I expect LHO to raise diamonds, giving me another chance.

Not selected by any panelist were the possible bids of 3♦ or 4♣. 4♣ here is natural and forcing. My initial reaction to the problem was 4♣. 3♣ is fine though because the auction is likely not ending, and if it does, it might be right.

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

3

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
1♥ ?	2♦	Pass Dbl	Pass Pass

You, South, hold:
 ♠KT ♥AQJ3 ♦9854 ♣J74
 What call do you make?

This problem is not to everyone's taste. Some people would open 1♥ with this hand (although there would be disagreement over how to handle a 1♠ response). Some wouldn't touch opening 1♥ with this hand. However, I gave the panelists the conditions and asked them to do their best. They all stepped up to the plate and took a swing.

Bartusek: 2♥. Yuck! Well, if you put me in this situation, I'll have to bid something, and every choice is horrendous. Hopefully 2♥ will avoid the axe. Note that partner did not open a weak 2♣ bid in first position, which makes it much more likely that he only has four or five Spades for his negative double. He might even have 3-card heart support and be checking for a spade fit first (in case I opened a 4-bagger in 3rd position!). *[It seems wrong for a passed hand to not directly establish the fit and let opener evaluate his heart length.]* Needless to say a 1♥ opening is questionable when I can't stand a 1♠ response.

Goldsmith: 2♥. This is one reason why you don't open these hands. I would have opened 1♥ with ♠KT ♥AKQT ♦xxxx ♣J10x, however, and I'd then have the same problem. Passing could easily beget -580, so I'm not interested in that. The best way to avoid a disaster is to make a call which doesn't set the final contract, and 2♥ leaves the most room for someone to act. At matchpoints, I'd pass. We have a decent chance to beat it, and +200 is a great score at MPs.

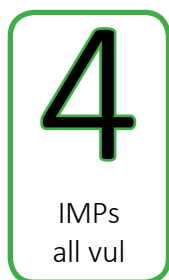
2♥ is the lowest bid at this point and gives the other three players the most room to bid. However, it is the bid most likely to freeze out the other three players. Their heart length won't be right for doing much but passing. I don't want to play 2♥ on a 4-2 or even a 4-1 heart fit.

Lolli: 3♣. What else can I do? I'd like to say I wouldn't open this hand, but that's hindsight. I'll bid 3♣ and hope to get out alive.

Shuster: Pass. A long time ago, I'd have firmly agreed with 1♥ and been willing to argue at length about why it was right. Nowadays I prefer to open aggressively in 1st and 2nd seat and so wouldn't take such a liberty in 3rd. On to the problem... Partner, as a passed hand, is very unlikely to hold as many as five spades - otherwise he could bid a limited 2♠. He also won't hold three hearts. So what does that leave? 4=2=3=4, 4=2=2=5 or 4=1=3=5. Given partner's range of hands, six tricks in diamonds is more likely than nine tricks in clubs. If we can only take five tricks, no big deal - it is just minus 180. Overtricks are a scary possibility, but if they are in 380 territory, that is still 120 better than -500. If I wanted to settle for -200, I'd bid 2♣ (which is unlikely to be doubled). I'd rather take my shot at a plus score.

Davis: Pass. There may be a plus score on this hand for us somewhere but if it is in spades or clubs partner is likely to bid again when I bid the suit and a 4-1 or 4-2 heart fit doesn't look like a good place to play. Partner's diamonds may be longer than his hearts. I think our best chance to score well on this hand is to defend 2♦ doubled. Maybe we will teach our opponent not to come in the auction with a measly ♠Qx ♥xxx ♦AKQJxx ♣Kx when our partner has ♠Axxx ♥xx ♦Tx ♣AQxxx as we collect two spades, three hearts, two clubs and promote an 8th trick our way on the fourth round of hearts .

Sacks: Pass. Why go minus 200 in some random contract, when I can go minus 180 but possibly go plus 200 or 500. It's not such a big deal at IMPs, how-



South	West	North	East
2NT ?	4♠	Pass	1♥ Pass

You, South, hold:

♠4 ♥5 ♦AKQ742 ♣AQJ32

What call do you make?

Hamilton: Double. I do not care for the 2NT bid would just overcall 2♦ as certainly there will be more bidding and will keep going with a club bid even if it is at five level. Given the 2NT bid I would just double 4♠ and this time would be better placed.

Bartusek: 4NT. My 6th diamond sways me to bid on rather than make a value-showing double. Hopefully partner understands that I can't have longer clubs because I would have bid 5♣ instead. Thus, with equal length in the minors he should bid 5♦ (although with 1-2 we'll incorrectly end up playing in clubs). An initial 2♦ overcall would have allowed a natural and easy 5♣ rebid with my hand (and clarified the relative suit lengths)

Fred and Mark both mentioned they don't like the 2NT call. I agree. I gave the panel the problem the way it was given to me. However, I would have started with 2♦ despite the strength of the hand. Someone always bids and you get to bid clubs and clarify that you have longer diamonds. I expected more complaints about the 2NT bid than I got.

Shuster: 4NT. This implies longer/better diamonds (with longer/better clubs, I could bid 5♣.) I have good

play for 11 tricks opposite the right balanced 1 count (♠xxx ♥xxxx ♦Jxx ♣T9x.) Double is more flexible, but I think my offense is too good and my defense is too poor for that action. Double should show something more along the lines of ♠Ax ♥x ♦AKxxx ♣Axxxx.

Davis: 4NT. I could double as I have reasonable defense but I also have very good offense and have a reasonable chance of making opposite as little as ♠xxxx ♥xxxx ♦Jx ♣T9x. The risk/reward ratio looks like it strongly favors bidding on rather than doubling. If I had enough strength to bid again with 5-5 distribution I would double (and also double on a 6-5 hand like ♠Q♥A ♦AKxxx ♣AJxxxx). If I was to bid on with 6-5 and longer clubs, I would bid 5C. If I was 6-5 with longer diamonds or if I was 6-6, I would bid 4NT.

Sacks: Double. Partner knows to bid with a four card minor. Partner also has a heart stack. If partner doesn't have the K♣, it rates to be in dummy. Pass might be right, but passing is so tough.

Goldsmith: Double. Good offense, good defense. Second choice is to bid 4NT to show at least as long diamonds as clubs. At this vulnerability, I think I have to give partner the chance to defend.

PSP#1 continued from page 12

sit it than at IMPs. I really hope West doesn't double in a voice of thunder. *[Bid boxes are a great improvement and eliminate part of the nonsense that used to occur with volume doubles.]* A normal double will likely get taken out by East.

Hamilton: 2♠. It looks like partner probably has a fairly good hand but without enough club support to raise. With only two hearts I can take the tap in my hand so can scramble up some tricks in the 3-4 fit should partner leave me in spades.

PSP#3 continued from page 14

ever, and we aren't heavy favorites to beat it, so here, I'm trying to avoid a big loss.

Hamilton: Pass. How unappetizing, but one cannot fault the 1♥ bid. So pass or 3♣? Well I would just pass as partner has no more than two hearts typically and I have a lot more defense than offense. -180 is not a disaster at IMPs, but 3♣ doubled might be a big disaster.



South	West	North	East
3♣	1♠	Pass	Pass
?	3♦	Pass	3♠

You, South, hold: ♠93 ♥J ♦T5 ♣AKQT8642
What call do you make?

Shuster: Pass. Not because I think partner is waiting for them, but because I think they can make 10 tricks. The problem on the previous round was brutal as well.

Sacks: Pass. No reason to think that we can beat 4♣. Thus, bidding 4♣ is effectively bidding 5♣.

Hamilton: Pass. Certainly not a book 3♣ bid with so little HCP, but having done that I would leave the next bid up to partner BUT would pull a double to 3NT.

Bartusek: Pass. Sure I have an extra club or two, but my hand is woefully short of the values that I would normally have for a 3♣ bid. A 4♣ bid just gives the opponents a fielder's choice whether to bid game or double me. Note that partner might be itching to double 3♣ over there (which will probably cause me to bid on). I would have balanced with a 2♣ bid.

Davis: 3NT. I would have bid 3♣ initially asking for a spade stopper for 3NT. With my RHO having a weak hand I'm betting that partner can win one of the first

five tricks (and has a club). I have already showed a good hand with clubs by my 3♣ bid but my actual hand looks a lot more likely to make 3NT than a more common 3♣ bid along the lines of ♠xx ♥AQx ♦Qx ♣AKJxxx. Should my partner figure out what I have? Maybe or maybe not but defending 3♣ is not likely to be right with nobody vulnerable. If they double 3NT and partner runs to 4♣ down one, that will be a good save over a making 3♠.

Lolli: 4♣. If they bid and partner can't, I'll probably have to let them play it.

Goldsmith: 4♣. What do you call a solid eight-card suit? Trump. 3♣ was a big underbid last time. I would have bid 3♠.

I held this hand playing in a club game with Jim Nicola. Jim suggested 3NT here, which would have made. I actually bid 4♣ which made. Jim also suggested that 3♠ the first time was a better bid than 3♣. I agree with that also.

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