

Southern California

Bridge News

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why Memphis?

by Mike Marcucci



Greetings from the Dallas airport. No time for a bridge game here, since it is only a stopover on the way to the NABC tournament in Memphis. Be there in a few hours & then the games begin. Haven't been to a national for a year or so – it should be interesting to play in some of the unlimited events and battle against some stranger systems than we usually run across in our friendly Club games back home. Why, you ask, would one want to do that? Here are a few of the reasons for such an adventure.

First of all, let's talk tournament structure here. For you seasoned veterans, you can skip this part. I'm addressing those players in our District who may not even know there are games in places other than clubs, who shy away from local tournaments in general, or who cannot imagine traveling to another city specifically to attend a bridge tournament! Hard to imagine if a player actually gets the ACBL monthly magazine & is not tempted to go participate in some of the featured events that are written up, but I know that some of the very new players have this vision of the lions & tigers that await them at any game other than their club! Not at all like that, Dorothy.

In short, the 2 or 3-day Sectionals around LA will feature larger games than at your Club and award silver points rather than black. If you look hard, there are 1 or 2 Sectionals a month within a reasonable driving distance. Regionals are higher on the ladder, occur less frequently, are typically 6 or 7 days, and award red & gold points. There are 6 or 7 Regionals a year ranging from Ventura to Palm Springs to San Diego.

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District Director Report

March 2018

by Kevin Lane

“Bridge is a game and should be fun.”



Revisiting the Ed Foundation

Once burned, twice shy.

Great Goals

In the fall of 2016, the board voted to separate the ACBL from the ACBL Ed Foundation. I did and still do agree with the goals of:

- Creating a 501c3 organization oriented toward promoting bridge education
- Making that organization an efficient and effective organization thereby facilitating more tax-deductible donations
- Dramatically expanding the scope of Ed Foundation work from almost a pure focus on youth bridge education. Instead the organization should fulfill all of ACBL's education needs.

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Then there are those 3 NABCs per year where the awards are platinum points in the “unlimited” events and red/gold in all the rest. These are 10 days long and, yes, we in LA are very lucky if even 1 of them is within driving distance. It takes more effort than that to get to Chicago, Orlando, or Seattle, for example. Now to why go!

1. It’s easy to get complacent at home. I always ask myself after playing bridge if I learned anything. I consider it important to make progress! Please try to imagine all the lessons you will learn when playing against a whole different set of opponents.

2. Where else can you compete against a pair from North Carolina, then at the next table, hit a pair from Liberal, Kansas, followed by a pair of nice folks from Fargo, North Dakota? This is the beginning of friends and even partnerships with players outside of LA, ranging all the way to the east coast. One finds that there is life outside of Hollywood! A secret that TV does NOT want you to know.

3. Chances to follow along with such major competitions as the Vanderbilt or the Reisinger don’t come up in our back yards. Want to learn the rules about playing bridge behind screens? Attend an NABC and kibbitz Eric Rodwell or Zia Mahmood during one of their games. It is allowed and you will experience bridge in an atmosphere where you can hear a pin drop & folks will still complain about the noise!

4. There are yearly grass-roots competitions to play in or track your friends who are playing. Our local GNT and NAP winners are attending and playing against all the other District winners across the nation. Nothing wrong with kibbitzing any of these games either. The qualifying rounds may be open and most of the finals are in separate rooms and behind screens.

5. Hey – a new city to see. My partner grew up in Memphis & has suggested that I must try the BBQ! He and his wife are at B.B. Kings’ night club tonight.

6. Anyone in the business world has heard of networking. What a nice way to have coffee with some geographically diverse friends all in 1 week (if they come). Turns out that other friends have arranged some opportunities for me to meet some folks face-to-face that would probably not take place without this common meeting ground we call an NABC. There’s a player from Texas who might be interested in helping

with the D23 History project you say!? Then there’s the cousin from Alabama that I don’t get to see very often. And would you believe that a teammate from Hawaii decided to see Memphis & we’ll get to compare notes on our experiences.

7. One that makes me smile is going to be meeting a player from New York who won our Stoddard Trophy last July and presenting him with our engraved miniature. Rather than risking the mails, isn’t it nicer to give an award in person? Without a doubt, I hope both of us enjoy meeting again. The trophy turned out very nice & is very suitable for display on a shelf at home. I may ask for a picture!

8. Multi-tasking when on the road is too good to pass up. Jumping from here to Charlotte, then to Beaumont, TX, then to San Antonio will keep the old suitcase packing skills very current. These friends obviously haven’t discovered bridge yet, but I always put in a plug for our game.

Now we’re not saying all these enjoyments of the life experience occur on all tournament visits but some combinations pop up most times. The “meeting new folks” issue is the most enjoyable. Many players even wear nametags to make intros easier. Today one of our opponents was from Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Wow, even for someone who likes geography, that was a new one. Turns out, it has a history going back 100’s of years. Made great inroads on convincing a pair from Bend, Oregon to visit us in Long Beach in July. Met another pair that knew my occasional partner from Wellesley, Massachusetts & smiled broadly as we discussed playing together in a Boston Sectional next month. The stories go on like this each day and add depth to trips that go way beyond bridge.

My partner’s wife had a great time today playing in the afternoon 199’r game. (No, I didn’t finish this article at the airport!) She and her new partner met this morning, both having less than 5 MPs total, and came in 1st in their flight for 1.5 red points. They plan on playing again tomorrow. What did I say about making new friends? Whether your next attempt at expanding horizons is at a Sectional, Regional, or National, you will come back with stories to tell.

Last month I wondered how many trophies ACBL will be displaying here. After I return home, I may be able to tell you. Meanwhile, off to see the wizards.

Stay healthy, my friends.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1*A brief history*

Way back in fall 2016, the board was told the following in order to secure a vote for separation:

- The new Ed Foundation can “realistically raise \$45-\$50 million” if only the board would vote to separate. The \$45-50 million figure is in Ed Foundation meeting minutes; verbal promises were even more emphatic.
- The new Ed Foundation will take over all of the ACBL’s education functions and more.
- Despite promising to raise \$45-50 million, the new Ed Foundation would need to keep the \$850K already in their coffers courtesy of the ACBL, and they would still need to keep the \$130+K annually raised by the ACBL for the Ed Foundation.

At the time I objected to HOW we were separating the two organizations – and shared my objections in my D23 Bridge News columns and during the board debate. My objection was primarily that **the Ed Foundation had no plan**. None. They admitted they had no plan for how to either raise \$45-50 million or carry out their expanded mission. The ACBL should have required a plan (and more) before: a) agreeing to separate from the Ed Foundation - thereby eliminating any oversight of the \$850K – and b) continuing to pay \$130+K annually to the Ed Foundation. \$45-50 million doesn’t fall off trees.

The latest

Well, as you might have guessed, there is an update. A motion before the ACBL board next week is a request to give the Ed Foundation an additional \$150K per year.

The Ed Foundation reserves have gone from \$850K to \$600K in two years (despite getting \$250K or so from the ACBL during that time). Ed Foundation folks have admitted to organizational struggles – and I am among many rooting for their success. The promise that the Ed Foundation would soar like an eagle once separated from the ACBL appears to have been exuberant salesmanship which I noted at the time.

While I still believe in the goals of a 501c3 bridge education organization, I am stupefied that the Ed Foundation made a new request for additional money without either an explanation of what happened to the “\$45-50 million” or a plan for the future. The Ed

Foundation has some good folks involved (two from our district), but basic business sense is to require a plan before distributing largesse. The Ed Foundation is in the process of hiring an Executive Director. My recommendation is to wait until the new Executive Director is in place to establish the scope of what the Ed Foundation will be doing and how much financial support the ACBL will be expected to provide.

Please contact me at kland23@gmail.com if you are interested.

To ANDY

APRIL 2019

Marta Monheim, Unit 561



Our bridge world has lost one of the nicest and most generous ambassadors of the game. On February 20th, Andy Vinock left us, with countless memories and ever so much richer for having known him.

I first met Andy in 2002 and, to be honest, he terrified me. He was a big bear of a man and I just knew he had to be cranky and mean-spirited. Nothing could be further from the truth. Although he played with the best, he was gracious, kind and always had the time for a beginner with a question. He was encouraging and genuinely loved the game. Over the years, Andy and I played in 80+ tournaments and too many club games to remember. He was patient in the early years, a little less so as the years went on, but I can safely say he was, in fact, my favorite partner. Amazingly, he told me perhaps 4 years ago, that I was also his (so if he said the same to anyone else, please don’t tell me!)

On April 13, dinner and a special game celebrating Andy’s life will take place at the Bridge Academy II in Thousand Oaks. Dinner begins at 5:30 and the game begins at 7:00. Cost is \$25 per person and seating is limited to 80, so please make your reservation quickly, by calling me at 818-512-1272 or Joan Rubin at 818-681-8995. There will also be a unit game on April 14, also at the Academy, in Andy’s honor.

I know I’m not alone in saying that I miss my friend; indeed, he was our collective friend and his passing has left a void in us all. Rest well, Andy.

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District Awards

Mike Marcucci, District 23 President

Many of our Units over the last few months have congratulated and awarded many of their members the 2018 Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs certificates and pins. These awards are rewarding the efforts of their members and serve as pleasant reminders that a goal was achieved in that particular year.

The awards have traditionally been pins for the Mini-McKenney and certificates for the Ace of Clubs. Units typically have presentations at their Membership parties. According to ACBL, there should be District winner certificates available to me on their web site, but they have not let me access them so far this year! I will be at ACBL HQ in a few weeks and maybe I will have better luck in person.

As everyone should know, the Unit Mini-McKenney awards started in 1974 and the Ace of Clubs awards started in 1984. We will have the D23 historical list on the wall at the Long Beach Regional in July. In the meantime, we'll show you the DISTRICT Top 10 in each category here for the year 2018. Hope you see your name. It would mean you worked hard last year!

Our congratulations, one more time, to all our players.

District 23 Top Ten Ace of Clubs

The Ace of Clubs award is a certificate given to players who earn the most masterpoints in club games during the year. Only black points are counted; points in STaCs and other pigmented points don't count. Neither do "colorless" points awarded in online

play. The ranking level in which you compete is the one in which you started the calendar year.

10000+

1	Aram Bedros	337.8
2	Steve Mager	226.9
3	Steve Gross	178.3
4	Peter Benjamin	170.5
5	Ellen Anten	162.4
6	Rebecca Clough	145.0
7	Roger Clough	95.8
8	Pam Wittes	86.1
9	Bruce Horiguchi	65.8
10	Mike Savage	50.6

7500-10000

1	Andy Vinock	194.7
2	Ifti Baqai	155.0
3	Gil Stinebaugh	147.4
4	Rhoda Himmell	132.3
5	Alex Kolesnik	90.3
6	Dr Sid Brownstein	35.1
7	Bill Sides	23.9
8	Gene White	10.5

5000-7500

1	Jon Yinger	216.6
2	Frances Israel	165.8
3	Danny Kleinman	141.4
4	Ray Mack	140.3
5	Peter Knee	133.9
6	Lewis Himmell	131.7
7	Adrienne Green	131.3
8	Viktor Anikovich	130.6
9	Herman Helber	126.9
10	Marcie Landry-Evans	124.9

3500-5000

1	John Melis	301.1
2	Robert Perlsweig	253.2
3	Jackie Hess	190.1
4	Dominique Moore	167.7
5	John Petrie	166.2
6	Om Chokriwala	163.7

7	Donald Crum	161.9
8	Wayne Karson	156.9
9	Ed Schwartz	138.8
10	Kim Wang	126.5

2500-3500

1	George Welsh	216.5
2	Jo Melis	196.0
3	Valerie Aron	171.5
4	Louis Papp	138.1
5	Claude Le Feuvre	138.1
6	Gerri Carlson	127.8
7	Ted Glaessner	109.7
8	Sheila Bozin	101.7
9	Richard Wasser	94.6
10	Charles Kelley	93.0

1500-2500

1	Kay Tseng	231.5
2	Dwight Hunt	164.6
3	Patrick Cardullo	150.9
4	Sheri Rivera	130.9
5	Susan Raphael	125.0
6	Richard Plumer	122.8
7	Stan Greengard	121.2
8	Anna Benatar	120.2
9	Basant Shah	119.2
10	Richard Weinberger	118.7

1000-1500

1	Joyce Henderson	121.3
2	Rick Turner	121.0
3	Kiyo Nagaishi	120.4
4	Karen Schwartz	112.2
5	Lamonte Johnson	96.8
6	Alyssa Kennedy	95.4
7	Herb Ehrmann	88.5
8	Robert Preece	82.7
9	Kris Sommer	82.7
10	Alan Golden	80.7

500-1000

1	Ray Primus	142.0
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2	Alan Olschwang	138.1
3	Dalia Hernandez	112.0
4	Elaine Godin	92.9
5	Lisa Karako	90.4
6	Fredy Minter	88.3
7	Martin Hurwitz	87.1
8	Kiran Kumar	81.8
9	Gary Baxley	76.9
10	Carol Bell	76.7

300-500

1	Colleen Gardner	103.2
2	Homa Nasser	96.6
3	Ravesh Amar	88.2
4	John Galligher	83.0
5	Beverly McLeod	80.2
6	Jill Thesman	72.0
7	Martin Lipman	68.8
8	Jaclyn Hatfield	63.8
9	Virginia Brewer	62.3
10	Carol Hanson	61.8

200-300

1	Brian Fielding	100.2
2	Jerold Rose	74.3
3	Robert Johann	73.1
4	Russell Gray	66.8
5	James Deflon	66.6
6	John Hagman	60.5
7	Bella Feniger	58.8
8	Jojo Sarkar	55.2
9	Sylvia Kaprelyan	53.8
10	Sadika Elewy	53.3

100-200

1	John Janus	72.4
2	John Vacca	72.2
3	Joan Oliver	57.4
4	Bob Weingarten	52.7
5	Katthy Soltwedell	50.7
6	Robert Lapin	50.2
7	Mike Connell	49.9
8	A D Shah	49.4

9	Nancy Toussaint	48.7
10	Frank Neiman	48.4

 50-100

1	Sylvia Ziman	51.1
2	Tracee Dezutti	41.8
3	Howard Schechter	39.3
4	Paul Chen	34.7
5	Stanley Kangas	33.2
6	Paul Goddard	33.0
7	Larry Feldman	31.1
8	Robert Culbert	31.0
9	Andrea Forman	30.3
10	Kay Maeda	30.1

 20-50

t1	Linda Lin	82.4
t1	Larisa Rappaport	72.9
3	Mark Rappaport	72.9
4	Jack Stewart	58.8
5	Lillian Slater	55.0
6	Bette Gordy	45.4
7	Patricia Sullivan	45.1
8	Lindsay Gronich	34.7
9	Hilary Clark	33.5
10	Katharine Seibert	29.7

 5-20

1	Louis Simmons	54.9
2	Ardis Laine	36.3
3	Martin Petrsek	32.6
4	Judith Cook	31.7
5	Carl Lundgren	27.9
6	James Degner	23.9
7	Dennis Burke	23.2
8	Madhu Singhai	22.8
9	Beth Mary Byrne	21.9
10	Henny Vlessing	21.3

 0-5

1	Ross Bengel	54.8
2	Jim Werner	31.6
3	Karmen Armoudjian	22.9

4	Ron Lu	18.1
5	Ted Dowe	18.0
6	Nava Grutman	15.7
7	Myrna Silton	15.1
8	Sherry Warmath	14.3
9	Frances Gross	14.1
10	Pauline Annakin	13.8

District 23 Top Ten Mini-McKenney

The Mini-McKenney is an award given to players who earn the most overall masterpoints in all games during the year. All points except "colorless" points (those earned in online) play are counted. The ranking level in which you compete is the one in which you started the calendar year.

 10000+

1	Mitch Dunitz	1543.93
2	Billy Cohen	1003.2
3	Ellen Anten	989.8
4	Eric Greco	889.8
5	Steve Gross	878.4
6	John Jones	569.5
7	Rebecca Clough	507.2
8	Aram Bedros	494.2
9	Roger Clough	449.9
10	Steve Mager	424.0

 7500-10000

1	Ifti Baqai	1544.8
2	Alex Kolesnik	869.7
3	Gil Stinebaugh	335.3
4	Andy Vinock	318.5
5	Rhoda Himmell	174.9
6	Dr Sid Brownstein	98.7
7	Bill Sides	53.9
8	Gene White	43.5
9	Steve Onderwyzer	8.6

 3500-5000

1	Om Chokriwala	606.3
2	Robert Perlsweig	463.5

3	Bob Shore	411.0
4	John Melis	348.6
5	John Ramos	317.2
6	Dominique Moore	267.3
7	Robert Bass	262.2
8	Paul Markarian	241.3
9	Donald Crum	236.6
10	Ed Schwartz	226.3

 2500-3500

1	Claude Le Feuvre	331.7
2	Gerri Carlson	328.9
3	George Welsh	259.5
4	Jo Melis	224.9
5	Valerie Aron	218.9
6	Gerry Geremia	209.6
7	Bud Bates	182.1
8	Nelly Gordon	169.1
9	Louis Papp	168.3
10	Joel Schiff	166.8

 1500-2500

1	Dwight Hunt	405.5
2	Kay Tseng	287.7
3	Jim Perkins	265.6
4	Steve Ramos	259.2
5	Jim Lopes	252.4
6	Patrick Cardullo	246.6
7	Basant Shah	235.6
8	Dave White	226.4
9	Tom Reynolds	214.1
10	Michael Klemens	207.2

 1000-1500

1	Rick Turner	270.8
2	Alyssa Kennedy	270.5
3	Joyce Henderson	245.4
4	Kiyo Nagaishi	179.6
5	Bert Stock	146.8
6	Marion Tumen	145.3
7	Phil Feldman	142.8
8	Lamonte Johnson	142.7
9	Judy Hyde	140.6
10	Karen Schwartz	137.4

 500-1000

1	Dalia Hernandez	246.1
2	Laura Gastelum	242.3
3	Alan Olschwang	225.9
4	Elaine Godin	174.0
5	Dawn Lee	170.1
6	Ray Primus	162.8
7	Fredy Minter	159.8
8	Nancie Barrier	146.1
9	Stuart Hemple	132.0
10	Wayne Beagle	126.7

 300-500

1	Saul Prierer	224.9
2	Beverly McLeod	160.3
3	Jill Thesman	159.5
4	Shirley Chang	164.5
5	Colleen Gardner	135.5
6	Jaclyn Hatfield	134.4
7	Homa Nasserri	130.4
8	Ravnesh Amar	120.2
9	Virginia Brewer	111.9
10	Jeff Grotenhuis	111.0

 200-300

1	Alex Wiles	145.0
2	Jerold Rose	137.1
3	Brian Fielding	116.5
4	John Hagman	101.9
5	Lucy Zhang	101.0
6	Robert Johann	100.9
7	Jojo Sarkar	95.2
8	Sharyn Miller	92.2
9	Joyce Roberts	88.2
10	James Deflon	85.9

 100-200

1	John Vacca	148.6
2	John Janus	142.0
3	Joan Oliver	110.2
4	Sophia Chang	99.5
5	Nancy Toussaint	82.6
6	Bernard Seal	80.6

7	Bill Miles	72.6
8	A D Shah	68.6
9	Frank Neiman	65.5
10	Bob Weingarten	65.2

 50-100

1	Sylvia Ziman	94.5
2	Yunkai Song	68.3
3	Larry Feldman	54.9
4	Howard Schechter	51.7
5	Tracee Dezzutti	48.9
6	Stanley Kangas	42.5
7	Paul Chen	40.9
8	Rami Razouk	40.7
9	Rudi Weinberg	39.9
10	Paul Goddard	39.3

 20-50

t1	Larisa Rappaport	163.7
t1	Mark Rappaport	163.7
3	Linda Lin	123.1
4	Jack Stewart	115.1
5	Lillian Slater	93.7
6	Aton Arbisser	70.2
7	Bette Gordy	59.5
8	Susan Morse-Lebow	57.9
9	Patricia Sullivan	52.2
10	Ramani Ravikandan	50.0

 5-20

1	Louis Simmons	70.8
2	Ardis Laine	59.4
3	Judith Cook	44.0
4	Lynne Weinberg	39.2
5	Martin Petrsek	35.3
6	James Degner	35.3
7	Sandra Schlosser	31.1
8	Dennis Burke	29.9
9	Carl Lundgren	29.6
10	Tomoko Stock	29.3

 0-5

1	Ross Bengel	82.9
2	Jim Werner	48.1
3	Karmen Armoudjian	30.9
4	Ron Lu	27.3
5	Ted Dowe	23.4
6	Pauline Annakin	20.2
7	Nava Grutman	18.5
8	Myrna Siltan	18.4
9	Frances Gross	16.7
10	Paggy Shapiro	16.5

Top 30 for D23

Mike Marcucci, D23 President

Missed featuring this list last month. So here's a catch-up.

Each November, the ACBL publishes a list of the Top 100 Lifetime Masterpoint holders. Sometimes they extend that list to 300, and sometimes 500.

Included are many deceased players, many of whom are now legends of the game. D23 has its share of those legends and you can see them on the ACBL list.

What we have on this list are the top 30 for District 23 taken from the ACBL list. A few notes of explanation are warranted. The first name on the list is just for reference. Jeff is not in D23, but his total just shows you the stratospheric range he is in. Our next point is on the colors. Grand life masters are identified in magenta rather than black. Then, lastly, the first group of column standings are the ACBL numbers in green. D23 standings then follow in blue.

So here, fellow players in D23, are our Top 30 MP holders for October 2018. Congrats to all on their hard work and dedication.

1	Jeff Meckstroth	87280
48	Steve Gross	28311
82	Ellen Anten	23626
96	Mitch Dunitz	22381
122	Jill Meyers	20678
132	Eric Greco	19586
176	Rebecca Clough	18063
187	Steve Mager	17629
8	Roger Clough	16348

9	Ed Davis	15299	20	Alex Kolesnik	10526
10	Gerry Bare	15292	21	Aram Bedros	10468
11	Billy Cohen	14670	22	Ifti Baqai	9929
12	Pam Wittes	13151	23	Gil Stinebaugh	9861
13	John Swanson	11326	24	Rhoda Himmell	9493
14	Bruce Horiguchi	11089	25	Andy Vinock	9301
15	John Jones	11078	26	Steve Onderwyzer	8413
16	Jeff Goldsmith	10959	27	Dr Sid Brownstein	8354
17	Peter Benjamin	10940	28	Gene White	8340
18	Eddie Kantar	10892	29	Bill Sides	8191
19	Mike Savage	10887	30	Audrey Currie	8106

From the Director's Chair:

by Tom Lill

First off, a correction: in last month's column, in my second example of when to condone an insufficient call (the 1♥ "equi-call"), I made an egregious error. Sigh. If you do not condone RHO's 1♥ call, your LHO will be barred, since a "correction" to 2♥ would be Michaels (presumably; I've not run across anyone who would play that as natural). So partner will *not* be playing 1♥ doubled. However, 1♥ is still a bad place for partner to be. So, the argument stands: condone the equi-call!

Second ... Jim Perkins, citing the press of business, is relinquishing his spot here. Sigh. We have some possibilities for a replacement ... but if *you* are an experienced Director and would like to share your Wisdom with us ... please get it touch with your Editor. How? Hint: see page 4.

Some Random Director's Thoughts

I don't really have an "article" per se to give you. Just to keep this space warm, I'll share with you some observations.

Alerts: seemingly, the bane of the newer player. This shouldn't be, of course – the Alert system is designed to help the less-experience player, not intimidate him/her. (Arrrrgh, how clumsy. Henceforth, I shall scatter "him" and "her" at random when a pronoun is needed.) A hint for such: ask immediately (at the first legal opportunity) if you really need to know what the alerted bid means. For example, RHO opens 2♦, Alerted by LHO. If you have a stack of diamonds that you wanted to bid, you really need to know. Perhaps it really is a weak two-bid; or perhaps

it is Flannery ("Flannery will get you nowhere"), a mini-Roman, or even a Mexican 2♦. If you don't need to know *right now*, ask before you make the opening lead. You may not need to ask at all; perhaps the subsequent auction will provide the information you need to defend properly.

Fourth Suit: believe it or not, this *always* requires an Alert if it is artificial, i.e., not necessarily promising the named suit. But it seems as if few people give the Alert. That does pose problems when you want to lead that suit! The only good way, I suppose, is to ask for a complete explanation of the auction before the opening lead. Otherwise, your side could be at risk for calling attention to a specific suit. And you cannot assume that a fourth-suit call is truly artificial; there are a few pairs who treat a fourth-suit bid as natural.

Notrump openings and notrump overcalls: for reasons best known to the Powers That Be, notrump opening bids always require an Announcement. But, natural notrump overcalls do not. I'm frequently asked "why." Well, as #6 observed in "The General," "Why is the question which is unanswerable by Man or Machine." (Oh come on, surely you remember *The Prisoner*? Or did Patrick McGoochan live in vain?)

And, neither do I know why 1NT opening bids require an Announcement, but 2NT opening bids (if natural) do not. There's that "why" again ...

Well, fortunately, I'm out of space ... stay tuned to this station, though.

85TH ANNUAL REGIONAL LOS ANGELES SUMMER

JULY 1-7, 2019

023 Youth Day on
Saturday, July 6!
Players 26 and under
PLAY FREE ALL DAY!

TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

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

MONDAY JULY 1ST.

**** Free 2-hour Bridge Workshop**
10:30 am - 12:30 pm
Followed by Lunch

Marjorie Michelin
Grand Life Master

**** Pro Am Game at 1:00 pm**
Card fee for Am's: \$14

**** Please register before June 24.**

Gerri Carlson
gsoffa@aol.com
310-377-0316

NEED A PARTNER?

Jan Wickersham
wickershamjanet@gmail.com
626-487-4014

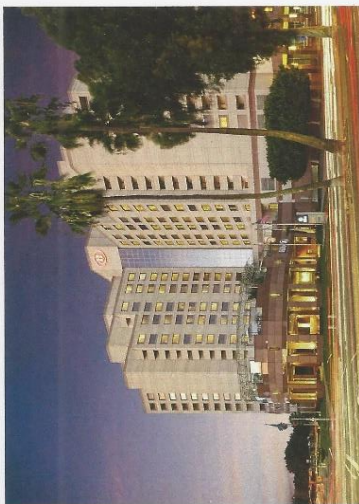
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DIRECTOR-IN-CHARGE:

Ken Horwedel

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



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Self Parking: \$10

Lunch: \$5 for Sunday Lunch

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Monday, July 1, 2019

299er Free Workshop/Lunch (Reserv. Rqd.)..... 10:30 am
 Pro-Am Pairs (Reserv. Rqd.)..... 1:00 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (1 of 6)..... 1:00 pm
 Stratified Charity Pairs..... 7:00 pm
 Starburst KO (1 of 4)..... 7:00 pm

Tuesday, July 2, 2019

AM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 Betsy Ross KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Starburst KO (2 & 3 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Bernie Mateer Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture..... 2:15 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (2 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (1 Session)..... 3:00 pm
 Starburst KO (4 of 4)..... 7:30 pm
 PM Side Game Series (1 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

Wednesday, July 3, 2019

AM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 Firecracker KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Betsy Ross KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Mark Schreiber GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture..... 2:15 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (3 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (1 Session)..... 3:00 pm
 PM Side Game Series (2 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

Thursday, July 4, 2019

AM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 Bracketed Flight A/B/C Swiss Teams (7x7).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Firecracker KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Pat Banks GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture..... 2:15 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (4 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
 PM Side Game Series (3 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

Friday, July 5, 2019

AM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 Walt Otto 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 0-99er Pairs (1 Session)..... 10:00 am
 Liberty Bell KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Cecil Cook Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Guest Lecture..... 2:15 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (5 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (1 Session)..... 3:00 pm
 PM Side Game Series (4 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 6, 2019

AM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 10:00 am
 299er Pairs (Single Session)..... 10:00 am
 Queen Mary Compact KO (1 & 2 of 4)..... 10:00 am
 Liberty Bell KO (3 & 4 of 4).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Open ABC Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm

Saturday, July 6, 2019

GOLD RUSH Pairs (2 Sessions).....
 10:00 am & 3:00 pm
 Aft Side Game Series (6 of 6)..... 3:00 pm
 Queen Mary Compact KO (3 & 4 of 4)..... 3:00 pm
 Stratified Swiss Teams (Single Session)..... 3:00 pm
 Youth Reception..... 6:30 pm
 PM Side Game Series (5 of 5)..... 7:30 pm

Sunday, July 7, 2019

Ft Henry Stratified Fast Pairs (2 sessions).....
 10:00 am & TBA
 Flight A/X/Y Swiss Teams (7 x 7 Boards).....
 10:00 am & TBA
 U562 Player of the Year - Nancy Heck
 Bracketed B Swiss Teams (7 x 7).....
 10:00 am & TBA

Event Colors:

299ers: Orange Teams: Green Pairs: Blue

299er Games Every AM Compact KO on Sat
 Side Games Every Day Swiss Teams Every PM
 Open Pairs Every Day (4 x 6 Boards)
 Gold Rush Pairs Sunday Swiss Teams
 Tu - Sa Done by 6 PM

Stratified Pairs: 0 - 750 / 750 - 3000 / 3000+
 Open ABC Pairs:

0 - 2500 / 2500 - 5000 / 5000+

GOLD RUSH Pairs:

0 - 100 / 100 - 300 / 300 - 750

A/X/Y Swiss Teams:

0 - 3000 / 3000 - 5000 / 5000+

Bracketed B Swiss Teams:

0 - 2500

8 Teams/Bracket: Top 3/Bracket Win Gold

District 23 Rank Changes February 2019

Junior Master

Stephen S. Anderson
 Sandip Bhagat
 Marcia B. Cohen
 Bradley Gallop
 William Gudish
 Linda A. Hanley
 Jonathon M. Lee
 Kavita Nakra
 Naresh K. Nakra
 Ileana C. Shaw
 William B. Shaw
 Timothy V. Singer
 Donald E. Stachniak
 Edward Von Leff

Club Master

Richard L. Borgen
 Galina Diankiva
 Joel L. Levine

Club Master

Cathy G. Martinet
 Michael Rodrigues
 Charlotte A. Roush
 Myrna A. Siltan
 Susie Zeegan
 Di Zheng

Sectional Master

Dennis P. Burke
 Patricia Jaeger
 Susan Lava
 Robert D. Singer
 Marci Valner

Regional Master

Stanley A. Kangas
 Steve A. Mancini
 Elliott B. Mazur
 Louis A. Zgonc

NABC Master

David A. Duke
 Larisa Rappaport
 Mark S. Rappaport
 Bernard D. Seal
 Margaret Shifley

Life Master

Jill C. Thesman

BronzeLife Master

Claudia Cochran

Ruby Life Master

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Finally, the Prize

Mike Marcucci
D23 President

Last summer at the Long Beach Summer Regional, Brian Glubok, from New York City, won our Stoddard Trophy for most MPs for the week. It took a while to get together and actually receive the hardware, but it happened yesterday at the Memphis NABC and Brians's suitcase will be a little heavier on the way home.

Mike Marcucci is shown below presenting Brian with our miniature version of the larger trophy for home use. We again congratulate Brian and all his partners who helped him accumulate all those points & hope he enjoys the memento & comes back to visit us again.



Never Say "Never"

Tom Lill

Not quite in the same vein as previous disclosures, but here's one that came up during an intermediate lesson recently: "A limit bid is *never* forcing!" Sounds trite, but it's true. That's why they are called "limit" bids! They sharply limit the bidder's values, and enable partner to know whether the bidding should continue, or Stop Right Here. (Note, we except artificial bids such as Bergen raises, of course.)

How about, "Never pass a forcing bid?" Hard to argue about this one ... unless you *know* the wheels have come off. I once passed a Blackwood 4NT; it was right to do so, partner had had a momentary lapse. BUT if you pass a forcing bid ... you absolutely *must* be right! No excuses will be accepted in the post-mortem!

Here's an "almost never:" Never let them play 2♥ when they want to. I.e., the auction goes 1♥ – pass – 2♥ – pass – pass, and you are in the pass-out seat. Usually you will strain to do something: bid 2♠, perhaps, or double for takeout. Well ... one time I did that, bid 2♠, and caught both opponents with 4 of them! RHO had a Flannery-type hand, and LHO had a weak hand with some hearts, worth one bid. I believe I went for about 500 on a part-score deal. Oh, well, it's *usually* right to balance!

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

February 24 Unit game. Overall results: 1st in A: Sherman Gao/Robert Micone, 2nd Dalia Hernandez/Jeff Grotenhuis, 3/4 tie Rob Preece/Fern Dunbar and Wenjia Yen/Arvind Sheth, 5th Ray Mack/Robert Daniels, 6th Sankar Reddy/John Petrie. In the B flight overalls Joyce Henderson/Kay Tseng were 5th, Bettyanne Houts/Nancy Toussaint 6th. In the C flight overalls Virginia Brewer/Marlene Felix were 4th. In the 199er game Dee Park/Katie Moore were 1st, Linda Hanely/Marcia Cohen 2nd, Charlotte Roush/Ray Ishaek 3rd, Norm and Kellie Bernd 4th. Congratulations to all!

70+% GAMES Feb 16 through March 15: In open games: Feb 20 John and Suzy Hand had 72.92%, March 5 John Petrie/Sankar Reddy had 70.55%, March 8 (evening) Subba Ravipudi/Iftikhar Maqai had 70.83%. In the Pro-Am game Feb 25 Beth Byrne/Janet Logan had 73.07%, and in the NLM game (16 boards) March 4 Mary Guzzetta/John Kilmer had 76.04%. Congratulations to all five pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS Feb 16 through March 15: In the team game Feb 17 Wayne Rapp/Gabrielle Sill/Bill Clark/Bill Skupen were 1st, each winning 1.30mp. In the big game Feb 20 John and Suzie Hand won 5.63mp or 1st, George Welsh/Cayce Blanchard 4.22mp for 2nd, Jackie Hess/Sankar Reddy 3.17mp for 3rd. In the unit game Feb 24 Robert Micone/Sherman Gao won 4.38mp for 1st, Dalia Hernandez/Jeff Grotenhuis 3.29mp for 2nd. ///////////////Jo Melis/Jon Yinger won 4.52mp for 1st, John Melis/Jackie Hess won 3.39mp for 2nd. In other open games: Jan 22 Alan Olschwang/John Hagman won 4.96 for 1st, Sharon Beiderman/Christine Frumen 3.72mp for 2nd. Jan 25 John and Jo Melis won 6.38mp for 1st, Richard Backovic/Alan Olschwang

4.79mp for 2nd, Karen and Mike McKittrick 3.59mp for 3rd. Feb 5 Fern Dunbar/Carol Murakoshi won 6.00mp for 1st, Hank Dunbar/Rob Preece 4.50mp for 2nd, Phil Schuster/Jackie Hess 3.38mp for 3rd. And Feb 14 Dominique Moore/Bill McClean won 3.35mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: Joanne Armenia, Kellie Bernd, Norm Bernd, Mary Guzzetta, Betty Curtis, Bill McClean, Linda Offenberg. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Club Master: Frances Gross. New Sectional Master: Jim Werner. New Regional Mater Jim Keese. New Life Master: Lynne Danielson. Congratulations to you all!

GET WELL: Jane Reid, Martha Schuster

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

March 24 Unit Game 12:30 Dessert served
April 1 Spring classes begin
April 3 ACBL-wide charity game: Extra points, \$12 card fee
April 7 NLM Sectional
April 12 Bridge Brigade Charity Game: Extra points, \$11 card fee
April 16 Unit-rated game. Extra points, regular card fees.
April 21 Team Game. Easter Lunch--\$3 donation requested
April 25 Bridge Brigade Charity Game: Extra points, \$11 card fee
April 28 Unit Game 12:30 Dessert served

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD

BRIDGE CLUBS

Judy Carter-Johnson

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP--Clubhouse #3
February 21: Fred Reker/Russell Gray 1 in A, 1 in B. Verna Baccus/Larry Slutsky 2 in A. Norma Krueger/Christine Fruman 3 in A. Fern Dunbar/Lavonne McQuilkin 4 in A. Joan Berg/Frances Gross 5 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Jeanette Estill/Bud Parish 6 in A, 3 in B. Winifred Warga/John Hagman 4 in B. Judith Cook/Lawrence Topper 5 in B. Monica and Paul Honey 6 in B, 2 in C. Julie Cunningham/Bill Power 3 in C. Jim and Donna Shaffer 4 in C.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP--Clubhouse #1
 February 22: Al Appel/Judith Jones 1 in A. Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Smith 2 in A. Alan Olschwang/Larry Slutsky 3 in A. Bob Mault/Fred Reker 4 in A. Judy Carter-Johnson/Mark Singer 5 in A, 1 in B, 1 in C. Sue Fardette/Marilyn McClintock 6 in A. Joan Berg/Harriet Weiss 2 in B, 2 in C. Michael Rainer/Dale Rensing 3 in B, 3 in C. Jeanette Estill/Rosemarie Spain 4 in B. Coorie and Jack Dampman 5 in B. Nancy Lichter/Winifred Warga 4 in C.

UNIT RATED GAME – Clubhouse #1
 March 8: Jeanette Estill/Eileen Kotecki 1 in A, 1 in B. Diane Schmitz/Sibyl Smith 2 in A. Joan Tschirki/Al Appel 3 in A. Dorothy Favre/Fred Reker 4 in A. Barbara Wallace/Gary Paugh 5 in A. Sylvia Kaprelyan/Ellen Kice 6 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Joyce Basch/Nancy Lichter 3 in B, 2 in C. Jack Dampman/George Koehm 4 in B, 3 in C. Louise Seifert/Stam Johnson 4 in C.

CONDOLENCES to the family and friends of Verna Becker.

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) 594-9698. Thursday—Sharon Beran (562)308-7838or 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— Sharon Beran (562) 308-7838 or email hbsharonb@gmail.com. Saturday—Judith Jones (714) 840-2300—(between 9am and 9pm only!) or her email: mikrojones@aol.com. Any news for next month's column, please e-mail me at jc90740@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 April 27, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
 Individual: Saturday, April 6, 9:30 a.m., Chino

That's right, our monthly Unit game is a week late this month. We didn't want to bung up the Easter weekend for anyone.

The top finisher in the March Individual was Gino Barbieri, with a 63.54% effort. Richard Patterson was second, followed by Linda Tessier, Penny Barbieri, and Dale Quasny rounding out the top 5.

The March Unit game was won by Fredy and Lulu Minter. In second we find Joseph Viola – Amr Elghamry, with Chuck Lohr partnering Yours Truly right behind them. Paul Chrisney – Linda Tessier were fourth, and two pairs tied for the final spot atop the honors list: Wendy Wanderman – Bridget O'Sullivan, and Gail Leroy – Stephen Dorse.

One again, three pairs reached the magic 65% mark in March. Vic Sartor – Bill Papa had the top score, 68.08%. Just squeaking over the bar were Norma Appley – Al Lax, with 65.28%, and hitting it on the nose were Fredy and Lulu Minter.

Other winners were, Claudia Cochran, Marjorie Preston, Karen Olin, Mary Miller, Karen McCarthy, Linda Stuart, Roger Boyar, Linda Tessier, Sue Aspley, Steve Mancini, Paul Chrisney, Margie Hall, Linda Ananea, Esther Johnson, Dominique Moore, Amr Elghamry, Joe Viola, and Yours Truly.

The top 5 masterpoint earners in March were Roger Boyar, 8.27; Richard Patterson, 6.36; Linda Tessier, 4.59; Hanan Mogharbel, 4.41; and Yours Truly, 4.25.

Two promotions this month: Steve Mancini made Regional Master, and Claudia Cochran is now a Bronze Life Master. Congratulations to both of you.

We send Get Well Soon wishes to Clint Lew, who must have celebrated (or something) a bit too much at Mardi Gras, and banged up an ankle pretty badly. That was just the start; he's now (as I write this) in the hospital with sepsis of the right knee.

Bridge is a bidder's game, they say. Well, "they" say a lot of things. Not all of them are 100% ...

South deals, both vulnerable. You, North, are looking at:

♠QJ5 ♥K3 ♦65 ♣AKQJ54.

After two passes, it seems like a normal 1♣ opening, so that's what you do. East overcalls 1♠. Partner passes (what else is new?), and West chimes in with 1NT. Over to you.

Well, you surely have six club tricks. What else do you have? A partner who is surely broke! East has something for a vulnerable overcall, and West must be showing around 10 HCP. If you stick your nose in with 2♣, you will make seven tricks; partner has ♥Qxxx and 9 other, useless, cards. -100. If you keep *shtum*, you will take 7 tricks (your six clubs and either a heart or a spade), for +100.

Perhaps the most amusing thing is, if West is the one who lies low, you will surely come back in with 2♣. Bridge is a funny game. Hah, hah, hah.

BTW, West's club "stopper" was ♣10xxx. Well, it's reasonable to assume that the suit might block or that partner might provide somethine. Not this time!

Quote for the month: "If you really want to test a faith healer, tell him you want a smaller shoe size." (George Carlin)



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

This year's Magic Mountain Sectional will be held on September 21st and 22nd at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita. For more information, contact tournament chair, Gay Gipson (gegipson@gmail.com)

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs Results from Monday, March 11th:

North/South

First with 67.14%	Gil Franklin – Fran Franklin
Second with 64.80%	Irwin Novick – George MacDonald

Third with 57.48%	Judy Smith – Phoebe Evans
4/5 Tie with 56.96%	Carol Trendera – Gary Trendera
	Beverly McLeod – John Vacca

East/West

First with 59.22%	Roy Ladd – Bert Stock
Second with 58.76%	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin
Third with 57.52%	Bill Brodek – Robert McBroom
Fourth with 55.43%	Harkirat Randhawa – Alan Nueman
Fifth with 53.88%	Roshen Hadulla – Lamonte Johnson

STaC Game Results from Monday, March 3rd:

First N/S with 61.17%	Irwin Novick and George MacDonald
Second N/S with 59.47%	Carol Trendera and Gary Trendera
Third N/S with 57.39%	Sharry Vida and Beth Morrin
First E/W with 59.28%	Harkirat Randhawa and Alan Nueman
Second E/W with 56.63%	Roy Ladd and Bert Stock
Third E/W with 54.55%	Deanna Kean and Jan Ladd

STaC Game Results from Tuesday, March 5th:

First N/S with 61.86%	Lamonte Johnson and Ted Maki
Second N/S with 51.27%	John Langer and Jeff Chang
Third N/S with 50.63%	Aggi Oshin and Viviane Dinehart
First E/W with 59.58%	Roshen Hadulla and Dave Khalieque
Second E/W with 58.47%	Scott Gluck and Ed Lecher
Third E/W with 55.16%	Roy Ladd and Ruth Baker

STaC Game Results from Thursday, March 7th:

First with 56.67%	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin
2 nd /3 rd Tie with 56.25%	Ted Maki – Roshen Hadulla
	Ruth Baker – Anita Walker
Fourth with 55.83%	Barbara Jones – Tom Jones

**STaC Game Results
from Friday, March 8th:**

First with 55.95% Sharry Vida – Henry Roediger
2nd/3rd/4th tie with 53.57% Les Spitz –
Phoebe Evans
Rosalee McEntyre – Kay Aiken
Helen Basile – Beth Morrin

**STaC Game Results
from Sunday, March 10th:**

First with 61.46% Sharry Vida – Henry Roediger
2nd/3rd tie with 60.94% Rosalee McEntyre –
Kay Aiken
Ruth Baker – Beth Morrin

Upcoming Events:

Western Conference STaC games: May 6-12
World Wide Bridge Contest: Friday, June 7th at 12:30
at Joshua Tree
Longest Day Games: Monday, June 16th at the Senior
Center in
Santa Clarita and Friday, June 21st at Joshua Tree in
Palmdale
Instant Matchpoint Game, Monday, July 8th, 12:30 PM
at the Senior Center in Santa Clarita



**San Fernando
Valley
by Linda Silvey**

April 6: Unit 561 Awards Luncheon/Game

A Unit 561 Mini-McKenney/Ace of Clubs Awards Celebration will be held on Saturday, April 6, at The 750 Club. The buffet lunch will be served at 12noon, followed by the presentation of awards at 12:45 p.m., and then an Open, Stratified game at 1:00 p.m. The fee is \$13 and reservations are required. A sign-up sheet will be available at The 750 Club in March or email Marcia Broderick at marciabroderick@gmail.com (by April 3) for reservations/partnerships.

Unit 561 April 16 Unit Game Report

A very successful Unit 561 luncheon and bridge game was held on Saturday, February 16, at The 750 Club in Woodland Hills. The delicious luncheon was provided by the Unit 561board, organized by Marcia Broderick, President, and Susan Raphael,

Hospitality Chair. A bridge game of 28 tables was held after the buffet lunch and ably directed by Mike Fierman.

Winners in the Open bridge game were: NS – Ellen Anten- Andrew Vinock 65.69%, Ray Primus-Rhonda Rundle 59.99%, Naum Grutman-Nava Grutman 58.03%, Joel Schiff-Janet Wickersham 57.81%, and Bette Gordy-Donna Bauer 57.63%; EW – Steve Gross-Robert Bass 73.40 %, Craig Kavin-Larry Brasler 70.96%, Mark Peters-Sin Orensztein 64.29%, Samantha Macdouglass-Susan Morse-Lebow 61.45%, and Gloria Malkin-Ronald Malkin 59.00%.

Special Congratulations

Recent Life Master Accomplishments by Unit 561 players were: Carol Levin and Sin Orensztein (Life Master); Barbara Astrin and M.J. Jubelirer (Bronze); Helen Malzer (Ruby – 1,500); and Joel Schiff (Sapphire – 3,500).

February Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club were: Michael Klemens 11.51, Norman Bloomfield 10.80, Ray Primus 10.17, Ravnesh Amar 9.81, Jerry Rose 9.81, Dwight Hunt 9.73, Susan Raphael 8.78, Ronald Malkin 8.68, Alan Golden 8.40, and Gloria Malkin 8.01. The following pairs achieved 70% games: Doni Sidell-Ray Primus 73.68%, Steve Gross-Robert Bass 73.40%, and Craig Kavin-Larry Brasler 70.96%.

April and June Special Events at The 750 Club

Club Championship Week will be held during the week of April 15-19. Winning players will be able to earn extra black points for no extra fees during the day and evening sessions.

On Friday, June 7, the Annual “Carol Lang” Game will be held in honor of the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike, who started The 750 Club in 2006. Winners will each receive an award certificate and their names will be engraved on the memorial plaque. Advance reservations will be required for this event.

“Longest Day” Games will be held on Friday, June 21 at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. All proceeds, including card fees and additional contributions, will be donated to the “Alzheimer’s Association.”

Calendar

Saturday, April 6, Unit 561 Mini-McKenney-Ace of Clubs Awards Luncheon and Game will be held at 12noon, The 750 Club, Woodland Hills. See information above.

Monday-Friday, April 15-19, will be Club Championship Week at The 750 Club.

Tuesday, May 21, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Friday, June 7, the Annual "Carol Lang" Game will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Friday, June 21, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., "Longest Day" Games will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.



West LA by Robert Shore

Two for the Price of One

My apologies for not getting a column turned in for last month's paper. My only excuse is that life happened. I'm afraid it may continue to happen from time to time, but I'll keep trying to fill this space with news from our Unit. I'll stuff this month's column with all the news I'd intended to publish last month.

Keep Your Calendars Clear

After a very long search, we believe we have found a location to hold our Unit's next Sectional. We have reached a tentative agreement with the Culver City Elks Club to serve as our hosts. We will hold the tournament Memorial Day weekend, May 28 and 29. Watch this space for further developments or keep your eye out for a tournament flyer.

The Long Way Home

We have a lot of tournament reports to deliver over the last two months. We'll start at the Albuquerque Regional where Mike Mikyska won the Friday Daylight Pairs event. Making a left turn, we'll continue to the Riverside Regional where the team of Jim Brunet, Alex Wiles, Nancy Heck, and Karen Byrd enjoyed victory lane and their bracket of the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams event, and then shared the victory in their bracket of the Thursday Bracketed Swiss Teams event. Not to be outdone, John Ramos won his bracket of the Wednesday-Thursday Knockout Teams. At the Laguna Sectional, Alex Kolesnik won the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams.

Catching up with the present, Alex Kolesnik and John Ramos had a monster tournament at the Tuscon Regional. They won the Saturday Compact Knockout Teams, the Sunday A/X/Y Swiss, and, together with Sharon Beynon, their bracket of the Friday Bracketed Swiss Teams. At the San Diego Sectional, Ifti Baqai won the Saturday morning Open Pairs. Preferring the desert, Robert and Sandy Carroll played the Palm Desert Sectional where they won the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs. Your Humble Scribe picked up a win in the Sunday morning Open Pairs at the Redwood City Sectional, and also took top honors in the Wednesday evening event of the STAC. Ifti Baqai won the Friday evening STAC, and Aram Bedros and Peter Benjamin topped the field in the Sunday afternoon event.

Welcome Mat

Raymond Coen, Zizi Ensha, Gerard Frankel, and Irwin Grossman are four brand new members of the ACBL in our Unit. Joining us from other Units are Carol Gillam, Damina Kulash, and Rona Schneider. Please give them all a warm West Los Angeles welcome when you see them at the table.

Around the Clubs

This section of the column relies on the help of my behind-the-scenes elves to scan the Club's Web sites and forward me news of interest. Unfortunately, that wasn't able to happen this month so I'm not able to report this month's club news. If anyone would care to volunteer for the role of elf, please contact me via my e-mail address, published at the end of all my columns.

Climbing the Ladder

Our Unit's newest Junior Masters include new Beverly Hills Bridge Club Board Chair Tim Deegan and Glenda Zelichov. Jill Smith has become a Club Master and Bernice Leve and David Swartz have reached Sectional Master status. Aton Arbisser is now a Regional Master.

Angelika Hederer has become a Silver Life Master. Sally Aminoff is now a Gold Life Master. Congratulations to all on your accomplishments.

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

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

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

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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♣.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">2</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs None Vul</div>		<u>North</u> 1♦ ???	<u>East</u> 3♣	<u>South</u> double	<u>West</u> 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 the panelist who rebids a 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.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">3</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs Both Vul</div>	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 of ♦ 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 an old LM Pairs. 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.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">4</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs None Vul</div>	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♣.

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Matchpoints
E-W Vul.

North	East	South	West
pass	pass	1♦	pass
1♠	pass	3♦	pass
???			

You, North, hold: ♠K983 ♥A92 ♦void ♣K108642

What call do you make?

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.

This hand was given to me by a reader. I did get the hand slightly wrong by adding the ♥9. My reader tried 3NT, and went down when the ♦AKJTxxx didn't run. She gave the hand to several players at the nationals, and the consensus among the palyers, including some world class foreigners, was overwhelmingly in favor of passing 3♦.