

# Bridge News

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### After-July Agenda by Mike Marcucci



Hope everyone is looking forward to another great week in Long Beach over the 4<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was lower than normal on the actual holiday date last year, but everyone should know that the fireworks viewing is pretty good from the Hilton & you are definitely not going to

miss that part of the celebration. We are going to have wonderful matches available for you on all 7 days, again including the Pro-Am on Monday. Our flyer should be elsewhere in the paper.

The LA Regional tournament calendar is pretty bare after July. We had modest hopes of running the Xmas week tournament again if enough donations came in last month during a Unit President conversation on fund-raising. Not enough time for a thorough effort on that, so our sanction was cancelled. There are, therefore, no further LA Regionals till July 2019. A dismal picture for locals – we now must travel to other districts for those red and gold points. Sorry that we are not able to help all our newer players trying to get those higher level points towards Life Master, but finances & LA hotel business plans (which do not include us) have forced us into this position.

Of value to continue are all educational efforts around the district to increase skill levels, learn & practice good card sense, recognize card combinations & how to attack them, partnership communications both on offense and defense, situational awareness, latest convention developments, manners at the table, BridgeMate operations, V vs NV strategy, all those pesky “rules”, etc.

We have several pockets of activity around LA where this is happening. Individual efforts at Long  
PRESIDENT continued on page 2

### District Director Report June 2018

by Kevin Lane

“Bridge is a game and should be fun.”



Last month the ACBL made public the following news:

Bahar Gidwani, chief executive officer of the ACBL, has been relieved of his duties according to ACBL President Jay Whipple.

“While Mr. Gidwani brought many new ideas to the organization, we regret there are issues that remain unresolved despite counselling by the Board of Directors,” Whipple says. For legal reasons, Whipple cannot elaborate further.

The Board has appointed Chief Financial Officer Joe Jones to fill the role of acting executive director until a successor is named. A search committee has been formed and work is under way to fill the position.

-----  
For legal reasons, I am limited in amplifying on the remarks above. I won't, for example, comment on the CEO's performance. But I offer the following remarks:

It's self-evident that a 1-year CEO tenure is a major disappointment – or choose your own word. As a board member I share in the responsibility for that result.  
DIRECTOR continued on page 3

Inside This Issue	
Rank Changes .....	page 3
Bridge Week Flyer .....	page 4
Director's Chair .....	page 5
Around the Units .....	page 6
Problem Solvers' Panel .....	page 13

PRESIDENT continued from page 1

Beach BC and Beverly Hills BC have set in motion some “continuing education” series of lessons and games where the focus is on many of the topics just mentioned. The Arcadia BC has had short lesson series for 40 years! I believe we could all benefit from some coordination on the plans going into these activities. Is there a big picture? What part of the learning spectrum are the lessons covering? Is there an actual plan or are random topics chosen? Do players get a vote? Education is such a big topic and important to the growth of our hobby that it deserves a coordinated approach for our membership.

ACBL tries to send programs downward to be spread out to folks, but geography plays a part in implementation. Those programs that work for Texas may work out differently for LA. We are more concentrated in population and can take advantage of our Units’ nearness to each other to assist each other. I happen to be in RI right now. There is only 1 Unit in the whole state. Can anyone in LA imagine what it would be like if all of LA were 1 Unit? Instead of 90 or so volunteers working on Unit activities, we would have only 10-12 shouldering all of that responsibility. Would any ACBL education program work the same in LA as it would in RI or Texas? Would any RI Unit program of education work in LA? The folks on the RI & Texas Unit Boards have so much more area to cover that I suspect any program is hard to carry out. The Units in Texas are probably twice the size of RI. We speak of the difficulties in LA of disseminating information when a large portion of the membership does not read e-mail. At least we are close together. Think of that same problem in RI or TX when folks are NOT close together.

Of course, education is only 1 of the many responsibilities that Units try to cover. We have so many individuals who are dedicated to teaching and learning that taking advantage of our closeness makes sense. Right now, each is concerned with their local area. With a central coordinator (whom we have not found yet), we could take good ideas and spread them around LA. I love that old saying “a rising tide floats all boats”. So that is the point of this part of the article. We would like to find a volunteer to be that central coordinator and be part of the District Board.

Another high priority must be to educate 299er’s on expanding their horizons. I cannot believe how few C players we had at BOTH the NAP Finals and the GNT Finals (not to mention Regionals in

general). Our 299er’s are NOT understanding how much fun they can have in tournaments. They seem to be afraid of the different competition rather than embracing it as a valuable learning experience. WHY IS THIS? My only clue is that they think unfriendly players are “out there”. We can only change that perception one person at a time! I echo Kevin’s sentiment to all D23 players – Be Nice!

I fear lots of 299er’s are also scared or uninformed on Swiss Team and KO play. Some Units are trying to change that. Another perfect job for that central coordinator we are looking for.

Therefore, education, education, education – that’s what’s going to be on my mind after July. What is going to be on your mind?

Practice up & we’ll see you in Long Beach.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1

The board is actively working on appropriate next steps. I have made three recommendations:

-We are in no hurry. Direction is more important than speed.

- The most important step at this point is to decide what type of role we expect the ACBL’s new leader to fulfill. If the board will continue to be active in making low-level decisions then perhaps the board should seek an executive director or COO. If the board intends to focus only on broader high-level decisions - as has been my strong recommendation since becoming a District Director - then the ACBL needs a CEO.

- The board needs to empower qualified board members. I have made this recommendation since first joining the board. The board has a number of highly qualified members with a variety of expertises. These board members must be empowered to contribute to the success of the ACBL.

On a related note, I remind you of the motion last year to have the executive search committee present at least two CEO candidates to the full board (item 171-37). I voted for that motion, although the motion was defeated 15-10. The idea was that A CEO-hiring should involve the full board rather than just a search committee whose members are not selected by the full board.

I favor transparency, so I will naturally communicate additional information as appropriate.

Contact me at [klaned23@gmail.com](mailto:klaned23@gmail.com) to share your thoughts.

### District 23 Rank Changes April 2018

**Junior Master**

Danielle Dina  
 Daniel C. Frank  
 Rick Gonser  
 Mary Hagerth  
 Linda Lessing  
 Carl F. Lundgren  
 Jane L. McNeil  
 Robert McMahon  
 Larry Wisinski

**Sectional Master**

Aton Arbisser  
 Florence Forst  
 Irwin Jaeger  
 Terry Kinigstein  
 Stephanie A. Lugash  
 I. D. Patel  
 Lillian D. Slater  
 Rena Slomovic  
 Gregirt Z. Tsien

Saul R. Prieuer  
 Thomas E. Stephenson

**Bronze Life Master**

Usha Bansal  
 Rachel Simon  
 Thomas E. Stephenson

**Silver Life Master**

Carol E. Ashbacher  
 Frederick S. Upton

**Club Master**

Steve Auer  
 Robert L. Davis  
 Daniel J. Harrington  
 Friedl Jalili  
 Bob Knowles  
 Marie G. Peterson  
 Louis H. Simmons  
 Madhu Singhal  
 Henny Vlessing

**Regional Master**

Sophia Chang  
  
**NABC Master**  
 Nancy A. Toussaint

**Ruby Life Master**

Lamont Z. Johnson  
 Alyssa T. Kennedy

**Advanced NABC Master**

Cheri S. Bitar  
 James D. Rozzell

**Gold Life Master**

Michael A. Billow

**Platinum Life Master**

Alexander G. Kolesnik

**Life Master**

Zu Ming Chen

**Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier**  
**REALTORS**

*Your Real Estate Partners for Life*



RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

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

**Carolyn 310-871-5051**

**Marion 310-721-7782**

2444 Wilshire Blvd.

Santa Monica, CA 90403

DRE # 01074069 / 00413050

**Southern California Bridge News**

Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.

410 Mill Creek Lane, San Gabriel, CA 91775

Phone: 626-281-2179

email [bridgenews@acbdistrict23.org](mailto:bridgenews@acbdistrict23.org)

Editor/Designer..... Tom Lill

Managing Editor..... Mike Marcucci

Contributing Editor..... John Jones

Copy deadlines: the 23rd 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.



# 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  
gsoffa@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><b>Monday, July 2, 2018</b></p> <p>299er Free Workshop/Lunch (Reserv. Rqgd).....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><b>Tuesday, July 3, 2018</b></p> <p>Starburst KO (2, 3 &amp; 4 of 4)..... 10:30 am, 3:00 &amp; 7:30 pm AM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 10:30 am 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am Stratified Pairs (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Mark Schretler Gold Rush Pairs (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Betsy Ross KO (1 &amp; 2 of 4)..... 10:30 am &amp; 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><b>Wednesday, July 4, 2018</b></p> <p>AM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 10:30 am 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am Bernie Mateer Stratified Pairs (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Lois Miller Gold Rush Pairs (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Betsy Ross KO (3 &amp; 4 of 4)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Firecracker KO (1 &amp; 2 of 4)..... 10:30 am &amp; 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><b>Thursday, July 5, 2018</b></p> <p>AM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 10:30 am 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am Miriam Collup Stratified Pairs (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Red &amp; White Stratified Swiss Teams (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Firecracker KO (3 &amp; 4 of 4)..... 10:30 am &amp; 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><b>Friday, July 6, 2018</b></p> <p>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 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Unit 559 Stratified Pairs (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Liberty Bell KO (1 &amp; 2 of 4)..... 10:30 am &amp; 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><b>Saturday, July 7, 2018</b></p> <p>AM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 10:30 am 299er Pairs (single session)..... 10:30 am Anand Kumar Gold Rush Pairs (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm</p>	<p><b>Saturday, July 7, 2018</b></p> <p>Stratified Pairs (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Liberty Bell KO (3 &amp; 4 of 4)..... 10:30 am &amp; 3:00 pm Queen Mary Compact KO (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; 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><b>Sunday, July 8, 2018</b></p> <p>Ft Henry Stratified Fast Pairs (1 &amp; 2 of 2)..... 10:30 am &amp; TBA Flight A/X Swiss Teams ..... 10:30 am &amp; TBA Pat Abbey Bracketed B/C/D Swiss Teams ..... 10:30 am &amp; TBA</p>
---	---	--

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

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

Stratified Games: 0-1500 / 1500-3000 / 3000+  
Stratified Pairs 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*

### **Confirm the Result**

Here's another tip that will make help your director make the correct ruling. Don't scoop up your cards until you have confirmed with both opponents the result of the hand. It just takes a few minutes (seconds, actually) and it will be very helpful later on. For you.

If the hands have been folded up and put back in the boards, the director really has no way to determine which side made how many tricks. In some cases the hand record and Deep Finesse double dummy analysis can help but in many, it will not. Players of all abilities are playing at the club and no one at the club plays as well as Deep Finesse consistently. So confirm

before folding up the cards. Then we can walk back through the hand, "We took trick 1, they took trick 2, etc." until we find the source of the discrepancy.

Here are some things I hear that are not relevant to what score will be awarded. "He agreed to down 3." "Her partner's cards show making only 4, not 5." "He only claimed making 5" (but there is no way for him to play and make less than 6).

On every hand, we are trying to enter a fully accurate result. I would think that you want this too. So help us out a little and confirm the result before folding up your hand. It can be done quickly and it can save a lot of hard feelings later on.

### **Looking for a Club?**

Check out

<http://web3.acbl.org/findalist/club>

All clubs in the Los Angeles area are listed.  
You can look up all the game times,  
locations, and contact info.

## Around the Units in District 23



### Long Beach by Jon Yinger

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

**April 22 Unit Game:** Overall results: 1st in A: Elizabeth and Paul Ryan, 2nd Usha Bansal/Rob Preece, 3rd Linda Nye/Terry Primmer, 4th Kiyo Nagaishi/Mark Tang, 5th Ron Lien/Robert Shore, 6th Jane Reid/Joyce Henderson. In the B flight overalls Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth were 5th, Judith Jones/Pamela Cole 6th. In the C flight overalls Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein were 2nd, Sylvia Kaprelyan/Ellen Kice 3rd. Congratulations to all!

**70+% GAMES** April 16 through May 15: In open games: April 25 Baum Harris/Loren Hilf were first with 70.88% and in the evening game May 2 George Welsh/Cory Hand were first with 74.88%. Congratulations to both pairs!

**BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS** In the unit game April 22 Paul and Elizabeth Ryan won 5.25mp for 1st, Usha Bansal/Rob Preece won 3.94mp for 2nd. Congratulations to both pairs!

**NEW CLUB MEMBER:** Wynn Collins. Welcome to the club!

**STATUS CHANGES:** New Junior Masters: Frances Gross, Binnie Lanahan, Jim Werner. New Sectional Masters: Mark Beizer, Donald Houser. New Bronze Life Master: Martin Lipman. Congratulations to you all!

**GET WELL WISHES TO** Betty McClellan and Cecil Cook.

**CONDOLENCES** to the families and friends of Bob Ballack who passed away earlier this month.

### UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

June 1-2: World-wide Bridge Contest: Extra points, regular card fees.  
June 4: 9:30 to 11:30am: Pro-Am game  
June 5-9: Grass Roots Week. Extra points, \$12 card fees  
June 11-17: Club Championship Week. Extra points, regular card fees.  
June 17: Swiss Team Game: 12:30pm. Extra points, regular card fees.  
June 24: Unit Game: 12:30pm. \$8 card fees; dessert served (no lunch)  
June 26-30: North American Pairs. Extra points, \$11 card fees

### NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD BRIDGE CLUBS- Judy Carter-Johnson

May 15, 2018

**CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME—**  
Clubhouse #3—April 19: Bill Brooks/Tom Felice 1 in A, 1 in B. Lynn Danielson/Larry Topper 2 in A, 2 in B. Christine Frumen/Norma Krueger 3 in A, 3 in B. Sue Fardette/Bud Parish 4 in A, 4 in B. Hanefi Erten/Oliver Yildiz 5 in A. Joyce Henderson/Howard Smith 6 in A, 5 in B. Miriam Kelley/Judy Mathias 6 in B, 1 in C. Joan Berg/Joyce Roberts 2 in C. Winnie Warga/John Hagman 3 in C. George Alemshah/Martin Lipman 4 in C.

**Congratulations:** To Bob Mault who was recently honored “player, teacher and partner” by the Long Beach Bridge Center and the article in the May 2018 issue of Bridge Bulletin. We are pleased to have such a “famous” teacher and player who belongs to our Leisure World club!!!!

**Welcome back** from the ‘sick list“ : Joan Wieber, Joan Tschirki and Ted Wieber

**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—Currently no reservation person for Friday—Please come early **AND PERHAPS VOLUNTEER!!** Saturday—Judith Jones (174) 840-2300—(between 9am and 9pm only!) or [mikrojoness@aol.com](mailto:mikrojoness@aol.com). Any news for next month's column, please e-mail me at [icj90740@gmail.com](mailto:icj90740@gmail.com) Results of all Leisure World games are posted on [www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)



Pomona –  
Covina  
by Tom Lill  
[www.acblunit551.org](http://www.acblunit551.org)

Unit Game: Saturday, June 16, 11:00 a.m., Glendora  
Individual: Saturday, June 2, 9:30 a.m., Claremont

The May Individual was a rarely-seen three way tie. Don Logsdon, Gino Barbieri, and Richard Patterson all deadlocked on top. In fourth place we find Yours Truly, followed by Roger Boyar.

The May Unit game was captured by Vic Sartor – Gino Barbieri, at 61.67%. Behind them we find Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry, Kiran Kumar – Linda Eagan and Fredy and Lulu Minter. Kerry Sartor – Barbara Papa took top honors in Flight C.

The top game this past month was 72.1%, by Fredy and Lulu Minter. So what else is new? Others topping the 60% mark this month included Vic Sartor, Richard Patterson, Roger Boyar, Joe Unis, Herb Stampfl, Linda Stuart, Bill Papa, and Yours Truly. Linda Tessier did top 60%, but managed to finish second! Others atop the leader board were Chuck Lohr, David Ochroch, Karen Olin, Mary Miller, and Clint Lew.

We finally break the promotion drought this month. Sue Apley is now a Junior Master. Keep up the good work, Sue.

Reminder: we will be hosting Longest Day games on Thursday, June 21, at the Knights of Columbus. Two sessions are planned: 8:45 a.m and 1:30 p.m.; and if interest warrants Roger will hold the usual Thursday evening game at La Fetra.

Can't make the game, but would like to donate? No problem! Just visit <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>, or contact any Unit Board member.

Another reminder: the Bridge41 club will host a North American Pair qualifying game on Saturday, August 11 at 9:30 a.m, at the Chino site. Reservations are required but you know What To Do.

Our Hand of the Month is, one of those puzzlers where a big swing depends on some close judgment calls. IMPs, no one vulnerable. Everybody got into the act, so we'll give you the whole deal:

♠ AQJ9843	
♥ K92	
♦ 10	
♣ 95	
♠ none	♠ 6
♥ AQ54	♥ 10876
♦ AKJ742	♦ 983
♣ A108	♣ KQ642
♠ K10752	
♥ J3	
♦ Q65	
♣ J73	

At one table, the auction went 3♠ – pass – 4♠ – double; all pass. Result: down 1, -100. Declarer can take 7 trumps and the ♥K in hand, and a heart ruff in dummy.

At the other table ... 1♠ – pass – 2♠ – double; 3♠ – pass – pass – 4♦; 4♠ – 5♦ – double – all pass. Making 5, +550. 10 IMPs, down the toilet.

Look at all the close calls. North might open either 1♠ or 3♠. West surely is good enough to double twice. North's 3♠ call was pushy, but not totally unreasonable (in Our Humble Opinion). East's raise to 5♦ over 4♠ looks fine, given that she has little if any defense. (♣K and what else?) And South surely has a right to expect a bit more defense from North, no? Although the ♦Q is surely waste paper, giving him a working 5-count at best. Not to mention being trump-rich and trick-poor (especially on defense). Maybe a good hand for a bidding panel. Only which hand do you give them?

Quote for the month: “When I make a joke, it doesn't harm anyone; you can take it or leave it. But when Congress makes a joke, it's a law.” (Will Rogers)



**Santa Clarita-  
Antelope Valley  
by Beth Morrin**

This year's Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 22nd and 23rd at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. For more information, contact tournament chair, Gay Gipson (gegipson@gmail.com).

**Western Conference STaC Results:**

**Afternoon Session at the Friendly Bridge Club  
Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup>**

**North/South**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Carol Ashbacher – Melisse Benson	58.59%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Bert Stock – Tomoko Stock	57.65%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	55.57%

**East/West**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Lamonte Johnson – Ted Maki	64.84%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mira Rowe – Ron Oest	62.29%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bernard Seal – John Vacca	59.52%

**Afternoon Session at Joshua Tree Bridge Club,  
Aux. Pairs, Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Russ Buker – David White	61%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Henry Roediger – Sharry Vida	56%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kay Aiken – Rosalee McEntyre	53%

**Evening Session at Valencia Bridge Studio,  
Tuesday May 8<sup>th</sup>**

**North/South**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Margie Pinkers – Bert Stock	62.5%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Irwin Novick – Mira Rowe	53.13%

**East/West**

1/2	Hani Abraham – Arif Shah	54.69%
1/2	Ron Oest – Michael Grossman	54.69%

**Morning Session at Valencia Bridge Studio  
(Castaic), Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	62.04%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ted Maki – Roshen Hadulla	56.94%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Lamonte Johnson – Gary Grey	53.24%

**Afternoon Session at Joshua Tree Bridge Club,  
Aux. Pairs, Friday May 11<sup>th</sup>**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Kay Aiken – Henry Roediger	62.5%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	David White – Beth Morrin	58.93%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Russ Buker – Barbara York	58.33%

**Unit Game Results Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at Valencia  
Bridge Studio in Castaic**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Bert Stock – Arif Shah	60.74%
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lamonte Johnson – Richard Stark	60.30%
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	58.15%

**Upcoming Events:**

World Wide Bridge Contest: Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 12:30 at Joshua Tree  
 Longest Day Games: Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita and Friday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Joshua Tree in Palmdale  
 Instant Matchpoint Game, Monday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30 PM at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

**Next Board meeting:**

Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita



**San Fernando  
Valley  
by Linda Silvey**

**San Fernando Valley Sectional Report**

The San Fernando Valley Unit 561 hosted a successful Woodland Hills Sectional Tournament, May 4-5, 2018. There were over 100 tables and over 175 participants. The top masterpoint winners were: Ellen



Anten 16.09, Joseph Viola III 14.30, Gerald Bare 14.30, Craig Kavin 9.44, Robert Bass 8.94, Freddie Straus 7.73, Barbara Pinchuk 7.73, Ruth Fleisher 7.32, Marilyn Gaims 7.32, Paul Markarian 7.15, and Jeffrey Goldsmith 7.15.

Friday morning game winners: Open Pairs -- Ellen Anten – Robert Bass (A1), Howard Cohen – Mark Peters (B1), and Marilyn Gaims – Ruth Fleisher (C1); 499er Pairs -- Linda Ischayek – William Miles Jr. (D1) and Bernard Seal – John Vacca (E1, F1).

Friday afternoon game winners: Open Pairs -- Gerald Bare – Joseph Viola III (A1) and Raymond Primus – Tony Mirchandani (B1, C1); 499er Pairs -- Jojo Sarkar – Anne Hurwitz (D1/2), Helle Wengrow – Linda Ischayek (D1/2), and Peter Koenig – Susan Koenig (E1).

Saturday morning game winners: Swiss Teams -- Jeffrey Goldsmith – Ellen Anten – Craig Kavin – Paul Markarian (A1) and Helen Malzer – Betty Andelson – Daniel Strauss – A Shah (B1, C1); Open Pairs -- James Hawkins – Linda Silvey (A1, B1, C1); 499er Pairs -- Barbara Dickson – Coral Goldsmith (D1, E1, F1).

Saturday afternoon game winners: Open Pairs -- Robert Perlswieg – Pam Wittes (A1), Ruth Fleisher – Marilyn Gaims (B1), and Phyllis Hall – Maria Glasgow (C1).

### Special Congratulations

April Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Ray Primus 15.91, Vera Mandell 12.72, Ronald Malkin 11.22, Alan Golden 11.03, Michael Wiener 10.46, William Raff 10.05, Steve Rosen 8.04, Dwight Hunt 7.95, A.D. Shaw 7.66, Gloria Feerst 7.11, and Ron Stewart 7.10. The following achieved 70% games: William Raff – William Morton 71.92% and Martin Hurwitz – Mike Wiener 70.14%.

### Annual “Carol Lang” Game

On Friday, June 8, the Annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held at The 750 Club in honor of the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike, who started the club in 2006. Names of the winners will be engraved on the memorial plaque and certificates will be awarded. Game time is 11 a.m. and a catered Italian lunch will be provided at about 12noon. Reservations are required for this event. Please contact Terry Morton at thmorton@att.net or (818) 815-8826.

### “Longest Day” Games

“Longest Day” games supported cooperatively by Unit 561 and The 750 Club will be held at The 750 Club on Thursday, June 21. These games will be at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. All three games will be Open, Stratified Games. Card fees will be \$10/person/game. All proceeds, including card fees and directors’ fees, will be donated to Alzheimer’s research. Additional donations will be appreciated and accepted in the form of cash or checks made payable to the “Alzheimer’s Association.” The ACBL and many different nationwide sports organizations, hold events each year on the Summer Solstice Day to raise money to support Alzheimer’s research. And yes, bridge is definitely a brain-exercising sport!

### Calendar

Friday, June 8, the annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Wednesday, June 13, Unit 561 will hold a Board Meeting at The 750 Club at 2:45 p.m.

Thursday, June 21, “Longest Day” games will be held at The 750 Club at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. See details above.

Tuesday, July 17, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Saturday, August 18, Unit 561 “Sizzling Summer” Luncheon and Game held at The 750 Club. Lunch will be at 12noon and an Open, Stratified Game at 1 p.m. Please save the date!



**Torrance-  
South Bay**  
by Steve Mager

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

### Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Unit Game: Friday, June 1, 11:30 AM  
World Wide Bridge Contest: Saturday, June 2, 2:00 PM

### Club Championships

On May 4 the Club Championship was won by Ray Mack/Fran Israel in Flight A with Cal

Waller/Betsy Amador leading Flight B and Hank Sheehan/John Janus ahead in Flight C.

### Team Winners

April 24: Sharon Biederman, John Jones, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

May 1: Mary Ann Coyle, Gerri Carlson, Bo Bogema, John J. McDermott

May 8: Jeff Strutzel, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos, Mike Savage

May 15: Carol McCully, Ed Barad, CVal Gamio, Wayne Otsuki

May 22: Sharon Biederman, John Jones, Ed Piken, Steve Ramos

### In Memorium

We are sad to report that Steve Dage, a regular in the SBBC Monday afternoon game recently passed away. The SBBC expresses condolences to his family.

### Western Conference Spring Fling STAC

Following are the names of pairs that placed in the overalls of the recent Western Conference STAC i games played in unit clubs

Monday Morning May 7

9A Lucy Gellner/Wayne Otsuki SBBC

Monday Afternoon 499er Pairs Agile BC

11A 8B Loretto Russell/Robert Hall

12A 9B CARolyn Hatten/Joseph Duke

14A 11B Elaine Asch/Morris Asch

Monday Evening SBBC

12A Janice Scholler/Arlene Greengard

7C Peter Wong/Jose Jalandoni

Tuesday Morning SBBC

8A Ted Gibbs/John J. McDermott

18A 8B Jim Jensen/Hank Sheehan

Tuesday Afternoon 499er Pairs Agile BC

2A Joyce Field/James Deflon

19A Burzin Engineer/Virginia Brewer

12C Mary Ann Carr/Florence Cooper

Wednesday Morning SBBC

23/24B Carol Mason/Pat Schenasi

23/24B Jack Stewart/Sandy Rathbun

Wednesday Evening SBBC

1A Laura Gastelum/Mark Raggio

Thursday Morning 749er Pairs SBBC

1A 1B James Deflon/Bruce Walker

2A 2B John Janus/Linda McKenzie

4A Joan Chrishal/Virginia Brewer

Friday Morning SBBC

30A Laura Gastelum/Ray Mack

20C Robin Hill/Donna Moody

Friday Evening Aux Pairs SBBC

2.5A Fran Israel/Harold Avent

2.5A 2B Ramani Ravikandan/Mark Raggio

6B 4C David Scholler/Booth Tarkington

5C Jose Jalandoni/Peter Wong

Saturday Afternoon SBBC

14A 1B Betsy Amador/Beverly Narahara

31A Gaye Herrington/Carole Mason

41A Shirley Chang/Jeff Strutzel

20B 12C Sandy Rathbun/Jack Stewart

33B Pat Berg/Lena Hoomani

### TSB Sectional

Hope you all won tons of points and had a good time at the TSB Unit sectional over Memorial Day weekend. I will list winners from our unit in net months column.

### GUV AWARD

I had to go back in time a bit for this story but think its worth retelling. I would never make this mistake now.

Through bidding best not described, my partner and I wound up in the inelegant contract of 4NT. I was declarer and I held KQ of Spades facing AJxxxx of that suit in a dummy that was otherwise devoid of entrees. Well making six Spades was dependent on a finesse as was making 4NT. Unfortunately my partner laid down the Spades in the same spot she would lay them down if they were Trump. This gave me a severe case of brain lock and after cashing 3 Spades I took a finesse in another suit and claimed six when it worked. Unfortunately, the opponents pointed out I was in Notrump and I wound up going down a few tricks. At the time I was being kibitzed by Mary Ann Coyle and perhaps she should be credited for originating something called "Mary Ann's rule". She mentioned that my partner erred and should have placed the Spades somewhere else on the table to prevent any chance of my thinking we were in Spades.

Yes it was all partner's fault.

Na Zdrowie



## West LA by Robert Shore

### Georgia on My Mind

Last month saw the District Finals for the Grand National Teams competition in all four flights. Our Unit made its usually strong showing, with three of the four teams qualifying for the national finals in Atlanta boasting one or more of our members on their rosters. The team winning the Championship Flight included Viktor Anikovich, John Ramos, and Alex Kolesnik. Peter Knee was a member of the winning team in Flight A, and Rick Turner, Alyssa Kennedy, and Jim Perkins earned the trip to Atlanta in Flight B. Good luck to all of our District's representatives.

### An Early Summer

The Summer Bridge League, the second of three league events that the Unit has authorized this year, has reached the halfway mark. It is playing on the first and third Thursday evenings of May and June at Barrington, so it will conclude just in time for summer to officially start. Leading the field at this point are Roger and Becky Clough, Adrienne Green, and Connie Fishbach.

### News from Near and Far

Many of you have undoubtedly heard by now that ACBL has fired its recently selected CEO, Bahar Gidwani. In this reporter's opinion, the language of ACBL's announcement compels the conclusion that the Board discharged him for cause, presumably saving ACBL from having to pay the balance of his contract. I understand that the Board is undertaking a search for a new CEO. My own hope is that next time, the Search Committee presents more than one candidate so that the Board's role is more active than merely anointing the Committee's chosen successor.

In news much closer to home, word of a couple of passings has belatedly reached your Humble Scribe. Both Rochelle Blank and Joanne Minken-Levy have passed away. I did not know Rochelle, but remember Joanne as a frequent player at both the club and the tournament circuit. Our condolences to their friends and family.

### California Dreamin'

Our July Regional in Long Beach, the only regional our District will hold this year, is

approaching. As reported earlier in this space, the District was unable to continue holding the Glendale Regional because we simply incurred too big a loss. In your Humble Scribe's capacity as District Vice President (and with the approval of the District's Executive Committee), we have begun exploring with District 22 the possibility of teaming with them to add another local tournament. The bottom line, however, is that no one will want to sponsor a tournament that loses money, so robust attendance is key to our efforts to re-establish our tournament schedule. Show up at Long Beach to prove that this District has enthusiasm for regional bridge.

There are a few tournament results to report. Alex Kolesnik won the Friday morning Open Pairs event at the Camarillo Sectional. At Woodland Hills, James Hawkins won the Saturday morning Open Pairs event, and Pam Wittes won the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs. Mike Savage took home a win from the Saturday morning Open Pairs event at the Oceanside Sectional.

### The Intrafinesse

At a recent San Gabriel Valley Unit Game, I finally found the opportunity for my first successful intrafinesse. It was a rare highlight in a performance that was otherwise nothing to write home about:

Dummy: ♠A976 ♥KQ92 ♦A ♣8543

Declarer: ♠J83 ♥A63 ♦K1093 ♣AK9

As dealer, I opened 1NT and played 3NT after a Stayman auction. Our opponents were two of the young players our game so desperately needs, a trend that seems to be on the increase lately, giving me hope for the long-term future of bridge. (Or maybe new players just *seem* younger to me.) The opening lead was the diamond Q, which I decided to win on the board.

Hearts and clubs would either behave or they wouldn't, but I thought I had time to develop a trick or two in spades. And I certainly didn't want RHO gaining the lead to send a diamond through my holding. So at trick 2 I led the spade 6 from dummy and let it ride, fetching the Q.

RHO didn't want to lead another diamond, so she tried the club 10. Now in hand with a high club, I put the spade J on the table and was delighted to successfully pin the doubleton 10 on my right. Another spade finesse brought my total in that suit to

3, on the way to 11 tricks (two diamonds and three tricks in each other suit) and a top on the board.

### **Welcome Mat**

Our Unit's newest members of the ACBL are Susan Ayles, Toni Dasgupta, Marilyn Schnitter, and Nick Schwieterman. Joining us from other Units are J.E. Goerz, Sybil Nimoy, and Linda Schwarz. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

### **Around the Clubs**

Not much club news to report this month. Maurice Parker and Delia Juul-Dam scored last month's only 70% game at Beverly Hills, and Aram Bedros and Art Zail were the only pair to hit that number at Barrington. Other than the charity games that finished the month of April, neither club held a club championship last month.

### **Climbing the Ladder**

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Iris Antola, Anthony Gronich, Jordan Moelis, and Joyce Neibart. Sylvia Jones has become a Club Master, and Susan Gornel, Julie Moelis, and Jackson Tsao are now Sectional Masters. Joan Oliver has reached NABC Master status.

Les Rawitt is now a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are Ifti Baqui, Ed Davis, Mitch Dunitz, Mister Mealy-mouth, Ed Piken, David Sacks, Mike Shuster, and John Swanson.

*[We welcome Ed Piken to the panel this month. Ed has won several important tournaments.]*

*[This column is dedicated to my friend Cecil Cook who passed away in late May. He had a dry sense of humor, and every time I saw him he had some new teasing, derogatory comment. Cecil probably insulted me more than anyone I've ever known.*

*When I first remember playing against Cecil, he was playing with his wife Beverly. In later years, Cecil played with Gene White in tournaments and with John Petrie at Long Beach Bridge. Cecil was always creative. He frequently was a little undisciplined in his bidding. It wasn't always as safe to double him as the auctioned indicated. Sometimes he would blast to some crazy game or slam. A good card technician, he would play his cards well. You had to be very alert when playing against him.*

*Cecil was formerly the ACBL president and acquired a tremendous amount of knowledge about ACBL politics and procedures. He was viewed as "grumpy" or "negative" by many of the District 23 Board representatives, but I tremendously enjoyed working with him in committees. His "negative attitude" was actually an effort to foresee problems and to get things done in the best way possible. Cecil worked with me on the D23 Handicapping Committee. He disagreed with me at times but was frequently right. He focused on making things the best they could be for bridge players. He was a very intelligent man and had the ability to focus several levels down a logic tree and know exactly how a point was related to the overall problem. I'll miss you my friend, RIP!]*

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">1</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints E-W Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	???			2♦
	You, South, hold: ♠J763 ♥AQ ♦742 ♣AKQ3			
	What call do you make?			

*[This problem comes from a recent STaC game, and one panelist, Mealy-mouth, recognized the problem. Double and pass are both possibilities. 2NT, 2♠ and 3♣ could be right and were each mentioned by at least one panelist.]*

Dunitz: Double. I won't enjoy a 2♥ bid, but too much to pass.

Shuster: Double. Not perfect, but life seldom is.

Swanson: Double. I am willing to be convinced by cogent arguments that the percentage bid is pass.

Davis: Pass. Lots of high cards but no reasonable way to show them.

Sacks: Pass. The best imperfect bid.

Piken: Pass. I love to bid but fear any action will lead to trouble. Therefore, I pass and hope partner can balance. By partnership agreement a double with a balanced hand promises at least as many hearts as spades. *[I thought possibly Ed didn't mean this (he worded it differently), and I sent a follow-up email. Yes, he did mean that his agreement is that a double shows hearts equal to or longer than spades. While this agreement might work on some hands at the one-level where a four card overcall is possible, this agreement doesn't really work at the two-level and higher because hands with four spades and three hearts are forced to double.]*

Mealy-mouth: Pass. It's easy to miss the only theoretically-making contract, which is 3♣ opposite

♣8762, but my partner managed to reach 2♥ played from the right side, (Zia would say, "my side"), as I held ♥K532. Fortunately, trumps split favorably (5-2), so I made 2♥. I had feared an unlucky 6-1 split. I took my partner to the woodshed after the session and spanked her quite soundly for her offshape takeout double. How could one reach the optimal 3♣ after getting an advance peek at the hand records? Well, -90 against 2♦ making isn't as bad as -100 in 2♥ down one, is it?

*[Mealy asks how to get to 3♣. Here's how!]*

Baqui: 3♣. Pass, 2♠ and 3♣ are all reasonable options, with pass being the best if our side doesn't have a game. There is also a possibility that partner has the right distribution and strength to balance, but what about LHO raising to 3♦? I like my ♣ suit well enough to overcall 3♣.

*[I don't ever recall an expert overcalling a four card suit at the three-level, but Ifti suggested it, presumably without knowing the hand. A 3♣ overcall might be the winner on the actual hand if partner passes holding ♠Kxx ♥Kxxx ♦Qx ♣xxxx. The pair that gave me the problem had doubled. The partner of the 2♦ bidder raised to 3♦ on a doubleton. The ♠Kxx ♥Kxxx ♦Qx ♣xxxx hand freely bid 3♥ and went down two for -200. They asked me who goofed. I answered "Nobody, the hand is just too tough. Accept that the card gods were reminding us that they are in charge and go on to the next hand."]*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">2</h1> <p>IMPs None vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	???	pass	pass	3♣
	You, South, hold: ♠K43 ♥K65 ♦AJ542 ♣A3			
	What call do you make?			

*[This might have been a good problem a couple decades ago, but my panel thought it was child's play now. We have learned to take the flexible route and double over preempts when it's a possibility. Sorry panelists, no insult intended!]*

Shuster: Double. Too easy. *[True, my bad!]*

Swanson: Double. This seems clear-cut. I won't be convinced to bid otherwise this time.

Dunitz. Double. There's no close second choice.

Baqui: Double. I think a double here preserves all our options.

Davis: Double. 3NT might be the winner, but double will be right more often, and that is what counts at matchpoints.

*[Are we worried about the possible four-three major fit?]*

Sacks: Double: 3♦ might avoid the four-three fit in a major. *[David spotted the problem but doesn't seem concerned.]*

Piken: Double. I can take the tap with my doubleton if we get into a four-three fit. My partners, particularly Steve Cohen, like playing Moysian (four-three) fits. *[I think Ed speaks for the majority of the panel. Expert declarers don't fear Moysians. They think that a Moysian with the tap taken in the short hand is fun!]*

*[I have had very few unanimous panel votes over the years. Just when I thought I had one, there was a dissenting vote.]*

Mealymouth: Pass. It's close between pass and double. Eddie Kantar taught me how to answer questions like this. If the woman *[did only the ladies telephone the handsome, athletic Mr. Kantar with questions?]* who telephones you to ask includes good spot-cards (eights, nines and tens), you'll please her by taking bold action. If she specifies wretched spot-cards like the ones in this hand (or only "x's"), you'll please her by pretending to be Caspar Milquetoast. Eddie is the original Mr. Mealymouth. Opposite an expert, I'd pass, from both hope and fear: hope that good defense will beat 3♣ for a plus, and fear that if I double, partner will drive to game on a 4-3 fit and go minus. Opposite a duffer, I'd double, hoping that partner will bid only 3♥ or 3♠ with many of the hands that she should drive to game, while fearing to let East declare 3♣ against the expected poor defense. Of course, I make decisions like this at the start of a session, not mid-auction.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">IMPs Both vul</p>	South	West	North	East
			1♦	pass
	1♠	pass	2♦	pass
	2♥	pass	3♦	pass
	???			

You, South, hold: ♠KQ987 ♥AKQ106 ♦A ♣Q6  
What call do you make?

*[I managed to follow-up one poor problem with another. I didn't include enough information. I needed to delineate how strong 2♥ was and how far it forced the partnership. Many years ago, 2♥ followed by 3♥ wouldn't be forcing. I believe most partnerships today would play a style that made 3♥ forcing. My bad again!]*

Shuster: 4NT. Not enough information. *[Again Mike exposes my sloppiness!]* Was 2♥ game-forcing? If not, I needed to bid 3♥ last time. I'm not sure why my guy didn't just bid 2NT or 2♠. He needs a black ace for the auction to-date. Without agreements about what is forcing and what isn't forcing, I'll just drive to 6♦ opposite a two-with-the-queen response.

*[Less aggressive, but also looking for 6♦ is ...]*

Baqui: 4♣. Partner can easily have a hand like: ♠A ♥xxx ♦KQJxxxx ♣Jx where there is no chance of a slam. So, while I like my hand, I can only suggest a slam by bidding 4♣ and go from there.

Sacks: 3♥. Perhaps best to find a strain first.

Dunitz: 3♥. I might as well continue dancing into the abyss. I will bid 4♦ over 3NT.

Swanson: 3♥. There are likely to be more difficult decisions on later rounds.

Davis: 3♥. Lots of contracts are still possible (I hope partner doesn't think 3♥ is one of them).

Mealy-mouth: 4♥. However, I object to my previous bid. I'd have jumped to 3♥ at my second turn to flash a prompt slam signal. Now I'm stumped, as I must fear a hand like ♠A ♥82 ♦KQJ10853 ♣J102 opposite.

Piken: 4♥. I play that bidding diamonds three times in this sequence denies a stopper in the fourth suit and could be an opener based largely on shape. Therefore, partner must have some help for me in the majors including the ♠A for his opening bid.



<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">4</h1> <p>BAM Both vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	???		1♠	2♦
	You, South, hold: ♠Q7 ♥A96 ♦52 ♣K107543			
	What call do you make?			

*[I won't apologize for the quality of the problem this time. Pass, double, 2♠, 2NT, and 3♣ are all possibilities. I maybe be influenced by my days playing money bridge, but I'm a 2♠ bidder.]*

*[We'll hear from the doublers first.]*

Sacks: Double: Lots of negatives about this bid, but closer than any other bid.

Baqui: Double. Life is not always kind, neither are the bridge gods! I'll pretend that I have 4♥ and 5♣ and start with a negative double. The other reasonable option is to bid 2♠.

Davis: Double. There are two advantages in doubling rather than the alternative of passing. One is that partner won't be selling out to 2♦ with a balanced minimum and three diamonds. The other is that by knowing that I have some strength, we might be able to get to game when partner has a good hand. I will make the cheapest bid in spades over a heart bid by partner, pass over 2♠, and bid 3♣ over 2NT.

Dunitz: 2NT. A lot to hate about this, but too much to pass when vulnerable at IMPs. *[Mitch is a great Board-A-Match player, (although he apparently misread the conditions) but overbidding and counting two small as a stopper seems to be accepting two flaws when most of the other calls only have one flaw. 2♠ is short a spade but right on values. Double is short a heart but right on values. 3♣ has the correct shape but is about a king light in HCP. 2NT shows a decent 10 HCP (close) and a diamond-stopper (not close, and might wrong-side 3NT).]*

Piken: 3♣. I have good/bad 2NT available but feel this hand is too strong for that bid. 3♣ keeps exploration for a game in the majors open. I will therefore slightly overbid. *[Good/bad 2NT is a great convention to have in this situation! If I had a Good/bad 2NT bid available, I would bid 2NT and pass if my partner accepted the puppet to 3♣.]*

Shuster: 2♠. With three probable cover cards, I must make a positive noise. 4♠ is the most likely game, and 2♠ is the call that brings that into direct focus. Additionally, if this is a part score deal, we need to play in spades, not clubs.

Swanson: 2♠. There are too many hands which partner will pass 2♦, so I must risk deceiving him about my trump length.

Mealymouth: 2♠. Stumped again! With an expert partner, I'll bid 2♠ in tempo. She'll understand that I might raise to two with tertiary support under pressure of competition. With anyone else, I'll pass promptly. *[Mealy gave multiple answers several times in this problem set. I left in his possibilities, but always recorded his answer as the call he would make with an expert partner. The problems presented in this Problem Solvers column are presumed to be with an expert as your partner.]*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">5</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs Vul vs. not</p>	South	West	North	East
	???	pass	1♥	pass
	<p>You, South, hold: ♠AK753 ♥QJ82 ♦ void ♣A1083</p> <p style="font-size: 1.2em;">What call do you make?</p>			

*[This problem doesn't suffer from the "Too easy" or "Not enough info" that problems two and three did, but has a different problem: it depends too heavily on partnership agreements, rather than bidding judgement. I normally want panelists discussing their favorite tools, but for this problem, there were just too many different possibilities.]*

Mealy-mouth: Depends on partnership methods. This leans heavily on partnership agreements about void-showing. (a) With a partner who plays the simplest method (4♣ or 4♦ is a void splinter, 3NT shows a void splinter in the unbid major), I bid 4♦ immediately. Of course, I expect partner to have ♦AKQ among her goodies, and she'll retreat to 4♥, but the ♦AKQ may be good for club discards, so I'll drive to 6♥ anyway. (b) With a partner who plays Under-and-Over Splinters, I'll bid 3♠, one step over three of opener's major, to show an unspecified void. Then, over her 3NT inquiry, I'll bypass the one-step-over-my-void 4♥, to bid 4♠, showing not only a diamond void but the ♠A and a hand too good to risk settling for 4♥. (c) With a partner who does not use specific void-showing methods, I'll start with an old-fashioned 2♠ jump shift, planning to anchor hearts next and proceed with cue-bidding thereafter, (d) With dear old Mrs. Guggenheim, I'll bid 6♥ directly, hoping to be doubled by a hand with two aces. There, how's that for living up to my name?

*[Will 1♠ be effective here? One panelist argues "yes", while another counters with "no".]*

Dunitz: 1♠. Auctions that start out 1♥ pass 1♠ are amongst the most difficult in Standard bidding. If partner rebids 2♦, I will bid 3♣ to

create a force. There we will be, with partner having little clue about my hand.

Piken: 2♣. I bypass spades, so I don't muddle which suit is trump later, which could happen if partner supports me in spades. 2NT seems easy, but what do I do when partner bids 4♥ and on many hands I still have easy slam. Therefore, I bid clubs which is the suit I have the most interest in clarifying and gives me the most room to explore. If partner does not support me, I am delighted.

*[Will Jacoby 2NT be effective here? One panelist argues "yes", while another counters with "no".]*

Davis: 2♣. Assuming a strong jump shift is not available, I think the best approach is to start with 2♣ because a) it creates a game-force (thus making the auction easier than if I started with 1♠) and b) it will probably deter a club opening lead (which is the lead that I think I do not want). Beyond that I am not sure how the auction will unfold. (Maybe partner will bid notrump when I have not yet bid spades so that I can place him with the ♠Q.) Regardless of how the auction goes, I am admitting that I will not be able to stay out of slam, and my objective is to reach a grand slam when it is a good contract. As far as other initial actions, I don't care for a Jacoby 2NT bid as that is not going to tell me what I need to know. A splinter in diamonds takes up too much room on a hand where I am not going to stop below slam.

Shuster: 2NT. Or whatever the forcing raise is. Conventional wisdom says to not make this call with shortness. Conventional wisdom is wrong. I care very much about partner's potential

shortness, so I'll ask. 1♠ would also be OK. A splinter would be an error.

*[Strong jump-shifts used to be common. Oddly, they are mostly used by experts today. They are a marvelous tool when they come up.]*

Sacks: 2♠: I'll show diamond shortness next.

*[If a 2♠ Soloway Jump-shift is available, it's almost certainly the optimal start. Partner will puppet to 2NT, and you will rebid 3♦. This shows: better than a game-force, good spades, four-card heart support, and diamond shortness.]*

Baqui: 2♠. This hand offers multiple possibilities: 1) Start with Jacoby 2NT indicating a game-forcing heart raise. 2) Use a Soloway jump shift in spades followed by a bid indicating diamond shortness. 3) Start with splinter bid in diamonds with the intention of bidding again if

partner signs off. All the options are reasonable.

Your choice will depend on whether you want to tell partner about your hand or elicit information about hers. As you are likely to be the dummy on this hand, I would vote for telling rather than asking and hence go for a Soloway jump shift in spades assuming that option is available.

Swanson: 4♦. Followed by 5♦, showing the void. In an established partnership that has agreements on how to bid after 1♥ – 1♠; 2♦, I might go that route. It is difficult to get oneself to stop short of 6♥ after partner's opening bid.

*[If a Soloway jump-shift is not available, I'd bid the hand like Swanson did – splinter in diamonds and then follow with 5♦. This should be a diamond void and not exclusion RKC. A direct 5♦ would be exclusion RKC.]*