

Southern California

Bridge News

Volume 55, #6

June 2019

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New England Travels

by Mike Marcucci



It is always fun to play in other parts of the country. I hope many of you already do spread out your playing time or have plans to in the future. It's even better than going to a nearby club instead of your regular club to enjoy the variety. I am fortunate to be able to visit New England pretty often because of family and always have time for a little bridge. The NE accents are amusing. I grew up with them so it really feels like old home week. Hard to decide whether I'm in a bridge club or in Fenway Park from the chatter. The question today is: what are the differences and similarities about the bridge.

A) Hand records. This has proven very popular. All games at the local club are on-line and very quickly I might add. You can check out all those results the same night. Ideal? Not really. This method doesn't let you and your partner do the comparisons right away like actual hand records do. On line is easy for the director and saves paper. A dealing machine is not used at the club because the boards are aluminum; lots of work to make up the boards by hand. I've been that route. Tournament boards are the fancy plastic so the machines are in use.

PRESIDENT continued on page 2

Important Message about Bridge Week Hotel Rooms

In order to get the special Bridge rate for your stay at the Long Beach Hilton, you have to go through the Hotel's reservation system. Also, remember to mention "ALACBU," and if that does not work, try "Bridge Tournament." If neither of those works ... get in touch with our Tournament Manager, Peter Benjamin. By email: ahoneydo@aol.com; or by phone: 310-720-6050.

District Director Report

June 2019

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



Thank you to Carol Robertson.

Carol Robertson is no longer Director of Club Services at ACBL. I thank her for her service.

Carol has worked hard to support clubs during her long tenure as an ACBL employee. Many of the club managers in our district have noted that Carol has been a useful direct link to solve tricky problems in running a bridge club. I saw Carol regularly at ACBL board meetings; the work I did as chair of the club task force was stimulated by a survey Carol conducted on the state of clubs.

District elections

Our district officer elections will be held in July at the Long Beach regional. I'm very pleased that three qualified candidates have expressed interest in the District Presidency. At the same time, I continue to solicit volunteers for District Treasurer. Please contact me if you have an interest as treasurer. And I welcome contact about the Vice President and Secretary positions as well.

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there. Hand records were printed on multi-colored sheets. Hooray.

B) Attire. Maybe it's the weather & folks need to keep warmer but, whatever the reason, there are very few shorts & t-shirts back here. Folks are dressed in the party casual style with the women making a special effort to look neat and attractive. I am reminded of the "old days" in LA. Later in the summer, the styles may change where the temperatures rise to the uncomfortable level but they never do get much higher than the mid-80s on the southern shore. Boston is another story. For the men, lots of Red Sox, MIT, Celtics, & Patriots insignia on jackets & sport shirts. Lots of team spirit back here & rewarded with lots of success. Red Sox were champions last year & the Bruins play for the Stanley Cup starting this week. Amazing record for sports in a relatively small area.

C) Behavior. After playing 6 times, I cannot say that I have heard a single harsh word spoken. Maybe I hit folks at a good time! It is springtime. Flowers are blooming. Everything is green. Bruins in the playoffs. Tourist season has not started yet so no traffic jams. Good spirits all around.

D) BridgeMates. The folks in Boston and at our local club in Newport have the BridgeMates turned to OFF as far as individual hand scores go. In fact, the majority opinion was that they FIRMLY liked it that way. Wow, what a difference from D23 where it is a constant source of friction between folks that want to see all those scores and those who feel it slows down the game, etc., etc. The people interactions back here were more social rather than related to the last hand. Is it possible that the theory works? If we turn off those infernal scores that do nothing but stir up what-if's, further chattering about leads, opinions of what happened at the other table, why someone did not get to the best contract, ad infinitum, is it possible that players actually do put the hand behind them & think forward, not backwards? Since the folks back in this area are used to NOT having scores on which to comment, is all the socializing that I witnessed the product of moving forward, of stimulating & promoting sociability and better friendship in the group rather than more results discussions which crowd out any attempt at social interaction? I vote for OFF as beneficial to our game and a good thing! If we think in the long-term, it should be worth trying.

E) Director calls. Very few around my tables. The normal minor infractions seemed to be handled quickly & quietly.

F) Cell phones. About the same as LA. Forgiveness at the club level, though still those icy stares at folks who violate. At tournaments, not so forgiving. Penalties if the directors see one. I like it!

G) Snacks. Many delicious donut holes, cheese/crackers, fruit, popcorn, lemonade, punch & coffee at the tournament. Pre-buy of lunch was terrific. They collected sandwich orders at 10AM & issued tickets. At 1PM, the tix were exchanged & you moved to the condiments table where all the fixings were there self-serve. At \$8 for drink, chips, and sandwich, it was a delicious bargain. Quality was just as good as Subway & just as fresh. Club offerings are average, with coffee & tea, of course, and a variety of cookies, cakes, and pastries. No chips or fruit!

H) Entry still only \$11 for sectional & \$8 for the Club. Pretty good value for my money. Thanks to a great partner, even picked up a few MPs.

Overall, it is very enjoyable to play in NE. Of course, I have that personal connection with the participants. I lived in Boston for 5 years back in the 70's and grew up in RI, so I love the folks that live here and make NE what it is. The mid-west probably impresses someone from that locale very similarly. My one big take-away is about those pesky B-Mates. I like to think long-term so, if my conclusions are valid, I would like to recommend to every director and club owner in D23 that they disable that score-showing feature for their games and observe for a reasonable length of time whether their games become more social and LESS business-like. It is NOT all about the scores, folks. It is all about enjoying your friends and our game.

July Regional at the Long Beach Hilton is right around the corner. Hope everyone is making plans and looking forward to our hospitality. See you there.

DIRECTOR continued from page 1*Las Vegas NABC*

In late July-- and just weeks after our Long Beach regional-- Las Vegas will host a national bridge tournament at the Cosmopolitan hotel and resort. The Cosmopolitan is a step or two above prior Las Vegas venues, and Las Vegas nationals are generally very

well attended which makes an enjoyable tournament for all involved.

I particularly encourage newer players to attend the Las Vegas nationals. Las Vegas and San Diego are the closest nationals to our district for the next several years, and there are plenty of events oriented to newer bridge players.

Feel free to contact me at klaned23@gmail.com

Statements from Candidates for District President

Stan Holzberg

To the bridge players of District 23:

It has been almost 40 years since I last ran for President of District 23. When I left the office we had two regionals per year. One regional had about 7,000 tables and the other about 5,000. We also had a healthy treasury, a healthy bridge-playing population and a friendly hotel situation. Times have certainly changed.

We are faced with an aging population (I am a prime example) and a difficult playing site problem with the exception of the Long Beach Hilton. Neither of these situations are news to the individuals who not only play but also devote their time and energy to the continuation of bridge not only in our district but nationally as well. The national organization, as well as the district, is devoting resources to try to increase the interest in the game we all love to play. All districts and the ACBL, as well, have a problem with rising hotel rates and finding hotels and other locations willing to accommodate a tournament at a reasonable cost.

At the district level I will focus my attention on a more compact Board of Directors meeting, maintaining and increasing interest in becoming a volunteer and investigating avenues of increasing district income. This last item would include holding a joint regional with District 22 in the near future.

I would look forward to serving the district again as President and using my prior experience as a foundation for leading the district again.

Bob Shore



I'm Bob Shore, and I'm running for President (of District 23). I'm running because I believe in the power of inspiration. I'm running because I believe in the power of collaboration. And I'm running because I want to use my vision, my talents, and my connections to help us grow our game and our community.

I believe in the power of inspiration. We are a volunteer organization. Just the basic functions of a District – holding tournaments and spreading the news – require a lot of contributions from a lot of people. And then, of course, there's the always-present challenge of growing the game by cultivating new players. All this work requires many hands or it simply won't get done.

My aspiration is to inspire many people to contribute to our District's growth and success. I am particularly hopeful of inspiring those who may not have volunteered in the past, and those who used to contribute but now prefer to spend their time in other ways. I have been heartened, over the last few months, by the number of people who have approached me urging me to run for this position and promising to volunteer their time and efforts for the District if I do so. And I am downright proud of the number of opponents who have told me they enjoy having me at their table. I hope that the good feelings I try to spread wherever I go, and my practice at respecting the time of people with very busy lives, will translate to more volunteer efforts on behalf of our District.

I believe in the power of collaboration. If you know me, you know that my playing schedule is peripatetic. I regularly play at clubs all around the County and at tournaments all around the state. This has given me good relationships with many of the people in our own District and with many people in nearby Districts as well.

And I've kept my eyes open. I see the success people like Jeff Grotenhuis, Art and Diane Gulbrandson, and the Beverly Hills Bridge Club have enjoyed in growing our game. I've seen tournaments throughout the state flourish. For instance, did you know that the annual "Firecracker Sectional" in San Jose typically boasts approximately 1000 tables? Those who have enjoyed success have proved eager to share their knowledge, and sometimes more tangible help, toward our common goal of expanding the game

to a new generation of players. I'd like to take full advantage of their knowledge.

I want to grow our game and our community. Our District Director, Kevin Lane, has been singing this song for a long time. We have fewer bridge players per capita in District 23 than almost every other District in the ACBL. When I started playing, I referred to Los Angeles County as the country's "bridge capital," but that is clearly no longer the case. I believe that it can be again, though. Our neighbors to the north in District 21 have enjoyed great success expanding the game in the Silicon Valley. I can't think of any reason we can't enjoy similar success with Silicon Beach. The efforts of Debbie Rosenberg in growing youth bridge in the Silicon Valley have become legendary. We have the same raw materials for growth in our District. I'd like to aspire to the same results.

I'm Bob Shore and I'm running for President. I hope that you will see fit to grant me your support.

Paula Olivares

Paula Olivares for D23 President



Qualifications: organized, people skills, leadership skills, runs well organized meetings, forms consensus and keeps people motivated and on task.

Experience:

- retired corporate manager (ATT),
- former board member, (Wm S Hart High School District – elected 2 terms, 8 years).
- Wealth of experience leading teams, chairing meetings, using technology to improve functionality (conference calls, dropbox, paperless filing and communication) and brings positive attitude and energy to the table.

Bridge Experience:

- Bridge Club owner/manager/director: Baja Bridge Club (5 years), Friendly Bridge Club (8 years)
- ACBL certified Bridge Teacher (12 years), Rosarito Beach, Mx, Valencia, CA, Cruise ships (26 cruises)
- Unit 556 current President (5 years)
- District 23 current Secretary, past Unit Representative, past District Webmaster

My priorities are the District must be financially sound, support bridge Clubs of LA County and bridge players of LA County. In addition the District is guided by a District Charter to organize regional tournaments, send entries to National events (NAP, GNT) and publish monthly newsletter.

If you are a Unit Representative to District 23, please attend the next District meeting on July 6th in Long Beach and vote for me.

😊😊😊😊😊😊😊😊

No doubt, you've heard the old adage, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away." Well old bridge players never die. But they do lose their finesse.

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Southern California Bridge News

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From the Director's Chair: *by Brian Richardson*

Some more decisions to be made by the Director when Declarer wishes to change the card played from Dummy...

South is playing in a contract of 4♥. He leads the ♥Jack from his hand towards Dummy's AQ95. The Jack wins the trick and he next plays the Ten towards Dummy. He calls "sma.." and then suddenly sees that West has played the King. Declarer then attempts to change the "sma.." card he called for and substitute it with the Ace. Sorry South you may NOT change the card you called for. There was nothing inadvertent about your play! At the time Declarer called for a card to be played from Dummy – he intended to play a small ♥. The problem was that Declarer made a call before he recognized that West had played the ♥King.

Another similar example is one in which North is Declarer is in a 4♠ contract and East has led the top 3 ♥s. Declarer has followed and, with only 2 ♥s in Dummy, he has called for a "ruff" of the third ♥. Unfortunately, West has already ruffed with the ♠9, and Dummy's trump cards are all smaller than the 9. Declarer now attempts to change his mind and says "play a ♣". Again, there was nothing inadvertent in Declarer's play. He intended to ruff in Dummy. Painful as it may well be a trump must be played from Dummy.

In both of these examples Declarer called for a card from Dummy BEFORE he had become aware of the card played on his left. In each case the result was a "self-inflicted wound".

Sometimes the Director has to do a bit more investigation before he can come up with the correct decision. In this example South is playing in a 3NT contract and, at Trick Two, has played the ♣Ace, felling the singleton King in Dummy. He next plays the ♣Queen, calling for a ♠ from Dummy. When Dummy detaches the ♠6, Declarer says "No, I meant a ♥." The Director is called to the Table and discovers that Declarer had pointed to the ♥ suit on Dummy's right when he called for a ♠, the suit which was on Dummy's left. The nonverbal cue of pointing at one suit while naming another is strong evidence that the call was inadvertent. The Director's correct decision is to allow the play of the ♥ from Dummy.

What is Dummy Permitted to Do?

Dummy has some Rights and Obligations and a number of Limitations.

Rights. Dummy must play the card designated by Declarer. Dummy should keep track of the tricks won and lost. Dummy should draw attention to a card pointed incorrectly BUT only before the lead to the next trick is made. Dummy should ask Declarer (but ONLY Declarer) about a possible revoke he may have made. Dummy may attempt to prevent Declarer from leading from the wrong hand. Dummy may provide information if the Director is called to the Table. Dummy may draw attention to any irregularity after play has finished. [It is important to note that if a Claim or Concession is made, the Law usually requires play to cease. There is an exception, added to the 2017 revision of the Laws. If any player disagrees with the claim/concession, play may continue if (and only if) all four players agree. See Law 68.D.2.b for further details. If you are so inclined.]

Obligations. At the conclusion of the bidding, Declarer AND Dummy are required to correct any incorrect explanations that either may have given. This should be done before the opening lead has been made, and may well involve the Director. When the opening lead has been made Dummy is required to spread his hand on the table, face-up, sorted into suits, in columns pointed toward Declarer, with cards in order of rank with the lowest card nearest Declarer. Trumps, if any, are placed on Dummy's right. When play is finished, and the result agreed Dummy should count and shuffle his cards and place them in the correct pocket of the Board.

Limitations Dummy may NOT initiate a Director Call during the play UNLESS one of the other players has drawn attention to an irregularity. Dummy may NOT draw attention to an irregularity during play. Dummy may NOT ask for a review of the auction. Dummy may NOT request an explanation of a specific bid, or request an explanation of Defenders carding agreements. Dummy may NOT state, or ask for, the contract during play. Dummy may NOT ask Declarer what card to play if Declarer designates a suit but does not nominate the card – the lowest card is to be played. Dummy may NOT ask a defender, during the play,

about a possible revoke. Dummy may NOT touch or otherwise indicate a card to be played before Declarer has nominated a card.

While Dummy has some restrictions on the actions he can take, he is an IMPORTANT member of the partnership. He can be extremely helpful in checking whether partner indeed has no cards in the suit led, and to which partner has played a card of another suit. He can also stop partner from attempting to lead from the wrong hand. If Dummy has departed from the table during play to, for instance, get a cup of coffee, he is unable to carry out the duties of Dummy. Indeed, in the Laws of Bridge it is stated that it is a violation of procedure or a player to leave the table needlessly BEFORE the round is finished.

Tom Ciacio ... RIP

It is with so much sorrow in my heart and the inability to process this that I inform you of Tom's passing earlier today. While setting up for the Sunday Swiss game at the Visalia Sectional, where he was directing, Tom suddenly collapsed from a heart attack and was not able to be revived.

Tom meant so much to me personally and helped Bridge Academy II and all of the Directors in so many ways. He was an expert director with computer skills that saved our bacon so many times!

Tom will be sorely missed by myself and so many others in the bridge community but will be remembered as a very kind man with a dry but good sense of humor!

If Tom's and those who have passed and been diagnosed before him this year have not taught us to NOT take anything for granted, then we're not paying attention!

I am so sorry to have to bring you this VERY sad news tonight and will keep you posted as to any service information!

With love and hope,

Alan Curtis

So, You Want to Be a Director?

by Your Editor

This is a true story. As Mark Twain remarked, Truth is stranger than Fiction. That's because fiction has to make sense.

Just when you think you've seen everything, something like this comes along.

I was directing an Individual movement some years ago. The first round went without incident. (That's almost noteworthy in and of itself, of course.) In the movement in use, boards sat out one round after being played, then moved to the next table. So, we turn our attention to round three. First hand: four – count 'em, FOUR – director calls from a table which had received boards which had been played in round 1. What? I moseyed on over, “yes, how can I help?” “We all have only 12 cards.” We looked in the tray. Nope. Looked on the floor. Nope. Looked at the previous table. Nope. Looked on the bye stand, even. Nope! Where were the missing cards? It turns out, they were in the side room where the boards had been dealt! Don't ask me! One whole trick, missing from the deal. Maybe they played a hand in there before dealing it out.

But I've saved the best for last. At the first table the board was played, and scored, as 4♥ making four, and not one person noticed a problem. Mind you, these were not beginners. There were at least two Life Masters at that table. And, I can produce a witness to this story, should you doubt my complete veracity.

I will always wonder: did declarer take 10 tricks ... or lose 3???

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

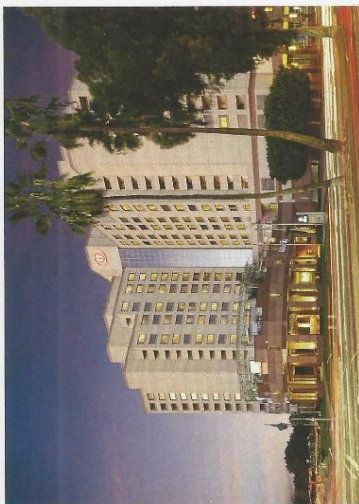
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Ken Horwedel

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



HILTON LONG BEACH

701 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA

Room Rate: \$144 (Free Wifi) Please Refer to ALACBU
Reservation must be made by Monday, June 10.

800-445-8667 or 562-983-3400

Card Fees: \$14 for ACBL Members

\$18 for expired ACBL Members.

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

Self Parking: \$10

Lunch: \$5 for Sunday Lunch

Sanction Number: R1907033

Background Photo Credit: Long Beach Convention & Visitor's Bureau



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 **D23 Youth Day**
 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 April 2019

Junior Master

Cory C. Brendel
Ann T. Chappel
Elizabeth F. Kula
Zbibniew Kula
Susan F. Moley
Sally O'Mara
Michael E. Powell
C. C. Pulitzer-Lemann
Linda Stagen
Osmond Wen

Club Master

Raymond Boncato
Danielle Dina
Teresa Dubernet
Diane Harris
Barry Sinsheimer
Larry Wisinski
Jeof H. Wyrick
Shelly I. Zirkes

Sectional Master

Susan J. Briest
William C. Cray
Andre Di Marco
Carolyn K. Hatten
Patricia J. Staub

Regional Master

Ardis K. Laine
Barbara V. Wallace

NABC Master

Susan Morse-Lebow
Susan C. Prescott

Advanced NABC Master

John S. Hagman
George Tien

Life Master

John Vacca

BronzeLife Master

Rashmi K. Shah

Silver Life Master

Bill T. Brooks
Karen Byrd
Phillip W. Calloway
Nancy R. Conger
Sumit K. Daftuar

Ruby Life Master

Edward C. Hsi
Thomas J. Shudic

Gold Life Master

David White

Sapphire Life Master

Louis N. Shen

Diamond Life Master

Xingping Kang

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Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Jon Yinger

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

April 28 Unit game. Overall results: 1st in A: Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth, 2nd Steve Ramos/Ed Piken, 3rd Kevin Lane/Robert Shore, 4th JoAnne and Calvin Waller, 5th Kay Tseng/Wayne Rapp, 6th Virginia Brewer/Nancy Toussaint, 7th Xingpin Kang/Weishu Wu. In the B flight overalls Mary Williams/Adrienne Sarmiento were 4th, Glen and Caryn Musicer 5th, Janet Logan/Michael Marcucci 6th. In the C flight overalls Sandra Schlosser/Julie Deluccio were 4th, Carol Herzlinger/Fred Willbanks 5th. In the 199er section Jack Stewart/E Ruttenberg were 1st in A, Bill Cray/Michael Black 1st in B, and Priscilla Cailloutte/Eric Kaplan 1st in C. Congratulations to all!

70% GAMES April 16 through May 15: In open games: May 1 April Berg/Betty Harris had 69.87%, May 6 Bruce Horiguchi/Jack Waller had 72.80%. And in the NLM game May 4 Jim Werner/Bill Heck had 72% and on May 13 in the NLM game John Kilmer/John Benson had 75%. Congratulations to all four pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS April 16 through May 15: In the big game April 16 Jackie Hess/Cory Hand won 4.67mp for 1st, John Melis/Kay Tseng 3.50mp for 2nd. In the open game April 25 Marcie Evans/Betty McClellan won 3.21mp for 1st. In the Unit Game April 28 Eva Mroz/Penny Wentworth won 5.83mp for 1st, Steve Ramos/Ed Piken 4.37mp for 2nd, Kevin Lane/Robert Shore 3.28mp for 3rd. In the open game May 13 Kiyo Nagaishi/Bill McClean won 3.50mp for 1st. In the open game May 13 John Petrie/Louis Shen won 4.87mp for 1st, Hank Dunbar/Rob Preece won 3.50mp for 2nd. And in the team game April 21 the team of Kay Tseng/Pamela

Cole/May Mack/Bill McClean was 1st, each team member winning 0.60 mp. Congratulations to all!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS: Yvonne Kroneberger, Darlene Oliver, Pamela Peters. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Sectional Master: Sandra Schlosser. Congratulations Sandra!

GET WELL: Phyllis Parker

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

May 19 Team Game 12:30pm
May 29 Unit-rated game
June 3 Pro-Am game 9:30am \$5 for Ams
June 7-8 World Wide Bridge Contest 12:30pm: Extra points, \$12 card fee
June 9, 11, 13 North American Pairs 12:30pm: Extra points, \$11 card fee
June 16 Team Game 12:30pm
June 17 Birthday Monday 12:30pm. Play for \$5 on your June birthday
June 17-23 Silent Auction
June 23 Unit Game 12:30 Dessert served
June 26, 28 North American Pairs 12:30pm and 7pm: Extra points, \$11 card fee
June 29 North American Pairs 12:30pm: Extra points, \$11 card fee

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD

BRIDGE CLUBS

Judy Carter-Johnson

NO CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP games or unit games during the period April 15 through May 14.

70% GAMES: On April 30 Bill Linskey and Gary Paugh and a 74.62% game...May 9 Bill Linskey and Howard Smith had a 70.83% game.

CONGRATS TO Betty Jackson who received an award for her many, many years of volunteering as Treasurer for both Units 559 and 557 (approximately 10 years each). In addition for over 15 years she was at the Partnership Desks for District 23 Regional games helping so many people find suitable partners. In her "spare time" she traveled all over the world as a Bridge Director on over 25 cruises. We are proud to have her as a regular resident player at our Seal Beach Leisure World bridge games.

Any news for next month's column, please email me @jcj90740@gmail.com. Results of all Leisure World games are posted on www.acblunit557.org

REMINDER: ACBL classifies Leisure World Bridge games as "invitational," meaning that non-resident guests must secure an advanced reservation. Games are held on Monday and Thursday at Clubhouse #3 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Monday—Midge Dunagan (562) 594-9698, Thursday—Sharon Beran (562) 308-7838 – or email hbsharon@gmail.com. Phone number at Clubhouse #3--late arrivals, last minute reservations or cancellations, need a partner, etc – After 12 noon (636) 579-1357--- PLEASE NOTE this new phone number. Games are held on Friday and Saturday at Clubhouse #1 at 12:15. For reservations please call: Friday—Sharon Beran (see above), Saturday—Judith Jones (714) 840 2300 – Between 9am and 9pm only. Or email mikrojjones@aol.com. Any news for next month's column, please email me at jcj90740@gmail.com. Results of all L.W. GAMES are posted on www.acblunit557.org



Pomona –
Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Unit Game: Saturday June 15, 11:00 a.m., Glendora
Individual: Saturday, June 1, 9:30 a.m., San Dimas

The top finisher in the May Individual was Linda Tessier, two in a row, with a whopping 72.5% game. Hanan Mogharbel was second, Sofi Kasubhai third, and Don Logsdon fourth.

The May Unit game, a real squeaker, was won by Joseph Viola – Amr Elghamry, with 61.46%. In second, just ½ matchpoint behind, were Linda Tessier – Yours Truly. Kiran Kumar – Avic Osmundson were third, Margie Hall – Linda Ananea were fourth. First in "B" we find Al Lax – Kurt Trieselmann.

In the Big Score department, we had some real whoppers this month. Aside from Linda's big score in the Individual, three pairs were in the 70s. Fred and Lulu Minter had the top score, 79.27%. Roger Boyar – Herb Stampfl hit 75.0%, and the Minters (again)

scored 74.76. Coming a little closer to earth, Bill Papa – Vic Sartor scored 66.07%, and Roger Boyar – Sofi Kasubhai hit 65% on the nose. Other winners: Linda Stuart, Richard Patterson, Margorie Preston, and Steve Mancini, David Ochroch, and Yours Truly.

38 players won a total of 76.96 masterpoints in games within the Unit. The top 5 masterpoint earners in May were Yours Truly (6.41), Linda Tessier (6.35), Roger Boyar (5.82), Fredy and Lulu Minter, 5.59.

No promotions to report again this month. Well, a lot of our members don't go to tournaments much. Wait until next month!

REMINDER#1: La Fetra Bridge Club is still offering the two-for-one deal to players who have not graced out Thursday evening game for the last several months. This offer is good until September 1.

REMINDER #2: The Longest Day is this month. The Friday, June 21 games will be at the Knights of Columbus in Glendora, not at the La Fetra center. Want to donate, but can't make the game(s)? No problem. Try our donation web link: <http://act.alz.org/goto/unit551>. Or see one of your Board of Directors members.

For our hand of the month, we have another hand from the Laurel & Hardy School of Bridge. It's IMPS, West deals, North-South are vulnerable.

To get the full impact of this ... exhibit ... you will have to see the entire deal:

♠ A	
♥ none	
♦ 75	
♣ KQJ10975432	
♠ K	♠ J976
♥ K1086542	♥ QJ87
♦ 1096	♦ AKQ4
♣ A8	♣ 6
♠ Q1085432	
♥ A3	
♦ J832	
♣ none	

At one table, West opened 2♥. Unusual, with a 7 card suit (admittedly a somewhat shabby one) and two outside cards. *De gustibus non disputandum est*. Or perhaps *honi soi qui mal y pense* fits better. Anyway, North calls 3♣ (!!!), 4♥ from East, and an internal sigh of relief from South. Pass, pass, and North now goes 5♣, and of course South is not happy – yet. All pass. On the expected heart lead, 11 tricks are there, but unfortunately East has a natural diamond

lead, the ♥A withers on the vine, and it's down one. Too bad. So sad.

At the other table, things took several unexpected turns. West opened 3♥ (what's wrong with 1♥?), and North ... went 4NT!!! When asked why, he said he visualized a slam opposite two aces in partner's hand. And what if one of them is the ♥A? Too bad. East now called 5♥, and South, completely misreading North's bid, went ... 7♠. Doubled, down 4, sticks-and-wheels (1100) to the other side. 14 IMPs away. Yoiks! At least, justice prevailed. Blackwood with a void! Naughty, naughty. We would have read the 4NT bid as "two places to play," eliciting a reluctant diamond bid from South. Try landing on your feet after *that* one!

Just for laughs: what board was it? Board 12, of course. Those of you who don't see the irony ... don't worry about it, it's an inside story at the La Fetra club.

Quote for the month: "The more you read about politics, the more you got to admit that each party is worse than the other." (Will Rogers)



Santa Clarita-Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

Unit 556's president, Paula Olivares, is running for President of District 23. She is a very qualified leader who runs organized meetings, forms a consensus, and keeps members of committees on task. Currently she is District 23's Secretary and is a past Unit Representative and a past District 23 Webmaster.

Paula is a retired corporate manager (ATT) and a former board member of William S Hart High School District (elected 2 terms, 8 years).

She has a wealth of experience leading teams, chairing meetings, using technology to improve functionality (conference calls, dropbox, paperless filing and communication).

Paula is a Bridge Club owner/manager/director: Baja Bridge Club (5 years)

Rosarito Beach, Baja California, Friendly Bridge Club (8 years), Valencia, CA and an ACBL certified Bridge Teacher (12 years). She has experience doing bridge games on Cruise ships (26 cruises) and is Unit 556's current President (5 years).

Paula's goals for the District are to make it financially sound, support bridge Clubs of LA County and bridge players of LA County. In addition, Paula plans to follow the guidelines of our District Charter to organize regional tournaments, send entries to National events (NAP, GNT) and publish monthly newsletter.

If you are a Unit Representative to the District, please attend the next District meeting on July 6th in Long Beach and vote for Paula Olivares.

Unit Game Results:

Friendly Bridge Club, Monday May 13th:

North-South:

1 st 65.67%	John Langer – Jeffrey Chang
2 nd 55.68%	Carol Ashbacher – Melisse Benson
3 rd 54.86%	Fran Franklin – Gil Franklin

East-West:

1 st 60.86%	Harkirat Randhawa – Alan Nueman
2 nd 58.21%	Rita Vannatter – Russ Buker
3 rd 53.97%	Mira Rowe – Ron Oest

Western Conference STaC Games:

Friendly Bridge Club, Monday Afternoon, May 6th:

North-South:

1 st 59.36%	Carol Trenda – Gary Trenda
2 nd 58.26%	David White – Paula Olivares
3 rd 57.52%	Ted Maki – Lamonte Johnson

East-West:

1 st 62.09%	Melisse Benson – Anita Walker
2 nd 56.34%	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin
3 rd 55.07%	Ruth Baker – Tracy Boys

Valencia Bridge Studio, Tuesday Evening, May 7th:

North-South:

1 st 56.85%	Ted Maki – Lamonte Johnson
2 nd / 3 rd 56.55%	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky
	Ed Lechner – Scott Gluck

East-West:

1 st 56.55%	Barbara Jones – Tom Jones
2 nd / 3 rd Tie 54.17%	Elaine Moore – Tom Shudic
	Susan Strassner – Mark Brifman

Valencia Bridge Studio, Thursday Morning, May 9th :

1 st	64.06%	Richard Stark – Lamonte Johnson
2 nd	57.29%	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin
3 rd	56.77%	Ruth Baker – Anita Walkerwith
4 th	56.48%	Bob Brown – Bert Stock

Joshua Tree Bridge Club, Friday Afternoon, May 10th:

1 st	60.19%	Ruth Baker – Henry Roediger
2 nd	59.26%	Kathy Swaine – Rand Pinsky
3 rd	56.77%	Gay Gipson – Paula Olivares
4 th / 5 th	50.46%	Ron Oest – Mira Rowe Phoebe Evans – Les Spitzza

Change of Address for the Joshua Tree Bridge Club:

2747 West Avenue L, Lancaster, CA 93536
Phone: 661-285-1779 or 760-505-3491

Change of Address for Friendly Bridge Club:

27180 Golden Valley Road, Santa Clarita
Phone: 661-755-8543

Change of Address for Valencia Bridge Studio (Tuesday Evening game):

Every Tuesday evening except the second Tuesday of the month

Friendly Valley Golf Lounge
19345 Avenue of the Oaks (enter Friendly Valley Parkway)
Santa Clarita
Email Kathy for reservations:
kathyrand1999@gmail.com

Upcoming Events:

World Wide Bridge Contest: Friday, June 7th at 12:30 at Joshua Tree in Lancaster

Longest Day Games: Monday, June 16th at the NEW Senior Center in Santa Clarita and Friday, June 21st at Joshua Tree in Lancaster

Instant Matchpoint Game, Monday, July 8th, 12:30 PM at the NEW Senior Center in Santa Clarita.

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 Gay Gipson (gegipson@gmail.com) or Roy Ladd (royr.ladd@gmail.com).



San Fernando Valley by Linda Silvey

ACBL Recruitment Award

Congratulations to William Morton of The 750 Club for receiving a lovely certificate recognizing him as an "ACBL Star Recruiter." This award is in acknowledgement of Bill's recruitment of 100 new members to ACBL in the recent years. This represents new membership in both U561 and D23 as part of ACBL.

June 7: Annual "Carol Lang" Game

On Friday, June 7, the Annual "Carol Lang" Game will be held at The 750 Club in honor of the late Carol Lang and her husband, Mike, who started the club in 2006. Names of the winners will be engraved on the memorial plaque and certificates will be awarded. Game time is 11 a.m. and a catered buffet lunch will be provided at about 12noon. Reservations are required for this event. Please contact Terry Morton at thmorton@att.net or (818) 815-8826.

June 20: "Longest Day" Games

"Longest Day" games supported cooperatively by Unit 561 and The 750 Club will be held at The 750 Club on Thursday, June 20. These games will be at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m. All three games will be Open, Stratified Games. Card fees will be \$10/person/game. Players who play in all three games will be awarded a special "Triple Crown" Certificate.

All proceeds, including card fees and directors' fees, will be donated to Alzheimer's research. Additional donations will be appreciated and accepted in the form of cash or checks made payable to the "Alzheimer's Association". The ACBL and many different nation-wide sports organizations, hold events each year during the "Longest Day Week" to raise money to support Alzheimer's research. And yes, bridge is definitely a brain-exercising sport! For reservations, contact Terry Morton at thmorton@att.net or (818) 815-8826.

Special Congratulations

April Top Ten Masterpoints at The 750 Club for regular club games were Ray Primus 12.32, Susan Rafael 12.27, John Tickner 11.84, Jojo Sarkar 11.54,

William Raff 10.64, John Van Egmond 9.32, Gary Baxley 8.81, Dwight Hunt 8.68, Vera Mandell 8.60, and Jerry Rose 8.43. During April, the following achieved a 70% game: Jojo Sarkar-Doug Timmer 71.32%.

Calendar

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

Thursday, June 20, at 11 a.m., 3 p.m., and 7 p.m., “Longest Day” Games will be held at The 750 Club. See details above.

Thursday, July 4, The 750 Club will hold a day game only (Independence Day).

Tuesday, July 16, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact nrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Saturday, September 21, “Fall Festival” U561 luncheon and bridge game will be held at The 750 Club. **Please save the date!**



West LA by Robert Shore

Heading for the Nationals

May 4 and 5 saw our District hold the District Finals for the annual Grand National Teams competition. The winners of two separate flights included team members from our Unit. Your Humble Scribe was on a team that captured the Flight A (0-6000) crown. The Flight B (0-2500) winners included Rick Turner and Alyssa Kennedy. Our District has a strong track record in this event, so I’m hoping at least one of our four teams comes back with a national title.

Double (or Triple) Your Pleasure

A few players dominate this month’s tournament report. At the San Diego Regional, Katherine Weisberg, Mori Taylor, Susan Prescott, and Rachel Simon teamed up to win their bracket of the Monday Bracket Teams event. Not satisfied with one win, though, they went on to win their bracket of the Tuesday-Wednesday Knockout Teams as well. Not to be outdone, Ifti Baqai won the Tuesday-Wednesday evening Swiss, followed by a second win in the Saturday Open Swiss and a third win in the Sunday

A/X/Y Swiss. Moving up to the Ventura Sectional, Judy Hyde picked up a win in the Saturday morning Open Pairs and then again in the Saturday afternoon Open Pairs. Finally, your Humble Scribe won the Wednesday evening event in the Great Western STAC.

More Grass Roots Fun

ACBL holds two “grass roots” events during the year. We reported above on Grand National Teams. This year’s cycle of North American Pairs is about to get started. Look for qualifying games at your local club (or any club) during the months of June, July, and August. Once you’ve qualified, you’ll be eligible to play in one of two Unit Finals in the Fall. Qualification at this stage isn’t difficult; at the club stage the top half of the field becomes eligible to move on, as does anyone who scores at least average. Moreover, you can play in as many club qualifiers as you want (anywhere that you want), so if at first you don’t succeed . . . At the Unit Final stage the rules are once per flight, but we have historically qualified the top 60% of the field for the District Final (and again, scoring at least average guarantees that you qualify for the next stage). Top finishers at the District Final in all three flights get an invitation to play the event (for free) at the National Finals and also get a nice little stipend from ACBL to help with airfare and hotel costs. It’s a great event and an extra chance to pick up red and gold points, so if you haven’t already given it a try, what are you waiting for?

Not Your Usual Holding

This hand came up in the STAC. At match points, I was red against white in fourth seat holding:

♠ 10 ♥ 863 ♦ QJ98 ♣ AKJ98.

Partner opened 1♠ in second seat, and then RHO got involved by bidding 3♣. Even at that vulnerability, I had to believe that looking at 5 trump tricks we were a favorite to score 800 to beat our potential game. So I passed to await partner’s reopening double.

I’m still waiting. Partner passed (he had opened an 11-count and didn’t want to get overboard) and we joined the raft of other pairs who also got to defend 3♣ undoubled and beat it 4 tricks.

Around the Clubs

Barrington is continuing its efforts to expand evening bridge by presenting a Thursday night game. Many nights it’s a team game but once a month they plan to hold a pairs game worth extra points. Club

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champions last month at Barrington were Bill Schreiber and Pete Benjamin. Hitting 70% were Pete Benjamin and Rob Perlsweig as well as Joan Rubin and Bill Sides.

The club champions at Beverly Hills were Sandy Satlin and Fran Molina, Leslie Varghese and Myrna Blaufarb, and Barbara Federman and Mike Abeles. Hitting 70% were Les Rawitt and Bob Weingarten as well as your Humble Scribe and Kevin Lane.

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

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are Gerry Bare, Mark Bartusek, Jeff Goldsmith, Eddie Kantar, Tim Lolli, and Rick Roeder.

1

Matchpoints
N-S Vul

South	West	North	East
-------	------	-------	------

1♥	pass	1♦	pass
???		3♦	pass

You, South, hold: ♠72 ♥AJ852 ♦86 ♣KJ94

What call do you make?

We have enough that there should be a game in the cards. But which game is best? 3NT, 4♥, and 5♦ are all still possible.

Our first panelist declines to enter the “which game is best” contest, and says “Monty, I’ll keep what I have, a plus score in 3♦”.

Roeder: Pass. Good philosophy in matchpoints: when in doubt, do all in your power to preserve a plus. My pointed suit holdings are dismal and partner is unlikely to have more than two hearts.

[Our next panelist tries to discern the correct meaning of 3♠.]

Bartusek: 3♠. I have no agreements with partners as to what 3♠ and 3NT show re: black suit stoppers. Since partner’s 3♦ bid is more likely, in general, to have clublength / stoppers than spade length / stoppers (no 1♠ bid), I believe that the primary focus should be spade stoppers when attempting to reach 3NT. *Club stoppers are still necessary to make 3NT.* Thus, I would assume that 3NT guarantees a spade stopper

while 3♠ asks for one. *The problem with Mark’s argument is mostly that there is no real standard here.*

My system notes with Mark are longer than those in any of my other partnerships, but this isn’t discussed. Most pairs play undiscussed auctions as natural if possible, which would make 3♠ a spade stopper. Mark’s reasoning is reasonable, but inventing agreements in the middle of an auction isn’t safe.

The rest of the panel tries 3♥. 3♥ normally shows a six card suit, but in this case, it appears to be the best available bid.

Goldsmith: 3♥. I have enough for game, but no spade stopper, so what else can I bid below 3NT?

Kantar: 3♥. Giving partner a chance to bid 3♠. He must want to get to 3NT as much as I do.

Lolli: 3♥. Although it overstates my heart suit, I think I have to leave 3NT in the picture. If partner bids 4♥ on honor and one, so be it.

Bare: 3♥. This allows for finding a heart fit or bidding 3NT with a spade stopper.

2

IMPs
N-S Vul

South	West	North	East
	1♦	double	1♥
pass	1NT	2♥	pass
???			

You, South, hold: ♠J54 ♥A65 ♦QJ1065 ♣76

What call do you make?

What does this 2♥ mean? Is it natural?

Bartusek: 3NT. Why did I make such a silly pass on the first round...clear to bid 1NT. I assume that partner has a very strong hand with a heart suit (did East psych?). I am stuck guessing now after my previous bidding blunder. *The pass on the previous round was indeed quite strange. 1NT there looks obvious to me also. However, this hand came from an East coast tournament many years ago, and the expert holding this hand did pass at the table. I accepted the problem as it was given to me, and I asked the panel not to abstain. Several panelists spotted the problem, so Mark speaks for all of them.* Thus, I will guess 3NT rather than raising hearts, since my diamond honors will probably be wasted in a heart contract, and we should have sufficient HCPs to make 3NT.

Kantar: 3♥. I am in a quandry. If partner's hearts are that good why didn't he double 1NT? He is on lead, after all. To spite this guy, who I'm not playing with any more, I am raising to 3♥.

Lolli: 3♥. Partner has hearts and a good hand. I think East or West is trying obfuscate *Tom*, do we allow

words like that in this column? [Tom's reply: yes, the more the better! See also, Problem 5.] the situation, so I believe partner.

I was convinced that 4♥ was clearly best until I had a phone conversation with Tim. 3♥ is more flexible if partner didn't intend 2♥ as natural. I'm still a 4♥ bidder but I think it's close and partner will bid ♥ over 3♥ much of the time anyway.

Roeder: 4♥. There was no silicone in partner's 2♥ call – very natural!! I could hardly have more. If I did not have so many diamonds, the 1♥ bid would be suspect. As it is, I believe we have enough to make even with four hearts on my right. Any missing black suit honors rate to be well placed.

Bare: ♥. A hand too strong to overcall hearts will either be cold for 4♥ or at least have a good play.

Goldsmith: 4♥. Partner tends to have a 5-loser hand here, and I have two probable cover cards, plus the ♠J which is likely to be useful. Imagine partner has ♠KQx ♥KQT9xx ♦x ♣Axx. Game is pretty good, and partner will be better than that, though not necessarily with nearly so good a mesh.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">3</div> <div style="text-align: center;">Matchpoints None Vul</div>	South	West	North	East
	1♥	2♣	2♠	pass
	3♥	pass	4♦	pass
	???			
You, South, hold: ♠void ♥AJ10943 ♦1076 ♣A543 What call do you make?				

[The opening is indicative of the modern style of opening with good offense and controls, ignoring HCP if a major suit hand looks like it has good potential. Partner bidding in our void made us want to rethink the opening bid, but the 4♦ call brings life to the hand. How much does the 4♦ bid improve our hand?]

Goldsmith: 5♣. One round ago I was hugely regretting opening. Now I have a slam drive, and a grand slam try. Wow! That is a huge reevaluation!

Bartusek: 5♦. I assume that partner has exactly five spades since he didn't rebid a game forcing 3♠, and that partner can't be 5-6 in the pointed suits because he didn't start with 2♦. Thus, he is probably 5=0=5=3 or 5=1=5=2 (unless he is making an advance cue bid prior to supporting hearts). Most of his normal

5=1=4=3 and 5=2=4=2 hands would either bid 4♥ or 5♥. After opening this poor excuse for an opening bid, I really think cue bidding 5♣ is too aggressive (I don't have a diamond honor). Of course, if you have a partnership agreement that 4NT is a mildly forward-going 5♦ raise, then perhaps you could bid this.

Bare: 5♦. This "could" be a great dummy.

Kantar: 5♦. 4♦ must be forcing, and I have a good dummy for diamonds if they promise not to lead a trump.

Roeder: 5♦. My hand has some great features, but my weak trump holding precludes 5♣. I hope the opponents do not lead a trump.

Lolli: 5♦. Hope we make it.

<div style="font-size: 48pt; text-align: center;">4</div> <div style="text-align: center;">IMPs N-S Vul</div>	South	West	North	East
			1♥	pass
	???			
	You, South, hold: ♠KJ96543 ♥AJ54 ♦void ♣65 What call do you make?			

There are many ways to raise hearts, so there are approaches to this hand. The panel unanimously tries 1♠ before supporting hearts. I'm surprised the vote was unanimous, but I agree 1♠ is the best approach. Let's hear from the panel.

Kantar: 1♠. Can't wait for the panel to tell me why this can't possibly be right.

He's still waiting. Everyone liked 1♠.

Roeder: 1♠. Superficially, a 4♦ splinter looks good and is certainly acceptable, but it has two drawbacks. For slam, we will want partner to upgrade strongly with a spade honor and downgrade if not. Also, some purists claim that a game forcing splinter promises controls in the other two suits (I am not a purist). Last, more folks raise responder's major suit response on 3-card support these days. Would it not be heaven to find that out in the unlikely event that partner has three spades via either a raise or a support double? As I send in these responses from the Honolulu regional, heaven feels close at hand.

Bare: 1♠. I suppose the problem is to shut out a minor suit save, but I don't think a 4♦ bid will necessarily do that. We can be cold for 7♥ or 6♥ without a club lead.

Goldsmith: 1♠. I'm missing the problem. No direct heart raise looks right. Spades could easily be better than hearts, and why not describe my hand in case partner is strong? I suppose I ought to be worried about their competing in a minor, but if I bid 4♥, won't partner have some boring hand like ♠Axxx ♥KQxxx ♦xx ♣Ax?

Lolli: 1♠. I can always jump in hearts somewhere along the way, and I don't want to suppress a seven card suit.

Bartusek: 1♠. WTP? *[What's the problem – an old Al Roth comment]* Any decent slam contract will almost assuredly need a partial spade fit. We'll probably end up in 4♥ though.

5

Matchpoints
Both Vul.

South	West	North	East
	1♠	pass	2♠

???

You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥AK543 ♦AJ543 ♣65

What call do you make?

Bare: 3♥. This hand is not strong enough to cue bid even though it would be great to give partner a choice.

Roeder: Double. Red at matchpoints, 3♥ is a touch too unilateral for me. We will not be playing clubs! 2NT would be a two-suiter, but I have enough defense to double if partner has interest in penalizing some amount of spades.

Most of the panel opts for showing both suits with a 2NT bid. I am sure they are hoping the auction doesn't continue 3♠ by West, 4♣ by partner. In that case, we can struggle to find our fit at the four level.

Goldsmith: 2NT. Partnership agreements are relevant here, but I think without discussion, 2NT is diamonds and another, and double is 3-suited. With clubs and hearts, you guess.

Kantar: 2NT. Unusual. This looks right, partner must allow for a red two-suiter.

Bartusek: 2NT. Not good enough to make a 3♠ Michaels bid, and I don't believe it is safe to double and try an equal-level conversion with this hand, since partner may get too excited with club length. 2NT should show two suits (usually minors, but this pattern is allowed).

Lolli: 2NT. I believe it to be more efficacious [*how about that word, whatever it means LOL*] to use 2NT as two places to play rather than a size showing point count call. I can't double and remove 3♣ to 3♦ because the hand isn't good enough.