

# Southern California Bridge News

Volume 53, #9

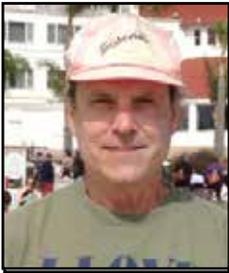
September 2017

Published By ALACBU

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Phases of our Game

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



Last month, there was an eclipse of the sun. Happens every 6 or 7 years or so. Next one in the US occurs in 2023. It is an unusual enough experience that folks will travel long distances to see the complete eclipse and sort of participate in the event. If you stayed in LA to catch

a glimpse, theoretically it was about a 30% eclipse but it was hard to see without proper equipment.

Eclipses are part of the phases of our planetary bodies. Events along their life-cycle caused by geometry and fun to see because of the rarity. What are the phases of a bridge life-cycle? Even though bridge has changed immensely in the last generation or two, let's examine a few myths or realisms, depending on personalities.

First phase starts in picking up those cards for the first time and taking a few lessons. If our game turns into disappointment or nerve-racking experiences for this beginner, it would take a strong will to continue through such turmoil. Fortunately, many more folks find the learning process filled with helpful players who assist and proactively try to make it pleasant for the novice. Hopefully, that encouragement leads to more study, more play, and more learning.

I think there is a strong desire to make Life Master once a person catches the bridge bug. This is the second phase. I'd like to know how many players take up bridge with an expectation and goal to make Life Master, once they find out what that is! When I started in 2001, 300 MPs was a long way off and I never thought it was achievable for me. Interesting to look back on that 16 years later and with 1800 MPs on the record. Lots of good friends made that happen.

Some folks stop at Life Master. All of us have seen examples of players stopping right there, never to be

PRESIDENT continued on page 2

## Toronto Report, Continued

by Kevin Lane, District Director



*Bridge is a game  
and should be fun*

### Continuing the Toronto report

Last month I wrote an initial report on the Toronto board meetings then on-going. I continue that report.

I first report good news that Toronto reversed a trend of disappointing attendance at national tournaments. The forecast for Toronto tablecount was 12,500, but in fact the attendance turned out to be 13,289 tables.

Furthermore, the ACBL tested out a separate on-line event which was successful and brought in approximately \$50K.

### Funding for international bridge

The most hotly debated motion from Toronto is a motion to reduce the funding that the ACBL provides to international bridge. Currently, the funding provided by the ACBL exceeds \$500K. The focus of the motion was on the \$168K that is paid as dues to the World Bridge Federation.

A strong consensus on the board (including me) agreed that supporting international bridge is important but the level of funding from the ACBL for international bridge should be reduced. The USBF themselves seem to have conceded this point earlier this year when they proactively offered to cover part of the \$168K annual dues. The motion passed to reduce funding for international bridge.

The motion voted on in Toronto shifts responsibility to the USBF for raising the dues owed to the World Bridge Federation. I voted against the motion. I and many of my fellow district directors agreed with the motion but simply consider it incomplete or premature. The motion addressed only one part of financing inter-

DIRECTOR continued on page 3

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

seen again. What happens next is the 3rd phase. A player reflects on what just happened – getting that Life Master pin and certificate – and decides if more would be enjoyable. The old Bronze and Silver Life Master milestones were fairly reachable for most folks with an interest. A player usually starts travelling to Regionals in this phase and not just attending the local ones. Again, with the help of good partners, a reasonable playing schedule will hopefully be rewarded with some nice victories in some nice bridge venues, and with patience, focus, and a marguerita here and there, our player will progress to those higher levels. It may not be a fast pace because I said “reasonable.” With real desire, the goals could happen faster. The Law of Averages may apply between the player who averages twice a week at the club and four or five Regionals a year and that player who dives into three or four times a week at the club and a Regional per month. Most players in this 3rd phase achieve those goals and have reason to celebrate.

Getting to Gold Life Master definitely takes a dedicated effort. This 4th phase can also be a slow ascent or a fast one. Level of effort

(or maybe level of craziness) decides. I see lots of players cruising in this phase. No special attention to that next level. There are other things in life besides bridge. But steady progress can be recorded accompanied by some good times in an ever-expanding number of new bridge tournament locations if you are adventurous. The country has become smaller than the old days. Travel is an expense, but we have to admit that fares are not outrageous if you plan ahead. Little did I ever think I would travel to Orlando or Hawaii for tournaments when I started this game. I like seeing new places and meeting new folks. Whoever thought I would have favorite partners in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Big Bear, and San Luis Obispo? That is what happens when a bridge player travels a bit!

The 5th phase comes after Gold. After that, it takes a goal-oriented attitude to put in the work and take the time to reach the 5K, 7.5K, and 10K mark. Not many of us have the skill, time, resources and social network to achieve these plateaus. Now we’re talking high frequency for most players. Yes, there are actually brilliant players like Peter Rank, Bobby Levin, Bobby Goldman, and many others, whose rise through the Life Master levels have

been nothing short of miraculous. Those are special talents that do not come along very often. For the vast majority of merely ordinary mortals, it may take a huge devotion of time and a very understanding family to allow the bridge efforts necessary for these 5th phase levels. Anyone achieving these ranks deserves a large party, many gold stars, and many free drinks from their friends.

I heard a bridge lecturer the other day state that “to make Life Master these days, you have to play online.” These days are distinct from the “old” days by the fact that 500 MPs rather than 300 MPs are required for that 1st major achievement level, irrespective of the “colored point” part of the requirement. His assertion was aimed toward the number of hands played in order to gain the personal experience needed to then score points. He assumes that in-person play is too slow. He did not address the quality of play or any of the lessons learned online that sometimes do not apply to in-person games and experiences. Looking a person in the eye (not literally) will sometimes affect a bid – do you agree?

I suspect that another reason for the statement is that the accumulation of points can be accomplished faster because of the convenience of online games. Folks can spend an awful lot of time at that computer keyboard if they choose. I see examples of players amassing 600-700 MPs in a year online, which does tend to get one into Flight A pretty fast. I wonder whether the quality of bridge online leads to better playing at the Club.

I’d rather see my partner across the table from me and be able to go out for coffee after a good game. What about you?

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](mailto:bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org)

Editor/Designer.....Jennifer Einberg  
 Managing Editor.....Mike Marcucci  
 Contributing Editor..... John Jones

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.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

national bridge but omitted two important elements of a forward-going solution.

The first issue is that the subject motion guaranteed that the ACBL will replace the funding that the motion just said is now the USBF's responsibility. I see no value in cutting funding for international bridge if the ACBL is simply going to voluntarily replace the money. One suggestion is for the ACBL to run a national game to raise money for international bridge. I strongly oppose this solution on the grounds that we would just be shuffling money around. If the ACBL raised money for international bridge with a national game, then there would be no point in shifting financial responsibility to the USBF.

The second issue is who gets to represent US, Canada and Mexico on the board of the World Bridge Federation. Currently, the ACBL board (i.e. me) votes on who is on the World Bridge Federation from our Zone. This process makes sense in that the ACBL is now paying the dues. If the new process places financial responsibility on the USBF then arguably the USBF should choose who represents North America in international bridge. Since the motion was incomplete – addressing neither the financing nor governance, I voted against it.

The new CEO has agreed to investigate the two issues and the board will take up the topic again in San Diego.

## Hotter Than.....

*by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President*

Every once in a while, folks go on a hot streak. Golfers do it all the time. I suppose poker players have streaks, and then at the tables, a shooter can make themselves (and the other folks at the table) lots of cash. Usually lots of shouting there. In our sport, there is not a lot of commotion, but there are streaks. Pete Benjamin, of Unit 562, had one lately.

Our newest Grand Life Master from Culver City started off the month of July playing with Steve Mager from Torrance & they recorded a 75.06% game over on the West side. Something good was afoot when, just 2 weeks later, Peter and Aram Bedros of Santa Monica checked in with a 75.46% game in the STaC series.

Less than a week later, Tom Lessor of Encino and Peter recorded a 78.53% game, less than 5 matchpoints short of 80%. There's a pattern here! How often do we even hear of one 75% game?

Now it's a real shame that Peter can't find a regular partner, and we wish him luck with that one. His results for July are far and away a nicer streak of outstanding games than have been reported in many years. Does anyone have similar tales?

Congrats to you and your partners, Peter. The 100 degree days in LA this summer must agree with you! Nice playing!

### District 23 Rank Changes July 2017

**Junior Master:** Glenn Britto, Carolyn Byrnes, Keir Fitz-Gibbon, Laura Maslon, Ramani Ravikandan, Vipin Sahgal, Jan Schmidt, Katharine Seibert, Lillian Slater, Tomoko Stock, Chuofu Yu

**Club Master:** Josephine Danels, Joy Gibson, Carolyn Hatten, Joel Kaplan, Susan Spivak, Nili Weingart

**Sectional Master:** Margaret Brull, Phyllis Licht, Vincent Vilker

**Regional Master:** Sandra Berman,

Barbara Eckstein, John Janus, Kai Liu, Paul Marjoram, Diane Maye, Edward Mizrahi, Loretto Russell, Jojo Sarkar, Michael Schiff, Alexander Wiles

**NABC Master:** Shari Elias, Norma Friedman, Nancy Guenther, Claudia Henry, Sally Kirshner, Tim Lee, Doron Shauly, Seymour Stoll, Hanna Zhuang

**Adv NABC Master:** Patricia Bessone, William Dilks

**Life Master:** Gary Baxley, Sally Fenton, Lynn Heckler, Stuart

Hemple, Fay Hsu

**Bronze Life Master:** Dixie Albright, Carol Bell, Stuart Hemple, Dawn Lee, Marsha Winer

**Silver Life Master:** Evan Krantz, Marion Tumen

**Ruby Life Master:** Margaret Mataga

**Gold Life Master:** C. Valerie Gamio, Jo Melis

**Sapphire Life Master:** Amr Elghamry

# LOS ANGELES REGIONAL Glendale, CA Dec 26 - 31 2017



## TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS



Pile up your Gold Points with Gold Rush Pairs and New 0-3000 Bracketed Swiss Teams  
 New Turbo Swiss, Turbo Pairs - Wednesday to Friday!  
 All Turbo games will finish by 12:15!  
 299er games every afternoon!  
 Star Speakers before every evening session!  
 Early New Year Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 30!



### HILTON LOS ANGELES NORTH/GLENDALE

100 W Glenoaks Blvd, Glendale, CA 91202

Room rate: \$129  
 (please refer to ALACBU)  
 Reserve at 818-956-5466  
 by Monday, Dec. 4th  
 Self parking: \$5

Card fees: \$14 (\$18 for non-ACBL Members)

**Need a Partner?**  
 Diane Sachs  
 dianasachs@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

Tournament Sanction R1712054  
 Flyer Designer: Liang Fan.

# LOS ANGELES REGIONAL Glendale, CA Dec 26 - 31 2017

**Tuesday, Dec 26, 2017**

Aft Side Game Series (1 of 5)	2:00 pm
299er Pairs (single session)	2:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (1 of 4)	7:00 pm

**Wednesday, Dec 27, 2017**

AM Turbo Side Game Series (1 of 4)	9:15 am
AULD LANG SYNE KO (1 & 2 of 4)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
MARVIN GRABEL A/B/C Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (2 of 5)	1:00 pm
Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (2 of 4)	7:00 pm

**Thursday, Dec 28, 2017**

AM Turbo Side Game Series (2 of 4)	9:15 am
UNIT 553 Turbo Swis (1 of 2)	9:15 am
AULD LANG SYNE KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
PETER SZECI KO (1 & 2 of 4)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
BERNIE MATEER A/B/C Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (3 of 5)	1:00 pm
Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (3 of 4)	7:00 pm

**Friday, Dec 29, 2016**

AM Turbo Side Game Series (3 of 4)	9:15 am
UNIT 553 Turbo Swis (2 of 2)	9:15 am
PETER SZECI KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Bracketed Swiss Teams (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
UNIT 559 Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (4 of 5)	1:00 pm
Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
PM Side Game Series (4 of 4)	7:00 pm

**Saturday, Dec 30, 2017**

AM Side Game Series (4 of 4)	10:00 am
299er Pairs (single session)	10:00 pm
Tux and Yalis Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2)	10:00 am & 3:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	10:00 pm & 3:00 pm
TERRY SCOTT Memorial Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	10:00 am & 3:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (5 of 5)	3:00 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	3:00 pm
ALACBU New Years Party	6:30 pm

**Sunday, Dec 31, 2017**

MORRIS LORBER Stratified Fast Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	10:00 am & TBA
UNIT 556 Open Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	10:00 am & TBA
Bracketed 0-3000 Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	10:00 am & TBA

Entry Fees for Sunday Swiss:  
 \$60 per pair. \$120 per team.  
 Boxed Lunch Included.

Stratified Games: 0-750/750-2000/2000+  
 A/B/C Pairs: 0-1500/1500-3000/3000+  
 Gold Rush: 0-100/100-300/300-750  
 299er Pairs: 0-100/100-200/200-300  
 A/X Swiss: 0-5000/5000+

Bracketed 0-3000 Swiss:  
 No player may have over 3000 MP.  
 Bracketed by average point holding of the team.  
 Top three teams in each bracket win gold.

Bracketed KO Teams:  
 Bracketed by average  
 masterpoints holding.  
 The top bracket may be  
 handicapped.



**Event Colors**  
 299ers: Gold  
 Teams: Green  
 Pairs: Blue  
 Breaks: Lectures or Special Events

# Around the Units in District 23



## Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

July 23 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Hanefi Erten/Oliver Yildiz, 2nd John and Jo Melis, 3rd Gayle Grubb/Sherry Troeger, 4th Steve Sturm/Phil Hiestand, 5th Wenja Yan/Walt Schafer, 6th April and John Berg. In the B flight overalls: 4th Alan Olschwang/Kennth Miller, 5th Carol Murakoshi/Lavonne McQuilkin, 6th Hank and Fern Dunbar. In the C flight overalls: 3rd John Janus/Barbara Shortwell, 4th Cooie and Jack Dampman. Congratulations to all!

**70+% Games** July 16 through August 15: In the evening game August 5 Darlene Harrison/Ralph Brunson had an historic 81.25%. Wow!

**Big Masterpoint Awards** July 16 through August 15: In the Swiss Team game July 16 Mary Singer/George Derevanik and Gayle Grub/Bob Lavery were first, each winning 2.70mp. In the unit game July 23 Oliver Yildiz/Hanefi Erten won 4.67mp for 1st, Jo and John Melis 3.50mp for 2nd. July 24 JoAnne and Calvin Walker won 5.06mp for 1st, Steve Rowe/Toni Morford 3.80 for 2nd. July 25 Robert Gish/Jon Yinger won 6.00mp for 1st, Kiyu Nagaishi/John Melis 4.50mp for 2nd, Kevin Lane/Renee Hoffman 3.38mp for 3rd. July 26 Usha Bansal/Rob Preece won 5.06mp for 1st, Bill Brooks Jeanette Estill 3.80mp for 2nd. July 27 Brandon Sheumaker/John Petrie won 3.94mp for 1st. July 28 Phyllis Greenstein/Doreen Maes won 5.81mp for 1st, Marcie Evans/Betty McClellan 4.28mp for 2nd, Verna Baccus/Al Beebe 3.27mp for 3rd. July 29 Steve Skinner/Bob Lavery won 4.31mp for 1st, Renee Hoffman/Pamela Cole 3.23mp for 2nd. July 30 Mark Leonard/

Robert Shore won 3.00mp for 1st. Aug 2 John Hagman/Ralph Brunson won 5.25mp for 1st, George Welsh/ T Teweles 3.94mp for 2nd. Aug 4 Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein won 6.38mp for 1st, Robert Rothman/Stanley Greengard 4.79mp for 2nd, KimWang/ John Williams 3.95 for 3rd. And Aug 12 Phyllis Parker/Marcus Evans won 3.94mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

**New Club Members:** Frances Gross, Barry Potter, Mark Singer. Welcome to the club!

**Status Changes:** New Junior Masters: Judith Cook, Sandra Schlosser, Ana Winn. New Regional Master: Dale Blessing. Congratulations to you all!

**Get Well Wishes** to Debra Skinner and Mary Thomas

### Upcoming Events at the Club

NAP qualifying games Aug 2--12:30pm, Aug 4--12:30pm, Aug 12--12:30pm, Aug 18--4:15pm, Aug 30--7pm, Aug 31--12:30pm. Extra points, \$1 surcharge.

August 6: Celebration of Earl VanDerVord's life: lunch 12:30pm, game

August 20: Swiss Teams 1pm

August 23-26: Short STaC week

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

### News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs by Judy Carter-Johnson

Unit Rated Game July 15--Clubhouse #1 Marilyn McClintock/Diane Sachs 1 in A. Verna Buns/Gary Paugh 2 in A. Joan Tschirki/Stan Blitz 3 in A. Simone Chottin/May Lou Hughes 4 in A. Jeanette Estill/Sibyl Smith 5 in A. Betty Jackson/Sharon Baren 6 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Cooie Dampman 1 in B. Jack Dampman/ George Koehm 2 in B, 1 in C. JulianeDeluccio/Howard Smith 3 in B. Louise Seifert/Stan Johnson 4 in B, 2 in C

Reminder: ACBL classifies Leisure World →

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



## Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, Sept 16, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, Sept 2, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

In the August Unit game, Dan Botoaca - Amr Elghamry took overall honors with a blistering 72% game. Lulu and Fredy Minter were second, Margie Hall - Linda Ananea third, Kiran Kumar - Avice Osmundson fourth, and Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Roberts fifth. In the August Individual, Sofi Kasubhai took first, followed by Clint Lew, Penny Barbieri, Gino Barbieri, and Al Lax.

Yet again, there were two scores over 70% this month. Amr Elghamry and Lulu Minter’s 70.5%-er just edged out Vic Sartor and Bill Papa’s 70.36%- game. Other winners: Genise Hasan, Hanan Mogharbel, Joe Unis, Roger Boyar, Fredy Minter, Penny Barbieri, Richard Patterson, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Linda Stuart, Chuck Lohr, David Ochroch, Herb Stampfl, and Yours Truly.

Only one promotion to report this month: Dede Moga has reached the first step on the ladder up, becoming a Club Master. Keep up the good work, Dede.

Another reminder - coming next month is our annual two-session Championship Game, and Unit Board elections, both scheduled for Saturday, October 21. Plan for another reminder next month.

For our Hand of the Month, we have this Exercise in Frustration. You are playing DONT against the opponents’ 1NT opening, in both the direct and balancing seats. LHO deals and opens 1NT (15-17), partner bids 2♣ (showing clubs and another suit, at least 5-4 shape), third hand passes, and you find yourself staring at this collection: ♠AK7 ♥AQT92 ♦43 ♣AK4

Yeow! You have a 2NT opener yourself. There are at most 5 HCP outstanding, and you gotta figure partner has them all, right? Well, what to do? Your choices are pass – which surely would earn you a white feather; 2♦ asking for partner’s second suit – risking a pass if diamonds IS the other suit; or 3NT. There’s a good chance that diamonds is partner’s suit, and if so, 9 tricks should be a lock. So 3NT it is.

Sorry, Charlie. Partner took a rosy view of this hand (not vulnerable): ♠QT952 ♥84 ♦T6 ♣J872 and the opponents rattle off the first 5 tricks (in diamonds, of course), with 4♠ making. Indeed, if partner had passed, you surely would double, partner would likely bid spades (having zero defense), and you’d bid the game (well, probably).

Oh well, fortune favors the bold, they say. But not this time.

Quote for the Month: “The trouble with the world is that the stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt.” (Bertrand Russell)

Until next month ...



## Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

This year’s Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 16-17 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium, 19345 Avenue of the Oaks in Santa Clarita. On Saturday, September 16, 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 17, 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](mailto:bbrodek@yahoo.com)) or partnership coordinator Tracy Boys ([abigquack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:abigquack@sbcglobal.net)) if you need a partner.

Unit Game, Castaic, Thursday August 3 →

1	Bert Stock – Arif Shah	59.38%
2	Ted Maki – Roshen Hadulla	57.29%
3	Carol Ashbacher – Hansford Rowe	54.17%



**Torrance-South Bay**  
by Steve Mager

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

**Mentor Team Game**  
**Friendly Bridge Club, Monday August 14**

- 1 Bob Biangella, Shirley Ramspeck, Roshen Hadulla, Arif Shah
- 2 Ted Maki, Lamonte Johnson, Carol Morton, Barbara Voss
- 3 Susan Strassner – Dan McGreevy, Bob Brothers, Sam Khayat
- 4 Bernard Seal, John Vacca, Barbara Seal, Richard Greenberg, Barbara Lash
- 5 Gay Gipson, May Ho, Tom Day, Jackie Moor

**Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club**

Club Championship: Saturday, September 9, 2:00 p.m.  
Club Championship: Friday, September 24, 11:30 a.m.  
Friday night game on September 1 and 15

What is a mentor team game? Paula Olivares matched the most experienced pairs with the least experienced, the next most experienced with the next least experienced, and so on until the pairs were all matched, 11 teams. It is a good way for less experienced pairs to be “mentored” through a team game for the first time in a comfortable setting. The Friendly Bridge Club also ran an “8 is enough” game, but it didn’t work as well as this mentor game for this field.

**Club Championships**

The July 19 Club Championship was won by CVal Gamio/Lucy Gellner in Flight A and Carole King/Beverly Narahara in Flight B. On July 31 the club championship was led by Lucy Gellner/Wayne Otsuki in Flight A with Hank Sheehan/Steven Dangel on top in Flight B and Jack Stewart/Michael McGory taking Flight C. The August 16 Club Championship was led by Joan Chrishal/Chris Freeland in both Flights A and B.

**Western Conference STaC Results**  
**Monday Afternoon, August 21**

1	Lamonte Johnson – Ted Maki	65.68%
2	Russ Buker – Carol Provost	65.42%
3	Roshen Hadulla – Arif Shah	64.77%
4	Carol Trenda – Gary Trenda	62.08%
5	Vibeke Gilbreath – Ruth Baker	57.95%
6	Aggi Oschin – Sharon Hoelscher	56.67%

**Team Winners**

June 27: Carole Mason, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos, Mike Savage  
July 11 : Luis Gamio, Bronck Felczer, Jim Dutton, Mike Savage  
July 18: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronck Felczer  
August 1: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronck Felczer  
August 8: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, John Jones, Wayne Otsuki  
August 15: Mary Ann Coyle, Gerri Soffa Carlson, Bo Bogema, J. McDermott

**Western Conference STaC Results**  
**Tuesday Evening, August 22**

1	Bill Brodek – Robert McBroom	69.05%
2	Ruth Baker – Elaine Moore	58.63%
3	Donna Davidson – Rand Pinsky	56.85%
4	Paul – Gill – Roy Ladd	56.25%
5	Barbara Jones – Tom Jones	54.17%

**Agile Bridge Club News**

Here are the special events at the Agile Bridge Club in September.

Club Championship Week: September 11-15. Mon-Thur 12:15 p.m., Fri 10 a.m. →

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

Tuesday, September 12, Potluck 11:30 a.m., Game 12:15 p.m.

September 22-29, New England Bridge Cruise

At least eight tables are expected for the North American Open Pairs

### Toronto NABC

Two of our unit members did very well in one event at the Toronto NABC in July. Ed Piken and Ron Feldman were on a team which finished third overall in the Truscott Senior Swiss Teams.

### SBBC Classes

The SBBC is currently offering Bridge classes for new and intermediate players. The classes started a few weeks ago but still have several weeks to go. They are:

Beginning Bridge Lessons

Tuesdays 4-6 p.m.

Arlene Greengard

Improve your Judgement

Opening the Bidding and Doubles

Thursdays 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Mark Raggio

Beginning 2 over 1 Bidding

Saturdays 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Maurice Suhre

Call the SBBC for more detailed information at 310-325-7222

### GUV Award

Perhaps my most annoying hand this year occurred in a team game at the South Bay club. I was in 6♠ holding ♠AQxxxx ♥xxx ♦xx ♣xx facing a dummy with ♠KJT ♥AKJTxx ♦Ax ♣AK. Of course I got a diamond lead to make things interesting, After taking the ace, I tried the ♠K and found out RHO had four small and LHO was void. I played a high heart and overtook the third spade to pull trump. How would you play the heart suit now? Well I decided since spades were 4-0 hearts were more likely to break 3-1 and finessed for the queen. Wrong, losing to Qx in RHO's hand.

The annoying part was yet to come. I would like to award the GUV award to a certain female partner of mine (take a wild guess) who was all over me for

not playing hearts to be 2-2 (eight ever, nine never you know). Despite all my butts, no forgiveness was forthcoming. This partner is famed for expecting the winning play to be made no matter what the percentages say.

At the other table the opponents wound up in 6♥ and after a minor lead and no way to get any distributional clues they simply lay down the two high hearts and came home a winner. Groan.

Na Zdrowie



West LA  
by Robert Shore

### A Special Welcome Mat

Ordinarily your Humble Scribe doesn't make too much of a fuss over any one player's entry into our Unit. After all, we are already blessed by a plethora of players who have reached the pinnacles of bridge achievement, and a number of past and present members of our Unit have been recognized by induction into the Hall of Fame.

But once in a while it's necessary to make an exception. Joining our Unit this month is Eric Greco. Usually playing with his partner, Geoff Hampson, Eric has won (to date) 14 NABC+ titles. Eric is a frequent participant in world championship events, where he has medaled three times. Welcome, Eric, to the West Los Angeles Unit. Please be gentle. And by the way, I'm looking for a partner next Friday.

Also transferring into our Unit this month are Daniel and Kenton Eliot and James Webb. Joining the ACBL this month are Gerald and Marlene Ansell, Frieda Gelfand, Janet Levine, Ellen Mathews, Irene Rosenberg, Jay Sloan, Aliaksander Vasyukevich, and Mrs. Henry Vlessing. Please give them all a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

### More Changes

As many of you know, I can't and don't do this job alone. Over the years many people have contributed to the column by taking the time to pore over club reports and forwarding the news to me. Another →

member joined this team recently and it's high time we recognized her contribution. Stephanie Young recently agreed to fill that role for both Beverly Hills and Barrington. Thanks, Stephanie.

### **It's the Time of the Season**

If autumn is approaching, then our Unit's Fall Sectional can't be too far away. Through the good graces of Adrienne Green, we will again be holding the tournament at Barrington, this time on October 7 and 8. Flyers are out at the clubs, so check out the schedule and make your plans. Also, look for information about advance reservations. Why stand in line when you don't have to?

Two other fall perennials in these parts are also around the corner. Sign-ups for the Unit Board will go up in the clubs and remain through the month of September. And once sign-ups have concluded, you can expect to receive in the mail your invitation to this year's holiday party. Keep an eye out for your invitation, and pay special attention to the deadlines. Sending in your check in advance will save you money. Don't miss out.

### **Some Bridge Was Played**

The Summer North American Championships recently concluded, and our Unit did not walk away empty-handed. Congratulations to Alan and Sherie Schneider, who won their bracket of the Tuesday Daylight Bracketed Swiss. Your Humble Scribe skipped Toronto but made it across the Colorado River to the Scottsdale Regional, and was fortunate enough to win the Agave Knockout Teams and the Sunday A/X/Y Swiss. At the Pasadena Sectional, Howard Rosen won the Friday

morning 499er Pairs event. Pete Benjamin came in first in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs game, and Mike Savage won the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams.

### **Around the Clubs**

Beverly Hills club champions this month were Homa Nasserri and Mori Taylor, your Humble Scribe and Joe Viola, Chuck Fonarow and Lou Papp, Judi Friedlander and Marsha Kerns, Sam Namer and David Segal, Viktor Anikovich and Amadeo Ursini, Judi Friedlander and Dovid Crum, your Humble Scribe and Om Chokriwala, and Valerie Aron and David Segal. Hitting 70% at Beverly Hills were Mike Savage and Tom Lesser, Chuck Fonarow and Farideh Sigari, Karen Schwartz and Dick Daskais, Sam Namer and David Segal, and Bob Ashen and Richie Weinberger.

No club championships to report from Barrington in the last month. Topping (and sometime smashing) 70% at Barrington were Pete Benjamin and Tom Lesser, along with Om Chokriwala and Aram Bedros.

### **Climbing the Ladder**

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Ilene Gerber and Loren Lewis. Don Levine is now a Club Master. Hasse Nyborg has become a Sectional Master, while Roger Rasmussen and Roman Sydorak have reached Regional Master Status. Ravesh Amar is now an NABC Master.

Sam Litovsky has become a Bronze Life Master. Charles Kelley has reached Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

## *Support Bridge by Supporting Bridge Players' Businesses*



**Attorney Jim Perkins**

*Trusted Advisor*

(310) 704-8840

Joint Venture Agreements  
 Death Planning • Revocable Trusts  
 Asset Protection • Incorporation  
 LLC Formation

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Ifti Baqui, Mitch Dunitz, Eddie Kantar, Roger Lee, Jill Meyers, Rick Roeder, John Swanson, and Jon Wittes

1

MPs  
EW vul

South	West	North	East
?	1♠	Dbl	3♠

You, South, hold:  
 ♠A4 ♥KT7 ♦QJ765 ♣AJ2  
 What call do you make?

*The panelists got by this round by either doubling or cuebidding 4♠. They are all aware that partner could hold ♠x ♥QJxx ♦Kxxx ♣KQxx and this produces no slam. Some are willing to try 4♥, which could be right at MP. The only panelists who mentioned 3NT explained why it was wrong. 3NT with a short ace opposite known shortness should definitely be avoided.*

**Wittes: 4♠.** The only hand where we won't have at least a play for slam is ♠x ♥QJxx ♦Kxxx ♣KQxx. If partner bids 5♣, I will bid only 5♦, taking into account the fact that partner could be a little light at this vulnerability. The 3♠ bidder shouldn't have a total yarrowborough. Even if the 3♠ bid is based on distribution, it could conceivably cause us a few problems. If partner bids 5♦ or 5♥, I will bid 6♦.

**Bare: 4♠.** Over 5♣ bid 5♦, over 5♦ bid 6♦, and over 5♥ bid 6♥.

**Kantar: 4♠ and 6♦ over 5♥ and 6♣ over 5♣.** I can't believe my partner has only four clubs in this sequence. *[His shape might be 1=4=4=4. With that shape and good clubs, he will certainly try clubs next.]*

**Dunitz: Double.** So far so good!

**Roeder: Double.** My follow up plan is to bid 4♥ over 4 of a minor and to bid a slam if partner jumps to 5 of a minor. A responsive double should unequivocally

deny four hearts. If not, as the late, great Alphonse Moyse once said, "a responsive double becomes a responsive straight jacket." Here's what deserves to happen to those who bid 3NT: down one with 6♦ cold. Another axiom: do your best to stray away from 3NT when your only stopper is an ace.

**Lee: Double.** At this vulnerability, with this many points, I have to think partner is a big favorite to have short spades. I'll make the bid that will get us to either 4♥ or 5♦ (or 3♠ doubled). 3NT has big upside when it's right but doesn't feel percentage.

**Meyers: Double (responsive).** I am not banking on having enough values to make 3NT. Partner could be light for the takeout double: ♠xx ♥QJxx ♦Kxxx ♣KQx, or even five hearts not good enough to overcall.

**Swanson: Double.** Partner may be able to sit on a rare occasion. The best part of the double is that I can delay my critical decision one round. I expect to wind up in 5♦. Are the vulnerable opponents trying to steal?

**Baqai: Double.** This problem would be even more interesting if the vulnerability was reversed, but here I would just double to show a good hand. Obviously I would expect partner to bid with a shapely double with something like 1=4=6=2 distribution. A distant second choice will be to cuebid 4♠, with the intention of bidding 5♦ over partner's 4NT/5♣ response.



South	West	North	East
2♥*	Pass	2♣	Pass
?		3♥	Pass

\* Artificial showing one ace or two kings

You, South, hold: ♠T4 ♥7 ♦76543 ♣AQT92  
 What call do you make?

*This is convention is not terribly popular these days, but it isn't a bad treatment. This problem is more difficult than the panel made it look. They unanimously selected 4♣, bidding where they live. Well done!*

**Kantar: 4♣.** I know you hate abstentions [*Yep! It doesn't make much of a column not to have answers*], so I will bid 4♣ instead of the more sensible 3♣ over 2♣.

**Wittes: 4♣.** Since I've already limited my hand to an ace or two kings, this shows where my values are. Partner shouldn't get too excited unless he has a club fit. I also play step responses over 2♣, so I am fine with that treatment.

**Bare: 4♣.** I prefer 2♥ as negative, showing at most two queens or a king and a jack.

**Lee: 4♣.** We basically have six of them, and 4♥ will often outplay 3NT anyway due to communication issues and the potential of a spade ruff. It's unfortunate our methods have wrong sided hearts and thus made a trump lead more attractive if we land in hearts.

**Swanson: 4♣.** Is it too late to show a suit?

**Dunitz: 4♣.** Standard methods often provide significant obstacles to getting to the right contract. I would take a stab at a club contract by bidding 4♣. Some might argue that 4 of a cheaper minor is a double negative [*2♥ isn't exactly negative with two AK controls*], but I'm not subscribing to this. Partner will probably rebid 4♥, but every once in a while, he will smile and bid a club slam.

**Baqai: 4♣.** This hand illustrates the issue with step responses over 2♣ openings but given the conditions

of contest, I would bid 4♣ showing where my length/strength is. I recognize that 3NT may be the best MP spot but I can't envision bidding a contrived 3♠ bid to get there. However, I'll consider passing partner's 4NT response.

**Meyers: 4♣.** I'm not sure if partner will deem that natural or a cuebid, but I can't think of anything more intelligent.

**Roeder: 4♣.** What convention is our esteemed moderator next going to foist on us: Mini-Roman, Foster Echo, or Flat Hand Stayman?

*What a popular set of conventions, Rick! Please don't anyone explain to me what Flat Hand Stayman is. Mini-Roman was frequently attributed to the late Marshall Miles, the former moderator of this column. However, Marshall disavowed the convention and played 2♦ as Flannery. And Foster Echo?!?!? I will never hear of Foster Echo without thinking of the late Paul Soloway. Traveling in Seattle during the 1980's I had lunch with Soloway, who had been very kind to me as an up and coming bridge pro. Both of us were trying to learn something during lunch. I was trying to pick Paul's brain about bridge. Paul was trying to learn about sports handicapping. Paul was every bit as bad at sports handicapping as he was great at bridge. (A winning sports betting algorithm would have been to bet the other side of every game Paul played.) I had won a national baseball handicapping contest and Paul wanted to ask me about sports betting. Paul was winning the conversation as it was centered on sports betting theories. I was getting little of my lunch eaten until four Little Old Lady bridge players spotted Paul. For several minutes they peppered Paul with a barrage of the most trivial bridge ques-*

# 3

IMPs  
no vul

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

You, South, hold: ♠KT7643 ♥7 ♦5 ♣KQ965  
What call do you make?

*One panelist deliberately makes a tactical underbid to try to save space.*

**Kantar: 3♣.** To make slam my partner needs three aces. My partners never have three aces, so I am going low.

*Some panelists jump in clubs emphasizing their great club support.*

**Roeder: 4♣.** Since I did not go through fourth suit, this is passable. Partner is a favorite not to have more than one spade. This is tough since a slight 3♣ underbid will make it easier to get to 4♣ when right. Thus 3♣ = 90%, white at IMPs.

**Bare: 4♣.** I'll pass 5♣ or 4♣.

**Meyers: 4♣.** I am tempted to bid 5♣, but 4♣ affords the most flexibility.

**Swanson: 4♣.** Not absolutely forc-

ing, but partner will get the idea that I have good clubs.

*Two panelists bid Fourth Suit Forcing, gaining space for getting to the best game in exchange for occasionally getting too high.*

**Dunitz: 2♦.** The choices are 4♣ (straight forward enough) and 2♦ (Fourth Suit Forcing to game). 4♣ gives partner the opportunity to make the final mistake (snicker), but at least it conveys the message that I'm highly distributional, and that red suit kings and queens should be discounted. On the other hand, 4♣ leaves us no chance to get to 4♠, and that might be the right spot. I'm waffling but will probably go with 2♦.

**Lee: 2♦.** I don't even think this is an overbid. We want to force to game and find out more about partner's hand, as 4♣, 5♣, and 6♣ are all still in the game. Of course, it's possible we have no game, but

we can't reasonably find out if that's the case at a low level.

*One panelist channels the great Grant Baze. There aren't many bridge players who were more respected than the wonderful world champion. Grant was so popular and had such a cerebral approach to the game. Wittes likes the splinter bid. It's the most aggressive bid that any panelist made because it does not easily get back into spades if it is right. But this is IMPs, and the splinter bid puts the slam focus directly on where it has to be if slam is possible – on how many aces are missing.*

**Wittes: 3♦.** I played a little with the late Grant Baze a number of years ago, and he once told me he thought the splinter was the most important bid in bridge. I've listened to that advice ever since and have rarely been disappointed in the outcome. I'm a little light for a splinter, but 5♣ does not do this hand justice, and with five good trumps, we shouldn't be in trouble. We could get to a light slam if it's right.

**Baqai: 3♦.** Here the two reasonable choices are to bid 3♣ or 3♦. If my ♠K was ♠A, 3♦, would be automatic but the actual hand makes it closer. I still think that the distributional nature of hand is a strong argument in favor of 3♦ bid.

## Looking to Buy, Sell or Lease?

25 years of real estate experience in Los Angeles.  
I'm here for all of your real estate needs!

**Robin Thayer and Associates**  
310-713-8647  
robinthayer@verizon.net





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

\* Artificial showing one ace or two kings.

You, South, hold: ♠4 ♥76543 ♦Q5 ♣AQJ92  
 What call do you make?

*Two panelists show their shape, starting with their straight flush in hearts.*

**Swanson: 3♥.** Some suits are better than others, but then, some are more convenient to bid than others. This reminds me of a similar problem I had a while back.

**Meyers: 3♥.** I'm sort of waiting to see what partner bids, my second choice is to splinter and bid 4♠ but I don't have enough diamonds to do that.

**Bare: 3♥.** With a good fit 6♣ or 6♥ should be cold. I plan to force to the six level. Contrary to hand number two, 2♥ showing controls looks like the winning method on this problem.

*Several panelists show their clubs, hoping to get ♦Qx support in.*

**Dunitz: 4♣.** I don't foresee stop-

ping short of slam.

**Kantar: 4♣.** I am hoping to be able to raise diamonds if they are rebid or at least give partner a diamond preference if they are not. That ♦Q shall not go to waste.

**Roeder: 4♣.** Diamond support next, if need be. Sorry, heart suit, you look more like a three-bagger than a five-bagger. Control responses have their place when the 2♣ opener has very specific ideas in mind as to the final destination. However, this is a potentially bad hand for control responses.

*The answer I like best is 4♦. Yes, I would like an extra diamond, but Qx will do nicely though.*

**Wittes: 4♣.** This is the most interesting problem of this set. It's been my experience that when partner opens 2♣ and rebids 3 of a minor, 99% of the time he has at least a six card suit. My Qx is a huge

holding. If partner has the ♣K and the two remaining aces, we should have a lay-down grand. If partner has a stiff club, my hand diminishes greatly in value, but a small slam is still a pretty good possibility. I would like to bid 4♠, but partner will never realize I have such a good club suit. So, I will bid 4♣ and then support diamonds, hoping that partner will drive us to a grand if he is looking at the club king and not club shortness.

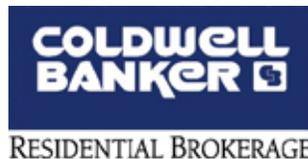
**Lee: 4♦.** I want to simplify things, and raising partner's minor on this auction is generally a good policy, as 4♣ rates to create confusion about strain. We primarily have a slam try in diamonds, so we need to show that before it's too late.

**Baqai: 4♣.** This hand is an interesting counter point to Problem #2. Even though your diamond suit is really moth-eaten, it still is tempting to bid to get to the cheaper 3NT game. On the other hand, with partner's holding diamond shortness, you can easily miss a superior club game or slam. Playing IMPs, I'll go with a 4♣ bid with the added bonus that if partner has diamonds as their second suit, he/she get to bid it now, except it may be an advance cuebid in support of clubs!

**Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier  
 REALTORS**

*Your Real Estate Partners for Life*

Relocation, Seniors, Luxury Properties and First Time Buyer Specialists Representing Buyers and Sellers in Probate & Trust Transactions; Estate, Condo and Investment Properties; Complex Real Estate Matters; Referrals; and Executive Transfers



**Carolyn 310-871-5051**  
**Marion 310-721-7782**  
 2444 Wilshire Blvd.  
 Santa Monica, CA 90403  
 DRE # 01074069 / 00413050



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

You, South, hold: ♠QJ4 ♥7 ♦AJ65 ♣AT876  
What call do you make?

*We'll start with a panelist who describes the feelings of most of the experts in just one word.*

**Dunitz: 2NT.** Yuck.

*How bad is this problem? Am I a mean guy?*

**Kantar: 2NT.** Maybe I'll get lucky, and partner will bail me out by rebidding three of a minor. Had I passed, it would be painful to glance at partner's expression when he sees the dummy. This is somewhat of a mean problem to include, John, but you are forgiven because you made us not vulnerable.

**Wittes: 2NT.** I have quite a minimum in values, especially with partner being a passed hand. Without a good suit to rebid, shortness in partner's suit, and secondary values in the opponent's suit, it seems like the right bid. Another worrisome factor for not bidding anything else is that spades were not supported on my right.

**Lee: 2NT.** I don't see the alternative here.

*Two panelists found an alternative, although I don't like it.*

**Bare: Pass.** If North had five hearts and a four card minor, a negative double would be a better bid. I would open 1♦. It's not clear if this would work out better on this hand, but would work out better on 1♦

Pass 1♥ and other auctions.

**Roeder: Pass.** Opening 1♣ is criminal and should only be reserved for when you want to end a partnership and do not have the guts to be proactive in said regard. Hence, it is a truly passive/aggressive opening bid uglier, than the face of the Elephant Man. The effort to recover from such calamity is reminiscent of the work needed to clean up a frat house whose party participants emptied 50 kegs on Saturday night. *[A side conversation with Rick indicated that he thinks a prepared 1♦ opening is best.]*

**Swanson: 2NT.** Partner didn't open 2♥, so he likely holds only five hearts. He didn't make a negative double, but I'm not certain what that implies. Maybe he will surprise me with a most welcome 3♣ bid. Anyway, I'm pleased I didn't open 1♦. Then I would have to decide among three choices.

**Baqai: 2NT.** Mitch and I have a 30+ year argument about the pros and cons of opening the south hand 1♦ or 1♣ to avoid the type of issues encountered here. I'm a strong believer in opening this hand as 1♦ to provide flexibility in choice of re-bids. But having opened 1♣, I have to rebid 2NT as partner didn't open 2♥. Hence he/she is promising only a 5-card suit. I hope partner is able to support my clubs or bid 3♦ now. P.S. The above argument has been now resolved by switching over to a Big Club system!

**Meyers: 2NT.** I play this can be passed.

PSP#2 continued from page 12

tions imaginable. Grateful for the break, I rapidly gobbled my lunch as Paul patiently answered questions that the average Junior Master could have fielded. Then they asked about Foster Echo. Paul was

in mid-bite with his chicken chowmein. His fork was about halfway to his mouth when he heard the "What do you think of Foster Echo" question. Paul threw his fork about ten feet in the air. With the fork midair, Paul exclaimed, "Foster Echo is the worst convention ever invented."

He caught the fork as it came down and ate the bite of chicken which was still on the fork. That was the last question the ladies asked Paul. The conversation went back to sports handicapping, although as a handicapper, Paul never got out of the junior room.