

Southern California

Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Regionals Ride Again

by Mike Marcucci



A few months ago, the news in this column was rather bleak for D23 tournaments in the next year. Since then, D22 approached us about conducting a shared Regional somewhere in the future. We are now in the middle of working that issue. Last time we did something like this was July 2004 in Ontario. We had 1121 tables of play that week. We don't have much info on the financials for that week, but a guess would be that it was close to breaking even.

Problems in making this happen again will be different this time. The D22 President, Ron Lien, attended our BOD meeting in Long Beach a few weeks ago and has suggested times in March or May of next year, which seem fine to us. Both weeks being discussed are spaced far enough away from other regionals and sectionals that an added week of bridge should be welcome on player schedules. The trouble is that hotels have a different viewpoint. They are not free to fit us in when we necessarily ask, but counter with times that are convenient for them based on their other customer base. That is why we are successful in getting certain weeks for our tournaments and can virtually only dream about others that would be very desirable for us but are locked down tightly by the hotels for other customers. A small team of folks from both our districts is looking into things & will be trying to propose a time, location, and game set that will work for our players. We'll be scouting for something in the Anaheim area that hits the center of our population. The new aspect that we did not have going for us last time is that D22 has a hotel management contact who may lend us a real helping hand with a whole chain of locations. With that inside help and

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District Director Report

August 2018

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



Thanks to Long Beach regional volunteers

The Long Beach regional was a big success, and a large part of that success was the many volunteers who contributed. Thank you.

Preparing for Atlanta: changing how the board operates

A number of motions before the board in Atlanta relate to masterpoints. That's fitting because I myself have proposed a change to how the board operates that would mark a major shift for the board. I have proposed that the masterpoint committee be moved off the board.

This motion is not flashy; it's a nuts and bolts motion. The board wrestles with how to assign masterpoints, and it's a lot of math. Well, I'm a math-guy – Ph. D. and all; I've attended many masterpoint committee meetings, and I just don't think the board should be doing this math. I joined the board to solve

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some legwork on other possible choices, we may be able to narrow down our aim for a site more quickly than entirely on our own, which is exactly what is necessary here because time is very short to set this up. It may sound crazy, but folks make their regional plans way in advance & to try for next Spring may already be fighting an uphill battle. Will keep you posted.

The 2nd important topic at our July meeting was brought to us by our friend Mitch Dunitz, from West LA. He briefed us on his thoughts to help all our Units in D23 assist their players in understanding tournament play and bridge in general. There are 2 sides to conducting bridge tournaments. The Units and Districts try to find suitable locations and times, and create an enjoyable atmosphere for the games. The other side of the coin is that players have to come! Gee, what a surprise. We cannot do anything about vacations, business trips, family business that needs attention, other conflicting hobbies, or a hundred other reasons why we'll miss your attendance at that next tournament. But what we can try to influence in players is the feeling of not wanting to come! We all know that there are good folks sitting at home during a tournament that just do not think that they would enjoy the experience. Part of what Mitch and other players on his team would like to do is reach out to all the Units in LA and ask if they can help out in the area of tournament education for all their members. Visiting the Unit clubs, conducting talks and lessons, awarding financial assistance in some cases, explaining tournament lingo, answering questions about preparation, helping to arrange attendance logistics, or just about anything else that would ease players' minds about their misgivings on moving out of the club games and joining the chase for silver, red, and gold points. Mitch briefed us on a tentative set of suggestions that he thought might be interesting to the Units and Clubs and asked for other suggestions from all at the meeting. Mitch will be packaging all these ideas into a short summary and then contacting all the Units in the near future about his ideas and his teams' offer to help out in their local areas. We ask the Unit Presidents to please be on the lookout for Mitch's message. This is an opportunity to jump at!

For anyone who doesn't know Mitch, his bridge resume is one to admire. He recently hit the 20,000 MP mark and is one of about a dozen Grand Life Masters in our area. I cannot think of a better or more eloquent ambassador of the game to start these educational efforts for us here in LA and he will have a

lot of expert helpers volunteering to participate in his ideas.

We'll be aiming to entice those home folks who stay away from tournament play because "they are not good enough" or "it's too much trouble to travel" or "we don't understand team games", etc. We all sympathize with these players because we all said the same things a while back! Make no mistake, we all have selfish motives at the District level about this. We want more players to attend tournaments! Again, this is a surprise? It's more fun with lots of players. We want to entertain you & enjoy your company. We want to hand out more colorful stickers for your convention card holders! Hopefully, education efforts as are being proposed will swell those table counts and lead to many more happy winners, especially at those 499-er games which is where a huge learning curve is in effect for the new tournament attendee and their list of friends will grow at the same time.

Good luck to all those folks who travelled to Atlanta for the latest NABC, and we look forward to your stories when you return to LA. Safe travels.

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business problems, not math problems.

I hope to move other committees off the board as well. I want the board focused on several very serious problems facing the ACBL. The number of masterpoints assigned to a bridge event won't impact the ACBL's fortunes in 10 years; the board should work on those issues that will.

ACBL Education Foundation and local bridge education

I recently reported that I helped secure a \$6K Education Foundation grant to support a wonderful organization that promotes bridge education in and around District 23. That grant came from the ACBL Education Foundation – an organization formally separate from the ACBL.

Because of that \$6K grant, I've been rather pleased with the ACBL Educational Foundation recently. I bring this up because Mitch Dunitz gave a passionate speech to the District Board expressing some frustration that the ACBL Ed Foundation isn't doing more. Mitch is on the Ed Foundation board of

trustees and is a top-notch player and long-time district volunteer. I welcome Mitch' passion and energy.

Some of you may recall that the Ed Foundation separated from the ACBL 18 months ago with the promise of "bringing in donations of \$45-50 million." Unfortunately, that hasn't happened yet. But Mitch is a whirlwind at fundraising, so I encourage folks to contact Mitch or me if you've got a concrete and cost-effective plan for teaching bridge, and we'll make an effort to get the program funded.

I hope to see some of you in Atlanta – stay cool this summer!

Feel free to contact me at klane23@gmail.com

New Life Master!

from points earned during Bridge Week



Cheeky Carlson

Southern California Bridge News

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Stoddard Trophy Winners

The LA July 2018 Summer Regional, sometimes called Bridge Week, is now in the books. Hope there is a complete rundown of the results and entertaining factoids elsewhere in this edition. [*Ed. Note: yes, there is! See page 7.*] At the tournament site, if folks were paying attention to the printouts plastering the walls, one of them was a list of all past winners of the Stoddard Trophy, given to the weeks' high masterpoint winner(s).

This year it was Brian Glubok from New York. A long way to come for our Long Beach sunshine! ☺

We were able to catch up with many of the previous winners and we would like to show our readers who they are. One interesting point about this task is that we have not found one photo from the past with a winner posing next to the trophy. The photos herein, therefore, show how our heroes look today, rather than in the year they won. Please congratulate them if you ever sit down at a table and find one of our heroes ready to play against (or with) you!

There are many more pictures to be taken. We only have 18 so far and expect to be able to take 12 more out of the 49 possible to date. We will continue our efforts to locate those 12 – meanwhile please enjoy the ones we have.

Mike Marcucci

D23 President

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District 23 Rank Changes June 2018

Junior Master

J. Ross Bengel
John L. Benson
Terri A. Boyle
Evelyn C. Campbell
Justin M. Chin
Sarah Deschenes
Marla Horn
William L. Krantz
Gail A. Leroy
Nick Schwieterman
Phyllis Siegel
Patricia H. Smith
Phylly Yarnal

Club Master

Carol D. Bender
Leon I. Bender
Carolyn E. Byrnes
Jane M. Franklin
Vinay K. Gupta

Club Master

Ruth Hochberg
Carl F. Ludgren
Terry D. Poe

Sectional Master

Donna M. Bauer
Fay Chu
June Collins-Cowgill
Stephen Dorse III
Carol A. Goldman
Lindsay Gronich
Douglas E. Hess
John W. Krafft
Sri Nagesh
Mary L. Roberts
Patricia A. Sullivan

Regional Master

Walter V. Bodlander
S. M. Hunt

Regional Master

Howard Simon
Harry H. Wang

NABC Master

Miriam P. Kelley

Advanced NABC Master

Ravnesch C. Amar

Life Master

Richard C. Ashbacher
Dwight M. McCormick
Stephen Page

Bronze Life Master

Keith J. Miller

Gold Life Master

Steve L. Ramos Jr.
Kay F. Tseng

[Editor's Note: we were going to put a chart here, to refresh your memories on the masterpoint requirements for the various ranks. But because of the revised requirements for members who joined after January 1, 2010, the chart is too complicated to put in this space. Let's just say, if you really want to know, try acbl.org.]

Here are some additional ranks that the ACBL might want to consider:

Sodium Life Master: breaks out into a sweat easily, then explodes violently.

Lead Life Master: ponderously slow in bidding and play. Disqualified from playing in Fast Pair or Turbo events.

Zircon Master: has all the points needed for Life Master ... except for one stubborn pigmented category.

Fluorine Life Master: has a tremendous affinity for everything about the game.

Helium Master: loves the game, but is a very lightweight player.

OK, OK, enough.

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

The Limited Language of Bidding

I am not sure if I should even write this essay. There are probably two kinds of bridge players when it comes to this topic: those that already know and those that don't care. However, with the faint hope of obtaining at least one or two converts, I will attempt it.

When making a call at your turn to bid, you are limited to 15 "words" - I put words in quotes because we have bidding cards to use these days so you aren't allowed to say anything. The language of bidding is limited to the following vocabulary: one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, clubs, diamonds, hearts, spades, no trump (being considered one word for our purposes), double, redouble and PASS.

You are not allowed to wonder aloud at least, "what the . . . Heck does that bid mean?" You are not allowed to glare at your partner or slam bidding cards down on the table for emphasis.

You are also not allowed to transmit information through the tempo of your calls, or more precisely, your partner is not allowed to act on any such information that you may have so transmitted.

"What do you want me to do? Wear a mask?"
Actually, yes, figuratively.

Even if your partner is your long time spouse, or perhaps especially if your partner is your long time spouse, take care to avoid transmitting any extraneous information during the bidding (and play, for that matter).

Long Beach Regional Report *by Becky Clough*

Long Beach, our last surviving tournament in District 23 was a success! It was successful because people like the venue – a nice hotel with reasonable parking and lots of nearby restaurants, the 10:30 am and 3:00 pm schedule and the proximity to District 22.

Our table count for the week was up nearly 3% to 1375 despite July 4, which is traditionally a light day. Our financial report indicates a \$6200 profit which helps our very anemic bank account and will go a long way toward keeping us solvent for another year.

1081 players attended the tournament. 603 of them were from District 23. 941 of them earned master points with 9088 total master points awarded.

Brian Glubok from New York City won the Stoddard Trophy for the most master points won for the week at 118.6. Ifti Baqai was second with 107.5. Deborah Goldsmith from Unit 526 played the greatest number of sessions – 19.

Margie Michelin, our speaker coordinator, recruited great speakers daily. We want to thank Leo Bell, Chris Compton and Margie for volunteering to speak and thank Margie again for teaching the Monday morning novice lesson. Mitch Dunitz emceed a panel of experts to discuss a variety of complex bidding problems.

Long Beach Regional Winners

Sorry – not all the winners are here – only those who stopped by our Photographer's area.

Tuesday Gold Rush



Richard Bakovic

John Bakovic

Tuesday Strati-Flighted Pairs



Subba Ravipudi

Gale Senter

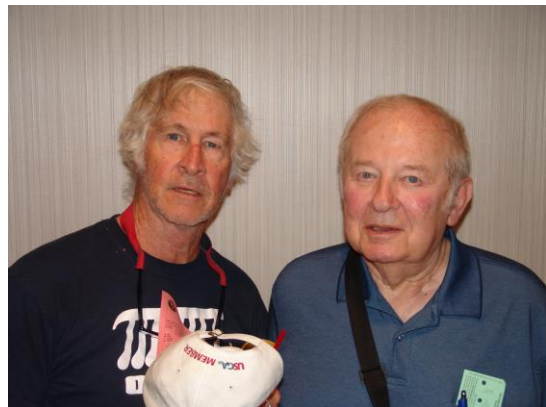
Friday Open Pairs



Mark Itabashi

July Ratley

Thursday Open Pairs



Bob Etter

Joseph Kivel

Tuesday Betsy Ross KO – Bracket 2



Barbara McKay

Rita Levin

Elizabeth Golanco

Lillian Kirchoff

Monday Pro-Am



Brenda Perry (Napa) – Brian Glubok (NYC)
(Gerri Carlson, presenting the trophy)

Stoddard Trophy Winners (Most Masterpoints Won During Bridge Week)

1971 – Roger Bates



1973 – Bill Sides



1983 – Mark Itabashi



1986 – Jill Meyers



1992 – Mitch Dunitz



1993 – Mark Itabashi



1994 – Fred Hamilton



2001 – Mitch Dunitz



2002 – Jeff Goldsmith



2006 – Ellen Anten



2007 – Ellen Anten, Steve Gross



2010 – John Mohan, Ellen Anten, Steve Gross



2011 – John Jones



2013 – Billy Miller



2015 – Mark Itabashi, Peter Gelfand



2016 – Bob Etter



2017 – Kevin Dwyer, Cookie Potter, Shan Huang



2018 – Brian Glubok



Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

June 24 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: Steve Sturm/Subba Ravipudi, 2nd Myrna Blaufab/Michael Farber, 3rd Jackie Hess/John Melis, 4th Verna Baccus/Marilyn Christy, 5th Renee Alpert/Joan Kaye, 6th Usha Bansal/Rob Preece. In the B flight overalls Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein were 3rd, Hank and Fern Dunbar 4th, Alan and Barbara Olschwang 5th, Dalia Hernandez/Rae Yan 6th. In the C flight overalls Robin Hill/Joan Johnson tied with Lynn Danielson/Shirley Knopf for 2/3, Lee and Kenneth Miller were 4th. And in the 199er game Larry Wisinski/News Fake were 1st, Katharine Seibert/Lillian Slater 2nd, Glen and Caryn Musicer 3rd, Harriet Finebaum/Michael Greer 4th. Congratulations to all!

70+% GAMES June 16 through July 15: In the 199er game June 16 Bill Heck/Jim Werner had 71.50%. Congratulations Bill and Jim!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS June 16 through July 15: In the unit game June 24 Subba Ravipudi/Steve Sturm won 4.67mp for 1st, Michael Farber/Myrna Blaufab 3.50mp for 2nd. In other open games: June 16 Aaron Jones/Jennifer Lin won 3.35mp for 1st. In the team game June 17 Gabrielle Sill, Bill Skupen, Wayne Rapp, Bill Clark were 1st each winning 2.10mp. In the evening game June 20 Al Lum/Steve Hirsch won 3.21mp for 1st. June 21 Marcie Evans/Betty McClellan won 3.21mp for 1st. June 24 Steve Sturm/Subba Ravipudi won 4.67mp for 1st, Michael Farber/Myrna Blaufab 3.50mp for 2nd. June 26 Jackie Hess/Cory Hand won 5.42mp for 1st

N/S, Mitch Dunitz/Iftikhar won 5.42mp for 1st E/W. Bob Rubin/Harry Sachs won 3.48mp for 2nd. June 27

Rich Wasser/Mike Welsh won 4.50mp for 1st, Dick Buhl/John Galligher won 3.38mp for 2nd. June 28

Kay Tseng/Jackie Hess won 4.13mp for 1st, Iftikhar Baqai/Kiyo Nagaishi 3.10mp for 2nd. June 29 Jackie Hess/Wayne Otsuki won 5.81mp for 1st, Karen and Mike McKittrick 4.36mp for 2nd, Christine Frumen/John Galligher 3.27mp for 3rd. July 9 Jackie Hess/Shirley Carroll won 3.75mp for 1st N/S, Paul Pettler/John Galligher won 3.75mp for 1st E/W. July 23 Betty McClellan/Marcie Evans won 4.13mp for 1st, Doreen Maes/Phyllis Greenstein 3.10mp for 2nd. July 14 Murat Veysoglu won 4.13mp for 1st. And in the team game July 15 Gabrielle Sill/Wayne Rapp/Bill Clark/Bill Skupen were 1st each winning 2.85mp. Congratulations to all!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: Marcia Cohen, John Kilmer, Jonathan Lee, Terry Royce, Judy Strauss, Nasir Tejani, Jean Troyer, Rita Wright. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Junior Master: John Cliby. New Club Master: Sandra Schlosser, Robert McMahon. New Bronze Life Master: David Jones. New Silver Life Master: Robert Adam. Congratulations to you all!

GET WELL WISHES TO Bob Bakovic, Pamela Cole and Martha Schuster.

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of John Bralliar who passed away earlier this month.

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:
August 13-18: Club championship games. Extra points, regular card fees
August 19: Swiss Team Game: 12:30pm. Extra points, regular card fees.

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August 20-25: Great Western STaC: Extra points, \$13 card fee

August 25: Birthday Monday. August birthday players: \$5 off your card fees

August 26: Unit Game: 12:30pm. \$8 card fees; dessert served (no lunch)

\$1.99 card fees for players with 199 masterpoints or fewer

August 29-31: North American Pairs: Extra points, \$11 card fees.

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD BRIDGE

CLUBS- Judy Carter-Johnson

July 15, 2018

8 IS ENOUGH--SWISS TEAMS:

Clubhouse #3—June 25: Barbara Wallace/Joyce Roberts/Bill Linskey/Gary Paugh 1 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Rob Preece/Mark Singer/Harshad Vora 2 in A, 1 in B. Lynn Danielson/Larry Topper/Chie Wickham/John Hagman 3 in A, 2 in B. Ylia and Ernie Ross/Alan Olschwang/Ken Miller 4 in A, 3 in B, 1 in C. Fern Dunbar/Marilyn McClintock/Sue Boswell/Ellen Kice 5 in A. Bea Aron/Tybie Becker/George Alemshah/Martin Lipman 4 in B.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Clubhouse #3—

July 12: Melaine and Jerry Smith 1 in A. Joyce Henderson/Rob Preece 2 in A. Bill Brooks/Tom Felice 3 in A, 2 in B. Kiyo Nagaishi/Alan Olschwang 4 in A. Gene and Ron Yaffee 5 in A, 3 in B, 1 in C. Linda and Dick Stein 6 in A. Monica Gettes/Peggy Spring 4 in B, 2 in C. Jeanette Estill/Hanefi Erten 5 in B. Bobbie Vann/Paul Chen 3 in C. Jane Gibbons/Ellen Kice 4 in C.

UNIT RATED GAME: Clubhouse #1---July

14: Al Appel/Judith Jones 1 in A. Jeanette Estill/Sibyl Smith 2 in A, 1 in B. Joyce Henderson/Dalia Hernandez 3 in A, 2 in B. Sue Fardette/Verna Burns 4 in A. Sharon Beran/Joan Tschirki 5 in A. Dorothy Favre/Bud Parish 3 in B. Joyce Basch/Linda Nye 4 in B, 1 in C. Barbara and Alan Olschwang 2 in C. Cooie Dampman/Ellen Kice 3 in C.

GET WELL: Dick Stammerjohn

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](tel:5625949686). Thursday—Sharon Beran (562)308-7838 or email: hbsharonb@gmail.com. Phone number for clubhouse

#3---Late arrivals, last minute reservations, last minute cancellations, need a partner--After 12:00 noon: [\(562\) 481-7368](tel:5624817368). Games are also held on Friday/Saturday at clubhouse #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday— We are taking applications for a Reservation Person for THURSDAY!! Cookie is resigning as of July 9. Saturday—Judith Jones (714) 840-2300— (between 9am and 9pm only!) or mikrojones@aol.com. 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, Aug. 18, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Individual: Saturday, August 4, 9:30 a.m., San Dimas

Change is inevitable (except from a vending machine, of course). The big news this month is that Roger is retiring as manager of the La Fetra Bridge Club. Taking his place will be ... guess who? (Hint ... check out the picture above.) Richard Patterson will continue on as the Capable Assistant. Roger will (so far as we know) be discontinuing his web site ... but game results will get posted online, have no fear. For now, look for La Fetra game results under the Unit 551 area (“Glendora”) on the ACBL web site, and also on the Unit web site. Stay tuned to this station for further developments.

The July Individual resulted in a tie between Clint Lew and Your Correspondent, with a nice (but hardly overwhelming) 64.3% effort. Finishing third was Richard Patterson. Attendance suffered from the summer doldrums, so that's it for finishers.

The July Unit game was captured by Fredy and Lulu Minter, whose 69.2% game edged out Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry's 66.4% effort. Stephen Dorse - Gail Leroy tied for third with Susan Emminger - Steve Koller. Patricia Rademaker - Clinton Lew rounded out the top 5.

Unit members did pretty well, if not spectacular, at the Bridge Week Regional. 14 players

brought home 67.01 masterpoints, although the only one who actually won an event was David Ochroch, who topped the Sunday Bracket 4 Swiss. (No, it was not the bottom bracket.) Topping the chart was Your Correspondent, with 12.32 points. That's less impressive than it seems, as it took a whopping 15 sessions to earn those points. Once again, a triumph of persistence over skill. In contrast, Clint Lew captured 9.50 points in only four sessions, one of which was the Pro-Am. (Yes, Clint plays as a pro!) Next in line we find Penny Barbieri (6.98), David Ochroch (6.91), Susie Emminger (6.05), and Linda Tessier (5.02).

The top game this past month was 76.85%, by Roger Boyar – Sofi Kasubhai. Others topping the 60% mark this month included Vic Sartor, Penny Barbieri, Richard Patterson, and Yours Truly.. Also topping the leader board at least once were Clint Lew, Chuck Lohr, David Ochroch, Claudia Cochran, Linda Tessier, Linda Stuart. We note that attendance at club games was down this month due to Bridge Week and summer vacations.

The League seems to have some timing issues with the promotion announcements. Although the monthly membership report shows no new rank advancements this month, if you backtrack to the Rank Changes page, you'll find a couple of our members there. Just for consistency, we'll leave well enough alone and go by the membership report. So look for those names here next month.

The theme of our Hand of the Month is "Don't Panic!!!" With a side dish of "Think Outside the Box." No one is vulnerable (not that it matters). Since this is a play problem, not a bidding or lead problem, we'll give you both hands:

North: ♠ AKJx ♥ AJ10xx ♦ x ♣ AQx

South: ♠ Q98x ♥ 7 ♦ AKQ ♣ J10xxx

You are South. North opens 1♣, you bid 1♠, partner leaps to 4♠, and RHO doubles! How ya gonna play this thing, chief?

Without the double, you'd really like to be in 6♠, no? And you'd certainly play for 12 or 13 tricks. But think: what does RHO have for his (somewhat shaky) double? Well, at a minimum, probably ♥KQ and all the trumps. Let's find out. The opening lead is the ♥9. You win the ♥A and cash the ♠A, getting the bad news: RHO has ♠107xxx. Phooey. What now?

If you try another round of trumps, kiss this one goodbye. Your only hope is to take 3 aces and 7 trump tricks. RHO has 5 spades and no doubt 5 hearts

– maybe 6 – because that ♥9 looks a lot like top of a doubleton, or maybe a singleton. If RHO is 5=6=1=1, you have no hope at all. So you need him to be 2-1 in the minors. Which is more likely to be his singleton?

Well, there are 5 clubs outstanding, and 9 diamonds, so let's play RHO for a singleton club. (You need him to have two diamonds, for a reason which will soon become clear.) At trick three you must ruff a heart in hand, play up to the ♠A (taking the finesse is just plain silly – if RHO wins he will return a trump, and again you are toast), ruff a heart, cash the ♦A, and ... ruff the ♦K in dummy! Sounds counter-intuitive, but what useful discard can you make on the ♦K? Ruffing a diamond in dummy is your only safe dummy entry, allowing you to ruff another heart with your bare ♠Q. You've taken the first 8 tricks, and the ♠KJ sit there in dummy for two more. The opponents are welcome to the remaining three, and you chalk up a welcome +590. Well done!

Quote for the month: "When a man takes the road to destruction, the gods provide ready transportation. (Aeschylus: *The Persians*, 490 BCE)



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, 19345 Avenue of the Oaks, Santa Clarita, 91321. For more information, contact tournament chair, Gay Gipson (gipson@gmail.com) or Tracy Boys (abigquack@sbcglobal.net) for partnership information. The Saturday game will be Stratified Open Pairs at 10:00 AM and 2:30 PM. The Sunday game is a play-through Stratified Open Swiss Teams at 10:00 AM.

Congratulations to Carol and Gary Trender, District 23 winners of the Senior Pairs game on Monday, March 9th with 64.65%.

Instant Matchpoint Game, Monday July 9th:

Section G	North/South	
1 st	Bernard Seal – John Vacca	59.79%
2 nd	Gay Gipson – May Ho	58.17%
3 rd	Jan Ladd – Deanna Kean	56.13%

Section G East/West

1 st / 2 nd	Roshen Hadulla – Arif Shah	56.00%
	Barbara Jones – Tom Jones	56.00%
3 rd	Lamonte Johnson – Ted Maki	55.50%

Section H North/South

1 st	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	59.29%
2 nd	Carol Reukauf – Paul Reukauf	57.42%
3 rd	Bert Stock – Roy Ladd	54.38%

Section G East/West

1 st	Kathy Flynn – Robert McBroom	57.21%
2 nd	Russ Buker – Linda Young	57.00%
3 rd	Daniel McGreevy – Susan Stassner	51.33%

District 22-23 STaC Results:**Monday Afternoon game on July 16th
at the Friendly Bridge Club:****North/South**

1 st	Bernard Seal – John Vacca	66.34%
2 nd	Carol Reukauf – Paul Reukauf	56.07%
3 rd	Harry Randhawa – Alan Nueman	54.81%

East/West

1 st	Roshen Hadulla – Arif Shah	60.04%
2 nd	Anita Walker – Jeff Chang	58.89%
3 rd	Barbara Jones – Tom Jones	55.82%

**Tuesday Evening game, July 17,
at the Valencia Bridge Studio (Santa Clarita):****North/South**

1 st	Ted Maki – Lamonte Johnson	59.52%
2 nd	Paul Gill – Roy ladd	58.04%
3 rd	Charles Morrin – Beth Morrin	55.65%

East/West

1 st	Paula Olivares – Peter Knee	58.04%
2 nd	Barbara Jones – Tom Jones	56.25%
3 rd	George MacDonald – Rita Vannatter	53.57%

**Friday Afternoon game, July 20,
at Joshua Tree Bridge Club (Palmdale):**

1 st	Carol Underwood – Hal Underwood	60.19%
2 nd	George MacDonald – Mira Rowe	59.26%
3 rd	Charles Morrin – David Aronson	50.46%

**Sunday Afternoon Side Pairs, July 22,
at Joshua Tree Bridge Club (Palmdale):**

1 st	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	62.50%
2 nd /3 rd	Aggi Oschin – Viviane Dinehart	54.17%
	Carol Underwood – Hal Underwood	54.17%

Upcoming Events:

ACBL-wide Junior Fund Game #2: Tuesday Evening, August 7th at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita (6:45 PM)

Western Conference STaC Games: August 20th – 26th

Next Board meeting: TBA after sectional



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

August 18: Unit 561 Luncheon/Game

Unit 561 will host a Luncheon and Game on Saturday, August 18, at the 750 Club, 5700 Rudnick Ave, Woodland Hills. Catered deli-sandwiches will be served buffet style at 12noon, followed by an Open, Stratified game at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$13 and reservations are requested. A sign-up sheet will be available at the 750 Club or email Marcia Broderick at mm16227@aol.com for reservations/partnerships.

“Longest Day” Games

The 750 Club, in cooperation with Unit 561, held three games of bridge on Thursday, June 21, for a total of forty-one tables. All card fees and additional individual donations resulted in a generous contribution of \$4,104 to the Alzheimer’s Association. The following energetic players were awarded special certificates for playing in all three games: Jeffrey Hartmann, Beverly McLeod, and Susan Raphael. This represents repeat performances by these players who also played in all three games on the Longest Day in 2016. Winners in this year’s individual games were as follows:

Morning Pairs: NS – Carol Klein - Maxine Rudoff 61.68%, Martin Hurwitz – Dwight Hunt 58.42%, Sandy Hunt – Anne Hurwitz 58.24%, and Paul Endler – Robert Rice 58.02%; EW – Helle Wengrow – Ravnesh Amar 68.84%, A.D. Shaw – Len Mendelsohn 61.41%, Lee Skupen – Claude Le Feuvre 59.96%, and Philip Berk – Ray Primus 59.69%.

Afternoon Pairs: NS – Jeffrey Hartmann – Beverly McLeod 62.50%, Martin Hurwitz – R Gasway 56.67%, and Wayne Beagle – William Morton 53.33%; EW – Dwight Hunt – Claude Le Feuvre

62.50%, Kevin Lane – Stanford Holzberg 55.42%, and Carol Levin – Susan Raphael 52.50%.

Evening Pairs: NS – Beverly McLeod – Kousi Pathi 68.15%, Susan Raphael – Fuad Khuri 59.82%, and Peter Koenig – Susan Koenig 57.14%; EW – Billy Blanchard – Monica Fastovsky 63.39%, Mary Young – Frona De Covnick 58.63%, and Mara Cohen – Alan Cohen 53.57%.

Special Congratulations

Recent Life Master Accomplishments by Unit 561 players were: Jeffrey Hartmann (Bronze); Ann Dupont, Samantha Macdouglass, and Frederick Upton (Silver – 1,000); Janet Cooper and Lamonte Johnson (Ruby – 1,500); Tammy Purkin (Gold – 2,500); and Joan Rubin (Diamond – 5,000).

Congratulations to the following U561 players who were first-place winners in their stratification in various events at the recent Long Beach Regional: Ellen Anten, Marel Bates, Wayne Beagle, Phillip Calloway, Om Chokriwala, Mitch Dunitz, Steve Gross, Dwight Hunt, Irving Klasky, Michael Klemens, Peter Koenig, Susan Koenig, Gloria Malkin, Ronald Malkin, Beverly McLeod, William Ng, Sin Orensztin, Robert Perlsweig, Mark Peters, Barbara Pinchuk, Noel Purkin, Tammy Purkin, Jerold Rose, Merkie Rowan, Freddie Straus, John Vacca, and Rhoda Weisler.

June Top Ten (regular) Masterpoints at The 750 Club were: Ravnesh Amar 7.89, Jerry Shapiro 7.16, Sheila Singer 7.16, Susan Raphael 7.08, Michael Wiener 7.00, Gloria Feerst 6.65, Norman Bloomfield 6.42, Carol Bell 5.96, Beverly McLeod 5.96, and James Gardner 5.93. The Top Five Masterpoints for the North American Pairs Games were: Susan Raphael 11.03, Ray Primus 7.91, Ron Malkin 6.84, Dick Wiggins 6.47, and Tony Mirchandani 5.05. Dwight Hunt and Mike Klemens achieved a 72.02% game.

August Events at The 750 Club

The 750 Club will hold Great Western STaC Games on Monday-Friday, August 20-24. Card fees will be \$11 and silver points will be awarded to the winners.

Calendar

Saturday, August 18, Unit 561 “Sizzling Summer” Luncheon and Game held at The 750 Club. See details above. **Hope to see you there!**

Monday-Friday, August 20-24, Great Western STaC Games at The 750 Club. See details above.

Monday, September 3 (Labor Day), 750 Club open for day game, closed for night game.

Saturday, December 22, Unit 561 Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party, at The 750 Club. **Please save the date!**



West LA
by Robert Shore

The Good, the Better, the Best

The District's Long Beach Regional was a rousing success. We built significantly on last year's table count, and therefore built significantly on last year's financial results. This tournament proved to be a valuable first step to getting the District back on its feet financially. If you didn't find time to make it down there this year, make plans to join your fellow players next year to find out what you were missing. Special thanks to the Beverly Hills Bridge Club for helping the tournament by cancelling its evening sessions for the week, and to all of the other clubs that closed or curtailed their hours for the regional.

Our neighbors to the south and north, District 22 (in the person of their president, Ron Lien), made an appearance at the District Board meeting to float an interesting proposal. District 22 is interested in expanding the region's tournament schedule by co-hosting a regional with our District. This proposal was of significant interest to the Board, because District 22 is willing to bear all of the financial risk while offering us a modest share of any profits. This proposal is under active discussion between the two Districts — more details (such as where and when) as they become available.

And now, of course, it's time to highlight the best of the best: our Unit's Long Beach winners. Roger and Becky Clough kicked things off by winning the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event, as Rita Levin also won her bracket of the event. Nancy Barrier and Charles and Jo Anne Kelley were triumphant in their bracket of the Friday-Saturday Knockout Teams. We really shined over the weekend. Mike Mikyska and Ifti Baqai won the Saturday Open Pairs, while Ken Okel and Jim Brunet topped the field in the Saturday Gold Rush Pairs. Alex Wiles, Nancy Heck, and Karen Byrd won a bracket of the Sunday Flight B Swiss. Marion Tumen won another bracket and a third set of winners was Mark and Larissa Rappaport, Masha Fleissig, and Lisa Caras.

Believe it or not, there was tournament action elsewhere as well, but it's going to get monotonous. At the Ontario Regional (Canada, not California), Alex Kolesnik won the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event. Alex Kolesnik also won the third Knockout Teams event, and Alex Kolesnik won the Sunday Swiss. Then, in the Austin Regional, Alex Kolesnik won the Scott Humphrey Swiss Teams.

Last Call for Memphis

August is the last month of qualifying for this year's North American Pairs competition. Even if you don't plan to accept a check to travel to Memphis for the National Finals, there are many opportunities to collect boatloads of points (including gold points) without leaving the County and playing only opponents at your level. The Flight B event is limited to players below 2500 points (as of May 6) and the Flight C event only has non-Life Masters below 500 points. If you haven't already done so, the first step is to find a club qualifying game and make sure you qualify at the club level. Winners of the District Finals in all three flights get gold points and the opportunity to accept a check from ACBL to play in the National Finals at the Spring North American Championships.

Convention Center

Rather than feature a hand in this month's column, I thought I'd talk about a convention that's quite common among experienced players. It's called the Kokish Relay, and it solves a problem with your biggest balanced hands. If you're looking at 25 balanced, you either open 3NT or open 2♣ and then jump to 3NT. That makes transfers awkward because partner can't find out below game whether you have a fit for his major.

The Kokish Relay is simple. After you open 2♣ and hear partner's 2♦ response, you bid 2♥. Partner alerts, explaining that it may not show hearts. Partner always bids 2♠ (which you alert as completely artificial because it's automatic). Now, if you bid 2NT, you're showing a balanced hand that partner's not allowed to pass. You have your entire 2NT bidding structure available to you along with the comfort of knowing you're in a game-forcing auction.

What if you really do have hearts? No problem. The natural way to play the Kokish Relay is for opener to simply rebid 3♥ with a one-suiter. If opener bids any other suit, he's showing hearts along with the second suit. Many experts reverse the meaning of 3♣ and 3♥ (3♣ shows a single-suiter with hearts, and 3♥ shows hearts and clubs) in order to

make a second negative (3♦) available and allow the partnership to stop in 3♥, but if that's more memory load than you want to deal with, it's not a problem at all.

One caution though. You can't use the Kokish Relay if your partnership uses the 2♥ response to show a bust hand. My suggestion is to give up the 2♥ bust response. In fact, I'd suggest giving up the 2♥ bust response even if you don't adopt the Kokish Relay. I consider it a dreadful convention that I adamantly refuse to play in my partnerships. There are simply better ways for responder to show a really bad hand.

Welcome Wagon

We've obtained this month's new-member list. Our Unit's newest ACBL members are Jane Hirsch, Claudia Luther, and Leslie Steadman. Please give them a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

The Summer Bridge League reached its climax just in time for summer. The winning team was Om Chokriwala, Wayne Karson, Rob Perlsweig, Pam Wittes, and Aram Bedros. Look for a Fall Bridge League event to take place at Beverly Hills. I've already seen some chatter about the event.

Hitting 70% last month at Barrington were Aram Bedros and Art Zail, along with Aram Bedros and Wayne Karson. There were no 70% games to report last month from Beverly Hills, but its club champions were Gil Stinebaugh and Dovid Crum, Janet Treisman and Om Chokriwala, Aram Bedros and Rob Perlsweig, and Phyllis and Mario Mory.

Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters are Pauline Annakin and Marjorie Fierstadt. Stepping up to Club Master rank were Ruth Lerner, June Siegel, and Yueqiang Xue. Linda Lin and Nancy Rosser are our Unit's newest Sectional Masters while Ginger Boykin and Herb Garfinkel have reached Regional Master status.

Torrence McGough has become a Ruby Life Master. Connie Fishbach 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 David Chechelasvili, Jeff Goldsmith, Jill Meyers,
Rick Roeder, David Sacks and Mike Shuster.

1

IMPs
N-S Vul

South	West	North	East
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2H	pass	1H Pass	dbl ???
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You, East, hold: ♠AK ♥K532 ♦AK ♣A9752

What call do you make?

Sacks: 3♣ - We probably do not make all that much unless partner has a very long suit of his own or an exceptional club fit. With either of those she might bid again.

Chechelasvili: 3♣ - If partner has heart shortness and four or five clubs, he owes me a raise even with zero HCP. I would still bid a game if he raises. If partner has only four clubs and no honors, we may still get a 2 - 2 club break.

Shuster: 4♣ - Partner is near bust with a stiff heart. I'd like to be in game opposite four or more clubs, and I think the direct approach is the best one. As far as exploring alternative strains, I cannot come up with a good plan. If I double again and bid 4♣, partner will assume I have at least 3 cards in each unbid suit and will insist on an alternative strain (especially spades) with a 5-card holding. So I'm out here on my island, screaming at the stars. Will anyone hear me?

Roeder: Double. Then bid the minimum number of clubs over a pointed suit response. 2NT is a losing bid because of the lack of a second heart spot.

Goldsmith: Double. It's tempting to pass at 100 a pop, but we can make a game versus a 3145 Yarborough. I think I'll double again and correct 2♠ to 3♣. If I bid only 3♣, partner will pass when we can make game. On my sequence, all he needs is a fit and a heart stiff to move.

Meyers: Pass - I don't think I have a game, I have six tricks in my own hand, the opponents are vulnerable, and I have no assurances of getting a plus score if I bid.

I watched this hand on BBO and was surprised to see this hand pass. Declarer had a singleton diamond, so it required good defense to get a plus score. The other way to go plus on the actual hand is to double and pass 3DDD by partner.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">2</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs None vul</div>		South	West	North	East
			1♠	pass	pass
		???			
		You, South, hold: ♠10843 ♥A ♦AKQ4 ♣K963 What call do you make?			

Chechelasvili: 1NT - 108xx looks like a solid stopper to me :))

Meyers: 1NT – This is best of evils.

Goldsmith: 1NT - Seems totally obvious. What am I missing other than the other half of the spade stopper that I don't promise anyway?

Shuster: 1NT - I'm a point heavy for this action, but double with a stiff heart or 2♦ on four are even less appealing.

Sacks: Pass – I'm taking the low road. Game seems unlikely or to be found. At matchpoints I would balance with either 2♦ or 1NT depending on my mood.

Roeder: 2♦ - Yuck! This dilemma reminds me of the guy at the bar, 15 minutes before closing time, who feels compelled to choose the least flawed option. 1NT is in the running, but this hand is so prime that I prefer to lie about the fifth diamond.

My RHO, Matt Klimesh, held this hand in a home game. He doubled and saw his partner bid an aggressive 3♥. He bid 3♠ and passed partner's 4♥ call. His partner, Roger Lee, had ♥KQxxx and skillfully found the line of play to make 4♥. The aggressive bidding paid off in this case as that was about the only way to get to a making game. 3NT would have easily been defeated.

3

IMPd
E-W vul

West	North	East	South
pass	pass	pass	2NT
pass	3♦	pass	4♥
pass	5♣	pass???	

You, South, hold: ♠AK7 ♥AKQ2 ♦KJ4 ♣1083
What call do you make?

If you disagree with either of your previous bids, speak up.

Chechelasvili: 6♥ - In order to cuebid and not bid RKC, partner either has a void (which is less likely given his initial pass), or simply showing his main source of tricks in clubs. Knowing that partner has such weak trumps, and still tries for a slam, I think it is fair to assume a slam will not be such a bad proposition. I agree with 4♥ bid below. My style in IMPs (after 2NT opening) is to super-accept with any 4 card support, except maybe 4333 and bad 19 HCP. *Maybe it's best not to open 2NT on a bad 4333 19 HCP to start with?* Bridge is a bidder's game, and partner easily can have a shapely zero HCP hand that would make 4♥ a reasonable contract, while he would normally pass 3♥.

Meyers: 6♥ - I disagree with 4♥. I like jumps in this situation to promise controls in the other three suits. Once I did bid 4♥ and partner bids 5♣, I would probably be a pig and bid a slam.

Goldsmith: 5♦ - Technically, 2NT is an overbid, but no one downgrades 20 HCP hands, so that's fine. 4♥ is wrong. Versus a passed hand, slam is very unlikely, and sometimes when it's there, partner can try with an artificial 3♠, since he's limited by his initial pass. If he bids 3NT, I can bid 4♦, and this is roughly what he should expect. It's hard to construct a hand which he will pass 3♥ and will still make game without both the ♦Q and a stiff club (♠xx ♥xxxxx ♦Qxxx ♣xx works, but don't play partner for the perfect hand). Overall, bidding 4♥ will cause many more minus scores in 4♥ than avoid missed games. White, we don't even get extra odds.

Now, I have a subminimum, but I have to cooperate with 5♦. If partner bids 5♥, I've done plenty. If I take the high road three turns in a row, I don't feel the need to push even more.

In real life, South was a notorious overbidder and bid 6♥, which was about 45%. His luck was in. I was West. Mine was not.

Sacks 5♥/5♦ - If I chose to super-accept it would be where I live with 3♠. Unless 4♥ showed a minimum with 4 hearts, 333, then conditions of contest are lunacy. If 4♥ showed that minimum, then I would bid a Last Train 5♦. If not, I sign off.

Roeder: 5♥. Your 4♥ jump was fine but you have nothing extra and your club holding is the worst imaginable if partner has club length.

Shuster: 5♥ - The normal responsibility of the player with strong trumps to be more aggressive in a slam auctions is mitigated by the fact I opened 2NT and super-accepted. Partner knows I have good trumps but otherwise this hand is terrible for slam. I really dislike 4♥ with sterile shape and a minimum opener. After opening 2NT, one should super accept aggressively, bidding game when it will have play opposite a decent 4-5 count. Here, the three level isn't safe opposite some of those hands, ♠Qxx ♥Jxxxx ♦xx ♣Qxx for example. Bidding four is awful.

I held this hand and bid 5♦ and passed partner's 5♥ bid. Partner had ♠xx ♥T9xxx ♦Q ♣AQJ9x. Slam depended on hearts not being 4 – 0 and the CCKK being onside. I was surprised that the other table bid the slam because I thought I had bid aggressively at all three turns. I thought 4♥ was borderline.

4

Matchpoints
Both vul

North	East	South	West
1♠	pass	???	

You, South, hold: ♠7 ♥AJ974 ♦KQ10852 ♣6

What call do you make?

Chechelasvili: 2♥ - I believe it is impossible to find a 5-3 heart fit if I start with 2♦. My first choice of contracts would be 4♥ on 5-3 fit, then 5♦ on 6-3 fit (which I believe I can still find even after starting with 2♥). Lastly I would try 3NT, where it is also possible to stop after starting with 2♥.

Meyers: 2♦ – I'm forcing to game, wrong or right.

Shuster: 2♦. Starting with 1NT isn't going to help me bid this hand out. If we are headed to the stratosphere in a misfit, we'll at least have some company.

Sacks: 2♦. At least I won't miss any 9 or 10 card fits. If partner does not bid 2♥ (or 3♣) I will follow with 3♦.

Roeder: 1NT (forcing) - Over 2♣, I'll bid a heavy 2♦; over 2♦, a 3 heart fit bid; over 2♥, a 4♦ fit bid; over 2♠, 3♦.

Goldsmith: 1NT. At matchpoints, I'll take the low road. With one partner, I play 1SSS-1NT; 2♣-2♦; something-3♦ shows this hand. He's not North right now. When partner bids 2♣, if I have methods, (*Jeff is referring to a version of the Bart convention*) I'll use them, but in standard 2/1, I pretty much have to bid 2NT (*jumping to 3♦ would be the choice for some players*) and hope partner bids out his pattern.

This hand occurred in an individual game. I gave the scoring as MP, but the actual game had the interesting format of being scored as both IMPs and MP. If I am going to force, I like 2♦ and then bidding hearts twice to show the 5-6 pattern. Karen Arase suggested this would be a good panel problem.

5

IMPs
None vul.

South	West	North	East
1♦	pass	1♥	pass
???			

You, South, hold: ♠42 ♥653 ♦AQJ85 ♣AJ10

What call do you make?

Meyers: 1NT - I don't want to raise hearts on three little, and I don't hear the opponents bidding spades so I am not going to worry about them.

Goldsmith: 1NT - I don't object to 2♥, and 2♣ isn't awful either, but 1NT seems pretty down-the-middle.

Sacks: 1NT with "eyes wide shut." Although I could see either 2♣ or 2♦ working out better. This seems to be the wrong three card support for 2♥.

Chechelasvili: 2♥ - In a regular partnership, using methods to find out about having three versus four card support, this should not present a problem. In a good partnership, without methods, it is still possible to find 3NT on a bad 4-3 fit. *Many good pairs play that 2NT asks opener to further describe his hand using artificial responses that show whether opener is minimum or maximum and whether opener has three or four trumps. Washington DC expert Steve Robinson has a more natural way of getting at the same information.*

Roeder: 2♦ - The purest IMP rebid. This problem demonstrates why IMPs and matchpoints are so different, as I think a 2♦ is losing matchpoint strategy. If your side belongs in 3NT, a number of partner's possible spade holdings make it best for partner to declare. If John Jones looked more like Eric Kokish, (*let's not malign Mr. Kokish's good looks*) I would assume he was plumping for a stylish 2♣ rebid – which is not unreasonable.

Shuster: 2♣. You can't do this if you open 1♦ on (x-x-4-5) shape, or partner has to guess whether to pass or correct with 4-5-2-2 or 4-4-2-3 and similar distributions. The alternative of 2♦ is borderline-acceptable. 1NT is yuck.

This is a cute problem given that the minimum bid in four different strains is reasonable. Rick correctly predicted that I would think 2♣ is reasonable. It would be my choice. I also think 2♦ is reasonable. The only call I really don't like is 1NT, which may wrong-side a 3NT contract.