

Southern California Bridge News

Volume 54, #3

March 2018

Published by ALACBU

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Glendale Fallout

by Mike Marcucci



What started out as a good idea to inject a new energy into the LA tournament scene ended up accomplishing only half its desired purpose. Our first-time ever Holiday regional at the Glendale Hilton between Xmas and New Year's

is now in the books. But our next question is going to be: will there be a second?

My Dec 2017 column in this newspaper tried to prepare everyone for what was coming. We were going to try an experiment. Could a holiday regional in LA be as popular as the one in Reno that was canceled a few years ago? Our Tournament Committee thought there was a good chance because of all the advantages our So Cal location has over Reno. No weather problems, loads of nice restaurants, a great hotel with access that could not be easier. With much anticipation, we negotiated reasonable terms with a very friendly hotel staff who were excited about a new client and intrigued by our hobby of bridge – something they had heard about from grandparents. How often have we heard that one?? ☺

Your Committee generated a snazzy flyer showing off all our events, let all our ACBL Directors know to spread the word about a new regional, sent those flyers to all Units in D23 and just about all the clubs in the area, and, for our neighbors, we trekked our flyers to all the tournaments from June to December encouraging all players to come and enjoy! Those who came, did enjoy! Please read Becky's article on page 8 in this edition for many interesting details on our tournament. It's not often when the host hotel will give a discount on their restaurant service

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District Director Report

February 2018

by Kevin Lane



“Bridge is a game and should be fun.”

REACH

The first regionals at clubs event (REACH) happened a week or so ago. By all accounts I've received, this event was popular in the clubs that held it. Table count was up. Other feedback I got was that people were disappointed that it was so difficult to win gold points.

I welcome feedback on REACH – especially from club owners - to share our district's perspective in Philadelphia. Our new CEO is energetic, and the board needs good feedback to assess the many experiments now ongoing.

Preparing for Philadelphia

I leave for Philadelphia in early March. I have received the “journal” for Philadelphia. The journal is the list of motions under consideration.

Term limits

The first item to report is on term limits. The board passed the first of several required votes that

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but that’s what the Hilton did. They really wanted to be good hosts to all those crazy bridge players who flooded their grounds. I certainly joined in the fun and found what a great pizza, among other delectable choices, they served in the bar area. Just delicious. A little slow the first day, but they soon caught on to break times.

Our main problem was attendance, however. Just 594 tables of players does not cover our basic costs when hosting a tournament. We needed around 850 to break even. Your District lost a bundle, sorry to say. This result endangers our ability to host future tournaments.

In that article back in December, I illustrated our last 20 years of financial status and explained why a loss did not affect future efforts for the most part because we were running a surplus from successes in the 80’s and 90’s. The difficulties and escalating costs of the last 20 years have finally caught up with us, however. There is now no surplus in our account and we will not be able to pay any future bills without some future income being received. Income from the Regionals is the major source of revenue for a District and is sorely needed, because most other activities do not pay for themselves. Any activities from now till July are going to be severely curtailed. Whatever we do and however we proceed are going to be discussed in an Executive Council (EXC) meeting later this week. We must decide what is proper but what is affordable. Afraid to say that the District has never been in this position in its existence!

Getting back to Glendale. For all those players who could not attend, you missed a great experience. Everything that we had advertised about the hotel, it’s staff, the amenities in the area, the playing rooms, the

dance party (and our DJ) proved absolutely correct. Traffic during that holiday week is nothing like a regular week in LA. All the businesses that are closed and all the folks who just take the week off, contribute to no delays in getting to your destination. Any freeway route from anywhere in LA to Glendale would have been a breeze to navigate. Hope that players rethink their reasons for shying away if we are lucky enough to offer another chance at a Glendale tournament. You will have a good time!!

Anything can happen at the EXC meeting. We will discuss where we are, what was on the table in our normal plan, what is possible with nothing in the checkbook (!), and try to foresee what further bumps are on our trail. Our account is no different than one’s personal account. We must pay our present bills and we should not spend money we don’t have. Words to live by for all of us.

Lucky for us that none of these troubles affect our wonderful Clubs where you do most of your *bridge playing*. *Hope everyone is progressing with your games, learning new conventions, and baffling your opponents with unthinkable brilliance.* Noticed that I had not attended San Diego in a few years, so that will be my next out-of-LA stop next month. So much to do in the meantime! Happy trails to all.

A Message from the Editor

by Tom Lill

As you may have already gathered – or soon will – the SCBN has a new editor. Jennifer Einberg has filled this role for the past decade or so, and has done a great job. I have very large (so to speak, no doubt her feet are quite normal) shoes to fill. A little about me: I’m not a professional writer/editor, so expect a glitch from time to time. By training, I’m an electrical engineer, although for the past 25 years I’ve been down the Dark Path (software engineering). And then, my unrequited love is playing the piano. All qualifications, you will agree, for taking on this task.

Those of you who have attended one of our District Regionals in the past few years may already be familiar with my style: I’ve been editing the Daily Bulletins since the 2015 Bridge Week Regional. You then will know that I abhor white space ... and like to fill it up with (supposed) humor.

Well, I’ll do my best. And I’m always open to constructive criticism. If you have suggestions – or even news or a story you’d like to see in the SCBN – contact me directly, or see your local Unit reporter.

Southern California Bridge News
Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.
410 Mill Creek Lane, San Gabriel, CA 91775
Phone: 626-281-2179
email bridgenews@acbldistrict23.org
Editor/Designer..... Tom Lill
Managing Editor. Mike Marcucci
Contributing Editor. John Jones
 Copy deadlines: the 20th of the preceding month. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.

Speaking of which, three of our member Units – that’s fully 1/3 of the Units – currently do not even have a Unit reporter. The rest of us surely would be interested in knowing what’s going on in those Units. The three MIA’s are 553 (Glendale – Verdugo), 559 (Pasadena – San Gabriel), and 564 (Downey-Whittier). Speaking as my own Unit’s reporter, it’s not really an onerous job. It’s as much work – and as much fun – as you wish to make it. Enough said.

TTFN

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

allow us to implement term limits – I voted in favor of term limits. Multiple votes are required because this is a bylaw change – a fundamental change to how the board operates. Unfortunately, as of mid-February the second vote to enforce term limits is being delayed until the summer. The report I’m getting is that there was a requirement to publish notice of this second vote that was not met. I’ll report more as I learn more details.

Five more big ideas

Our energetic CEO’s process is to introduce a number of new ideas for the board to consider at each board meeting. I favor this process. I anticipate seeing concrete, positive results from it but it also has focused the board more on substance than politics. A good thing.

For Philly, our CEO Bahar Gidwani has proposed the following new ideas: increasing club support, improving the patron member program, marketing to students, addressing the volunteer problem, and developing a long-term online strategy.

Each of this ideas is important in its own way. Each of these ideas has been researched by Horn Lake and discussed extensively by various committees of the board. Many of the ideas in increasing club support came out of the club task force I chaired last year so I’m delighted to see clubs maintaining strong visibility.

I’m also very pleased that the analysis offered to the board on these big ideas is much more nuanced than in the first effort in San Diego. Many of my colleagues were concerned about the process based on our CEO’s first effort. I urged patience because new processes need time to mature, and this second effort at “big ideas” is a great improvement.

That said, I believe setting a long-term online strategy is the most important idea of the bunch. More next month.

Contact me at kland23@gmail.com to share your thoughts.

SPARE TIME, ANYONE?

by Mike Marcucci, District 23 President

When players move away from LA, they leave behind friends, jobs, neighbors, family, homes, and activities. There are always good reasons. Most I’ve seen were related to the old “being closer to kids & grandkids” desire. A lot of that has happened in D23 lately and, in losing those friends, we are left with several vacancies on the D23 Board. We need new folks!

For anyone already serving on a Unit Board, this is a chance to step in to a new challenge for your District and get a different look at bridge in LA. Please take a look at our latest Org Chart (it’s on page 5) and see if any of the vacant slots look interesting to you. A lot is “learn as you go” but they are all fun and easily explained.

The only requirement to filling one of these vacancies is that you have served on a Unit or the District Board now or previously. We’d be glad to explain the time required and summarize the duties of any of these slots if you will contact myself or any other member of the Board. Several are very localized in time, such as the GNT position and the Secretary position. In other words, there are months of no activity and then a short flurry!

Most positions probably take less time than your Unit duties, surprisingly. They will take even less in the future, since we seem to have gone from 3 Regionals a year to 1. I’d be glad to explain if you wish to talk. I’m ready and willing to handle the stampede of volunteers. Please call me at 818 903-2471 or e-mail to nstarmgm@att.net. Have those resumes ready and thanks.

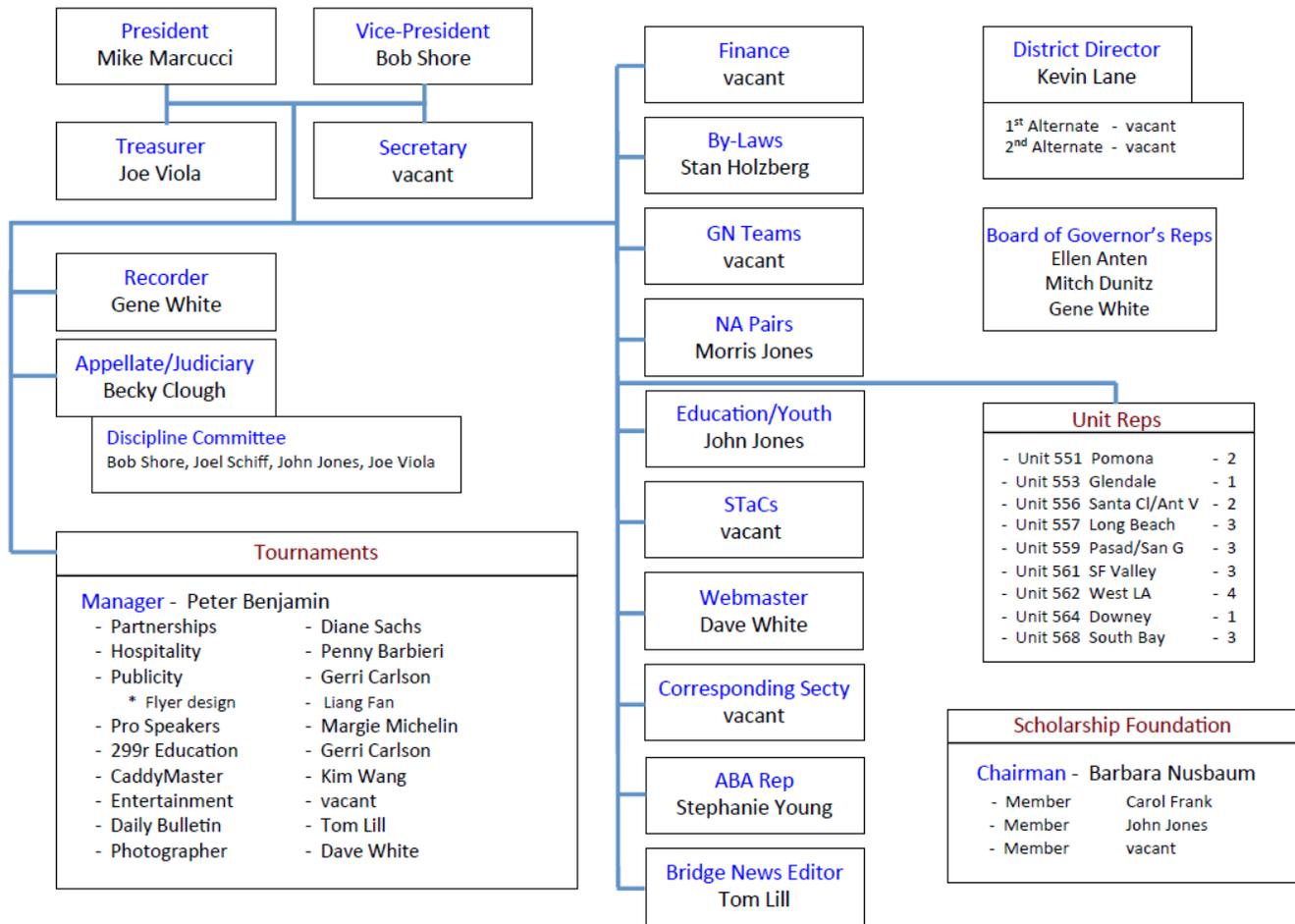


“There aren’t enough tables for a Mitchell movement,” howled the Director.

- (Hey – I warned you! – Ed.)

District 23 Org Chart

Feb 2018



District 23 Rank Changes January 2018

Junior Master

Gillian Cooper
Richard David
Eveline Ginzburg
Naum Grutman
Nava Grutman
Robert Moyer
Freda Otto
Madhu Singhal

Club Master

Dennis Burke
Flo Fenton
Ardis Laine
Steven Novak

Sectional Master

Leslie Dean
Charles Laine
Karyn Sue Shatzkin
Denise Simon
Kiyohisa Wakabayashi

Regional Master

Coral Goldsmith

NABC Master

Lynn Edelson
Susan Frank
Arnold Gieske

Linda Gieske

Jaclyn Hatfield
Michael McGory
John Vacca
Bob Weingarten

Advanced NABC Master

Barbara Haines

Bronze Life Master

Lee Axelrod
Mary Downey
Norman Imberman
Linda Krause

DISTRICT 23 LOS ANGELES
GRAND NATIONAL TEAMS

QUALIFY FOR SUMMER ACBL NATIONALS - ATLANTA - JULY, 2018
OR JUST PLAY FOR FUN

2 SESSIONS EACH DAY: APRIL 28-29, 10 AM & 3 PM

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TEAMS OF 4 TO 6

COMPETE AGAINST YOUR PEERS IN THE BRACKET OF YOUR CHOICE

4 BRACKETS:

(OPEN Unlimited masterpoints

A - 0-6000 masterpoints

B - 0-2500

C - 0-500 (NON- LIFE MASTERS ONLY)

SWISS TEAMS ON SATURDAY

ONLY THE TOP TEAMS IN EACH BRACKET

WILL PLAY KNOCK OUTS ON SUNDAY.

WINNER OF EACH BRACKET MAY, IF THEY CHOOSE,

REPRESENT DISTRICT AT NATIONALS IN ATLANTA

GOLD POINTS TO BE AWARDED TO TOP TEAMS

WINNING TEAMS MAY OPT OUT OF NATIONALS W/OUT PENALTY

RUNNERS UP WILL THEN BE OFFERED OPPORTUNITY TO

REPRESENT OUR DISTRICT

PLAY FOR FUN AND EXPERIENCE AND SUPPORT OUR DISTRICT

NO PRE-REGISTRATION

CARD FEES \$60.00 PER TEAM PER SESSION

CONDITIONS OF CONTEST at bridgewebs.com/acbl/

For further info:

howardeinberg@yahoo.com,

or Howard Einberg 310-704-2564, or

Julie Kimelman 818-817-0094



LOS ANGELES LONG BEACH REGIONAL

JULY 2-8, 2018

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

**DAYLIGHT SCHEDULE! 299ER GAMES EVERY DAY!
PILE UP YOUR GOLD POINTS IN OUR GOLD RUSH PAIRS!
STAR SPEAKERS EVERY DAY! SATURDAY SPECIAL SHOW!**

Monday July 2nd.
Free 2-hour Bridge Workshop
10:30 - 12:30 am
Followed by lunch

Marjorie Michelin
Grand Life Master

Pro Am Game at 1 pm
Card fee for Am's: \$14

Please pre register before 6/24
Gerri Carlson
goffa@aol.com
310-377-0316

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
District 23 Director: Kevin Lane
District 23 President: Mike Marcucci



Hilton Long Beach
701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Room rate: \$139 (Free Wifi) please refer to ALACBU
Reservation must be made by Friday, June 9.
800-445-8667 or 562-983-3400

Card fees: \$14 for ACBL Members
\$18 for expired ACBL Members

Notice: Non-members will be required to either join ACBL on an annual basis or on a new temporary one-month membership for \$7.99.

Self parking: \$6

Sanction Number: R1807009



<p>Monday, July 2, 2018 299er Free Workshop/Lunch (Reserv. Rqd).....10:30 am Pro-Am Pairs (single session)..... 1:00 pm Aft Side Game Series (1 of 6)..... 1:00 pm Stratified Charity Pairs (single session)..... 7:00 pm Starburst KO (1 of 4)..... 7:00 pm</p> <p>Tuesday, July 3, 2018 Starburst KO (2, 3 & 4 of 4)... 10:30 am, 3:00 & 7:30 pm AM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 10:30 am 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Mark Schreiber Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Guest Lecture 2:30 pm Aft Side Game Series (2 of 6)..... 3:00 pm Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm PM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 7:30 pm</p> <p>Wednesday, July 4, 2018 AM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 10:30 am 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am Bernie Mateer Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Lois Miller Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Guest Lecture 2:30 pm Aft Side Game Series (3 of 6)..... 3:00 pm Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm PM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 7:30 pm Blackbird Turbo Swiss (1 of 2)..... 7:30 pm</p>	<p>Thursday, July 5, 2018 AM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 10:30 am 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am Miriam Collup Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Red & White Stratified Swiss Teams (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Guest Lecture 2:30 pm Aft Side Game Series (4 of 6)..... 3:00 pm Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm PM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 7:30 pm Blackbird Turbo Swiss (2 of 2)..... 7:30 pm</p> <p>Friday, July 6, 2018 AM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 10:30 am 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am 0-99 Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am WLA Player of the Year - Bob Chen - Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Unit 559 Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Liberty Bell KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Guest Lecture 2:30 pm Aft Side Game Series (5 of 6)..... 3:00 pm Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm Bluefinch Turbo Swiss (1 of 2)..... 7:30 pm PM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 7:30 pm</p> <p>Saturday, July 7, 2018 AM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 10:30 am 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am Anand Kumar Gold Rush Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm</p>	<p>Saturday, July 7, 2018 Stratified Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Liberty Bell KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Queen Mary Compact KO (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & 3:00 pm Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6)..... 3:00 pm Stratified Swiss Teams (single session)..... 3:00 pm Entertainment Event 6:30 pm Bluefinch Turbo Swiss (2 of 2)..... 7:30 pm PM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 7:30 pm</p> <p>Sunday, July 8, 2018 Ft Henry Stratified Fast Pairs (1 & 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am & TBA Flight A/X Swiss Teams 10:30 am & TBA Pat Abbey Bracketed B/C/D Swiss Teams 10:30 am & TBA</p>
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Event Colors: 299ers: Orange Teams: Green Pairs: Blue	KOs may be handicapped. Games will be stratified by average masterpoints.
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Stratified Games: 0-1500 / 1500-3000 / 3000+
 Stratified Games: 0-3000 / 3000-5000 / 5000+
 Gold Rush: 0-100 / 100-300 / 300-750
 Flight A/X: 0-5000 / 5000+
 Bracketed Flight B/C/D:
 Bracketed by average points of team.
 No player over 3000 MPs
 Turbo Swiss Teams: 3 x 8 boards

From the Director's Chair: *by Jim Perkins*

Unauthorized Information

No call is more dreaded by most directors than the call that something has occurred that transmits unauthorized information. Players who are accused of creating unauthorized information, often don't understand that they are not being accused of cheating, per se. Actually, the law is fairly clear that the creation of unauthorized information is not, in itself, a violation. Or at least the unintentional creation of unauthorized information is not, in itself, a violation of bridge laws. If you were to say to your partner, "Lead a club" that would be both unauthorized information and a more serious violation of law 73 which prohibits communication between the partners by means other than legal calls and the play of the cards themselves.

The use of unauthorized information by partner is a violation. To take a recent case that I ruled on: your partner opens 3♦, your right-hand opponent calls 3♠. You have a difficult decision whether to x, PASS or bid 4♦. Or for whatever reason it takes you perhaps as much as 30 seconds to decide here and when you do you PASS. Your left-hand opponent PASSES and now your partner decides that she really likes her 10 count with 7 good diamonds and a spade void. She bids 4♦.

This was not a hard call for me as a director. Common practice and wisdom among even newly intermediate players is that once a player preempts they don't have another call in the same auction. Any further action is for partner to decide.

Here you had a problem and you were entitled to take time to work it out. However, once you elected to PASS, partner was virtually barred from further action.

Your hesitation prior to the PASS suggested that you may have been considering bidding on. Or

maybe doubling. But something gave you a problem. Partner must not choose from among logical alternatives one that was demonstrably indicated by the unauthorized information; that is, partner must make a serious effort to be actively ethical here. However, there can be no clear case for bidding on after a preempt. Players that preempt are generally held to have said all there is to say about the hand and are almost mandated to PASS once having preempted.

Similarly, if after a complicated auction (perhaps you are playing against one of my strong club auctions) you ask about one specific bid and no others, you have created unauthorized information that partner should make every effort to avoid using. When you ask about a club bid and not any other suit that was bid and your partner is on lead and leads a club and you just happen to hold the AK of clubs . . . well, I am going to rule that the OPPs have been damaged by your transmittal and your partner's use of unauthorized information.

For newer players, a good start to avoiding problems with Law 16 which is itself deceptively simple in appearance but extremely complex in application, try applying these two rules: 1) if you hesitate for a long time, the choice must be close so just bid, don't PASS; and 2) if you need to know something about the auction for whatever reason before your partner leads (perhaps you are considering a double or a sacrifice), ask about all the bids, not just the suit in which your holding makes it surprising to you that the OPPs are bidding the suit.

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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.**

Glendale Results

by Becky Clough, Past D23 President

Well, we could have done better! The D23 tournament committee discovered a gem of a site, the Glendale Hilton, for a tournament between Christmas and New Year's. The hotel was excellent, the playing area was well lit, there were good restaurants nearby and the parking convenient. What was the problem? NOBODY CAME. Not overly surprising because it usually takes several years to build up a tournament, but we don't have a couple of years - D23 has not done well financially the last few years.

Those who did come had a great time. Highlights included a dance party on Saturday night with Rick Roeder from District 22 as the DJ and, of course, Margie Michelin as the party hostess. Though she no longer lives in District 23, Margie helps in many ways. She arranges our high-profile, excellent speakers and is our secret partnership match-maker.

John Jones won the most master points (MP) with 115.8 for the week. His frequent partner, Jeff Goldsmith, came in second with 87.4. We awarded 4116 total MPs for the week. Did you get your share?

Our players came from 20 of the 25 ACBL districts with Julie Williams from Halifax, Nova Scotia and Dave Dobrin from Cambridge, Massachusetts traveling the furthest. You could find them by the pool when not playing.

32% of the 522 players who attended the tournament came from outside District 23. We richly thank all those travellers. If we want to save bridge in LA, however, our attendance has to get better than that. Some can remember when 7000 players filled the Convention Center! Our next tournament is Long Beach in July. Let's spread the word and make our plans so that tournament is a rousing success.

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

January 28 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: John Petrie/Jeanette Estill, 2nd Fran Israel/Mark Raggio, 3rd John Bralliar/Judith Jones, 4th Jackie Hess/Steve Skinner, 5th Jo and John Melis, 6th Dominique Moore/Robert Gish. In the B flight overalls Usha Bansal/Rob Preece were 2nd, Renee Hoffman/Paul Pettler 3rd, Sherry Troeger/Gayle Grubb 4th, John Janus/Barbara Shortwell 5th. In the C flight overalls Kiyu Nagaishi/Hashim Mahmood were 3rd. And in the NLM game Ana Win/Bonnie Shok were 1st, Lillian Slater/Katharine Seibert 2nd, Jack Kainer/News Fake 3rd. Congratulations to all!

70+% GAMES Jan 16 through Feb 15: Jan 22 Dalia Hernandez/John Melis were first with 70.89%. Jan 30 Cliff Goodrich/Jon Yinger were first with 70.19%. Congratulations to both pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS Jan 16 through Feb 15: Jan 23 Kim Wang/Chien-San Han were 1st winning 5.40mp, Bev Shafer/John Crabtree were 2nd winning 4.05mp, Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein were 3rd winning 3.04mp. In the unit game Jan 28 John Petrie/Jeanette Estill were first overall winning 3.79mp. Feb 1 Baum Harris/John Bralliar were 1st winning 5.40mp. Feb 10 Paul Pettler/Hashim Mahmood were 1st winning 3.21mp. Congratulations to all!!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: Elizabeth Gause and Donna Kastner. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Junior Master: Bonnie Shok. New Silver Life Master: Rob Preece. Congratulations to you both!

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Steve Skinner who passed away earlier this month. He will be missed.

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

Feb 19-24 D22/23 STaC Week. Extra points, \$11 card fees
Feb 25 Unit Game. Card fee \$8. Only dessert served
March 4 Sunday games all begin at 12:30. Snacks only; no lunch
March 5 Pro-Am game 9:30. Free play for all
March 11 Special Sunday game at 12:30. Snacks only; no lunch
March 12-18 Club Championship Week. Extra points, regular card fees
March 18 Swiss Team game at 12:30. Extra points, regular card fees.
March 19-24 D22/23 STaC Week. Extra points, \$11 card fees.
March 25 Unit Game. Card fee \$8. Only desert served.

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD BRIDGE CLUBS Judy Carter-Johnson

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME—
Clubhouse #1—January 27: Betty Jackson/Diane Sachs 1 in A. Russell Gray/Mark Singer 2 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Verna Burns/Sue Fardette 3 in A. Fred Reker/Larry Slutsky 4 in A. Joyce Henderson/Dalia Hernandez 5 in A. Joyce Basch/Dorothy Favre 2 in B. Kar-Yee Nelson/Chie Wickham 3 in B, 2 in C.

UNIT-RATED GAME--Clubhouse #3—
February 12: Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 1 in A. Diane Sachs/Rob Preece 2 in A. Midge Dunagan/Bill Linsky 3 in A, 1 in B. Bobbie and Brent Johanson 4 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Gene and Ron Yaffee 5 in A, 3 in B, 2 in C. Paul Chen/Harshad Vora 6 in A, 4 in B, 3 in C. Monica and Paul Honey 5 in B.

GET WELL WISHES TO : Bill Robinson

CONDOLENCES to the family of Stan Blitz and to the family of Sylvia Kaprelyan whose husband John Passed away last month.

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 icj90740@gmail.com. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pomona – Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Unit Game: Saturday, March 10, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Individual: Saturday, March 3, 9:30 a.m., San Dimas

Yes, this month our Unit game is a week early. We will be presenting the 2017 Ace of Clubs and Mini-McKenney awards before the game. If you won your bracket (and if you have, you’ve already been notified by Our Hard Working Membership Chairman), we hope to see you at the game. A partner can be found for you, **if** you contact us not too close to game time.

The February Individual was captured by Steve Mancini. Richard Patterson was second, followed by Clint Lew and Margie Hall.

As many of you know, our usual Individual host, Lois Snowden, took a couple of bad falls last year, and is still out of action. So our other three hosts – Penny Barbieri, Clint Lew, and Yours Truly, will be holding the games for the next several months, and possibly indefinitely. You can always find the game’s location on our web site, not to mention the header of this column. Lois is doing well during her recovery, but isn’t up to snuff just yet.

The February Unit game was a squeaker. With two rounds to play, the eventual winners – Fredy and

Lulu Minter – were solidly in second. After the final round, they were still in second, but wait. There was a late play. Even though neither of the top two pairs were involved – after the late play was completed, the Minters had squeaked into first by ½ match point. Go figure! Following them were Kiran Kumar – Yours Truly (mumble mumble grrrr), and Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson.

The race for the top score this month was so close, I’ll list the three top contenders. Three crushers this month! On top – barely – were Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson, with 75.0%. Right behind were Fredy and Lulu Minter, with 74.38%. And Joe Unis – Roger Boyar’s 73.7% effort is nothing to be ashamed of, either.

Three promotions to report this month. James O’Dowd moves up to Club Master, as does Tom Sessions. And Gayle Ginsburg is now a Regional Master. Congratulations, all.

Our Hand of the Month merely demonstrates why this is such a whacky – and frustrating – game. As South, both vulnerable, you find yourself holding

♠ J52 ♥ QJ10953 ♦ A ♣ K74.

RHO deals and opens 1♠. Well, your suit is pretty solid, and you have some shape. Do you call 2♥?

If you do – and it certainly seems reasonable – you are in for a very rough ride. The auction continues pass – pass – double – all pass. The opening lead is the ♠Q, and dummy comes down with

♠ 643 ♥ 2 ♦ K87653 ♣ Q62

Not much there for you, and it’s down 2 for - 500. LHO was sitting there with

♠ Q7 ♥ AK76 ♦ 942 ♣ J1053.

Frustrating, isn’t it? Swap LHO and partner’s hand, and you’ll scramble 8 tricks at least.

Quote for the month: The most damaging phrase in the language is: “It’s always been done that way.” (Rear Admiral Grace Hopper)



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs Awards:

0-5	Barbara Voss
5-20	Les Spitz
20-50	Gay Gipson
50-100	Carol Reukauf
100-200	Gary Trenda & Carol Trenda
200-300	Barbara York
300-500	Sharry Vida
500-1000	Bert Stock
1000-1500	Lamonte Johnson
1500-2500	Basant Shah
2500-3500	Bill Brodek

Congratulations to the winners of the 2017 Mini-McKenney Awards:

0-5	Jan Ladd
5-20	Les Spitz
20-50	May Ho
50-100	Carol Reukauf
100-200	Paul Reukauf
200-300	Carol Provost
300-500	Sharry Vida
500-1000	Bert Stock
1000-1500	Paula Olivares
1500-2500	David White
2500-3500	Bill Brodek
3500-5000	Paul Markarian

Unit 556 will honor these winners at our annual Unit Game and Awards Ceremony on March 18th at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale.

Upcoming Events:

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs Game: Monday, Mar. 19th at 12:30 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita

District 22-23 STaC Games:

Tuesday, Mar. 20th at 6:45 at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita

Thursday, Feb. 22nd at 10:00 AM in at the Sports Complex in Castaic

Friday, Feb. 21st at 12:30 at Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

Sunday, Feb. 23rd at 12:30 at Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

Western Conference STaC games:
May 7-13

World Wide Bridge Contest:
Friday, June 1st at 12:30 at Joshua Tree

Longest Day Games:

Monday, June 18th at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita and Friday, June 22nd at Joshua Tree in Palmdale

Next Board meeting: March 18th after the Unit Game



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

2018 Unit 561 Officers and Board of Directors

Unit 561 is pleased to announce the 2018 Officers and Board of Directors as follows: Marcia Broderick – President, Karyn Shatzkin – Vice President, April Adams – Secretary, Rochelle Lotto – Treasurer, Frona DeCovnick – Membership Chair, Jojo Sarkar – Tournament Coordinator, Susan Raphael – Hospitality Chair, and Linda Silvey – Publicity Chair. Other Board Members are Ilene Feinstein, Marge Romans, and Jerry Shapiro.

Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Winners:

Bravo and congratulations to all of the U561 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Winners for 2017! These players are as follows: 0-5 – Robert Davis (MM, AC); 5-20 – Terry Kinigstein (MM, AC); 20-50 – Bernard Seal (MM, AC); 50-100 – John Vacca (MM, AC); 100-200 – Brian Fielding (MM, AC); 200-300 – Beverly McLeod (MM, AC); 300-500 – Raymond Primus (MM, AC); 500-1,000 – Martin Hurwitz (MM) and Gary Baxley (AC); 1,000-1,500 – Janet Cooper (MM) and William Morton (AC); 1,500-2,500 Dwight Hunt (MM, AC); 2,500-3,500 – Om Chokriwala (MM) and Robert Perlsweig (AC); 3,500-5,000 – Donald Crum (MM, AC); 5,000-7,500 – Susan Somogyi (MM) and Armand Szulc (AC); 7,500-10,000 – Gilbert

Stinebaugh (MM, AC); and, over 10,000 – Mitch Dunitz (MM) and Steve Gross (AC).

Special Congratulations

New Life Master Accomplishments by Unit 561 players were: Linda Camras (Life Master); Gary Baxley, Raymond Primus, and William Raff (Bronze); Alan Golden (Silver – 1,000); Paula Olivares (Ruby – 1,500); Sheila Bozin (Gold – 2,500); and, Barbara Pinchuk (Sapphire – 3,500).

January Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ray Primus 13.49, Susan Raphael 10.29, Daniel Strauss 9.80, Ronald Malkin 9.10, Gary Baxley 8.90, Jerry Rose 8.81, Dwight Hunt 8.59, Gloria Malkin 8.37, Jerry Goodman 7.95, and Larry Kussin 7.27. Gloria Malkin – Merkie Rowan achieved a 70% game with a score of 70.42%

March 20: Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night

The next Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night will be held Tuesday, March 20. Dinner is \$20 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 "Taste of Tuscany" dinner. For reservations and/or partnerships contact Nancy Klemens at nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

March Special Events at The 750 Club

Monday-Friday, March 5-9 will be Club Membership Week. Extra black points will be awarded for no extra fees. Both players must be ACBL members ("instant" membership forms available the Club). Monday-Friday, March 19-23, will be STaC Games. \$11 card fee for silver points. Pies will be served at lunchtime, Wednesday, March 14 (3/14), in celebration of *Pi* (rounded off to 3.14) Day.

Calendar

Saturday, March 3, Unit 561 Mini-McKenney-Ace of Club Awards Luncheon and Game will be held at 12noon, The 750 Club, Woodland Hills. For information contact Marcia Broderick at mm16227@aol.com.

Monday-Friday, March 5-9, Club Membership Week at The 750 Club. Extra black awarded points for no extra fee.

Wednesday, March 14, Pies will be served at lunch at The 750 Club in celebration of *Pi* (3.14) Day.

Monday-Friday, March 19-23, STaC Week Games at the 750 Club. Silver Points.

Tuesday, March 20, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. See information above.

Wednesday, April 11, U561 Board Meeting, at The 750 Club, 2:45 p.m.

Saturday, May 5, U561 Luncheon and Game, 12noon, at The 750 Club, Woodland Hills



Torrance-South Bay by Steve Mager

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Unit Game: Friday, March 2, 11:30 AM
Club Membership Games: Week Beginning March 4
District 22/23 STAC: March 19-25

Apologies for listing the above STAC being in February in last month's column. It wasn't all my fault but I should have double checked.

Club Championships

The Club Championship on February 2 was won by Robert Rothman/Stan Greengard in both Flights A and B. On February 3 the Club Championship was won by Ray Mack/Ernie Frank in Flight A with Patty Taylor /Mark Raggio taking Flight B plus Jean and Norman Futami on top in Flight C. The February 13 Championship was led by Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel in Flight A with Howard Schechter/Stan Greengard taking Flight B.

Team Winners

January 30: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Jim Dutton, Bronek Felczer
February 6: Gerri Carlson, Mary Ann Coyle, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott
February 13: Sharon Biederman, John Jones, Steve Ramos, Ed Piken

February 20: Fran Israel, Luis Gamio, Carol Mason, Mike Savage

TSB Unit Tragedy

A traffic accident badly injured and in subsequent weeks led to the deaths of Joan and Robert Stillwell. They played often at the South Bay BC and were very well liked by fellow competitors. They will be greatly missed by the Torrance South Bay Bridge community.

GUV AWARD

I would like to give an honorary GUV award to our notable regional tournament manager and my oftentimes partner in Thursday games at the Barrington Bridge Club, Pete Benjamin. It's not that we do so bad in these games but it is a rare hand indeed, no matter what the result, where Pete doesn't offer some advice on what I should have done as opposed to what I did do. once in a while he is even right. Pete's Bridge philosophy seems to be to do the right thing at the right time no matter what percentages say.

I am under no illusions as to whether or not I am guilty of the same offense myself. Playing with Pete it is necessary as kind of a self defense. My lady friend Gerri Soffa would no doubt agree that I am guilty.

Na Zdrowie

game we all love, this is a great opportunity to get a backstage tour. Just let any current Board member know that you're interested.

News of the News

Another change has occurred with immediate effect. My records say that I'm now beginning my eighth year as your Humble Scribe. For all of that time, our Esteemed Editor has been Jennifer Einberg. Jen has tolerated late submissions and consistently put out this paper that you hold in your keyboard with a professional appearance that this District has always been able to take great pride in. I'd like to use this space to extend my personal thanks to Jen for all of the work she's put in to making me and my fellow columnists look good.

However, this too has had to change. The District lost a lot of money on the Glendale year-end regional and we have needed to find ways to cut expenses. Unfortunately, one of the casualties of those circumstances has been Jennifer's services. We hope to realize significant savings, while still maintaining quality, by using Tom Lill as our new Esteemed Editor. Welcome, Tom, to the hot seat, and thank you for your willingness to step into this role. *[Ed. note: thanks, Bob. I'll do my best.]*

A League of Their Own

The Spring Bridge League is now underway. Leading the Open Flight after the first of three preliminary sessions is the team of Susan Somogyi, Sally Aminoff, Basant Shah, and Sam Haveson. The Handicap Flight is currently topped by the team of Tate Shafer, Linda Lin, Seymour Stoll, Doron Shouly, and Stuart Hemple. March will see the final two preliminary rounds, and the knockout medal round matches will take place in early April. Plans are already being made for a second league this summer, so it's not too early to start forming your teams.

Lots of Winning

There are lots of winners to report this month, but I'm not going to start with the usual suspects. Instead, I want to highlight the team that included Edward Benda, Stefanie Woodburn, Monique Thomas, and Paul Stanko, who won their flight of the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams event at the Riverside Regional. I mention this team because of their youth. All of them are younger than some of the clothes in my closet, and I doubt they have 200 points between them. Yet they played in and won a two-day regional



**West LA
by Robert Shore**

Some More Additions

As I mentioned in last month's column, Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten has now moved to the Bay Area and therefore is no longer on our Board. A couple of other recent departures of note are Karen Byrd and Barbara Nusbaum. Both Karen and, particularly, Barbara have served our Unit with grace, energy, and distinction for much longer than your Humble Scribe has been on the Board, and their absence has been and will continue to be sorely felt. However, life moves on and we've begun the process of filling the resulting vacancies. Please join me in welcoming John Ramos and Michele Dilorenzo to the Unit Board. We still have additional vacancies, so if you've ever wondered how you can help grow the

knockout teams event. I had the pleasure of meeting them at the Club the other day, and they also proved to be very nice people. That foursome, and more like them, can be the future of bridge. I hope they persevere and that more of their friends and contemporaries take the time to learn our game.

Riverside had a number of winners from our Unit. Ifti Baqai won the Thursday Bracketed Swiss, while Rick Turner, Alyssa Kennedy, and Rita Levin were victorious in their bracket of the Thursday Swiss. Stuart Hemple's team won yet another bracket of the Thursday Swiss. The team of Jaclyn Hatfield, Marion Tumen, Dawn Lee, and Joan Oliver topped their bracket of the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams event. Pam Wittes was on the winning team in the Sunday Swiss.

And then we move to Alex Kolesnik, whose exploits this month earned him a paragraph of his very own. Alex began by winning the Monday Bracketed Swiss in Riverside. He continued at the San Marcos Sectional by winning the Saturday morning Open Pairs game, and then traveled to the Palm Springs Sectional where he won the Friday Bracketed Teams event. By the way, Alex's daughter and son are very young players who would make frequent appearances in this column if they were members of our Unit, and Alex should also be commended for the work he has been doing mentoring college players.

But wait, there's more! A couple of our members enjoyed a Regional at Sea launching from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Ira Thierer and Barbara Freeman enjoyed a double win, leading the pack in their bracket of the Wednesday Bracketed Swiss and the Friday Bracketed Swiss. Moving to the Laguna Woods Sectional, Sharon Beyron (Alex Kolesnik's wife) won the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams event. Finally, returning to the Palm Springs Sectional, your Humble Scribe won the Saturday Bracketed Swiss, while a team including Gene White and Robert and Sandra Carroll tied for first in the Sunday A/X Swiss.

Sometimes There Ain't No Justice

Our game can be quite frustrating at times. The following hand illustrates why:

Dummy: ♠ AQ95 ♥ A9 ♦ AQ108 ♣ Q103
 Declarer: ♠ KJ1073 ♥ 53 ♦ K6 ♣ A982

After some overenthusiastic bidding by a member of the partnership who shall remain nameless, Declarer found himself in 7♠. Needless to say, this

contract wasn't a favorite. Nevertheless, after getting the opening lead of the ♥J (RHO signaling with the 10), Declarer went about his business. He drew trump in two rounds and then cashed three rounds of diamonds, tossing a heart. The J fell on Declarer's right, so Declarer threw a club on the good diamond 10. He then trumped a heart to his hand, everyone following. Guessing that the heart lead was from shortness, he played RHO for short clubs. Accordingly, Declarer cashed the ♣A and saw the K come down on his right. After successfully finessing the ♣10, Declarer scored up his grand.

So why do I call this hand an example of frustration? Think about the poor defenders. They did absolutely nothing wrong, watched their opponents stumble into a terrible grand, but one which happens to make on a miracle lie of the cards. If that happens a few million more times to me, I might be tempted to give up the game. Or at least cut back on my playing.

Around the Clubs

Winning this month's club championships at Beverly Hills were Rahim Israel and Eddi Samandar, Om Chokriwala and Michael Abeles, Om Chokriwala and Alyssa Kennedy, Brian Richardson and Maurice Parker, Lew and Rhoda Himmell, and Kevin Lane and your Humble Scribe. Hitting 70% were Jim Perkins and Basant Shah, Howard Einberg and Yehudit Hasin-Brumshten, Michael Abeles and Karen Schwartz, Adrienne Green and Becky Clough, and Om Chokriwala and Alyssa Kennedy.

Barrington didn't hold any club championships last month but it had its share of 70% games. Hitting that mark were Anna Benatar and Nelly Gordon, Aaron Jones and Mary Udell, Howard Einberg and Bill Schreiber, Bill Schreiber and Rob Perlsweig, Wayne Karson and Art Zail, Rob Perlsweig and Peter Knee, and Aram Bedros and Art Zail.

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

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists: Gerry Bare, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Daniel Korbel, Rick Roeder, Mike Shuster, and Jon Wittes.

The problems from this month's set are all from the recent Riverside Regional. Problem #1 was given to me by Cam Doner. Problem #4 was given to me by Kent Hartman.

<h1>1</h1> <p>Matchpoints E-W vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
		1♦	Pass	Pass
	???			
	You, South, hold: ♠KQ73 ♥AQ86 ♦T63 ♣Q4 What call do you make?			

Double, 1NT, Pass, or 1♥? The panel unanimously selected double despite the doubleton club. Some didn't even think it was a problem.

Roeder: Dbl. No strong feelings so I stay with the field. If you need a board, bid 1NT.

Bare: Dbl.

Korbel: Dbl.

Wittes: Dbl. Double seems pretty clear cut to me.

Kantar: Dbl. A slam dunk.

Goldsmith: Dbl. At matchpoints, partner is not going to go out of his way to bid clubs. If he passes, this will be a bloodbath. *[That's true, but it's not terribly likely that partner will pass.]*

Shuster: Dbl. Partner won't ever bid 2♣ on a 4-card suit in response to a reopening double of 1♦, so I don't even see why this is a problem.

Cam Doner gave me this problem. He doubled. His partner actually held ♠Axx ♥Jx ♦7xxx ♣A987 and bid 2♣. I suggested his partner advance 1NT. Shuster suggested he advance 1♠, but bidding a three card suit looks likely to lead to problems. Declarer underplayed it by a trick for down two. The actual vulnerability was all vulnerable, but I changed it because Cam thought it a better problem that way. In retrospect, I asked about the wrong hand. Look for this problem to be used in the future from the other side of the table.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">2</h1> <p>IMPs N-S vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	???	2♠	3♥	Pass
<p>You, South, hold: ♠T83 ♥9 ♦Q63 ♣AKT953</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

Roeder: 3NT. As it may be the only making game, somebody has to bid it. Just do it with Trumpian confidence.

Shuster: 3NT. It is very aggressive, needing help in both black suits, but the form of scoring rewards risk-taking. Besides, 3♥ is probably down, and turning -100 into -200 isn't a big deal.

Goldsmith: 4♣. Partner will probably bid 4♥, but two quick tricks and a filler might be enough even with a stiff trump. The spades are worrisome, but looking for excuses not to bid game is losing bridge.

Korbel: 3♠. Nasty problem. I have no assurance that 3♥ will make, and I can certainly visualize 3♥ going down, with 3NT making. I hope I did the right thing.

Wittes: 3♠. A pretty aggressive action, but if we have a game, it rates to be 3NT. I need partner to have a spade stopper, and a modest club fit. I don't expect hearts to play too well, as RHO rates to have a stack.

Bare: Pass. This might make 3NT if partner has clubs and a spade stopper, but 3♥ probably is the last makeable spot. Partner probably has some spade length.

Kantar: Pass. No guts no glory.

The passers win on the actual hand. There was no making contract for our side except for 1♣ or 2♣. 1♥ fails on the actual hand. I tried 3♠ and passed when partner bid 4♥. It was only off four tricks, thankfully undoubled. I slightly missed on repeating the actual conditions. The opening 2♠ call was alerted as Bailey. Thus, 2♥ showed five or six hearts, 8 to 10 HCP, exactly two or three spades, and no more than nine cards in two suits. Knowing hearts would divide well affected the problem in that partner's 3♥ bid was aggressive.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">3</h1> <p>IMPs no vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
		1♦	Pass	1♠
	2♠ ???	Pass	3NT	Pass
<p>You, South, hold: ♠AQJT752 ♥98 ♦AK65 ♣void</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

Korbel: 4♠. No chance that I'm letting partner struggle in 3NT. This is the soundest 2♠ overall in history.

Bare: 4♠.

Kantar: 4♦.

Roeder: 4♦. I have an awfully good 2♠ bid.

Shuster: 4♦. Slam is still in the picture, particularly if the opponents play precision or LHO is a known operator.

Goldsmith: 4♦. Sounds like West psyched. We can easily have a diamond slam. Partner probably has a penalty double of 1♦. 4♦ is natural, not a cue bid, and it's forcing, since 3NT is playable.

Wittes: 4♠. It almost seems like we're playing with a pinochle deck. I would be very surprised if this isn't a better contract than 3NT.

Billy Cohen was the opening 1♦ bidder, with a client at the other table. There was zero chance Billy had psyched, so that wasn't a consideration. I passed 3NT at the table. I now think 4♦ is the best bid.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints no vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	2♠	3♦	1♠	Pass
	???		3♥#	Pass?
	# = Artificial Game Try You, South, hold: ♠8753 ♥K84 ♦Q63 ♣K84 What call do you make?			

Kantar: 3♠. I don't like my ♦Q with the diamond bidder hovering over me.

Goldsmith: 3♠. The ♦Q looks like a dubious value, and without it, we wouldn't be close to accepting. Also, partners are a little more aggressive about inviting when doing so doesn't raise the level of the auction.

Bare: 4♠.

Korbel: 4♠. The kings are nice, and the fourth trump might be absolutely huge. There are no guarantees, but I want to be bidding 4♠ with this hand. Picture, say, AKxxxx Axx x Axx.

Wittes: 4♠. Not as clear cut as all that, but I have a max of sorts, and even though I'm 4-3-3-3, I do have four trumps.

Roeder: 3NT. Close between 3♠ and 3NT. 4♠ is not in the picture despite my fourth trump. If partner goes on, he has been warned. Could be right to play 3NT any time partner holds xx, Kx or Ax of diamonds. If partner has xx of diamonds in a spade contract, his spades better be quite good, otherwise a promotion looms.

Shuster: 3NT. I'll accept the game try and offer choice of strains.

I'm a 3♠ bidder here. I'd bid 4♠ if I was vulnerable at IMPs. 4♠ was a good contract, but failed on a poor layout. I thank Kent Hartman for this problem.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>IMPs Both vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
			1♥	1♠
	dbl	3♠	4♠	Pass
	5♣	Pass	5♦	Pass
	???	You, South, hold: ♠9754 ♥A7 ♦K83 ♣Q973		

5a) Do you agree with your bidding up to this point?
5b) What to you call now?

Bare: 5a) No, I would bid 5♠. There are no wasted spades.

Bare: 5b) 6♦.

Shuster: 5a) Yes. I don't even see alternative actions that are remotely attractive.

Shuster: 5b) 5NT. Partner has chosen a very strong sequence to 5♦ and we have probably 3 cover cards. North should have at least 10 red cards, so I bid 5NT in case partner is 6-4 to offer hearts. If partner chooses 6♣, I'll correct to 6♦.

Goldsmith: 5a) Yes. Any initial action is a distortion, but passing a nine-count isn't going to help. I like to put my distortions into negative doubles instead of any other action, because they keep the auction low; in particular, they allow us to play 1NT from partner's side. 5♣ seems normal; partner might be overbidding with 0-5-4-4, so driving to the six-level seems like too much.

Goldsmith 5b) 5NT. Partner is likely to be 0-6-5-2, 0-6-4-3, or 0-5-5-3. He might be 1-5-4-3 or 1-6-4-2 with near strong two-bid values. Letting partner pick the strain (or bounce it back with 6♣) seems best.

Korbel: 5a) yes.

Korbel: 5b) 5NT. Whatever partner's looking for, I've got it. This lets him know I have only three diamonds, and puts hearts back into play. I will not pass 6♣.

Wittes: 5a) Bidding is reasonable to this point.

Wittes: 5b) 5NT I couldn't have a better hand for partner who must have a very good hand with a spade void. 5NT should ask partner to pick a slam. I want to put hearts back in play with Ax. Partner probably has five diamonds, but could be 0-6-4-3 with a very good hand such as ♠void ♥KQJxxx ♦AQJx ♣Axx.

Partner did have a 0=6=4=3 shape with a good hand. He later decided that it was best for him to rebid 4♥. His actual auction got me to pass. He had to play it very well just to make 5♦. He had to dummy-reverse into the three card diamond suit. This worked when diamonds proved to be three-three. I now think that I should have been more aggressive and bid 5NT. That wouldn't have worked well on the actual hand, but it could have been right if partner had a little more. If partner wants to show six hearts and four diamonds, maybe he should bid 4NT and correct 5♣ to 5♦.

Roeder: 5a) and 5b) Pass (and pray). A reasonable, but imperfect, negative double has created a nightmare. Partner obviously has a spade void. On a number of hands in which partner held 6 good hearts, he might have chosen to bid 4 hearts. Thus, I will not play him for that. Best hope is that he makes on a mini-dummy reversal or holds the salvation of a fifth diamond.

Kantar: 5♥. I'm a lost soul on this one, however I agree with the double.

I want to thank my editor over the last several years. Jennifer Einberg has been the editor of this publication for over a decade. She has worked exceptionally hard to create a professional newsletter for our enjoyment. I have enjoyed working with her. She is patient, creative and professional. She will be missed.