

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 53, #2

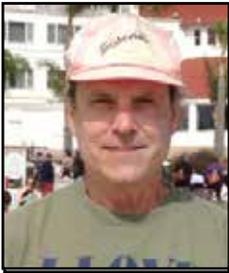
February 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Then and Now

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



The evolution of bridge has taken many paths. As with all things, ACBL tries to keep up with the times, so lots of their early activities were started under a certain philosophy, continued for a time, were tweaked or modified as players and customs changed with the

decades, and are now standardized under our codes until they change again. Probably inevitable that new bidding systems will never cease to be tried, then accepted or rejected, and result in new and unique methods to play and defend at the table.

Our organization has existed for eight decades now. Not only bidding, but the types of bridge games have also changed and developed since Vanderbilt invented our version of contract bridge in 1925. Pair games and Knockouts have been played from our very beginning in 1936. Swiss Teams were introduced in 1967. Compact KOs started in 1996. Bracketed Swiss in 1997, along with hand records. Gold points started in 1970; Silver points in 1988, Platinum in 1999. All our rank milestones were developed in conjunction with these new colors. Lastly, our tournament structure has had it's own set of developments.

Let's look at North American Bridge Championships. There were a very limited set of games at each early NABC and they had huge entry numbers. A look at the 1940 schedule from Asbury Park shows six main (National and World) events – anywhere from two- to six-day durations. The primary National Pair event for the President's Trophy was three days long. The Pair

PRESIDENT *continued on page 2*

ACBL CEO Resigns

by Kevin Lane, District Director



*Bridge is a game
and should be fun*

ACBL CEO Resigns

Major news: the CEO of the ACBL resigned. Last month I reported that Bob Heller from District was elected ACBL President. The ACBL Presidency is the annually elected leader of the board of directors. The most critical leadership position for the ACBL is the Chief Executive Officer, the CEO. Robert Hartman has held that position since November 2012. He resigned and will leave his position by July 31st.

I write this report just days after Mr. Hartman's announcement, and the board is already very actively responding. The board has for years had a CEO succession plan in case of an unplanned opening for the CEO slot, and we're executing that plan. For example, a CEO selection committee has already been established which includes five board members and two people outside the board.

District Director Honorary Nominations

Each year the District Director is allowed to make honorary appointments to the ACBL Goodwill and Charity committees. I have appointed Om Chokriwala as our district's 2016 Goodwill committee member. Om has been an extraordinarily positive influence on District 23 bridge. I have appointed Sharon Biederman as our district's 2016 Charity committee member. Sharon has worked hard in merging bridge and charity in her

DIRECTOR *continued on page 3*

Inside This Issue

Around the Units page 6
District 23 Regional.....page 11
Grand National Teams..... page 3

NAP page 4.
Problem Solvers Panelpage 13
Rank Changes page 5

PRESIDENT *continued from page 1*

games that filled in the remaining times (side games today) were also played for a trophy – the Victor Lindlahr Trophy. The winners were the pair with the highest five-game average. In addition to the trophy, they received two Masterpoints. The trophies were highly coveted and great cause for celebration by the winners. It wasn't about MPs in those days. It was for the glory of those pictures holding the trophies. Most were solid silver, by the way, hence ACBL safeguards those that we have today with high security measures.

Anyone who attends an NABC today sees 15-20 events per day! The National events are still multi-day and rife with stiff competition, but very few trophies are involved – it's all about the points and that "winner" title that enables the highest of all ranks – Grand Life Master.

Not content to conduct stand-alone NABCs, in order to start a National competition at the Club level, ACBL decided in 1979 to start the North American Pairs. The player response was indeed satisfying. Club level, Unit level, District level, and finally National level games resulted in our very first victors: Art Moore and Eric Robinson. A Flight C was added in 1987 and a Flight B in 1992.

Another similar development occurred with teams. From the beginning of tournaments, there have always been Team championships. Very prestigious silver trophies were awarded at NABCs to Match-Point Teams of four, Women's Team-of-4, Men's Team-of-4, Mixed Team-of-4, KO Team-of-4, Amateur Team-of-4, and more. It was decided in 1973 to start a team event at the District level that carried forward to the National Level. There were no restrictions or qualifications other than being a member of ACBL. That first year, 1,540 teams entered around the country! Stop and think about that.

Almost 6,200 players sat down and tried to represent their Districts at the July NABC in Washington, DC. There was only one flight! In 1973, this District only had 7,500 players and fielded about 100 teams to start. Lew Mathe, Don Krauss, Meyer Schleifer, and Curtis Smith represented LA that first year.

A Flight B was added in 1985. Dwight Hunt, George Collins, Claude LeFeuvre, and Dean Kaiser represented LA in Las Vegas.

In 1991, a Flight C was added. George Welsh, Dan Durham, Bob Gardina, Jeff Strutzel, and Subba Ravi-pudi represented LA in (again) Las Vegas.

In 2001, an Open Flight was added. Jill Meyers, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Ifti Baqai, and John Mohan represented LA in Toronto. They seem to win a lot!

It will take a longer article than this to fully explain all these changes, but the most important reason for expansion was to open the competition to more players who had a reasonable chance to win. You can also see **all** the LA winners over the years, not just the ones above, if you enter the GNT this year, because their names will be displayed on the wall in an almost complete list. We're still trying to fill it in.

So if your head is not spinning with all these changes over the years, you'll see another one at your LA Regional starting on February 6 at the LAX Sheraton. We are trying a "Turbo-Swiss" event to see how popular it becomes. We know players like teams and are squeezing some two-day carryover games into the Wednesday-Thursday and Friday-Saturday morning sessions. "Turbo" because it will require fast play. More boards than usual so you will get your bridge fix faster. You will probably need coffee!

Good luck to everyone and see you there. The walls will be alive with new history information obtained from ACBL. Hope we have enough wall space.

Southern California Bridge News

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DIRECTOR continued from page 1

extensive efforts to revitalize southern California bridge.

District 22 Honors a D23 Member

At the December Palm Springs regional, District 23 member Jan Wickerhsam was honored by District 22 Director Ken Monzingo as his ACBL Goodwill committee choice! Quoting Ken: "While not a member of District 22, Jan has been invaluable to a large number of District 22 regionals."

Club Task Force

ACBL President Bob Heller has appointed me chair of a 2017 task force on clubs. Clubs are the lifeblood of the ACBL and the task force will, take a strategic look at the role of clubs in the ACBL's future. Om Chokriwala is one of two non-board-members on this club task force. We welcome input.

Other Board Activities

I am also a member of the tournament task force. I am pleased to note that last summer I advocated for a strategic look at ACBL's major products and the club and tournament task forces respond to my urgings.

My other major committee is Strategic which also covers technology in the board's new streamlined structure. The Strategic committee is charged with aligning the ACBL's operational plans with the major strategic priorities established by the board. In this sense, the strategic committee has a more short-term focus than might be expected.

I can be reached at: klaned23@gmail.com

**2017 Grand National Teams
Location and Dates**

Flight	Dates	MP Limits
Open	April 22-23	0-unlimited
A	March 25-26	0-6000
B	April 22-23	0-2500
C	March 25-26	Non Life Master <500

Masterpoint limits based on recorded points as of September 6,2016

All Events:

- Location: Long Beach Bridge Center (562-498-8113)
- Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5, or 6 players
- Team flight is determined by player with the most points
- Game Times: 10:00 and 3:30
- Players can enter more than one event (on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in Toronto this summer
- Winning teams to receive partial refund of expenses for trip to the finals
- Complete Conditions of Contest available at <http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/>
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg (310-475-9784) or Janet Logan (949-400-5887)

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District 23 NAP Winners

by Mike Marcucci

It was a good day on January 15 at the San Marino Recreation Center. All the qualifiers met to duke it out in the finals with trips to Kansas City at stake.

There were close games in Flight A and good competition all around.

Our winners await their invitations from ACBL and are making reservations. Most even smiled for the pictures!

The winners were:

Flight A

- A1 Bruce Horiguchi - Steve Mager
- A2 Connie Kang - Alex Chen
- A3 Bob and Ellen Kent

Flight B

- B1 David Peim - Neal Kleiner
- B2 Kevin Lane - Murat Veysoglu
- B3 Cal Waller - Stan Greengard
- B4 Dwight Hunt - Claude LeFeuvre

Flight C

- C1 Zu Ming Cheng - Jackson Tsao
- C2 Alan Olschwang - Linda Nye
- C3 Andrew and Joerg Rottenbacher
- C4 John Janus - Jeff Grotenhuis

We wish all good luck and good eating in Kansas City.



A1 Bruce Horiguchi - Steve Mager



A2 Connie Kang - Alex Chen



A3 Bob and Ellen Kent



B1 David Peim - Neal Kleiner



B2 Kevin Lane - Murat Veysoglu



B3 Cal Waller - Stan Greengard



B4 Dwight Hunt - Claude LeFeuvre



C2 Alan Olschwang - Linda Nye



C3 Andrew and Joerg Rottenbacher



C4 John Janus - Jeff Grotenhuis

D23 Rank Changes December 2016

Junior Master

Richard Ackerman
 Wendy Aisley
 Marjorie Alden
 Patricia Brown
 Nora Lee Gecks
 Lindsay Gronich
 Charles Guinn
 Yeu Jen Hsiao
 Nicholas Koskelo
 Nabil Nahman
 Victor Palmieri
 Julie Rosen
 Howard Rosin
 Tom Sessions

Club Master

Ronald Bloom
 Gregory Gallagher
 Petra Green
 Phyllis Massing
 William Osterman
 Joseph Sessa
 Darlene Sessions
 Louise Shoemaker
 Janet Warner

Sectional Master

Elizabeth Beagle
 Teri Benaron
 Judith Estes
 Paul Reukauf
 Howard Schecter
 A Shah, Wendy Wanderman

Regional Master

Brian Fielding, John Hagman
 Linda Katz, Robert Lapin
 Brenda Rosin

NABC Master

Judy Freeman

Advanced NABC Master

Leslie Brucker
 Lynn Danielson

Life Master

Richard Bakovic
 Michael Camras, Carol Hanson

Bronze Life Master

Temo Arjani
 Margie Hall

Silver Life Master

Peggy Levin

Ruby Life Master

Norman Cressy
 D Geffner
 Dwight Hunt

Gold Life Master

Joel Schiff

Diamond Life Master

Dan Botoaca
 Mark Leonard

Top Recruiter in D23

*by Mike Marcucci,
 District 23 President*



Jeff Grotenhuis

A top teacher in District 23 was honored this month by ACBL for outstanding service in signing up more than 100 new bridge players in 2016. Jeff Grotenhuis from the South Bay area has been teaching at the Agile Bridge Clubs for several years now and his popularity among his students is showing brightly.

It might be the free coffee but more likely the friendly and cordial atmosphere at the lessons and games that leads to enjoyable afternoons of competition. Participation continues to grow as Jeff welcomes more players to join in the fun (and free cookies?)

Well done, Jeff. We hope to see you and many of your new players spreading the cheer around the rest of LA too.

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Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

December 18 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Jo and John Melis, 2nd Phyllis Parker/Pamela Kirkner, 3rd Corneliu Dabija/Paul Majoram, 4th Linda Nye/Terry Primer, 5th Rob Preece/Peggy Waite, 6th Anne Croul/Arne Lier. In the B flight overalls: 5th Llavonne McQuilkin/Carol Murakosi, 6/7 tie between Kevin Lane/Murat Veysoglu and Ron Pennington/Diane Starbuck. In the C flight overalls: 2nd Barbara and Alan Olschwang. In the 199er Section: 1/2 tie between Sylvia Kaprelyan/Ellen Kice and Katherine Seibert/Pauline Standish, 3rd Bill Cray/Sandra Schlosser. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games: Dec 16 through Jan 15: In the evening game Jan 4 Kay Tseng/John Melis had 70.60%. Congratulations to Kay and John!

Big Masterpoint Awards Dec 16 through Jan 15: In the unit game Dec 18 Jo and John Melis won 4.23mp for 1st, Phyllis Parker/Pamela Kirkner 3.17mp for 2nd. In the evening game Dec 21 Larry Topper/Bruce Peterson won 3.19mp for 1st. Jan 26 George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord won 4.31mp for 1st, John Melis/Kay Tseng 3.23mp for 2nd. Dec 27 John Melis Kiyoo Nagaishi won 5.81mp for 1st, Kim Wang/Cien-San Han 4.35mp for 2nd and Walt Schafer/Les Rawitt 3.27mp for 3rd. Dec 28 Kevin Lane/Murat Veysoglu won 3.75mp for 1st. Dec 29 Cliff Goodrich/Robert Gish won 4.13mp for 1st, George Welsh/Earl VanDerVord won 3.10mp for 2nd. Dec 30 Kim Wang/John Williams won 6.00mp for 1st, Steve Mager/Gerri Carlson 4.50mp for 2nd, Ted Gibbs/Mike Welsh 3.38mp for 3rd. Dec 31 Aaron Jones/Mark

Leonard won 3.21mp for 1st. Jan 3 Harry Sacks/Bob Rubin won 4.96mp for 1st, Orhan Gurguz/Kim Wang 3.72mp for 2nd. Jan 4 Kiyoo Nagaishi/Al Beebe won 3.50mp for 1st. Jan 5 Pamela Kirkner/Diane Starbuck won 3.06mp for 1st. Jan 6 Earl VanDerVord/Ralph Beazley won 4.52mp for 1st, Betty McClellan/Betty Witteried 3.39mp for 2nd. Congratulations to all pairs!

New Club Member: Maxine Barton-Bauman. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Advanced NABC Master: Alan Olschwang. New Gold Life Master: George Welsh. Congratulations to you both!

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

Upcoming Events at the Club

February 12: Unit-rated Swiss Team event

February 20: Presidents' Day game. Extra points, regular prices

February 26: Unit Game. Card fees \$8. Dessert served during the game.

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

by Judy Carter-Johnson

January 12 Club Championship game: Clubhouse #3: Jeanette Estill/Ted Cooper 1 in A, 1 in B. Thand Mikols/Larry Topper 1 in A. Marilyn McClintock/Sibyl Smith 3 in A. Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 4 in A. Verna Burns/Gary Gaugh 5 in A. Judith Jones/Al Appel 6 in A. Joan and Ted Wieber 2 in B. Barbara Wallace/Bill Dilks 3 in B, 1 in C. Bud Parish/Stam Blitz 4 in B. Melanie and Jerome Smith 5 in B. Louise Seifert/Stam Johnson 6 in B, 2 in C. Midge Dungan/Mark Singer 3 in C. Winnie Warga/John Hagman 4 in C. Judy and Willie Grieb 5 in C.

Congratulations to Leisure World Unit 557 Ace of Clubs winners for 2016 (top master point winners in club games (black points): 5-20mps Louise Siefert 2nd, Stam Johnson 3rd (a tie). 20-50mps Ellen Kice →

1st, Dick Stammerjohn 7th. 50-100mps George Koehm
 2nd. 100-200mps Sylvia Kaprelyan 3rd. 200-300mps
 Cookie Pham 2nd, Ted Wieber 6th, Gene Yaffee 9th.
 300-500mps Linda Nye 5th, Winnie Warga 8th. 500-
 1000mps Howard Smith 4th, Judy Carter-Johnson
 9th. 1000-1500mps Marilyn McClintock 2nd, Sherry
 Troeger 7th. 2500-3500mps Betty Jackson 6th. 3500-
 5000mps Bob Mault 7th, Joan Tschirki 8th.

Get Well: Sherry Troeger, Carmen Gross and Sue Fardette... Good to see Jaye Woodington and Jean Byer back at a few games.

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 rcj90740@gmail.com Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pomona Covina
 by Tom Lill

“Unit” Game – Saturday, February 18, 11:00 a.m.
 Individual – Saturday, February 4, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

Once again, our “Unit” game this month will be a club game – no word yet on how things are developing in Horn Lake regarding the uncalled-for increase in Unit game sanction fees.

In the January Unit game, Amr Elghamry - Joe Viola were the winners, followed by Roger Boyar - Richard Patterson, Vic and Kerry Sartor, and Penny Barbieri - Rosalie Roberts.

In the January Individual, Al Lax took the top spot. Trailing him (but not by TOO much) were Yours Truly, Penny Barbieri, Sandy Jones, Gino Barbieri, and Sofi Kasubhai, who took first in flight C also.

The top score this month was an unbelievable 85.8% monster posted by Vic Sartor and Bill Papa. This put to shame Lulu and Fredy Minter’s 75.2% game. In one of Phillip and Robert King’s pastiches (“Who Framed Rueful Rabbit?,” if you must know), Oscar the Owl noted that “In an event for backward five-year-olds who had learned to play that morning, you might manage a score in the mid-eighties ...” That doesn’t reflect too well on the rest of us, does it? Oh well. Among the mortal players, the winners were Walt Otto, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Karen McCarthy, Karen Olin, Gayle Ginsburg, Rita Stachniak, and Bridget O’Sullivan.

Only one promotion to report this month: Paule Ford is now an NABC Master. Surely, with our winter Regional coming up, there will be more to report next month.

Speaking of which (Regionals, I mean), the District is still looking of a photographer to document the winners at our tournaments. The present holder of the job is getting rather tired of being a temporary replacement... after 18 months on the job. You’d like to do it, but don’t plan to spend the whole week at the tourney? It hasn’t been discussed with the tournament committee, but there’s no reason to suppose the photographer duties could not be handled by more than one person. (One per day, of course.) Get in touch with us if interested, please. (Hint hint – guess who the present photographer is?)

This month’s Hand-of-the-Month isn’t quite the freak we presented last month, but it still has its points of interest... if you are fond of rub-of-the-green deals.

Second in hand, you have long diamonds to the QJ, and both pointed-suit aces. You open the bidding 1♦, and the following auction ensues:

<u>RHO</u>	<u>You</u>	<u>LHO</u>	<u>Partner</u>
Pass	1♦	2NT*	pass**
4♣	4♦	6♣	all pass

* Hearts and clubs

** Partner never does what you want

Your lead?

If you opened the ♦A, congratulations. Dummy comes down with ♠-- ♥AKT9x ♦Kx ♣AQTx and partner is sitting there with ♣KJ (doubleton). Down one. On the other hand, if you opened the ♠A, the slam makes, because declarer’s diamonds eventually go away on the hearts. Declarer had five little clubs for his jump to 4♣, by the way.

Quote for the Month: “Kites rise highest against the wind --- not with it.” (Winston Churchill) →



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 held its annual "After the Holidays" party and general membership meeting on January 17. The party was a great success with lots of wonderful food. President, Paula Olivares gave a brief report on the Unit's accomplishments for 2016 and the board for 2017 was elected. They are Ruth Baker, Tracy Boys, Bill Brodek, Roy Ladd, Beth Morrin, Paula Olivares, Rand Pinsky, Hansford Rowe, and Mira Rowe.

Unit Game Results January 17th in Santa Clarita

North/South

- 1 Donna Davidson & Freddie Straus - 64.98%
- 2 Charles Morrin & Beth Morrin - 64.65%
- 3 Kathy Swaine & Rita Vannatter - 58.65%
- 4 Carole Provost & Arif Shah - 55.15%
- 5 Betty Pavey & Bert Stock - 55.10%

East/West

- 1 Peter Knee & Paula Olivares - 59.45%
- 2 Jan Ladd & Roy Ladd - 56.48%
- 3 Bill Brodek & Robert McBroom - 53.75%
- 4 Viviane Dinehart & Aggi Oschin - 52.93%
- 5 Ruth Baker & Tracy Boys - 52.77%

Winners of the 2016 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Masterpoint Races

0-5	Leslie Spitz
5-20	Susan Adkins
20-50	Gay Gipson
50-100	Paul Reukauf
100-200	Carole Provost
200-300	Barbara York
300-500	Ruth Baker
500-1000	Roy Ladd
1000-1500	Lamonte Johnson
1500-2500	Bill Brodek
2500-3500	Roshen Hadulla
3500-5000	Paul Markarian

Winners of the 2016 Mini-McKenney Masterpoint Races

0-5	Leslie Spitz
5-20	Jordan Kuschner
20-50	Gay Gipson
50-100	Joshua Kuschner
100-200	Carol Provost
200-300	Barbara York
300-500	Ruth Baker
500-1000	Bert Stock
1000-1500	Douglas Kuschner
1500-2500	Bill Brodek
2500-3500	Roshen Hadulla
3500-5000	Paul Markarian

Upcoming Events

ACBL-wide International Fund Game #1: Saturday, February 4 at 12:30, Joshua Tree Bridge Club, in Palmdale.

Awards Luncheon and Unit Game: Sunday, March 19 at 12:30, Joshua Tree Bridge Club.

ACBL-wide Seniors Pairs Game: Monday, March 27 at 12:30, Friendly Bridge Club, Senior Center, Santa Clarita.

Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 16-17 at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita.

Next Board Meeting: Sunday, March 19 after the Unit Game. →

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.



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

2017 Unit 561 Officers and Board of Directors

Unit 561 is pleased to announce the 2017 Officers and Board of Directors, as follows: Barb Simpson – President, Marcia Broderick – Vice-President, Nancy Klemens – Secretary, and Rochelle Lotto – Treasurer. Other Board members are Larry Abramson, Ellen Anten, Harold Kahn, Mark LaVine, Frank Pinkus, and Susan Raphael.

Ex-Officio Board members include Dennis Hill – Past-President and Linda Silvey – Newsletter. Special thanks are due to outgoing 2016 Board Members Dennis Forst, Phil Jones, M.J. Jubelirer, and Elaine Keyes for their time of dedicated service to Unit 561.

April 29: Unit 561 Awards Luncheon/Game

A Unit 561 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 29, at the 750 Club. The catered lunch will be served buffet style at noon, followed by the presentation of awards, and then an Open, Stratified game at 1:00 p.m. Please save the date and watch for more information in the March

edition of this newsletter.

Special Congratulations

New Life Master Achievements by Unit 561 players were: Phyllis Seeder (Life Master); Julie Kimelman, Phyllis Seeder, and John Tickner (Bronze): Joseph Hooker (Silver – 1,000); Susan Raphael (Ruby – 1,500); and, Marta Monheim (Gold – 2,500).

December Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ray Primus 9.99, Carol Bell 9.66, Gloria Feerst 8.97, William Raff 7.57, Philip Berk 7.42, Vera Mandell 7.37, Mark LaVine 7.14, Michael Wiener 6.88, John Tickner 6.67, and Phillip Calloway 6.52. The following achieved 70% games in December: Jeff Hartmann – Gabe Rosenberg 72.92% and Gloria Feerst – Ron Stewart 70.58%.

The 750 Club News and February Special Events

Some snowbirds and a southeastern seabird have been migrating to Woodland Hills! Recent visitors, who received a warm welcome at The 750 Club, have included players from the states of Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Montana, and New York.

Celebration of Valentine's Day will be held on Tuesday, February 14, with a drawing for free plays. Drawings for free plays will also take place on Monday, February 20, at both the day and night games in celebration of Presidents' Day. Club Championship Week will be held Monday – Friday, February 13-17. Extra black points will be awarded for no additional fees.

Calendar

Monday-Friday, February 13-17: Club Championship Week at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, February 14: Valentine's Day will be celebrated at The 750 Club.

Monday, February 20: Presidents' Day will be celebrated at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, March 21: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

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

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

District 23 on the web:
<http://www.bridgewebs.com/acbl23/>



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: Thurs, February 2, 10:30

Club Championship: Wednesday, February 15, 6:30

Club Championship: Tuesday, February 21, 11:30

Club Championship: Monday, February 27, 11:30

Friday Night games on February 3 and 17

Club Championships

The Club Championship on December 27 was won by Arlene Greengard/Gerri Carlson in Flight A with a tie between Elaine Godin/Ron Srenco and Jamila Malikyar/E. Ruttenberg for Flight B honors. On January 4 the Club Championship was led by Carol McCully/Cal Waller in Flight A. The January 9 Club Championship saw James Alstad/Roberta Gotfried winning both Flights A and B. The January 20 Club Championship was won by Cal Waller/Betsy Amador in both Flights A and B

Team Winners

December 27: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

January 3: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer

January 10: Mary Ann Coyle, Gerri Soffa Carlson, John Jones, John J. McDermott

January 17: Mary Ann Coyle, Gerri Carlson, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott:

GUV Award

I dug back in the past for this one. This hand came up several years ago, but I couldn't resist repeating it. It was from a home team game Board-a-Match. The

award is shared by Maurice Suhre and his offtime partner, well, me. One board in this match proved that a hidden card can be a help or a hindrance. At one table Maurice's opponents reached 6NT with seven clubs to the AKJ7xxx with seven cashers in the other suits. Maurice held ♣Q8x, but apparently one of the clubs was hidden in his hand. When declarer holding a club doubleton pounded down the AK of clubs Maurice played the club Q on the second lead of the suit before discovering his hidden club. Maurice chalked this one up as a sure loss but really had no need to worry. When I declared the same contract dummy came down with only 6 clubs plus doubletons in the other three suits. Well 6-2-2-2 distributions play well especially when you are trying to avoid losing all 13 tricks but in this case they played even better. I took the finesse for the queen winning and also made 7. When I chastised my LHO for not covering the Ten from my hand he gave me a funny look. It took a minute or two for it to register that dummy actually had 7 clubs and I had inadvertently hooked saving a precious half board for our team.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

Kansas City, Here I Come

The District held its finals for the 2017 North American Pairs competition last month. Winning Flight C (non-Life Masters with fewer than 500 points) and earning a nice check to defray his expenses to Kansas City was Jackson Tsao. Congratulations and the best of luck at the national finals.

Unit Stuff

The Unit Game held in honor of freshly minted Grand Life Master Peter Benjamin went swimmingly. Taking home first place was the formidable pair of Ellen Anten and Steve Gross. This will be the last Unit Game for a little while. Our Unit Board has decided to forego scheduling Unit Games for a month or two in protest of ACBL's recent sharp increase in sanction →

fees for Unit Games.

The Board also held its annual election, and the usual suspects remained in place. Our President is still Jordan Chodorow, Karen Byrd remains the Vice President, Roger Clough still controls the purse strings as Treasurer, and Candy Scott is again Secretary. We can also officially welcome Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten as the Board's newest member.

At the Table

Not a whole lot of tournament activity to report over the last month. Down at the year-end San Juan Capistrano Sectional, Ifti Baqai won the Friday morning Open Pairs event. Early this year at the Monterey Regional, Ifti took another first, this time topping the field in the Wednesday-Thursday morning Swiss.

Counting Tricks

After a weak 2♥ opening on your right, you're in 6♠ with the following hands:

Dummy: ♠AQ94 ♥AK73 ♦AKT ♣T4
 Declarer: ♠KJT2 ♥65 ♦J94 ♣AK73

Unsurprisingly, the opening lead is the ♥9, which you win on the table. The best play to make the contract is to lead a club to your hand and then fire a second heart toward the table immediately. If lefty doesn't ruff it, you'll draw two rounds of trump, cash AK, AK in the minors, and score 12 tricks on a high crossruff. If lefty does ruff it, he has to return a trump or you'll be able to ruff two clubs in dummy, returning hand with a couple of trump, and eventually throwing your diamond loser on the ♥K.

So lefty perforce returns a trump. Even though trump break 4-1, you're still in control. Win it on the board and lead dummy's last club. Ruff a club high, lead dummy's low trump to your hand, ruff your last club high, ruff dummy's low heart to get back to your hand, draw trump, pitching dummy's low diamond, and lead a diamond to dummy's 3 red winners. You still scored 4 trump in your hand, the three side suit AKs, and two ruffs in dummy for 12 tricks. The hand was played in spades 4 times, and only one declarer took 12 tricks.

Welcome Mat

Two full tables of new players joined the ACBL through our Unit. Joining us are Kay Boles, Stephanie Campbell, Constance and Douglas Hayes, Myriam Macquiddy, Ann Mallel, Joan Raff, and Christine Udall. Adding to our ranks from another Unit was Dana Woodbury. Please show them all a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

Hitting the 70% mark at Barrington last month were Adrienne Green and David Bohnett, Mike Mikyska and Mitch Dunitz, Nelly and Colin Gordon, Steve Mager and Peter Benjamin, and Chuck Maltz and Basant Shah. Art Zail won club championships with Steve Yaffe and with Wayne Karson, leaving one over for Tom Lesser and Peter Benjamin to win.

No one hit 70% at Beverly Hills last month. Club champions were Joel Schiff and David Peim, Pat Larrin and Om Chokriwala, John Herriot and Jonathan Holmes, Aram Bedros and Wayne Karson, Aram Bedros and Om Chokriwala, and Lisa Karako and Rion Porter.

The Marina City Club will resume its Tuesday evening games when remodeling is complete in a month or two. Call Robin Thayer at (310) 713-8647 for information, or watch this space for an update.

Climbing the Ladder

Starting their climb up the ladder of addiction as our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Stephen Bauman, Nanci Cohen, James Degner, and Daniel Harrington. Reaching Club Master status are Carole Adadhek, Elizabeth Bowen, Nancy Rosser, and Peter Schlesinger. Our Unit's newest Sectional Masters are Irene Ghassemieh, Adrienne Sarmiento, and David Serbin. Ann Turner is now a Regional Master.

Julie Kimelman has become a Bronze Life Master. Joseph Hooker has reached Silver Life Master and George Wagner has become a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

Looking for a Club? Check out: <https://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

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Los Angeles, CA
February 6th - 12th 2017



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Need a Partner?

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Tournament Manager:

Peter Benjamin
ahoneydo@aol.com
310-720-6050

Director-in-Charge:

Ken Horwedel

Tournament Chair: Stan Holberg
District 23 President: Mike Marcucci

ACBL Sanction: R1702072
Flyer Designer: Mr. F.

Monday, February 6, 2017

299er Free Workshop/lunch (Reserv. Rqd)	10:30 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
0-50 Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (1 of 6)	1:00 pm
Stratified Charity Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (1 of 6)	7:00 pm
Betsy Ross KO (1 of 4)	7:00 pm

Tuesday, February 7, 2017

AM Side Game Series (1 of 5)	9:00 am
Betsy Ross KO (2 of 4)	9:00 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (2 of 6)	1:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Bernie Mateer Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1&2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
George Washington KO (1 & 2 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (2 of 6)	7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

AM Side Game Series (2 of 5)	9:32 am
Early Bird Turbo Swiss (1 of 2)	9:32 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (3 of 6)	1:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Jan Nathan Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
George Washington KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Abe Lincoln KO (1 & 2 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (3 of 6)	7:00 pm

Thursday, February 9, 2017

AM Side Game Series (3 of 5)	9:32 am
Early Bird Turbo Swiss (2 of 2)	9:32 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (4 of 6)	1:00 pm
Lois Miller Memorial Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Abe Lincoln KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Ft Henry Board-A-Match Teams (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (4 of 6)	7:00 pm

Friday, February 10, 2017

AM Side Game Series (4 of 5)	9:32 am
Rise and Shine Turbo Swiss (1 of 2)	9:32 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
0-99 Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (5 of 6)	1:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Unit 559 Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Teddy Roosevelt KO (1 & 2 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Guest Lecture	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (5 of 6)	7:00 pm

Saturday, February 11, 2017

AM Side Game Series (5 of 5)	9:32 am
Rise and Shine Turbo Swiss (2 of 2)	9:32 am
299er Pairs (single session)	1:00 pm
Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6)	1:00 pm
Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Pat Banks Memorial Stratiflighted Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Teddy Roosevelt KO (3 & 4 of 4)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
POTUS Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2)	1:00 & 7:00 pm
Entertainment Event	6:15 pm
Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)	7:00 pm
299er Pairs (single session)	7:00 pm
PM Side Game Series (6 of 6)	7:00 pm

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Stratified Fast Pairs (2 sessions)	10:00 am & TBA
WLA 2015 Player of the Year --- Bob Shore --- Flight A/X	
Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	10:00 am & TBA
Bracketed Flight B/C/D Swiss Teams (2 sessions)	10:00 am & TBA

Event Colors: 299ers: Orange / Teams: Green / Pairs: Blue

KOs may be handicapped. Games will be stratified by average masterpoints.

Stratified Games: 0-1500 / 1500-3000 / 3000+
Gold Rush: 0-100 / 100-300 / 300-750
Flight A/X: 0-5000 / 5000+
Bracketed Flight B/C/D:
Bracketed by average points of team.
No player over 3000 MPs

PM Swiss Teams: 4 x 7 boards
Turbo Swiss Teams: 3 x 8 boards
Sunday Swiss Teams will be finished by 5 pm.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Wafik Abdou, Mark Bartusek, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Ross Grabel, Fred Hamilton, Tim Lolli, and Jill Meyers

1

MPs
NS vul

South	West	North	East
?	3♠	Pass	Pass

You, South, hold:

♠Q5 ♥Q94 ♦AQ6 ♣AJ976

What call do you make?

Hamilton: Pass. Of the three possible bids, pass, double and 3NT, I reject double (how to get into a 4-3 heart fit vulnerable and doubled). 3NT... I have the guts to do it with only Qx of their suit, but the club suit would have to be better. In the long run this hand just does not qualify for action at this level. As the great Al Roth said "stay fixed." *[Fred mentioned having the guts to make a bid. I'm sure he has the guts to make any bid he thinks is right. Fred made one of the gutsiest bids I know about. I believe the bid came in the 1976 Bermuda Bowl. Ahead by about 60 with 16 boards to play, Fred, white in third chair, picked up a hand with ♣Jxxxx and little else. Fred bid 3♣! He was asked why he would risk a crazy bid while significantly ahead. Fred answered, "What do you think the guy in my seat down 60 is going to do"? Sure enough, 3♣ was the third seat preempt at the other table. I never doubt that Fred has enough gumption to make any bid. So do our clubs need to be better to make this bid?]*

In agreement with Fred:

Lolli: Pass. Could partner have a spade stack? – Yes. If I bid (double of course) can we go for 500 or 800? - Yes. If I pass, will we defend when we have a game? - Could be.

The 3NT bidders now have the floor.

Dunitz: 3NT. Non-vulnerable three-level preempts ain't what they used to be. This could work out poorly,

but I'm willing to take my chances.

Abdou: 3NT. No raise and even in the unlikely event that West has the AK, they may not have the signaling methods to diagnose Qx in my hand. Also, the suit maybe blocked, say 10xx in dummy and the jack with East.

Bartusek: 3NT. Close between this and double. The opponents aren't vulnerable and East didn't raise spades, so there is a good chance that partner has a spade honor or that spades will block. Sure we might miss a heart fit when partner has exactly five, but 3NT seems the percentage bid. Marshall Miles always said that 3NT is sometimes the preferred contact even if you have a 5-3 major suit fit. Besides, I don't want partner defaulting to a 4♥ bid (after my double) with only a four-card suit.

Meyers: 3NT. At this vulnerability with no raise by my RHO I think partner has enough values, and enough spades, for 3NT to have play.

Davis: 3NT. Pass or double certainly could be the winning call but, for an aggressive pair, 3♠ at this vulnerability does not promise much and RHO will usually bid 4♠ with three spades and sometimes with two. So fear of them winning a lot of spades should not, by itself, keep me from bidding 3NT. Although I will certainly need some help from partner to make 3NT just the ♠Jxx and the minor suit kings may be enough. I

2

IMPs
all vul

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

*waiting, ** second negative

You, South, hold:
 ♠A75 ♥A9 ♦-- ♣AKQJT953
 What call do you make?

Lolli: 5♣. Too likely to get a diamond lead against 3NT, so I shoot out 5♣ and hope partner has a smattering which will allow me to develop an extra trick.

Meyers: 5♣. I have ten tricks, hoping partner has one trick or the opponents make a mistake. My alternative bid is 3♠ but that is too dangerous if partner has fewer than five spades.

Grabel: 3♠. *[There are plenty of clubs we could sort with our spades.]* I'll then bid 5♣ over anything but 3NT. I could certainly gamble out 3NT but holding a void diamond, it is likely to be led, making 3NT less attractive opposite a double negative.

Abdou: 3NT. Ugly, but once again bid 3NT and pray partner can stop diamonds. An 11-trick game opposite a double negative is a mirage, but they pay a bonus for bidding a game. I sense a theme here.

Dunitz: 3NT. Sick, but should make most of the time. There are no guarantees that 5♣ will make.

Hamilton: 3NT. I may or not be able to make 5♣ (probably not as partner is pretty broke), but I can make 3NT if they cannot or do not take five diamond tricks. Who wants to play in 4♣ when you are fairly likely to be able to make 3NT?

Bartusek: 3NT. It is absolutely silly to use 3♦ as a second negative in this auction. Distributional information is much more important than point count when we're already at such a high level. Partner's second round 3♥ or 3♠ bid should show 5+ cards while 3♦ should deny a 5+ major or good club support. This allows opener to bid a 4-card major at the 3 level in

search of a 4-4 fit, and it gives opener a clue as to partner's distribution. It is a complete guess now whether we have a 5-3 spade fit or a 6-2 heart fit. I suppose 3NT probably has the best chance of making, since I know that we can't make 5♣. Hopefully they can't cash the first five diamond tricks.

Davis: 3NT. Partner does not have many clubs or a long major and is therefore a favorite to have diamond length. I think 3NT is a big favorite to make whereas, if partner is broke, 5♣ will usually fail. The biggest argument against 3NT is that partner may not have a weak hand and 5♣ will be more encouraging to him to bid 6♣ than 3NT will be. Partner could have nothing for 3♦. 3♦ is often bid regardless of strength on balanced hands (particularly with two small in an unbid suit) and on hands with diamond length, in order to allow the 2♣ bidder room to describe his hand or to become declarer in 3NT. However, partner will bid on even over 3NT with sufficient values (e.g., ♠xx ♥QJxx ♦Axxxx ♣xx).

This Palm Springs problem was given to me by Steve Ramos. Steve bid 3NT. The above experts who suggested partner might have extras because 3♦ might be something of a catch-all bid here were right on the actual hand. Partner raised 3NT to 6NT. That gave Steve another problem. Steve tried 7♣ over 6NT. He was right. 12 tricks were available in NT, but there were 13 tricks available in clubs. The 5♣ bidders and the 3♠ bidder will also get to 6♣, possibly 7♣ on the actual hand. Partner holding significant scattered cards (most of the missing cards except the ♦A) will raise 5♣ at least to 6♣.

3
 MPs
 NS vul

South	West	North	East
Dbl ?	Pass	Pass 4♠	3♥ Pass

You, South, hold:
 ♠AK5 ♥94 ♦AKJT ♣AJ63
 What call do you make?

Do we go on? 5♠ asks for a heart control, or maybe a heart control and a slammish hand, but do we have enough?

Abdou: 5♠. This is old fashioned, asking for heart control, am I missing something here? I will punish partner for jumping when I have a truck load of high cards.

Bartusek: 5♠. Asking for a heart control (although somewhat aggressive). It is extremely likely that partner has five spades for his jump to 4♠ since he is a passed hand. With only four spades partner could have bid 4♥ to offer up a minor suit contract if we didn't have a 4-4 spade fit.

Dunitz: 5♠. A tough problem. We may or may not be long in slam, and I have doubts about strain. 5♠ would ask for heart control, and 5♥ is a slam try showing heart control. I would probably bid 5♠.

Hamilton: Pass. Tough problem! We could have a slam, but when you try giving partner hands that do not qualify for a weak two bid, most need luck to make slam. Still, we do have a big hand (not quite so big if you drop the jacks) If I were to bid, I think 5♠ is best. After being preempted this does not just ask for a second round in the opponents' suit but whether partner likes his hand for slam. Partner **may** have only four spades with about 10-11 HCP, so any further bid may result in a minus. Color me chicken, I do not like

the shape or the playing strength of this hand.

Meyers: Pass. It is tempting to bid 5♠ asking if partner has a heart control to bid a slam, but even then we might not make slam and we may be too high in 5♠. Any finesses in the minors rate to be off – so unless partner has something like ♠Qxxxx or longer, the ♥A and the ♦Q, I don't want to be in slam, and I am not going to put those cards in partner's hand.

Grabel: Pass. Partner is a passed hand, and I have no source of tricks to make bidding on a reasonable proposition

Lolli: Pass. Yes, it's possible we can make a slam, but it's also possible to go down in 5♠. I go for the plus, so sue me.

Davis: Pass. Extra strength and good controls are not enough to justify bidding more with two small hearts, no fourth trump, knowledge that partner does not have an opening bid, and in an auction where suit(s) may not break well.

I held this hand at the table. I bid 5♠. I think my 5♠ bid was a little too aggressive, and that pass is right. At the table, my partner bid 6♠. The contract was below 50%, but had play. Partner went down a trick, but later thought he should have made it. The hand was played in multiple sections and only 4 pairs bid the slam. All of them failed.

4
 IMPs
 all vul

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

* * 4+ clubs, 10+ HCP (Inverted)

You, South, hold:
 ♠AK ♥K ♦T98 ♣AKJT953
 What call do you make?

Lolli: 2NT. East can't have very much for his 2♠ call, so I'd like to hear what partner's hand is about. If 2NT isn't forcing here, it should be. *[I agree. A free bid of 2NT after the overcall should be 100% forcing. Partner will bid 3♣ with all minimums.]*

Meyers: 3♦, natural and forcing.

Dunitz: 3♠. I'll then pull 3NT to 4♣. This is a powerful hand and I refuse to settle for 3NT anymore in this bidding set. If partner bids 5♣ over 4♣, I'll pass.

Grabel: 3♠. I'm waiting to see if partner can make a forward going call.

Hamilton: 3♠. This **always** shows a spade control the way I bid; it would only ask if there were no more room available. 3NT seems our most likely contract, though 6♣ or even 7♣ might be there. The 3♠ bid caters to both possibilities though, so I cannot accept any other bid than 3♠.

Abdou: 3NT. Tough problem, we may have 6♣ when

3NT goes down on a heart lead. Assuming East hasn't lost his mind, slam is unlikely. 3♠ gets us beyond 3NT. I like pass if we have the agreement that partner must bid (we are in a forcing auction once a LR plus bid is made), We may face the same decision if partner bids a minimum 3♣. If he bids 3♠ we are off to the races by cuebidding 4♠.

Bartusek: 4♣. Clearly forcing! Whether this is Minorwood or just setting trumps (and initiating cuebidding), this bid seems clear-cut. *[The difference between the two meanings does seem important.]* Since it is IMPs playing in NT isn't that important, and a club slam is likely (especially with a spade lead when diamond losers could be thrown on heart winners). A direct leap to 6♣ might be a reasonable bid, but we might be off two aces or we might miss a grand.

Davis: 4♣ (or whatever is keycard). If partner has one ace, slam could be cold and will usually at least have a play. If partner has two aces, we can make 6NT and are then looking for the ♦K (or for the more difficult to determine ♥AQx) for 7NT.

PSP#1 *continued from page 13*

must say, I am liking these rose-colored glasses.

The first three problems in this set came from the last Palm Springs Regional. This one was given to me by Mark Itabashi. Mark bid 3NT and made it. One of Mark's partner's is Ross Grabel. What does Ross think about this problem?

Grabel: 3NT. This seems to be the standard treatment these days.

Ho-hum. Bid 3NT. Make 3NT. Next problem. Are we boring you with such a trivial problem?

What do you think?
 Send letters to the editor to:

bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

5

MPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
?		1♥	1♠

You, South, hold: ♠K42 ♥J4 ♦Q432 ♣KT32
What call do you make?

Hamilton: 1NT. Bid freely, this should show about 8-10 (maybe 7?). *[I describe the range as good 7 to poor 11.]* If this hand were just a point or two stronger then we could double and bid 2NT or 2♣ over partner's response. As it is, we cannot raise partner's two-level rebid so I would just make the descriptive bid of 1NT. At MP I try to go plus and do not get too involved trying for perfect contracts.

Lolli: 1NT. I show the spade stop in case partner is interested in NT. If he has minors, he can bid it at his next opportunity. Phew! *[Tim loved this set.]*

Meyers: 1NT. Second choice is double so that if partner bids 1NT the lead will be made by the 1♠ bidder.

Grabel: Double. Although I expect the votes will be split between double and 1NT. *[Good prediction!]*

Dunitz: Double. I would make a negative double.

Bartusek: Double. Why wrong-side NT when partner has Qxx, or deflect the partnership from finding our minor suit fit (especially if LHO raises spades!)? I only have one spade stopper and I can always bid NT later, if appropriate. Additionally, the slow nature of my tricks is more suited to playing in a suit contract.

Davis: Double. I have the values for 1NT and there is something to be said for making a bid that immediately describes the general nature of my hand. However, if I double and partner can bid NT, it will probably play a trick better from partner's side. If partner cannot bid NT, we may be better off in a minor suit or in 2♥. If my LHO bids 2♠, my double will be more encouraging to partner to compete if holding a four-card minor than a 1NT bid by me. On balance, I think double will be a more effective bid than 1NT. P.S. Are my spot cards really this bad? *[Possibly this is a posed hand. I got it from Steve Robinson, who likes 2♥.]*

I think that double followed by 2♥ would be a better description, but agreeing with Robinson is Wafik.

Abdou: 2♥. Over the years this has worked better for me versus a 1NT bid in this situation. Nonvulnerable, I would bid 1NT, not terrible @ 50 a copy.

Next Month's Problems
What call do you make?

1. MPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
	1♦	1♥	2♦
	?		

You, South, hold:
♠K92 ♥84 ♦K75 ♣KQT85

2. MPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
	1♣	P	1♠
2♠*	P	3♥	3NT
	?		

* natural (showing spades)

You, South, hold:
♠A987542 ♥KJ4 ♦A3 ♣5

3. MPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
1♣	P	1♠	P
	?		

You, South, hold:
♠7643 ♥-- ♦A52 ♣AKJT42

4. IMPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
	3♣	4NT	5♠
	?		

4NT = minors

You, South, hold:
♠2 ♥AKJ8753 ♦J9 ♣JT8

5. MPs, all vul

S	W	N	E
1♥	3♦	Dbl	Pass
	?		

You, South, hold:
♠KT ♥AQT865 ♦T ♣AT97