

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 53, #11

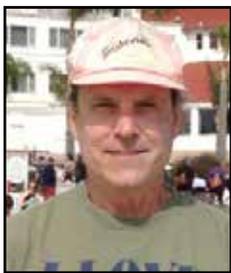
November 2017

Published By ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Becky's Tales

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President



Some folks have many tales to tell. They do not sit at home and watch other people having fun on TV. They are out there exploring near and far. Our previous District 23 President had tales galore about travel to share with us each month. I enjoyed Becky's articles as they came out in our newspaper and then took her ideas to reality once I retired and had time for those more distant trips that we have trouble with while working. Still working on Penticton, Becky. Maybe next year. Eugene is also still on the list, but many of her destinations have now been experienced and enjoyed. More than one, several times.

It did occur to me that it might help others in their search for bridge information and more details on something that they might vaguely remember reading about, to do some organizing. With that idea in mind, I set about making a list of all Becky's articles. It is on page 2 of this newspaper.

Look at all those places she and Roger travelled to! Many new friends resulted.

Besides the variety of experiences, I also noticed the work that Becky put into the factoids she included on background and history. Not content with just describing personal observations, she must have made her computer purr with her research into each locale. Who knew that Big Bear started out with the name Yuhaviat? We learn about geography and residents and local attractions from our travelers. Just about enough to make a plan of our own! Wonder how much revenue those other Districts reaped because of Becky's work. I'm not the only one she inspired but maybe I'm the only one who retired just in time to reap the benefits of her stories! Hope other players are at least into the planning stage.

PRESIDENT continued on page 2

2 More Big Ideas - Out of 10

by Kevin Lane, District Director



Bridge is a game and should be fun

Last month I discussed two of the ten "big ideas" proposed by our new CEO – ideas to be discussed at the San Diego board meeting.

Thank you to everyone who responded with their opinions on those ideas.

This month, I will cover two more ideas from the CEO.

Advertising

The CEO has proposed a specific plan for advertising. I like the plan, but I generally don't think the CEO needs board approval to conduct advertising. That said, the new CEO might want to make sure he's not getting too far ahead of the board of directors, so it's fine for him to engage the board on this idea.

I support advertising, and I especially support new vectors for finding and recruiting potential bridge players. The CEO's plan has many elements:

- Create a nationally coordinated campaign across social media. I fully support this idea
- Nationalize sponsors of NABCs. I find this goal to be an overstep; districts that host NABCs need to have flexibility to meet local sponsors needs.
- Focus on a few successful clubs to determine how to utilize the cooperative advertising to best effect for

DIRECTOR continued on page 15

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Then again, I wonder if anyone is writing about our LA games and describing what a wonderful time they had! We have great weather and beaches and attractions. Having my hands full with follow-up research into our own LA history, it would be quite a task to read all those other District newspapers and find out.

Now the nice thing about my list of Becky's topics is how easy it makes it for you to go read an article again and refresh yourself on any of those forgotten facts, data, or factoids. Nancy Heck has all our newspapers organized on her web page back to January 2008. A few are missing, but we are working on that. Just click on "Bridge News" at the left side of our D23 Home Page and all those editions will appear. Now that you have a list of topics, it's pretty easy to do the research.

We have a new feature this month from Jim Perkins. He's going to be giving us some useful info on Director (shudder) calls. If you played in the old days, I wonder if you agree with me that the biggest changes – for the better – are a) no more smoking, b) decided efforts to improve manners, and c) convention innovations. I still, to this day however, observe much different interactions with the players from

different directors. Jim is going to provide us with some logic about those conversations and the rules that govern them. It is still interesting these days to see the difference among players as to "should we call the director or not?" Perhaps after a few of Jim's articles, we will all feel more comfortable about that call.

Seaside last month was a great tournament. They had almost 2900 tables in that sleepy little town! We in D23 are gearing up for Glendale and hope to see many party faces at our tables. Get all your presents bought early so you'll have time to relax at the Hilton. In the meantime, happy trails.

Becky's Southern California Bridge News Columns

2011

- Aug Hello D23
- Sept Looking for Gold
- Oct Marina Coming Up
- Nov Good old Days
- Dec Why Bridge

2012

- Jan Seaching for Sites
- Feb Regional Contracts
- Mar Convention Savvy
- Apr Gentlemen's Game
- May Attending an NABC
- Jun Local Races
- Jul Bridge on the Road
- Aug Paul Smith
- Sep Fern Seizer
- Oct Focus on Goodwill
- Nov How to Improve
- Dec Jerry & Becca

2013

- Jan 2012 Closing
- Feb Viktor A
- Mar Charity Foundation
- Apr It takes a Village
- May ABA Invite
- Jun Doubles
- Jul Pentiction BC

- Aug World's Best Game
- Sep D23 in Atlanta
- Oct What makes a Great Regional
- Nov Torrance Random Thoughts
- Dec Caribbean Bridge

2014

- Jan Home of a Champion
- Feb Peter B
- Mar Hooray for W Hills
- Apr Bridge Ethics
- May Bucket List
- Jun How to Schedule
- Jul Big Bear
- Aug Just returned from NABC
- Sep Safety Plays
- Oct Seaside OR
- Nov End Plays
- Dec ZT from David L

2015

- Jan Peter Knee
- Feb Ellen A over 20K
- Mar Conventions with Mike S
- Apr New Orleans NABC
- May Victoria BC
- Jun Finding new Regionals
- Jul Thanks to all

Southern California Bridge News

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410 Mill Creek Lane, San Gabriel, CA 91775 Phone: 626-281-2179 email bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org

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

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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
dianesachs@yahoo.com
562-981-4884

Tournament Manager:
Peter Benjamin
ahoneydo@aol.com
310-720-6050

Director-in-Charge:
Ken Horwedel

Tournament Chair: Stan Holzberg
District 23 President: Mike Marcucci

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

NAP Unit Finals In Progress

by Morris "Mojo" Jones, NAP Coordinator

District 23 held the first of two Unit Final games in the North American Pairs this past October 15 at the lovely South Bay Bridge Club in Lomita. With room for 20 tables only, it was a challenge to accommodate a record amount of interest in the game.

We managed to support 21.5 tables in a twenty-table room by adding half-tables to each of the three sections in play. Flight A had 4.5 tables, while Flights B and C each had 8.5. With no empty tables in the house, our "sit-out" pairs became "stand-outs!"

Our next and last Unit Final game is Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Long Beach Bridge Club, and that's shaping up to be a very large turnout as well. Pairs who pre-register on the District 23 NAP web site get a small discount on card fees for the event. Register as soon as you can at <https://nap.bridgemojo.com>.

At the first Unit Final game, we qualified 50 bridge players for the District Final to be held on January 14.

Besides the chance to represent District 23 at the Spring NABC, there are tons of red and gold masterpoints available for all flights in the District Final.

Ten players from Flight A were qualified to advance, along with twenty players from each of the B and C flights. Here are the overall winners from the first Unit Final game:

Flight A

- 1 - Edward Piken, Viktor Anikovich
- 2 - Alexander Kolesnik, Roberto Scaramuzzi

Flight B

- 1 - Murat Veysoglu, Steve Ramos
- 2 - Yehudit Hasin, James Perkins

Flight C

- 1 - Russell LeFevre, Roselyn Martov
- 2 - Brigitte Prince, Angie Speliopoulos

Win A Week of Free Plays for the Glendale Regional

Announcing the second District 23 – Synrey Online Bridge Tournament (2-10 December 2017).

Synrey Bridge is holding another online tournament in cooperation with D23. The Top 30% of players win one or more free plays to be used at the Glendale Regional from 26-31 December at the Glendale Hilton. Search for "Synrey Bridge" in the App Store or Google Play, and download Synrey Bridge to your smartphone to participate in this event.

Gaming Format

Free entry: Registration ends at 11:59 pm on 12/1
Swiss Team format: 8 Boards x 9 Rounds

Each team is composed of one player and three 2-Over-1 robots.

The game starts on 12/2 and ends on 12/10. Players are required to finish one round (8 boards) per day

between 7:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m.

Tournament Rewards

1st to 3rd place: Free entries for the entire week of the regional

4th to 8th place: Five free entries for the Glendale Regional

9th to top 10%: Two free entries for the Glendale Regional

Top 10% to top 30%: One free entry for the Glendale Regional

Notice: ACBL masterpoints will NOT be given out in this online tournament. Winners only get free plays for the D23 Glendale Regional.

For further information or help, please contact liangfan@synrey.com or call (213)246-9622

Director's Corner: A Preview

by Jim Perkins

Hi there, District 23 friends. I volunteered to write a series of columns about how players can help make the club game experience better for themselves (and, maybe or maybe not, easier on the director.) This is the intro article. I am hoping that seeing this column in print will inspire some of the more experienced (and quite frankly, better) directors in the district to offer their own contributions.

In my mind, the club director's role is a bit different than the tournament director role. At a club game, I assume that the patrons are there (in approximate order of frequency and/or priority): to pass time in the afternoon; to socialize with friends, to enjoy lunch; to practice for an

upcoming tournament, to practice what we learned in this morning's lesson, to win. At most clubs, many of the same players sit down to play against each other day after day with only small changes in the line up. Tournament players are, again in my mind, seeking a more purely competitive experience where the contest aspects heavily outweigh the social aspects.

My major aim as a club director is to keep the peace - which is not easy as some people carry grudges into and out of the club for years - and ensure that as many players as possible have a good time that day. Some days, it seems like the players themselves would rather not have a good time, but I try not to let that

bother me (too much). One of my favorite quotes is: "This is the bridge club. If we can't get along with people here, where are we going to go?"

Of course, I take my duties on the Laws of Bridge and for ACBL seriously as well. I want to make knowledgeable and correct rulings. I want the application of the Laws to be uniform across all ACBL Sanctioned games. I do not want my ruling to affect the outcome of a competitive contest and I especially do not wish for an erroneous ruling to affect the outcome.

On top of that, I do my best to maintain an environment where Novices, Gold Rushers, Life Masters and Grand Life Masters can all compete together, socialize with friends, & eat lunch. I hope everyone in my game feels that they have been treated fairly and in accordance with the Laws. And that is part of what I hope to accomplish in this column: educating players so they are familiar with correct rulings and procedures.

Therefore, in the months to come, I am planning to cover some of the most common director calls (lead out of turn, revoke, breaks in tempo, other unauthorized information, obvious scoring errors, bridge-mate procedures, etc.). My belief is that if readers of this column understand more about how these common situations are resolved, they will be happier with the rulings they get when something arises at the table. Maybe I am optimistic.

The fun starts next month!

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier
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♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠♥♣♦♠

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

September 24 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Wenjia Yan/Walt Schafer, 2nd Jo and John Melis, 3rd Miriam Betram/Robert Micone, 4/5 Jackie Hess/Steve Skinner tied with Rob Preece/Usha Bansal, 6th Oliver Yildiz/Hanefi Erten. In the B flight overalls: 4th Wayne Rapp/Judith Jones, 5th John Janus/Barbara Shortwell, 6th Gaye Grubb/Sherry Troeger. In the C flight overalls: 3rd Ellen Kice/Sylvia Kaprelyn, 4th Alan and Barbara Olschwang. In the 199er game Ana Winn/Allene Buchanan were 1st, Carolyn Byrnes/Rich Gonser were 2nd. Congratulations to all!

70+% Games Sept 16 through Oct 15: In the pro-am game Sept 18 Fern Dunbar/Frances Gross were 1st overall with 76.67%. In the open game Sept 23 Mitch Dunitz/Ed Davis had 75.83% E/W and John Melis/Murat Veysoglu had 70.83% N/S. In the unit game 199er section Ana Winn/Allene Buchanan were 1st with 75%. Congratulations to all four pairs!

Big Masterpoint Awards Sept 16 through Oct 15: In the unit game Sept 24 Walt Schafer/Wenjia Yan won 4.38mp for 1st, John and Jo Melis 3.29mp for 2nd. In other open games: Sept 16 John Janus/Barbara Shortwell won 3.35mp for 1st. Sept 25 Phil Schuster/Sibyl Smith won 4.38mp for 1st, Loren Hilf/Baum Harris 3.29mp for 2nd. Sept 26 Harry Sachs/Bob Rubin won 4.96mp for 1st, Rich Wasser/Mike Welsh 3.72mp for 2nd. Sept 27 Steve Rose/Bob Bakovic won 4.23mp for 1st, Verna Baccus/Kevin Lane 3.17mp for 2nd. Sept 28 Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth won 3.35 for 1st. Sept 29 John Petrie/Cecil Cook won 4.67mp

for 1st, Baum Harris/Larry Slutsky 3.50mp for 2nd. Oct 8 Rosemary Ford/George Welsh won 3.19mp for 1st. Oct 9 Paul Pettler/John Galligher won 4.50mp for 1st, Bob Mault/Sherry Troeger 3.38mp for 2nd. Oct 10 Steve Skinner/Betty McClellan won 6.19mp for 1st, Steve Sturm/Wei Pei 4.64mp for 2nd, Phil Schuster/George Welsh 3.48mp for 3rd. In the afternoon game Oct 11 Renee Hoffman/Jean Matz won 4.69mp for 1st, Cliff Goodrich/Pamela Cole 3.52mo for 2nd; In the evening game Larry Topper/Don Vallens won 4.13mp for 1st, Jan and Bruce Peterson 3.10mp for 2nd. Oct 12 John Crabtree/Steve Rose won 3.75mp for 1st. Oct 13 Verna Baccus/Al Beebe won 5.25mp for 1st, Brandon Sheumaker/Om Chokriwala 3.94mp for 2nd. And in the evening game Brandon Sheumaker/OmChokriwala won 3.00mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

New Club Members: Linda Kennard, Phillis Smith, Fenton Merle Gilmer. Welcome to the club!

Status Changes: New Sectional Master: David Hoyt. New NABC Masters: Timothy Cole, John Haggman. New Bronze Life Master: Dalia Hernandez. New Ruby Life Master: Marilyn McClintock. Congratulations to you all!

Get Well Wishes to Marcie Evans, Cooie Dampman, Carol Murakoshi, Gloria Brown-Cook, Debra Skinner and Mary Thomas

Welcome Back to Jerry Cassaday, Pam Cronn

Upcoming Events at the Club

November 5: NAP semifinals—2 sessions; \$1 surcharge

November 6-12: Club Championship Week. Extra points; regular card fees.

November 11-12: Long Beach NLM sectional. Regular games at LBBC

November 13-19: D22/D23 STaC Week. Extra points, \$11 card fee.

November 18: George's Firday night bridge and dinner: game 4:15 p.m., dinner 6 p.m.

November 19: Sunday Swiss Teams 1 p.m. →

November 21: ACBL-wide charity game. Extra points, \$11 card fee

November 23: LBBC closed for Thanksgiving

November 24: unit-rated Black Friday game.

November 26: Regular Sunday game—no unit game

News from Leisure World Bridge Clubs

By Judy Carter-Johnson

Club Championship Game—Sept 14--Clubhouse #3 Bill Linskey/Howard Smith 1 in A, 1 in B. George Alemshah/Jack Dampman 2/3 in A, 2/3 in B, 1 in C. Sue Mc Hale/Alan Olschwang 2/3 in A, 1/3 in B. Judith Jones/Al Appel 4 in A. Russell Gray/Fred Reker 5 in A, 4 in B. Sally Fenton/Chie Wickham 6 in A, 5 in B, 2 in C. Judy Carter-Johnson/Harshad Vora 6 in B. Joyce Roberts/Bonny Walsh 3 in B. Gettis/Peggi Spring 4 in B.

Club Championship Game Sept 15--Clubhouse #1 Emma Trepinski/Joan Tschirki 1 in A. Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Smith 2 in A. Bill Linskey/Gary Paugh 3 in A. Joyce Henderson/Alan Olschwang 4 in A, 1 in B. Ernest Ross/Roy Tomooka 5/6 in A, 2/3 in B. Judy Carter-Johnson/Harshad Vora 5/6 in A, 2/3 in B. Ellen Kice/Russell Gray 4 in B, 1 in C. Mary Land /Chie Wickham 2 in C. Ellen Goodwin/Mike Nielsen 3 in C.

70% Game: Emma Trepinski and Joan Tschirki had a 70.92% game on 9/15 at Clubhouse #1.

Congratulations: Marilyn McClintock - Ruby Life Master!



Pomona Covina by Tom Lill

Unit Game – Saturday, Nov 18, 11:00 a.m.

Individual – Saturday, Nov 4, 9:30 a.m., La Verne

In the October Unit game, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor ran away with the event, posting a 72.5% score. Second were Michael Marcucci – Kiran Kumar, then Lulu Minter – Robert Gish and Amr Elghamry – Dan Botoaca.

Sadly, although this was to have been our annual two-session Championship event, not enough pairs

wanted to stay and play the second session. Golly! So the second session was scrapped. Unless popular demand indicates otherwise, we will no doubt not be scheduling two-session events in the future. RIP.

In the October Individual, Yours Truly once again took the top spot. Close behind (but not close enough) were Sofi Kasubhai, Richard Patterson, Clint Lew, and Donald Logsdon. October marked the end of the annual Individual Championship Series. The winner is the player with the best overall percentage in six contests.

The top five qualifiers for 2016-17:

Linda Tessier 0.609

Sofi Kasubhai 0.601

Tom Lill 0.579

Al Lax 0.575

Clint Lew 0.559

Congratulations, all, and keep up the good play.

The fight for the top score was another close one. Fredy and Lulu Minter's 72.7%-er again just edged out Vic Sartor and Bill Papa's 72.61% game. (Sound familiar?) Now that summer vacation is over, attendance is up and we have lots of winners: Clint Lew, Joe Unis, Hanan Mogharbel, Paul Chrisney, Linda Tessier, Claudia Cochran, Herb Stampfl, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Roger Boyar, Linda Stuart, Margie Hall, and Ann Raymond..

Not a single promotion to report this month. Well, as noted last time, attendance was down over the summer, and there hasn't been a nearby Regional lately (no doubt the results from the Costa Mesa Regional haven't shown up yet in the updates).

For our Hand of the Month, we have some make-of-it-what-you will hands. Nothing spectacular ... just a couple of examples of why this game can be so intriguing ... and so exasperating. First: You pick up, as dealer, the following so-so hand: ♠Q9432 ♥10943 ♦KQ ♣K2.

After two passes, partner calls 1♠, pass, to you. Well, it kind of almost looks like a limit raise – but is it really? The tight diamond honors may not be pulling the weight, the hearts are pathetic, and who can say how much the ♣K is worth? (By the way, you aren't playing Bergen raises or anything else fancy – just plain old kitchen bridge.) So what will it be?

How about 2♦? It does pinpoint your side strength. True, partner might leave you there – but you know **this** partner pretty well, and deem a pass unlikely. So 2♦ it is. Partner rebids 3♣, and that's that – 4♠ it is, making 5, a flat board. You went through all that soul searching for nothing! →

How about this one? In fourth seat, you find yourself looking at: ♠A10985 ♥5 ♦862 ♣AKJ10.

The auction goes 1♠, pass, pass, over to you. Now what? Your side has the balance of power, no doubt (unless LHO has a junior two-bid over there) ... but what's your call? Double, and watch partner bid hearts? 2♣, on a four bagger? (Admittedly, it's a nice one.) 1NT, wide open in the red suits?

How about this principle: "When they want to play in your best suit... let them." So you pass. Good defense puts the contract 1 down, with nothing on for your side. Partner is 2=6=2=3, so you have no fit anywhere (except for the 5-2 spade fit!) and as an added bonus for those adventurous souls who went 2♣, clubs are 6-0 (on your right, of course).

Quote for the Month: "Get it right, you're a star. Get it half right, you're a gas giant." (Spider Robinson) Until next month ...



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

The following is a report by Mira Rowe of her experiences at the Long Beach Regional Tournament this past June:

When my late husband, Hansford Rowe, and I arrived at the tournament, he played with District 23 President, Mike Marcucci, while I headed for the partnership desk. One player, named Warren Cummings, listed 900 points, a little more than my 800. When I phoned, he said he would be glad to play with me. I found Warren to be kind and amicable. We filled out our convention cards together. In between, we talked and he said he is a math teacher for a prison. He has 18 students who will eventually graduate, some taking more time than others. Connor said he loves his job. "Isn't it scary?" I asked. "Well," Connor said, "there are two alarms on both sides of my belt, an alarm on the wall and an alarm on the phone nearby. Security comes the minute I press a button." "Do you ever use it?" I asked. "Everyday, but there is no other job I would rather have than this."

The next day, the partnership desk gave me Robert Micone as my partner who was there at the last minute. What luck! This player has five thousand plus points!

A miracle! He told me he only has one request, for me to call out the cards as I lined them up when I become dummy. He said he has a degenerating retinal condition. Pretty soon, the opponents, wanting to be helpful, were calling out the suit too. It was fun to watch him memorize the patterns of the cards and play them by memory as he held a light between his teeth. After our game, he asked me if I enjoyed the game. "Immensely!" I replied. It was quite a treat for me. Robert later gave me a lighted pen that was made in his own factory. I treasure the pen to this day.

I did not do well in bridge both times, but once again, I realize that the partnership desk is both fun and indispensable. Both days turned out to be unforgettable experiences in my Bridge life. I meet interesting people and they touch my life. I encourage all players to come out to our regionals, even if you don't have a partner.

Unit 556 will participate in the Southern California Fall STaC games during the week of November 13-19, 2017. We will hold games at the following times:

Monday, November 13 at 12:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Tuesday, November 14 at 6:45 p.m. at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Thursday, November 16 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sports Complex in Castaic

Friday, November 17 at 12:30 p.m. at Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

Sunday, November 19 at 12:30 p.m. at Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

Unit 556 will sponsor a Charity game in cooperation with the November ACBL-wide charity game on Tuesday, November 21 at 6:45 p.m. at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

Unit 556 Board Nominations

Are you looking for adventure of a new and different kind? Unit 556 is seeking members who are interested in running for the Unit Board, beginning January 16, 2018.

This is an opportunity to give back to the Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley bridge community, meet new friends, and have an impact on changing things for the betterment of Unit 556 bridge players.

If you wish to self-nominate, please contact Ruth Baker (rbaker1243@sbcglobal.net) or Beth Morrin →

(morrin@sbcglobal.net).

Nominations must be received by January 1st.

Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley
Board of Directors Election

The Unit 556 Board election will be held at the January 16 at the annual "After the Holidays Party" at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita. The potluck dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the board election will be at 6:30 p.m.

Next Board Meeting: Conference call TBA. The new board will have their first meeting on Tuesday, January 23 at 5:15 before the Tuesday Night Game in Santa Clarita (6:45 p.m.).



San Fernando
Valley
by Linda Silvey

December 2: Unit 561 Gala Holiday Bridge/Dinner

Unit 561 will host a Gala Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party on Saturday, December 2, at The 750 Club, 5700 Rudnick Ave, Woodland Hills. An Open, Stratified Game will start at 2 p.m. in Taylor Hall (usual bridge room), followed by a festive, holiday dinner (catered by Stonefire Grill) at approximately 5:45 p.m., in the Family Center on Rudnick Avenue.

The cost is \$30 per person and includes both bridge and dinner. Due to limited seating, reservations are required via purchase of non-refundable tickets by Tuesday, November 28. Ticket sales will begin Wednesday, November 1 at The 750 Club, or by mail to Rochelle Lotto at 1071 Terrace Hill Circle, Westlake Village, CA 91362, (nanalotto@yahoo.com).

Cash (if paying at The 750 Club) or checks payable to "Unit 561" will be accepted. If you are mailing in your ticket purchase, please plan to mail no later than Friday, November 17, and include your check, telephone number, email address, and your partner's name (if known). Receipt will be confirmed by email and your tickets will be held for pick-up as you check in on December 2. Note: There will be no on-site ticket sales on the day of this event.

Get your Holiday Season off to a "Grand Slam" and don't miss out on this annual Unit 561 special event! For partnership assistance and/or further information, please contact Marcia Broderick at mm16227@aol.com.

Unit 561 Board Nominations

Are you looking for adventure of a new and different kind? Unit 561 is seeking members who are interested in running for the Unit Board, beginning January 1, 2018. This is an opportunity to give back to the San Fernando Valley bridge community, meet new friends, and have an impact on changing things for the betterment of U561 bridge players.

If you wish to self-nominate, please contact Rochelle Lotto at nanalotto@yahoo.com or sign up at The 750 Club. Nominations must be received by Tuesday, November 21. The Unit Board election will be held at the December 2 Holiday Party.

Special Congratulations

Recent "New Life Master Achievements" by Unit 561 players were: Gary Baxley and Lynn Heckler (Life Master); Carol Bell and Nancy Klemens (Bronze); James Gardner and Kris Sommer (Silver – 1,000); William Morton (Ruby – 1,500); Robert Bass, Carolyn Cohen, and Robert Perlsweig (Sapphire – 3,500); and Mitch Dunitz (Grand – 20,000).

September "Top Ten Masterpoints" at The 750 Club were Michael Wiener 14.12, Susan Raphael 11.65, Ronald Malkin 10.26, Dwight Hunt 9.79, Helen Malzer 8.97, Gloria Feerst 8.62, Martin Hurwitz 8.44, Carol Bell 7.77, Sandy Hunt 7.67, and Ellen Carrier 7.56. Martin Hurwitz and Bob Gasway achieved a 70.54% game. November 21: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, November 21. Dinner is \$18 per person and starts at 6 p.m. and the bridge is \$5 per person and begins at 7 p.m. This is an ACBL sanctioned game and the first place NS and EW winners will receive coupons for Braemar's Wednesday night "Pastabilities" dinner. For reservations and/or partnerships contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

November Activities at The 750 Club

Veterans Day will be celebrated on Friday, No- →

vember 10. All veterans will be able to play for \$1 off the regular fee. STaC week will be Monday – Friday, November 13 – 17. Players will be able to earn silver points and the fee will be \$1 extra. The 750 Club will be closed on Thursday, November 23 for the Thanksgiving Day Holiday. A regular game will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, November 24.

Calendar

Wednesday, November 1 – Tuesday, November 28, ticket sales for the Unit 561 Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party. See details above.

Friday, November 10, Veterans Day celebration at The 750 Club.

Monday – Friday, November 13 – 17, STaC games at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, November 21, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See details above.

Tuesday, November 21, last day to submit self-nominations to serve on the 2018 Unit 561 Board. See details above.

Thursday, November 23, The 750 Club will be closed. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Saturday, December 2, Unit 561 Election for 2018 Board Members, Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party, at The 750 Club. See details above.



Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

Unit: www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568
SBBC: www.southbaybridgeclub.com

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Check with the SBBC to confirm this month's championship schedule. There will be Friday night games on November 3 and 17.

Club Championships

The September 22 Club Championship was won by Gaye Herrington/Wayne Otsuki in Flight A with Betsy Amador/Cal Waller on top in Flight B.

Leaders at the SBBC in Club Appreciation games were as follows.

10/9 Morning: Flight A Carol Mason/Lutrell Long, Flight B Hank Sheehan/Steven Dangel

10/9 Evening: Flight A: Fran Israel/Steve Ramos

10/10 Morning: Flight A: Lisa Cote/Roberta Brown, Flight B: Christine Uriu/George Stinson

10/11 Morning: Flight A: Carol McCully/Ed Barad, Flight B: Harry Wessells/Ed Srenco, Flight C: Arlene Greengard/Pat Berg

10/11 Evening: Flight A: Mark Raggio/Ramani Ravikandan, Flight B: Janice Scholler/Lima Ashar

10/12 NLM: Flight A: Ed Ruttenberg/Laura Gaste-lum, Flight B: James DeFlon/Bruce Walker

10/13 Morning: Flights A and B: Betsy Amador/Cal Waller

10/14 Afternoon: Flights A and B: JoAnna Wallis/Booth Tarkington

The Beach Cities Club Championship on September 22 was won by Tonie Morgan/Myron Leister in Flights A and B with Valerie Takahashi/Joe Packey ahead in Flight C. The September 22 Championship at the Inglewood Beach Bridge Club saw Cornelia Dijabu/Paul Marjoram winning Flights A, B and C.

The September 27 Club Championship at Veterans Park was led by Dave Cheshire/Bill Malcolm in Flight A with Joan Lightfoot/Luda Kuprenas ahead in Flights B and C.

Team Winners

September 26: Carol Mason, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos, Mike Savage

October 3: John Jones Ed Piken, Steve Ramos, Mike Savage

October 10 Ernie Frank, Beverly Narahara, Carole Mason, Mike Savage

GUV Award

In memory of my late wife Jan Nathan who passed away 10 years ago, I offer the following story. Jan was a beautiful woman with a personality that everyone loved. She was very active in District 23 management. One thing she didn't like were my opening leads (Sort of a universal thing among my partners).

On the hand in question, her RHO opened one of a suit and she overcalled 1NT. LHO doubled and holding nothing but 5 little diamonds and a yarborough I re- →

doubled to get her to bid 2♣ so I could bid 2♦ to get out. Well she forgot this agreement and left in 1NT redoubled. She could have been down 5 (-2200 I think) but the opponents defense was kind enough for her to get out for down 2 (-600). When our teammates returned to the table Jan and I breathed a sigh of relief when they had bid 3NT making for a push on a board that could be set with the right opening lead. When one of our teammates asked how we let them make 3NT the only answer Jan could come up with was her dumb pard made a typically bad opening lead.

Jan, I still miss you.

Na Zdrowie



West LA by Robert Shore

Trophy Time

The Fall West Los Angeles Sectional has now been and gone, and with its completion we are now prepared to award our annual trophies. Sharing the Jill Meyers Trophy for most masterpoints won in our two sectionals were Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten and Jim Perkins. The Mary Jane Farrell Trophy, bestowed upon the Unit 299er with the most masterpoints won at the two tournaments, goes to Alex Wiles. Please congratulate the winners when you see them.

Details

Including the recent sectional, there was quite a bit of tournament action to report. Adrienne Green and Bill Schreiber won the most masterpoints at the Fall Sectional, winning the Open Pairs and teaming with Roger and Becky Clough to win the Sunday Swiss. Mike Savage's team won the Sunday Swiss at the Riverside Sectional. Moving farther afield, Ifti Baqai won the Ranchos Open Pairs at the Taos Regional, while at the Reno Regional, Roger and Becky Clough won the Ponderosa Compact Knockout Teams event and Mike Mikyska won the Virginia City Swiss Teams.

Finally, returning closer to home, Viktor Anikov-ich won the first Flight A Unit Final North American

Pairs event, joining other qualifiers in Flights A, B, and C for the District Final in January. The second and last Unit Final will be held November 4 at the Long Beach Bridge Club. Don't forget to make your reservations. The South Bay location was completely sold out.

Party Time

By now you should have in your hands your invitation to our Unit's annual Holiday Party. Please take the deadline dates seriously, because we will. Our new location isn't quite as big as the Beverly Hills Country Club, so last year we were forced to turn some people away. Find your partner, write your check, and get your reservation in today.

Do It Once. Do It Right. And Never Do It Again.

There's a reason people are told not to repeat a preemptive raise. Holding ♠K10xxx ♥Axx ♦AQ9x ♣x I opened 1♠. I heard a 2♣ overcall on my left and partner showed at least a limit raise by bidding 3♣. RHO bid 4♣ and if the opponents were going to take a club sacrifice, I thought I should warn partner that my spades weren't great, so I bid 4♦, suggesting a diamond lead. Partner bid 4♠ and that should have been that.

But then RHO repeated the preempt, bidding 5♣. My pass was forcing and partner, encouraged by my willingness to bid beyond game, found a 5♦ bid. At this point I thought I owed partner a 5♥ cue bid, and partner offered me my choice of slams by bidding 6♦. I thought ruffing clubs in the hand with shorter trump was likely to be worth an extra trick, so I played it there. Partner's hand was a little less than I expected: ♠AQx ♥xx ♦J10xxx ♣Qxx. The ♦K was in the slot, though, so all's well that ends well. We were, of course, the only pair in the room to bid the 22-point slam.

Welcome Mat

Among the many duties assumed by Candy Scott was our Unit's Membership Chair. In her absence, we have not yet located a new volunteer to assume those duties. In particular, I'm not yet able to report either our Unit's new members or our recent promotions in rank. I hope to return things to normal in time for December's column.

Around the Clubs

In addition to too many Club Appreciation Games to count, there were a number of club championships last month at Beverly Hills. Rob Perlsweig and Peter Benjamin won club championships, as did Nancie Barrier and Om Chokriwala, Joe Viola and your Humble Scribe, Lew and Rhoda Himmell, Bob and Sandy Carroll, and Michael Billow and David Segal. Cracking the 70% mark were Rob Perlsweig and Aram Bedros,

Walter Bodlander and Frank Neiman, Yehudit Hasin-Brumshsten and Mr. Borovitz, Viktor Anikovich and Amadeo Ursini, Lew and Rhoda Himmell, and your Humble Scribe and Mike Savage.

Moving to Barrington, hitting the 70% mark were George Wagner and Steven Yaffe along with Hans Kraepalien and Michael Nash, Rob Perlsweig and Bill Schreiber, and Bill Sides and Joan Rubin.

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

West Los Angeles Sectional Winners, October 7-8 2017

Saturday Morning Pairs
24 Tables

1. Howard Cohen, Northridge, CA and Seymour Zemlyn, Woodland Hills, CA - 65.47%
2. Michael Klemens, Tarzana, CA and Dwight Hunt, Granada Hills, CA - 65.14%

Saturday Afternoon Pairs
18 Tables

1. Adrienne Green, Los Angeles, CA and William Shreiber, Valley Glen, CA - 64.60%
2. Rebecca Clough and Roger Clough, Culver City, CA - 63.40%

Sunday Pairs
5 Tables

1. Michael Clemens, Tarzana, and Dwight Hunt, Granada Hills - 61%
2. Farideh Sigari and Myma Blaufarb, Los Angeles, CA - 57.5%

Sunday Team Event
10 Tables

1. William Shreiber & Adrienne Green and Rebecca & Roger Clough
2. Robert Shore & Bruce Altshuler, LA and Jeffrey Goldsmith, Tujunga, CA & Paul Markarian, Lancaster, CA



Adrienne Green and William Shreiber



Rebecca Clough



William Shreiber, Adrienne Green, Rebecca Clough, and Roger Clough



Michael Clemens and Dwight Hunt

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Sectionals at Sea featuring Silver Point Games

April 1-8, 2018

Round-Trip Galveston
to the **Western Caribbean**
on Royal Caribbean's Liberty of the Seas

SECTIONALS



AT SEA

Oct. 27-Nov. 10, 2018

Barcelona to Fort Lauderdale
across the **Atlantic Ocean**
on Holland America's Oosterdam

Featuring Shannon Cappelletti and Corey Krantz

July 6-16, 2018

Oslo to London
across **Northern Europe**
on Regent's Seven Seas Explorer



September 1-18, 2018

Barcelona to New York
across the **Atlantic Ocean**
on Regent's Seven Seas Navigator



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To participate, your reservation must be made with Go Away Travel.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Ifti Baqui, Gerry Bare, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Jeff Goldsmith, Aaron Jones, Eddie Kantar, Tim Lolli, and Jon Wittes

1

IMPs
no vul

South	West	North	East
Pass ?	1♥	Dbl	Pass

You, South, hold:

♠J63 ♥9532 ♦J82 ♣A95

What call do you make?

The flawed choices here are 1♠ with only three of them, 1NT which should show a stopper and about 8 to 11 HCP, or 2♣ with only three of them. This is an old theme. Steve Robinson has used similar hands in his column. He believes that the response on hands like this should never be in a three card major. On this hand I was playing with my friend Renee Hoffman. She responded 1♠. I had doubled holding a 3=2=4=4 17 HCP hand and passed her in 1♠. Not surprisingly, the 3 - 3 fit wasn't a good place to play.

Lolli: 1NT. Yes, I would rather have a potential heart trick, but it does show no interest in one suit or another, which is what I want to convey.

Dunitz: 1♠. I need a pimple more in hearts to bid 1NT.

Goldsmith: 1♠. 1NT has two flaws. 1♠ has only one.

Baqui: 1♠. My choices in order are 1♠ or 1NT. I like 1♠ better as it keeps the bidding low, and I don't expect to get doubled. If 1♠ gets doubled, I'm willing to redouble to get partner to bid his/her better (longer) minor.

Bare: 1♠. What else? Partner is aware that occasionally I may have a three card suit, and at least I have some values.

Jones: 1♠. If I had a worse hand, I would bid 2♣ with this shape. Partner tends to hang you less when you

escape to a minor in these situations. Here with an ok hand, I will bid 1♠ and take my medicine if I find myself in game in spades on the next round.

Davis: 2♣. 1♠ would be the recommended bid in a bridge book with this hand as it keeps the bidding low, and a 1NT response would show a heart stopper and a better hand than I hold. However, if I bid 1♠ partner will play me for four spades (partner knows I could have only three spades, but he has to assume I have four spades). 1♠ is the bid that is most likely to encourage partner to investigate game or raise spades, whether or not the opponents compete. A 1♠ bid also might cause partner to raise or compete to 2♣ with only three spades and a good hand such as ♠AKx ♥xx ♦AQxx ♣KJxx. With 1♠ having significant drawbacks, a 2♣ bid will often be better than 1♠. Partner will be less likely to compete or investigate game when I bid clubs rather than spades. Partner will convert 2♣ to 2♦ with four spades and five or more diamonds (playing that equal-level conversion of clubs to diamonds does not show extra values) and if partner cue bids 2♥ my 2♣ bid will show three spades and some values. [Many expert pairs do not play equal-level conversion at low levels. They play that doubling and bidding 2♦ shows a hand bigger than a 2♦ overcall.] Although partner is a little more likely to have four spades than four clubs when he doubles, we are more likely to get higher when I respond 1♠ than when I respond 2♣. Should we end up defending against a heart contract, my 2♣ bid is likely to get partner off to our best lead.



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

You, South, hold:
 ♠8 ♥KQT764 ♦J963 ♣A4
 What call do you make?

This problem was given to me by my friend Peter Knee. Peter likes 4♦, as does his partner, Andy Vinock. I like starting with 3♥ fitted instead of 2♥, if that is available.

Goldsmith: Double. Wouldn't 3♥ have been fitted last time? [Yes, 3♥ would have been fitted and probably the best bid!]

Jones: 3♦, not close. Only a problem because of MPs, but this is too good a description of my hand.

Kantar: 3♦. Of course it figures you would tempt me with that heart suit.

Lolli: 3♦. It looks like I have some useful cards for partner, so I'm going to compete. If he has short diamonds, he can bid hearts.

Wittes: 3♦. With most of my partners I play anything other than 3♥ is forcing to game. Although I am lack-

ing in high cards, my distribution and the quality of my heart suit more than make up for it. I would expect partner to bid 3♥ with a doubleton heart over 3♦.

Dunitz: 3♦ if it's non-forcing (I play it forcing), otherwise I'm stuck bidding 3♥. At least I have the ♥T.

Baqui: 3♥. Given the MP scoring, I'm going for +140 vs +130 or risking a minus score. I'll bid 3♦ playing IMPs. There is a potential bonus of getting to a reasonable game if partner has ♥Jx and quick trick-rich values.

Davis: 3♥. 3♥ shows my sixth heart and is invitational to game. It is close to a 4♥ bid because of the excellent distribution. I would bid 4♥ if I had the ♥J instead of a small heart. If my LHO bids 3♠ and partner passes, I have a comfortable 4♦ bid.

Bare: 4♦. 3♦ could be just competing.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

the ACBL. I'm a big believer in the cooperative advertising program, but I also believe it needs to be oriented to achieve maximum results for the ACBL without wasting money on ads that don't work. I opposed the cut from 75% to 50% in ACBL reimbursements, but I support efforts to ensure money goes to those organizations that are successful in their marketing/recruitment.

Implement a strength-based rating system

I have been a long-time advocate of more sophisticated rating systems. In 2009, I presented a plan to many of the ACBL board of directors about how that

should be achieved, and my opinions haven't changed.

I believe very strongly that the traditional masterpoint system should remain intact and no new rating system should materially interfere with the masterpoint system. At the same time, a more sophisticated rating system has a proper place in the ACBL as a mechanism for balancing and seeding the field better, and as a value-added option for tournament players to understand the progress they've made as a player. Furthermore, a rating system might contribute to a better find-a-partner system, although I'm skeptical about such promised silver bullets based on the poor results partner-finding system have shown historically.

Contact me at klaned23@gmail.com to share your thoughts.



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

You, South, hold:
 ♠QT8 ♥KQ8432 ♦AJ ♣92
 What call do you make?

I confess that I erred and this wasn't the problem that I intended. However, except for the possibility of a fitted jump on the previous round, I got lucky and it turns out to be a decent problem.

Baqui: Pass. I have seen too many hands where partner overcalls with ♠AJ9xx ♥xx ♦Tx ♣QJxx and 2♠ is the last makeable contract. Though tempting, a raise to 3♠ risks a minus score, and anything else like 3♥ would create a forcing sequence.

Davis: Pass. Since I like to play that a new suit is constructive but non-forcing over an overcall, my 2♣ cue bid could be based on a hand with 3-card spade support that is too strong for a single raise. It could also be a hand without spade support that is too strong to make a non-forcing bid in a new suit. Partner's 2♠ bid over 2♣ shows a minimum 1♠ overcall, which can range up to almost an opening bid. However, he might have chosen to bid 2♦ to show a little sign of life with something like ♠AJxxx ♥x ♦KQx ♣xxxx so I may be facing his weakest hand of something like ♠AKxxx ♥x ♦xxx ♣JTxx. At IMPs I would invite with 3♠ since I want to be in a 40% or better vulnerable game. However at matchpoints, the game bonus is not a factor, and it is not worthwhile to push to get to game.

Goldsmith: Pass. Wouldn't 3♥ have been fitted last time? [*Yes, and again would have been a good call.*]

Jones: Pass. Plus scores are good at MPs.

One panelist takes an in-between route. His invitation sneakily transfers the blame to partner if the wrong contract is reached. Well bid Eddie!

Kantar: 3♠. Let it be on partner's head if we go down in 4♠.

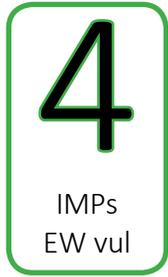
Dunitz: 3♥. My hand is too good to pass. 3♥ is forcing and I will try that. If partner rebids 3♠ I will pass. Ugh!

Lolli: 3♥. I've already shown spade support and a limit raise for partner. I am now introducing a forcing 3♥ call to complete my hand.

Wittes: 3♥. This should be natural and forcing.

Bare: 3♥.

This turned out to be a stylistic problem. The aggressive overcallers are concerned that 2♠ might be the limit on the hand. The more solid overcallers are forcing to game. Goldsmith's suggestion of 3♥, a fitted jump on the previous round might be best. Fitted jumps more classically show five cards in the bid suit and four in partner's suit, but fitted jumps are frequently a little off from perfect distribution.



South	West	North	East
?	2♥	Pass	4♥

You, South, hold:
 ♠A6 ♥A4 ♦QJ9874 ♣AKT
 What call do you make?

Kantar: Double. Take the money and run. *[Doubling might get partner to bid. The only way to get partner to pass may be to pass yourself. But even that fails when 4♥ makes.]*

Bare: Double. I can bid diamonds over 4♠ and I don't know if I can make 5♦.

Dunitz: 5♦. No clear action, but I'm bidding 5♦.

Baqui: 5♦. This is a tough one as your HCP strength suggests that partner doesn't have much, but you could easily produce four defensive tricks on your own. A conceivable lie of the cards could have EW having a huge major suit fit while our side has the minors. Partner needs ♦DKxx and club length and it could easily produce a double game swing. In any case, it's likely to be cheap insurance to try 5♦.

Goldsmith: 5♦. Partner rates to have spades and will take out a double frequently. Just taking +100 or +200 is not enough; versus as little as ♠xxxxxx ♥Hxx ♦Kxx ♣xx we have a game *[4♠ and 5♦ both appear to fail on that layout]*. Yeah, we're getting them 500, but we can't get there from here.

Lolli: 5♦. While I'd like to have at least the ♦T, we could easily have a slam, so I show a big hand. *[Would we never bid 5♦ to save against 4♥ at white versus red?]* Tough hand, but that's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Jones: 5♦, also not close. Passing deserves to lose 14 IMPs when both games make.

Two panelists caught what I missed at the table. Doubling and then bidding 5♦ is stronger than bidding 5♦

directly. Partner might occasionally bid 6♦ if you do it right.

Wittes: Double. I will correct 4♠ to 5♦, which should show a bigger hand than if I had bid 5♦ immediately.

Davis: Double. East's vulnerable jump to 4♥ may be based on high card strength. Given my four quick tricks and 18 HCP and the fact that East did not choose to investigate game, I think it is more likely that he is bidding on distribution with a good trump fit. He does not want to leave us any bidding room. It would not be a surprise to catch partner with a stiff heart and enough to make 5♦. In any case, there is not much reward for passing and hoping to get +100. Over my double (which is takeout with reasonable defense), I expect partner to bid 4♠ or 5♣, over which I will bid 5♦. If partner bids 4NT for the minors I will bid 6♦; if partner passes my double, then 4♥ doubled is probably our best contract. This sequence (as opposed to bidding 5♦ directly over 4♥) will let partner know I am not taking a save against 4♥ but that I am bidding to make. This would allow partner to bid 6♦ if he thinks he has enough. Of course, if I am wrong, I may be -500 when they were going down if I passed 4♥.

This hand occurred in the Thursday night Caltech home game. My partner, Gene Smith, held ♠QT98xx ♥x ♦Ax ♣9xxx. I bid 5♦ which made on a slightly inaccurate defense. The double dummy action is to double and let partner play 4♠, which is unbeatable. I considered passing at the table to take my best shot at a plus score in case I had four defensive tricks and we had no game. But I went with 5♦ because it had multiple ways to be right.

5

IMPs
all vul

South	West	North	East
Dbl ?	Pass	1♠	1♣ Pass

You, South, hold: ♠83 ♥AKJT ♦AJT ♣AKJT
What call do you make?

A conservative 1NT (about 19 - 21 HCPs), a middle of the road 2NT, an aggressive vulnerable game 3NT are all possible NT bids. But I like 2♣ the best.

Dunitz: 2NT. I don't think there is a close second choice.

Davis: 2NT. A 1NT rebid would show a hand too strong to overcall 1NT so my jump to 2NT shows too much for 1NT, not enough for 3NT and lack of interest in playing in a suit contract (I could bid 2♣ if I wanted to investigate contracts other than notrump). Partner will raise with two queens or the equivalent in value.

Baqui: 2NT. I can appreciate the temptation to bid more but I'll take the low road, and bid 2NT as I would need at least one dummy entry and then some to score 9 tricks.

Jones: 2NT. It's just too easy to have nine tricks with partner holding some random four count to only bid 1NT.

Goldsmith: 2♣, planning to rebid 2NT. I think this hand is a tad too strong for 2NT now. I like to play that over 2♣ here, 2♦ shows about zero to a bad four. Then, if partner bids anything else, 2NT will be forcing. *[The treatment of making the cheapest bid after doubling and then cuebidding is known as Herbert. I like this treatment. Anything except the negative response forces the partnership to game.]*

Kantar: 3NT. I've only changed my answer four times between 2NT and 3NT, and finally let the fact that we are vulnerable at IMPs make my final decision.

Wittes: 3NT. I am somewhere between a 2NT and 3NT bid, but my texture is just too good to bid only 2NT.

Lolli: 3NT. In MPs, I might consider 2NT, in case partner is really broke. However, this is IMPs and I don't want to miss a vulnerable game. Is partner supposed to bid 3NT with the ♠JT9x and the ♥Q?

Bare: 3NT.

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Club Master

Annie Ives
Renee Klein
Barry McKinley
Marcia Siegel
Marci Valner
Suzanne Wilcox

Sectional Master

Bonnie Black
Carl Hulick
Eric Kraskian

Regional Master

Melisse Benson
Bernard Seal

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Darlene Harrison

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Stephen Page

Life Master

George Alemshah
Linda Camras
Eileen Finlay
Keith Miller

Bronze Life Master

George Alemshah

Ruby Life Master

Henry Crowder
Stephen Licker

Gold Life Master

Delia Juul-Dam

Sapphire Life Master

Farideh Sigari

Emerald Life Master

Eugene White Jr