

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Promotion of Bridge by Mike Marcucci



Our title this month is a term that perhaps you haven't seen before or, at least, in a long time. It used to be very prominent in the bridge circles of LA; there used to be District and Unit Reps with this title for their jobs. It was a very important job. I do not see that term lately on

Unit Officer lists..

Getting back to the relationship between our 9 Units and their players, it is still most enlightening to me to run into a bridge player that does not know what Unit they are in. Happened this weekend over in Santa Clarita. Not a clue as to what Unit they belonged to or what a Unit was. This is NOT the player's fault. I do not mean to imply that at all. I was the same way for 30 years, starting in 1967. Not a clue to what Units and Districts were. I did belong to the ACBL but had no idea what they were about because the topic did not come up in daily conversation, I had no close friends who played bridge, and I never received the ACBL magazine. AND, most importantly, if I was assigned to a Unit, they NEVER contacted me about anything. Was I a ghost? Apparently!! OK, so I moved around a lot. Evidently I did not realize the importance of updating my address with ACBL. Although, now that I think about it, how did they send me bills if they did not have my correct address? Cannot answer that one.

The result of all this is I didn't know what I was missing. If I wanted a formal game, I'm guessing that I just asked around for the local club. No internet in the old days and no web sites till the 80's or 90's. Only played once or twice a year before '01.

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District Director Report September 2018

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



Come to Hawaii

The Fall NABC is in Hawaii this November starting on Thanksgiving and lasting for 11 days. I encourage you to attend. This will likely be the last NABC in Hawaii, and you will be helping out both the

ACBL and yourself.

Please contact me if you're planning to attend the Hawaii NABC and haven't made arrangements yet. And also contact me if you have already made arrangements for Hawaii but are staying at some hotel other than the Hilton. There may be a discount (for D23 members only) depending on your situation: my email is klaned23@gmail.com.

Hawaii had some hurricane and volcano activity earlier in the year which has had the effect of lowering hotel prices in the area. That's good news for last minute travelers. But it's bad news for the ACBL because we scheduled this tournament years ago and locked in rates at the time. So our host hotel rates are good but the competition is pulling folks

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But in 1978, I moved to San Gabriel and have been here ever since. That is the interesting part. Still no magazine, still no contact with or from a Unit, and still oblivious to what Units and Districts were all about. I did not know such bodies existed! OK, so now you may understand why, through my chagrin at a 2018 player not having knowledge of organizations like Units, I can certainly sympathize.

Situations like that show that something is lacking in a Unit's fulfillment of its bylaws when members have no idea of belonging. One of a Unit's stated purposes in their charter from ACBL is the "promotion of bridge" in their area. Some Clubs take this idea very seriously. They don't need a set of bylaws to tell them that getting folks in the area interested in the game of bridge and frequenting their place of business – the Club – is necessary for their long term survival. Club owners and managers promote bridge so they stay in business. Units do not have that reason. There is no business to sustain, but they should take that objective just as seriously because that is why ACBL gave them a charter to exist in the first place.

I would like every Unit in LA to reexamine their activities & take stock of how successful they are being in "promoting bridge" in their area. What are the normal methods and actions to be successful at this objective?

1) Running exciting Unit Games and Sectionals is one type of action. This is a major effort and a very important effort. The nuts and bolts of arranging the games are actually hard enough in LA, but then to make them extra special and enjoyable for the players takes the extra effort. (In the old days, Unit members literally knocked themselves out preparing baked goods for the tournaments, especially cookies.) Air-conditioning, lighting, fresh air, space to roam, sound systems that work, neat & clean restrooms, etc., etc. Prizes, entertainment, awards of free plays, trophies, a director who has a sense of humor (!), and 10 other items all contribute to success.

2) Atmosphere at their Clubs. The Unit Board should set good examples for behavior at all club games. Rudeness and bad manners was a MAJOR issue in the 60's and 70's. We've come a long way on that front but I still remember incidents in the 2000's

that I sincerely don't wish to see repeated. One of the major issues that retains the newer player is how they are treated at their local club.

3) Special Events. Pro-Am's, 299'er Swiss teams, Eight-is-Enough Teams, Pizza nights, ice-cream socials, NYE parties, Unit Championships, World-Wide Games, Award dinners, the list goes on. Functions to bring different factions of a Unit together to meet, socialize, compete. Requiring regular partners to play with new partners always produces some kind of fireworks – hopefully for the positive.

4) Unit Reporters. How can I emphasize how important this person is to bridge in your area? I cannot, because there are not enough words in this paper. Think about this: without other special means of communication with ALL their Unit players, a Unit is deliberately isolating about 2/3 of their members (who do not play regularly) from all the "family" activities in their area every month if they do not have a Unit Reporter on the SCBN staff. If a Unit is to create a bridge "family", sharing information is how to do it. That is pretty important in motivating players to get out more – to see and visit with those folks they have been reading about. All your news sitting in the latest issue of the SCBN is there to be read at anyone's leisure. And Dave White has almost perfected making that process easier with his 1st of the month direct e-mails. Would you rather play in small games or in larger games? More players going to games means better business and larger awards in all the clubs and happier owners/managers. One of the reasons players enjoyed the paper version of the SCBN (IMHO) is that the Reporters of that time gave those Unit columns their full attention. I invite you to go back and read a column from the 90's. Once you finished, you pretty well knew everything that had happened that month to just about everyone in your Unit! The Reporters are the glue that keeps a Unit together with their enthusiasm and kind words once a month. How are our Units creating their "family"? Ask your Board!

5) Web sites – Lots of info IF kept up to date. Amazing how a reader loses interest pretty fast if all the info is weeks, months, years old. Certainly there for the folks who seek out the site. What is your estimate of the % of players who do that? Don't talk about these supplanting the need for a Reporter. Different functions.

6) Direct e-mails – who does this? Privacy issues anyway.

7) Ads on the Club bulletin boards – who has time to go read the BB when your partner is waiting at the table? Better this than nothing, however.

8) Lessons. At the Clubs, at the Senior Center, at the local high school, etc. Club owners are proficient at this more than Units.

There is an interesting idea I picked up in the 80's SC Bridge News that I've been scouring lately, that fits in with this "Promotion of Bridge" theme. Back in the 80's, several Units contacted shopping malls and arranged to set up demonstrations in their public areas. What a great idea! Anywhere from 2 to 4 tables would be an inviting spectator sport. Some features: a) anyone who wanted to try, could sit in for a hand or two; b) sign-up paperwork for ACBL was available; c) info on the local clubs was available; d) a roving moderator would answer walk-up questions for on-lookers. Could we do this today? Of course we could. The Malls around town are perfect for this kind of "promotion of bridge" activity. All it takes is a few volunteers from each Unit. Rand Pinsky and Stan Holzberg were part of just such a group (hope they remember if asked!) in the SFV area back in the 80's. They signed up almost 100 new members over that weekend! Could we handle 800 or 900 new members in D23?

For 50 years, everyone involved in the administrative side of our game has lamented about the declining attendance at tournaments, the rising costs of conducting games, the rising average age of our membership, and the difficulty of attracting new players. On a national level, we have been holding steady for about 10 years. Locally, we have found it increasingly difficult over the last 20 years to maintain the tournament quality & quantity of the old days at the Ambassador, but we are holding steady with at least our fantastic Summer Regional in Long Beach. To get back on a rising curve, these local Unit "Promotion of Bridge" efforts must turn the tide.

Folks like Mitch Dunitz are taking the bull by the horns and devoting extra time and effort to "Promote". Let's all pitch in where we can. Candy Scott used to teach classes at her local high school. Anything wrong with that nowadays?

Next week, I'll be in Seaside, spreading some LA good cheer and telling our other Pacific coast neighbors how nice the July weather is in LA. Stay healthy, my friends.

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away from the host hotel when we need to meet our room block.

Election

The ACBL informed me today that I won the election for District Director. I thank my opponent, John Ramos, for a constructive campaign and for his contributions to bridge. I also thank my supporters who showed confidence in me. I will try to justify that confidence during my term.

While I was campaigning I had a number of engaging discussions about critical issues facing the ACBL. I value transparency so I will share, in written form, my the views that I shared on the campaign trail on several critical issues.

This document will be available on the district website, and will cover topics such as: the challenges of a 25-member board, how clubs are represented (or not) at the national level, whether the recent turnover at headquarters is a problem, and so forth.

Feel free to contact me at klaned23@gmail.com

Legends of LA-follow up *by Mike Marcucci*

Last month, we reminded readers of how much Eilif Anderson did for LA bridge. There's a little more to his story.

Eilif died suddenly on 10 February 1977, of a heart attack. At the time, he was President of the Westwood Unit and still working as hard as ever to improve the game of bridge in LA for everyone. Lew Mathe's wife, Eugenie, thought that our players deserved an update to his tale. The following is a reprint.

Reprinted from the [ALACBU Bridge News, March 1977, Vol 13, No 10.](#)

by Eugenie Mathe



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“Editor’s note: In order to bring the history of ALACBU up to date, we offer the following:

The turmoil of events in 1968-69 which began with the announcement by the League of the closing of the Western Office of the ACBL, and the subsequent withdrawal of 17 Units of District 23 from the Western Conference, while creating myriad problems for all concerned, did result in a strong District 23 organization.

ALACBU applied for a sanction to hold Bridge Week in 1969 and was denied, the sponsorship continuing in the hands of the Western Conference. However, District 23 was awarded a 3-day Winter Regional that year which became our “Little Bridge Week”.

In 1969, the ACBL officially recognized ALACBU as the duly constituted organization of District 23 and ALACBU was awarded the sanction for Bridge Week 1970.

The first District-Wide Charity Game was held in 1970, and the District instituted a Knockout Sectional in June 1971, for the benefit of players who desired an opportunity for more experience in team games.

Through the leadership of its founders and the continued efforts of many dedicated men and women, ALACBU has grown to its present position, comprising 15 Units representing 7800 members, and supporting 16 Sectionals and 2 Regionals a year.”

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.

Bridge Cruise to Vietnam

March 2020 - From \$2,100 per person



Ha Long Bay, Vietnam



Host Jeff Grotenhuis is a Life Master. In 2011 he founded Agile Bridge Club in Hermosa Beach. At 21 tables, Agile's Friday open game is now the largest Friday game in District 23. Jeff has also introduced more people to bridge in California this decade. He was a North American Pairs Finalist at the Philadelphia Nationals this year. When not teaching, directing or playing bridge, Jeff enjoys ballroom dancing and hiking.

Intermediate lectures and afternoon duplicate games will be held every day at sea. Our group dines together and then plays bridge virtually every evening. This will be our fifth bridge cruise. Jeff's wife, Jennifer, grew up in Vietnam. Our ship, the Celebrity Millennium, undergoes a major refurbishment the first quarter of 2019. Contact Jeff: (310) 600-4275 with questions regarding the bridge program.

To learn more about cruise contact:
 Susan Dushane at Altour
 (818) 464-9241
susan.dushane@altour.com
www.cuebidcruises.com



Cities Visited

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

Don't Speak

This month's column combines a discussion that relates in some ways to each of the columns from the last two months. Recall that asking about a particular bid can create ethical problems and obligations for partner. If, in a lengthy cue bidding and key card asking auction you ask "what was 5D?" and neglect to ask about any other bid you have highlighted the diamond suit for and to your partner. If she has any logical alternative, she must refrain from leading diamonds.

No one is saying that you were trying to tell her to lead diamonds or, even worse, that you have a private agreement along the lines of "lead the suit I ask about" (and don't lead suits I don't ask about). What we are saying is that your interest in the Diamond suit is unauthorized information to your partner. And she must do her best to avoid using that unauthorized information. I am not going to rehash the laws (Law 16) on unauthorized information today. I am just recalling it to mind. If she has a logical alternative, she must refrain from leading the suit suggested by your question, even if some number of players up to and including less than a strong majority of players would lead that suit.

And last month we talked about the prohibition on dummy assisting declarer in the play, even if done in a lighthearted and jovial manner. Bridge players are allowed to assist and encourage their partner at the table . . . during the post mortem. Which is exactly when most players are least likely to want to assist and encourage their partner. Most of them instead head in the opposite direction.

So now we face a couple of questions about questions. Of course you are generally free to ask about the meaning of any call when it is your turn to bid. Suppose you are a playing pro or teacher? Can you ask about a sequence if your sole purpose in asking is to alert your client/student to the subtleties and nuances of the sequence?

Or suppose you are playing against a pro and client or teacher and student. The pro makes a bid that is rife with subtleties and nuance. Can you ask the student for an explanation in the hopes that you will elicit a response that is misinformation?

Law 20G prohibits both these practices: Law 20G1: A player may not ask a question if his sole purpose is to benefit partner; and Law 20G2: A player may not ask a question if his sole purpose is to elicit an incorrect response from an opponent.

How to Keep Your Director Happy

(note: Jim Perkins is *not* responsible for the following material!)

(continued from last month)

8. If you are sitting N-S and are waiting for your next opponents, do not use the time to go to the restroom or get water, coffee, snacks, etc. You should do these things only after your new opponents have finally arrived at the table. After all, they made you wait.
9. If you are sitting E-W and find yourselves behind a slow pair, you must slow down as well. Feign an excuse to go to the restroom and spend five or ten minutes washing your hands. Two benefits accrue. First, you will now be "in synch" with the pair in front of you, relieving you of the need to stand around waiting for them to finish. Second, you will have very clean hands.
10. If the director is hovering around your table and requesting that you speed up play, be certain to inform him that it isn't your fault that you are behind, and then ignore him. Directors love to hover and will be disappointed if you move too quickly.
11. Once you have managed to get suitably behind, make absolutely no effort to catch up. Doing this would only serve to spoil the symmetry of the movement.

District 23 Rank Changes August 2018

Junior Master

Suzanne M. Barnes
 Raymond Boncato
 Frank P. Campbell
 Richard M. Chen
 Irene A. D’Arcus
 Anna R. La Franchi
 Kenneth G. Miller
 Marc D. Moser
 Carol Newlove
 Victor Newlove
 William S. Taub

Club Master

Marjorie Alden
 J. Ross Bengel
 Richard F. David
 Rita L. Davis
 James R. Degner
 Manny Flekman
 Ilene W. Gerber
 David Harris
 Alan Nueman
 David Scholler
 Tomoko Y. Stock
 Chris W. Wickersham

Sectional Master

Harold E. Avent
 Bette S. Gordy
 Tor M. Hylbom
 Carole E. Lebental
 Susan Morse-Lebow
 Snehlata Patil
 Louis H. Simmons
 Wendy S. Wilson

Regional Master

Laurence Abramson
 Donna M. Bauer
 Richard N. Bratkovich
 Ellen B. Davidson
 Norman A. Futami
 Stan R. Johnson
 Larisa Rappaport
 Mark S. Rappaport
 Louise A. Seifert
 Bernice Silver
 Valerie J. Turner
 K. H. Vogelbach

NABC Master

Robert B. Lapin
 Ralph Rivera
 Lee Skupen

Advanced NABC Master

Roberta J. Brown
 Sadika Elewy
 Sandy K. Rathbun
 John Vacca
 Alexander F. Wiles

Bronze Life Master

Robert E. Novell

Ruby Life Master i

Mike Fierman
 Judy K. Hyde
 Morris Jones
 Robert B. McBroom
 Kiyoo Nagaishi
 Sandra Satlin

Gold Life Master

John Herriot

Sapphire Life Master

Gerri Soffa Carlson

Carolyn Taff & Marion Napier
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Santa Monica, CA 90403

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

August 26 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A: David Peim/Joel Schiff, 2nd Wei Pei/Sherman Gao, 3rd Walt Schafer/Arvind Seth, 4th John Melis/Jackie Hess, 5th Alexander and Finn Kolesnick, 6th Rob Preece/Usha Bansal. In the B flight overalls Dalia Hernandez/Alan Flower were 2nd, Fern Dunbar/Christine Frumen 3rd, Pat and Bob Adam 4th, Alan and Barbara Olschwang 5th, Anne Croul/Arne Lier 6th. In the C flight overalls Sue Boswell/Paul Chen were 3rd. And in the 199er game Glen and Caryn Musicer tied with Bonnie Shok/Julie Deluccio for 1st/2nd, Lillian Slater/Carol Herzlinger were 3rd, Charlotte Roush/Allen Buchanan 4th. Congratulations to all!

70+% GAMES August 16 through Sept 15: In the open game Sept 5 Steve Rowe/Richard Bakovic had 71.59%. And in the 199er game Aug 24 Louise Sperr/Barbara Wallace had 70.14%. Congratulations to both pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS August 16 through Sept 15: Aug 16 Kiyo Nagaishi/Alan Olschwang won 3.21mp for 1st. Aug 17 Toni Morford/John Crabtree won 4.08 for 1st, James Nicola/Phil Feldman 3.06mp for 2nd. In the team game Aug 19 the team of Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi, Mark Tang/Jack Waller were 1st, each winning 2.22mp. In the unit game Aug 26 David Peim/Joel Schiff won 4.67mp for 1st, Wei Pei/Sherman Gao 3.50mp for 2nd. In the evening game August 29 Al Lum/Hayim Ninyo won 3.75mp for 1st. In the open game Aug 31 Bruce and Chiye Horiguchi won 5.63mp for 1st, Kay Tseng/Cayce Blanchard 4.22mp for 2nd, Baum Harris/Larry Slutsky 3.17mp for 3rd. And Sept 13 Alan Flower/George Welsh won 3.75mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: A very rare month. No new members.....

STATUS CHANGES: New Club Masters: Beth Byrne, Jim Werner. Sectional Masters: Juliane Deluccio, Barbara Olschwang, Katharine Seibert, Ana Winn. Regional Masters: Paul Chen, Mark Singer. Life Masters: Eknath Deo, Bonny Walsh. Gold Life Master: Steve Rowe. Congratulations to you all!

GET WELL WISHES TO Bob Bakovic and Martha Schuster

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

Oct 1: New classes begin
Oct 3 7:00 pm Grass roots game: Extra points, \$11 card fees
Oct 5 7:00 pm Grass roots game: Extra points, \$11 card fees
Oct 6 12:30 pm Grass roots game: Extra points, \$11 card fees
Oct 12: Special game honoring Rachel Lanz' 100th birthday
Oct 15-21: Club Appreciation Week: Extra points, regular fees
Oct 21: Swiss Team Game. Extra points, regular card fees
Oct 28: 12:30 Unit Game: \$8 card fees; dessert served (no lunch) \$1.99 card fees for players with 199 masterpoints or fewer.
Oct 31: 11:45am Halloween potluck and costume contest; Game 12:30pm

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD

BRIDGE CLUBS

Judy Carter-Johnson

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Clubhouse #1—August 17: Bill Linskey/Gary Paugh 1 in A. Jeanette Estill/Marilyn McClintock 2 in A. Betty Jackson/Diane Sachs 3 in A. Joan and Ted Wieber 4 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Ylia and Ernie Ross 5 in A, 2 in B, 2 in C. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Geoge Alemshah 6 in A, 3 in B, 3 in C. Ellen Kice/Russell Gray 4 in B, 4 in C. Cooie and Jack Dampman 5 in B.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GAME: Clubhouse #3—August 27: Chie Wickham/Alan Olschwang 1 in A, 1 in B. Bill Linskey/Gary Paugh 2 in A. Linda and

Dick Stein 3 in A. Judith Jones/Al Appel 4 in A. Sue Boswell/Howard Smith 5 in A, 2 in B. Midge Dunagan/Dorothy Favre 6 in A, 3 in B. Bea Aron/Tybie Becker 4 in B, 1 in C. Russell Gray/Fred Reker 5 in B, 2 in C. Ellen Kice/Cookie Pham 3 in C. Monica and Paul Honey 4 in C.

70% GAME: On August 31st at Burning Tree (Clubhouse #1) Fred Reker/Gary Paugh had a 71.88% game!!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO COOKIE PHAM who for over 17 years has served as Thursday Reservation Chairperson for LEISURE WORLD DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB (CLUBHOUSE #3) A special presentation was held prior to the September 13 game.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Louise Seifert and Stan Johnson who had a great time at Regional in Costa Mesa and earned 6.32 master points. Also to Sylvia Kaprelyan who earned 2.20 master points.

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY and FRIENDS OF SEBBIE THOMPSON. Sebbie played bridge at our clubs for many, many years and also was a Reservation person during that time.

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—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. Games are also held on Friday/Saturday at clubhouse #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday—Currently there is no reservation person for Friday—please come early and perhaps volunteer!! 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, October 20, 11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, October 6, 9:30 a.m., Chino

Hot off the presses: “The California Club,” by Vic Sartor! Discover the ins and outs of his strong club bidding system. You can get it from Amazon, and no doubt from other places. Even if you don’t want to play this system ... you can learn how to defend against it.

The top finisher in the September Individual was Steve Mancini, at 60.4%. In second was Penny Barbieri;, Clint Lew tied with Roger Boyar for third; and Gino Barbieri took the fifth spot.

The September Unit game was won by Fredy and Lulu Minter, 67.08%. Tying for second: Clinton Lew – Linda Tessier, and Roger Boyar – Richard Patterson. Rounding out the top honors list were Joe Viola – Amr Elghamry.

The competition this month was fierce ... only two pairs topped the 65% mark this month. One pair was that bridge machine, Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, at 68.97%. The other good score was Richard Patterson – Hanan Mogharbel, 66.5%. Oh, well, the rest of us did our best! Other winners: Clint Lew, Sofi Kasubhai, Claudia Cochran, Linda Tessier, Herb Stampfl, Joe Unis, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, Roger Boyar, and Linda Stuart.

La Fetra (and also Bridge41) will be celebrating “Club Appreciation Month.” La Fetra will hold 3 pairs games, and 3 team games (one each per sanctioned session) during the month. These games pay extra master points, at no additional cost. In addition, the team games pay 5% gold points, up to 0.25. (Yeah, yeah, big deal, you say. I know someone who, when chasing Life Master status, wound up with 24.99 gold points. What are the odds?) I’d like to tell you when these games might be ... but because team games require an even number of pairs ... we’ll hold them *ad hoc*, and work the pairs games around them. If you’d like to form your own team, fine! Otherwise we’ll just match up pairs as fairly as possible,

assigning handicaps as appropriate. (The pairs games will be scratch, as usual – no handicaps.)

Our Unit had some modest successes in the Costa Mesa Regional. Top point-earner was Amr Elghamry (13.22), with a 3rd place Swiss finish. Kai Lui (10.66) had a first place Swiss finish, David Ochroch (10.27) had a 2nd and a 3rd in Swiss, Harish Singh (9.42) had a 2nd place Swiss finish; and Yours Truly (7.13) also placed 2nd in a Swiss. Gail Leroy (2.10), Steve Dorse (2.10), Wendy Wanderman (2.08), and Bridgett O’Sullivan (2.08) brought home some gold from Gold Rush pairs. Congratulations, all!

Top masterpoint earners this month: Clint Lew, 9.25; Roger Boyar, 8.35; Linda Tessier, 5.51; Richard Patterson, 5.17; and Paul Chrisney, 3.33.

Four promotions this month: Gail LeRoy is now a Junior Master; Vinay Gupta is a Club Master; and Stephen Dorse and Douglas Hess are Sectional Masters. Congratulations, and keep up the good play, ladies and gentlemen.

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we present a bit of fun. In a tight Swiss match, on deal 5 of 6, no one vulnerable, you pick up this normal-looking hand:

♠ J ♥ AKQ953 ♦ J987 ♣ 104.

All set to open 2♥ (maybe 1♥, if that’s your style), you see RHO open 1♥! You pass, maintaining your best poker face. LHO calls 1NT, Announced as “semi-forcing.” Now partner calls 2♥! Over to you.

Partner obviously has spades, and most likely clubs, for his Michaels cue bid. Sure, he *could* have diamonds. Want to bet? Still waiting for you. Yuck. You can play 2♠ in a probable 5-1 fit, or 3♣ in a probable 5-2 fit. (And remember, to do better when one level higher, you have to make TWO more tricks.) Ready?

How about ... pass! Sure, why not? Seems obvious, once you think about it. Your hearts are bound to be better than either of partner’s suits, and at least the missing trumps are under yours, not over them. What if partner is void? Better still! If partner is void, playing in either black suit you never, ever get to your hand, unless the opponents are kind enough to do it for you. So, you put that green card on the table.

Result? Partner wins the opening diamond lead, takes six trump tricks (it turns out he had ♥10x – your lucky day!), and a black suit trick in the wash. +110. At the other table ... no doubt after a similar

start to the auction ... they played 2♠, down 2. +100 more to your side, 5 IMPs in.

Yes, you won the match by a decent margin, in no small part due to those 5 IMPs. That’s the second-best part. The best part? The look on partner’s face when you put that pass card on the table! Priceless!

Quote for the month: “People don’t believe facts, they believe what they want to believe, until the facts finally lose patience and club them with some catastrophe.” (Poul Anderson)



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556 is going to offer a second sectional tournament this year called the **Holiday Magic Mountain Sectional** to be held on December 29th and December 30th at the Santa Clarita Senior Center at 22900 Market Street in Newhall. We will offer Open and Limited MP **Swiss Pairs** on Saturday at 10:00 AM and 2:30 PM and a duplicated play-thru (36 hands) **Swiss Team** games on Sunday starting at 1:00 PM. All profits for this game are being donated to the construction fund for the new Senior Center for Santa Clarita Valley.

What Swiss Pairs are:

- The Swiss Pairs is run along the lines of a Swiss Teams.
- Pairs play against each other in short matches, with IMP scoring determining the winner.
- As in Swiss Teams, pairs with approximately the same records are paired against each other for subsequent matches.
- Boards are duplicated, everybody plays boards 1-6 in the first round, 7-12 in the second, etc.
-

Why play Swiss pairs?

- The novelty is a large part of the reason.
- Being easier to get a partner rather than three teammates is another.
- Masterpoints are awarded for every match won. (It’s really hard to be shut-out).

Player strategy for Swiss Pairs:

- Make your contract (overtricks are not as important).
- When borderline, bid vulnerable games and slams.
- Do not double unless you have the tricks in trumps.
- Your teammates are the average in the room (the best, most steady teammates available).

We had a great sectional in September at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita with 53 tables on Saturday and 20 tables for the Swiss Team event on Sunday. Thanks to all who came out to play and support our Unit.

Magic Mountain Sectional Results:**Saturday, September 22nd:****Sandi Oest Open Pairs (Morning Session):**

1 st	Gerald Bare – Joesph Viola	65.48%
2 nd	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky	63.00%
3 rd	Albert Stock – Roy Ladd	62.73%
4 th	Patrick Cardullo – Gerry Belcher	62.55%

Sandi Oest 299er Pairs (Morning Session):

1 st	Susan Strassner – Mark Brifman	66.50%
2 nd	Greg Alsdorf – Margaret Shifley	61.50%
3 rd	Carol Underwood – Hal Underwood	60.50%

Hansford Rowe Open Pairs (Afternoon Session):

1 st	Ray Cormier – Steve Cormier	64.57%
2 nd	Gerald Bare – Joseph Viola	61.03%
3 rd	Robert Novell – Temo Arjani	59.41%
4 th	JoJo Sarkar – Douglas Timmer	57.89%

Hansford Rowe 299er Pairs (Afternoon Session):

1 st	Melisse Benson – William Miles	59.50%
2 nd	Jackie Moor – Sharon Hoelscher	58.00%
3 rd	Susan Strassner – Mark Brifman	56.50%

Sunday, September 23rd:**Open Swiss Teams:**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 st | Lulu Minter – Rae Murbach – Joseph Viola – Amr Eighamry |
| 2 nd | Gilobert Stinebaugh – Joan Rubin – Constance Fishbach – Basant Shah |
| 3 rd | Craig Kavin – Jeffrey Goldsmith – Ellen Anten – Paul Markarian |
| 4 th /5 th | Robert McBroom – Kathy Flynn – Elaine Moore Thomas Shudic
Bernard Seall – John Vacca – Douglas Timmer
– JoJo Sarkar |

Upcoming Events:

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs, Friday, October 5th at 11:30 AM at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Palmdale

ACBL-wide Instant Matchpoint Game, Wednesday, October 31st at 12:30 PM at Joshua Tree

Next Board meeting: TBA



**San Fernando
Valley
by Linda Silvey**

December 22: Unit 561 Holiday Bridge/Dinner

Unit 561 will host its Annual Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party on Saturday, December 22, at the 750 Club. An Open, Stratified Game will start at 2 p.m., followed by a festive dinner, catered by Stonefire Grill, at approximately 5:45 p.m.

The cost per person is \$35 and includes both bridge and dinner. Due to limited seating, reservations are required via purchase of non-refundable tickets by December 18. Ticket sales will begin November 15 at The 750 Club, or by mail to Rochelle Lotto at 1071 Terrace Hill Circle, Westlake Village, CA 91362 (nanalotto@yahoo.com). Note: There will be no on-site ticket sales on December 22.

Unit 561 Board Nominations

Are you looking for adventure of a new and different kind? Unit 561 is seeking members who are interested in running for the Unit Board, beginning January 1, 2019. This is an opportunity to give back to the San Fernando Valley bridge community, meet new friends, and have an impact on changing things for the betterment of U561 bridge players.

If you wish to self-nominate, please contact marciabroderick@gmail.com or sign up at The 750 Club. Nominations must be received by Tuesday, December 18. The Unit Board election will be held at the December 22 Holiday Party.

Special Congratulations

August Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were Jerry Goodman 9.02, Susan Raphael 6.88, Alan Golden 6.37, Martin Hurwitz 5.67, Vera Mandell 5.18, Helen Malzer 5.13, Ron Malkin 4.91, Carol Bell 4.84, Dwight Hunt 4.80, and Monica Fastovsky 4.74. The following teams achieved 70% games: Martin Hurwitz-Bob Gasway 73.09% and Lee Skupen-Ray Primus 70.63%.

August Top Ten for North American Pairs Week were Ray Primus 11.70, Susan Raphael 9.44, Carol Bell 6.60, Gloria Feerst 5.66, Lee Skupen 5.02, Gloria Malkin 4.73, Shoshana Blumenfeld 4.72, Gary Baxley 4.72, Kris Sommers 4.33, and Phil Berk 4.18.

October Events at The 750 Club

Club Appreciation Week will be held Monday-Friday, October 8-12. This is an opportunity to earn extra black points for no extra fee!

A celebration will be held on Wednesday, October 31, at the "750's Halloween House of Horrors and Haunted Cards." Players who wear a costume, a silly shirt, and/or a humorous hat will be eligible to participate in the "Free-Play" drawings. Terrific and tempting tricky-treats will be available for tastings at lunchtime. For reservations contact thmorton@att.net. Be a wise owl, "give a hoot" and join the fun!

Calendar

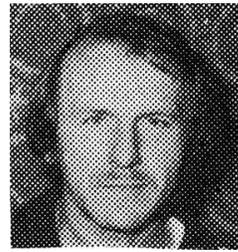
Monday-Friday, October 8-12, Club Appreciation Week will be held at The 750 Club.

Wednesday, October 31, Halloween Celebration will be held at The 750 Club.

Thursday, November 15, Ticket sales will begin for the December 22 Holiday Bridge/Dinner Party.

Tuesday, November 20, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Saturday, December 22, Unit 561 Election for 2019 Board Members, Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party, at The 750 Club. **Please save the date and plan to attend!**



(Steve ~ 1977)

Torrance-South Bay
by Steve Mager

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

Upcoming Events at the South Bay Bridge Club

Unit Game: Friday, October 5, 11:30 AM
Club Appreciation Game Week: 10/14 thru 10/19
Unit Game: Friday, November 2, 11:30 AM

Club Championships

The September 7 Club Championship was won by Ted Gibbs/Mike Welsh in Flight A, with Patty Taylor/Lorna Wallace leading Flight B.

Retirement

I have been doing this column for 20 years. It's time for someone else to start writing it. I appreciate all the compliments I have received over the years, and thank all of those who gave them. This may or may not be my last column, but someone else should be doing it soon.

GUV AWARD

Once again I will bring up the craziest hand I ever played. I held

- ♠ AKJTxxxxxxx
- ♥ Void
- ♦ Qx
- ♣ Void

My RHO opened 2♣. I had heard stories from the late Hal Kandler (a local super expert at the time) about fooling around with this kind of hand, so I bravely bid 2♠, LHO bid 3♦, pass by partner, 3♥ by RHO and a Brave 3♠ bid by me. LHO bid 4♥, RHO bid 4NT and I tried 5♠ which LHO doubled (Oh Groan) and that was the final contract.

After a Heart lead believe it or not Dummy came down holding:

♠ Qx
♥ xxx
♦ Axxx
♣ KQxx

My pard at the time remarked that I got more than I deserved but, alas, I got too much.

As you might suspect, the Club Ace was onside and I made 7 for plus 850 and 2 matchpoints

One of the matchpoints resulted when RHO, who had a big 2 suiter, had also listened to Hal Kandler and fooled around by passing. My hand also was fooling around and passed. Two quick passes ended the auction.

The second matchpoint resulted when the opponents declared a Heart slam and made it when the opening Spade lead provided a ruff sluff. By the way the opening Spade leader was no less than the renowned Norm "Guv" Hogarth after whom the GUV award was named.

Na Zdrowie

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are Ifti Bakai, Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Jeff Goldsmith, Paul Ivaksa, Roger Lee, and David Sacks.

1

Matchpoints
N-S Vul

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

You, North, hold: ♠6 ♥753 ♦AKQ864 ♣AKJ

What call do you make?

The 17 HCP and excellent six card diamond suit only attracted one voter.

Bare: 3♦ -- What else?

The rest of the esteemed panel was seduced by the quality of the three card club holding, but didn't agree on whether to make the conservative 2♣ call or the aggressive 3♣ call.

Ivaska: 3♣ -- A slight overbid, and it's always dangerous to bid a 3-card suit, but I feel that I'm too strong for 3♦. Over 4♣ I plan to bid 4♦ and pass 5♣. (Please see the remarks about 4♣ over 3♣ in the answer to Problem 4.) I'm prepared to be told that this bid wouldn't, or didn't, produce a good result.)

Bakai: 3♣, a tad overbid perhaps but plan on showing my heart support on the next round of bidding. If partner bids 3NT, I'll pass.

Lee: 3♣ -- My hand is too good to do anything else.

Sacks -- 2♣ -- This is a good hand for "Cole" 2♣. But for me it is an Al Rothian: "if I get by this round".

Goldsmith: 2♣. It's reasonable to bid 3♦, but I'm hoping to hear 2♦ so that I can bid 2♥, which shows these values. It wouldn't annoy me if partner bid more strongly.

Bartusek: 2♣ -- Very flexible hands require slow investigation. Partner will often take a false preference to diamonds with some values, but if he passes 2♣ it won't necessarily be bad. If I get past this round I should have a very easy bid next time (probably 3♥).

One hand proves little, but the winner on the actual hand was 2♣.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs E-W vul</p>	North	East	South	West
	1♦ ???	3♣	Dbl	pass
	You, North, hold: ♠K76 ♥Q98 ♦AK103 ♣J42			
What call do you make?				

We have an ugly situation, with no clear call. Let's start with a panelist who rebids his four card diamond suit.

Bartusek: 3♦ -- Whatever works on this hand is right! I wonder why panel moderators keep giving us auctions like this? Probably we keep getting problems like this because there is no best answer. But, I don't like Pass (would you like it if partner has a stiff club?).

Other panelists opt for the three card heart suit, hoping partner has at least four or that he can bid spades.

Bakai: 3♥ -- I don't like the idea of passing with Jxx, so the lesser of evils is to bid 3♥ and hope partner has length there or partner will correct to 3♠.

Goldsmith: 3♥ -- No one knows. At MPs, I'd pass smoothly; if they make, it's only one board. At IMPs, I'll try 3♥ and hope nothing really awful happens. Why aren't we vulnerable? That'd make it even worse.

Bare: 3♥ -- seems least of evils.

Ivaska: 3♥ -- This is obviously a bit of a sticky wicket, as the English say. Anyway, I think 3♥ gives me a fair chance to find our best fit, if indeed we have a decent fit. We can find our way to a 3-5 major fit, 3NT, or

some number of diamonds. 3♥ preserves the possibility of finding a 3-5 spade fit, while 3♠ would probably bury a similar heart fit. If we do land in a 3-4 fit, it's random with respect to which suit will play better, since there isn't much difference between my holdings. I don't like the Russian roulette pass, especially since LHO is likely to have his bid at IMPs opposite an unpassed hand, although I concede it could work out well. Remember, partner could have a 4-card major plus a big diamond fit and may not be prepared for me to pass without trump tricks. At matchpoints, I probably would pass, considering the disadvantages of 3♥.

Then there are those that choose to defend.

Sacks: Pass -- Without a raise by West it is unlikely that they make. On the other hand, it is totally random what we should bid if we do bid.

Lee: Pass -- and it's not close, I won't try to make 3NT without a stopper or trick source. I think it is a common mistake to think that you have to bid in these situations.

John Mohan gave me this problem. John is of the opinion that pass is definitely best, especially considering that RHO didn't raise and that preempts these days are weaker than ever.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Matchpoints Both vul</p>	East	South	West	North
	pass	pass	pass	1♥
	pass	2♦	pass	???
	You, North, hold: ♠A83 ♥AKQJ9 ♦Q6 ♣973			
What call do you make?				

There are plenty of objections to the conditions from panelists who like a 1NT opening bid.

Sacks: 2♥ -- Waiting for what who knows what (with partner being a passed hand you might well see a green card from partner, but maybe that will work out just fine) but opposite a club control and ♦AKJxx or ♦AKxxxx we probably have a slam. At table, I open 1NT, otherwise, how do we get to 3NT opposite 9 HCP.

Bakai: 3♥ -- as with partner holding ♦AKJxx gives us a good shot at a ♥ game.

Lee: 3♥, it's very likely that this is the best strain opposite a doubleton heart, so I am just going to see if it's there.

Ivaska: 2♠. I would have opened 1NT, even though this hand is quite a bit stronger than the average 1NT opener. This holding is now worth game, particularly since I have the invaluable diamond queen. Partner probably has a minor two-suiter, since she/he didn't respond 1N. If North retreats to 3♦, I'll try 3NT and hope that the opponents can't cash too many clubs,

which doesn't seem likely since partner is presumably short in the majors. I'll raise 2NT to three and bid 3NT over 3♣.

Bare: 2♠ -- I would open 1NT. But now 2♠ seems least of evils, partner probably does not have four spades and I have a good chance at knowing what to do on next bid.

Goldsmith: 2♠. Maybe partner will rebid 2NT. Wouldn't that be nice? He's unlikely to raise; with enough values to bid 2♦ and with four spades and long diamonds, he might have opened the bidding.

Bartusek: 2♠. Clearly forcing. I've heard that NoTrump plays better from the Kx side. If partner raises to 3♠ then he is likely to be at least 4-6 in the pointed suits.

This hand came from the LM Pairs in Philadelphia. I tried 2♠ and heard the one bid I really didn't want to hear, 4♠. The contract was very poor and the layout was awful, with the opponents negotiating a ♦ ruff before I could even get in, I went down 3 for a very poor matchpoint result.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs None vul</p>	North	East	South	West
	1♦	pass	1♥	pass
	???			
	You, North, hold: ♠5 ♥A ♦AKJ8742 ♣K974			
What call do you make?				

We have another hand where 2♣, 3♣, and 3♦ are all possible.

Goldsmith: 3♦. This seems like a mild underbid, but no one overcalled 1♠, so I suspect partner has either values or the majors. In either case, 3♦ should work out OK.

Bakai: 3♦ describes this hand fairly well, leaving open the door for best game/slam exploration. 2♣ is a bit ambiguous and runs the risk of getting passed while 3♣ is a bit of overbid.

Bare: 3♦ -- The biggest danger with this bid is that partner has a weak hand with clubs. But 2♣ is too weak and 3♣ is too strong.

Bartusek: 3♦. I don't like playing 4-3 Club fits when I have a 7-1 or 7-2 Diamond fit. This seems like an easy bid. Sure we might miss a game, but it's okay to have extras occasionally. The opponents haven't bid Spades which makes it likely that partner has them. This 3♦ bid also allows partner an easy 3♠ call.

Sacks: 2♣ -- We tend to be passed in 2♣ mostly on hands with a stiff ♦. Once again: "if we get by this round..."

Lee: 2♣, it's likely we are going to go slamming, in which case I'd like to bid clubs to let partner in on what my hand looks like.

Ivaska: 3♣. I'm much too strong for 3♦, as this hand contains at least nine winners. In general, it pays to overbid a little in order to ensure that we find our best fit, but this isn't an overbid, of course. As in Problem 1, I'll bid 4♦ over 4♣. After all, we have a decent play for slam opposite as little as ♠xxx, ♥Jxxx, ♦xx, ♣AQ10x, and partner quite likely has more, since 4♣ doesn't just show four clubs. It also denies a minimum or shows good trumps, or both, because it excludes 3NT. (For example, partner would bid 3NT over 3♣ with ♠KQ9, ♥K10xx, ♦xx, ♣10xxx and a false preference of 3♦ with ♠xxx, ♥Kxxx, ♦Qx, ♣J10xx.) By the way, it strikes me that in my first four answers I've made four suit bids, and the total length of said suits has been 13, for a microscopic average of 3.25. In general, this approach is not recommended, so please deploy it with great care.

Again, one hand means little, but the winner on the actual hand was 3♣.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>Matchpoints E-W vul.</p>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>
	pass	pass	1♦	pass
	1♠	pass	3♦	pass
	???			
<p>You, North, hold: ♠K983 ♥A92 ♦ void ♣K108642</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

This hand basically comes down to either making a conservative pass or trying 3NT

Bakai: 3NT -- The reasonable choices are: pass or 3NT and it will come down to partner's ♦ suit texture. If partner holds a solid six card ♦ suit and an outside A, we are odds on favorites to make 3NT. There is also an added possibility of partner holding ♣ support to provide another source of tricks. I'll go for 3NT though recognizing that on some hands, it'll generate a minus score.

Ivaska: 3NT -- Finally I don't feel obliged to bid a short suit. In this case, I simply have too much to pass, so I have to attempt game despite the diamond void, and 3NT is obviously the most likely game.

Sacks: 3NT -- This might even make on hands that go down in 3♦ (club fit) and there is no way to find a ♣ slam if it was in the cards anyways.

Lee: 3NT -- I make the blindingly obvious 3NT bid.

Goldsmith: 3NT -- We'll probably make it on power, but it wouldn't surprise me that 6♣ was a better contract (♠QJx ♥x ♦AQJxxx ♣AQx). I don't like either of my previous actions; this is an opening bid (6430 shape is very powerful...K&R = 13.70), and bidding spades before clubs was an error.

Bartusek: 3NT. What else? I might have bid a more natural 2♣ on the first round.

Bare: 3NT -- I haven't a clue as to what will work best. However 3 NT seems least of evils. Due to a couple of duplicated cards, at least this is not a companion hand to # 4, but 6♣ could be cold.

Passing 3♦ turned out to be the winner.