

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



News of the News

As you'll see in the following pages, we're starting to make some changes in the *Southern California Bridge News*. Many of those changes I'm happy about. One, however, was more or less forced upon us and I'm really hoping we can reverse it as soon as possible.

I'll start with the good news. We welcome back to our pages a regular column from the Downey South Gate Unit. It has been many years since that Unit has been able to find a reporter to provide a regular submission and we are delighted to see them back in our pages. I'm sure the Unit's members are just as happy as I am. In addition, multiple units have accepted our invitation to use our auspices to publish the minutes of their Unit meetings. We hope that this service, which Units are invited to use or not, as they choose, will help Units disseminate news of their activities to a wider audience, not just within their Units, but throughout the District. Perhaps this will help neighboring Units coordinate dates and minimize conflicts.

And now the changes I hope we can reverse. The *Bridge News* is supported by voluntary financial contributions from the Units. Those contributions are used to compensate our editor-in-chief for the many, many hours he puts in each and every month bringing these pages to your metaphorical door. We send each Unit an annual invoice for \$1.80 per person in the Unit census.

Almost every Unit in the District has agreed to pay that invoice. However, we were formally notified last month that West Los Angeles has made a firm decision not to pay it. I was well aware this decision was a possibility, and in my new position as District President I requested that the West Los Angeles Unit

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District Director Report October 2019

by Kevin Lane

“Bridge is a game and should be fun.”



Board re-structuring

In Las Vegas, the Board of Governors voted to request that the Board of Directors look into re-structuring how the Board of Directors operates. Our President has created a task force to do just that.

As readers of my column know I fully recognize that effective decision-making is a significant challenge – to say the least – if it involves 25 contributors. Towards that end I put forth a plan to address the problem last year and, as part of that plan, I proposed a motion – which passed overwhelmingly– to move Masterpoint committee work off of the board. The idea is to start focusing the board on the critical issues facing the ACBL while empowering interested members in addressing topics in focused areas.

The masterpoint committee motion was the first of many motions, but I was asked to hold off on more such motions while a bigger plan was developed. Unfortunately, that bigger plan turned out to be a dud. In Las Vegas, the “bigger plan” in the works turned out

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defer a decision until the District had an opportunity to complete its revisions to the *Bridge News*. The Unit elected not to honor my request to defer a decision.

It's obviously unfair to the other Units, which are supporting the *Bridge News* financially, to accord West Los Angeles the same treatment that the supportive Units are receiving. So after consulting with the ExComm, we've made the following changes. One change was simple. We will no longer offer West Los Angeles the opportunity to publish its Unit column. Similarly, West Los Angeles is not invited to participate in our offer to publish the minutes of Unit Board meetings.

The other change was much more difficult, but I concluded it was required as a matter of fairness to the other Units. Starting with this issue, the list of Monthly Rank Changes will be edited to remove the names of members of the West Los Angeles Unit. Unit Boards make financial decisions on behalf of their members. Thus, I concluded it's fair for the consequences of those decisions to be felt more or less directly by the members, even though they may not agree with the decision the Board has made on their behalf. I truly hope that the West Los Angeles Unit Board reaches the conclusion that its members value the *Southern California Bridge News* so that we are able to reverse these decisions as soon as possible. Affected members will find additional details, including suggestions on how to communicate their opinions, elsewhere in these pages.

District Board Meeting

Our next District Board meeting has been scheduled. It will take place on Saturday, November 16, after (and at the location of) the monthly Pomona Unit Game, the Knights of Columbus Hall, 2024 Route 66, Glendora, California. Game time is 11:00 a.m., so the meeting should start at approximately 2:30 p.m. I'm sure the Unit would love additional players for its game, so feel free to plan to play the game as well. However, the playing site can only accommodate 11 tables, so if you do plan to play, it's essential to RSVP to Tom Lill (our editor-in-chief), who runs the game, no later than Monday, November 12. (Regular players at the Unit Game probably also should give Tom a head's up to help him plan his table count.)

The first item on the agenda will obviously be the *Southern California Bridge News*. For obvious reasons I think it's important for the Units to be

thoroughly heard about this subject. I believe that the *Bridge News* is an essential resource for communicating news of District governance and District events, but I recognize that there is room for legitimate disagreement over whether it's worth the money. So I expect a thorough and wide-ranging discussion of the topic.

There will be other items to discuss as well. I expect our Tournament Committee to report on the status of the 2020 edition of Bridge Week, the Summer's Best Regional. By then, flyers should long since have been published. I will ask the Board to approve a policy concerning compensation to in-District colleges that qualify for the Collegiate Championship. We already provide financial support to players in the North American Pairs and Grand National Teams competitions, so this seems like a reasonable way to support youth bridge. Some of our neighboring districts allocate a relatively small amount of money to be used at their presidents' discretion. (Yes, I'm describing a slush fund, albeit a legitimate one.) I will raise with the Board whether we would like to make a similar allocation and if so, for how much. And I will discuss with the Board some ideas I have for further branding our events.

North American Pairs

Our meeting will be the day before our District North American Pairs finals, but I am hoping for at least preliminary financial numbers. Those numbers, in turn, will drive our ability to provide financial support to our players, over and above the incentives provided by ACBL. I will be particularly interested in opinions and impact of one change proposed and implemented by Morris Jones, our NAP Coordinator. The Unit Finals this year combined the A and B flights, with Flight C continuing to play its own standalone event. The goal, quite frankly, was to have a larger movement in the Unit Final games. A secondary hope was (and is) to allow more Flight A Pairs to qualify for our District Final without reducing the number of Flight B Pairs who qualify for the Flight B District Final.

I like the idea but it does have a couple of potential drawbacks. First, we apparently did lose at least one Flight B pair from the event because they didn't care to play against the stiffer competition. Second, when the flights are separated, it's possible for a Flight B Pair to play in both Unit Finals. (Yours truly used that rule as a backup plan a few years ago. We failed to qualify in Flight B of the first Unit Final.

We were able to use Flight A of the second Unit Final as a back-up plan. We were able to qualify that day, and went on to represent the District that year in St. Louis.) But under the new regime, that's no longer possible because players are not allowed to play the same flight in two different Unit Finals. So I'll be interested in feedback about the change.

Something you want me to know? Contact me at Bob78164@yahoo.com.

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to be a speculative, unannounced bylaw change proposal to support future (as yet unstated) experiments in re-structuring. Bylaw changes aren't meant to be spur of the moment. And the proposal was not part of any grand plan as promised when I was asked to hold off on more of my incremental proposals a year ago.

My own "ideal" proposal for a more effective board is – simplified – to select nine business-savvy ACBL members – none of whom are currently on the board. But this type of major change does not have substantial board support, so I remain focused on how best to make positive changes such as my Masterpoint committee motion that moves the ACBL in the right direction.

Any major re-structuring plan should address the following question: why has the ACBL lost many millions of dollars over the past several years on various project failures, executive turnover, legal entanglements, and financially-under-performing tournaments? These major costs are visible; equally as important are the routine inefficiencies that aren't addressed because of fire-fighting the latest crisis. Plainly, the ACBL will not improve until serious progress is made addressing the root causes of our problems. As I've reported in the past, the big losses that the board is responsible for have occurred when a minority of the board decides to push through a decision.

The board has seriously looked at re-structuring for three of the past four years. My disappointment has been that the energy consumed by discussing proposals embedded with self-interest distract the board from addressing real issues. The board should be discussing serious problems first, to inform better board effectiveness, but instead the board

discusses re-structuring in place of discussing the critical issues facing the ACBL.

What I have advocated and still advocate is an emphasis on Business 101: addressing the biggest problems, leaving management to make routine decisions, and working as a team. There was a reluctance at the Las Vegas board meeting (and prior board meetings for that matter) to even discuss some of the big losses recently incurred by the ACBL. No successful business is run this way.

Feel free to contact me at klaned23@gmail.com

From the Director's Chair: by Brian Richardson

Claims and Concessions



Disputes and disagreements over claims and concessions probably result in more angst for players and directors than almost any other part of our wonderful game. Before looking, in some detail, about difficulties that may arise, it is probably useful to look at some definitions provided in the Laws.

Claims. A claim is defined in Law 68 as "Any statement by declarer or defender to the effect that a side will win a specific number of tricks." It should also be noted that a claim exists when a player suggests that play be curtailed, or when a player faces his hand.

When a claim is made, play is suspended.

1. If the claim is agreed, the board is scored as though the tricks claimed had been won in play.
2. If the claim is doubted by any player, including Dummy, then either:
 - (a) the Director MAY be summoned, and no action should be taken pending that person's arrival; or
 - (b) upon the request of the non-claiming side, play may continue, if all 4 players agree. (If all players agree to continue play, then

the prior claim is void, and is not subject to any adjudication.)

Concession. Law 68 defines a concession as “Any statement by a declarer or a defender to the effect that a side will lose a specific number of tricks is a concession of those tricks; a claim of some number of tricks is a concession of the remainder, if any. A player concedes all the remaining tricks when he abandons his hand.”

It is important to note that, if a defender concedes one or more tricks and his partner immediately objects, then no concession has occurred. As unauthorized information may exist the director must be immediately summoned. The director should permit play to continue. Any card that has been exposed by a defender in these circumstances is NOT a penalty card, but there may be unauthorized information available to the partner of the player who exposed the card. The director will have the task to ensure that such unauthorized information is NOT used by that partner.

Clarification Required. Law 68.C. states that a claim should be accompanied AT ONCE by a clear statement of the line of play or defense through which the claimer proposes to win the tricks claimed, including the order in which the cards will be played. The player making the claim or concession is required to face his hand.

Contested Claim or Concession. Most of the problems in this area tend to arise because the parties involved do not have a complete understanding of what the Laws actually say. Two of the major issues that can be the reason for disputes to occur are:

1. A trick is initially conceded or claimed by all parties, and that agreement is not disputed before the side (one of whom subsequently opposes the agreement) has made a call to the next board, or the round has ended. In that situation the board is scored as though the tricks claimed or conceded had been won or lost in play. HOWEVER, the claim or concession can still be withdrawn with the Correction Period, which is usually 30 minutes after the official score has been made available for inspection. The previously agreed claim or concession can still be changed if:

(a) a player agreed to the loss of a trick his side had, in fact, won; or

(b) a player had agreed to the loss of a trick that his side would likely had won, in the view of the opponents or the director, had the play continued.

In summary- **a commonly-held view is that once all players have agreed to a claim or concession that is the end of the matter. Laws 69 B. and 79 B.3 provide the basis for some possible subsequent alteration.**

2. Declarer has made a claim stating a line of play. It is a view, held by a number of players, that he cannot subsequently change that line of play. Under certain circumstances that is not true. I have recent experience of such a situation. In a Club game I had won the trick in Dummy in a No-Trump contract. I called for the ♦Jack, stating that I was going to discard my four losers on those ♦ winners. Dummy had JT64 in that suit. Knowing the JT were both winners, and knowing there were still four ♦ cards unaccounted for, I had, foolishly, assumed that all of Dummy’s cards in that suit were winners for me. When my left-hand opponent (LHO) did not follow suit, I realized, to my chagrin, that my plan was not going to work. At that stage I called the director and explained that as LHO had not followed to the ♦Jack I wished to change my stated line of play.

Law 70.E.1. deals with this particular situation: Unstated Line of Play. The Director shall not accept from claimer any unstated line of play the success of which depends upon finding one opponent rather than the other with a particular card, unless an opponent failed to follow to the suit of that card before the claim was made, **or would subsequently fail to follow to that suit on any normal line of play.** Under this Law, provided the director is convinced that declarer is aware that the suit is not breaking, then the line of play can be changed.

In a trump contract where a claim is made and one of the opponents has an outstanding trump, under Law 70.C, the director shall award a trick or tricks to the opponents, if:

(a) claimer made no statement about that trump, and

- (b) it is at all likely that claimer, at the time of the claim, was unaware that a trump remained in an opponent’s hand, and
- (c) a trick could be lost to that trump by any normal* line of play.
 (“normal” includes play that would be careless or inferior for the class of player involved.)

In summary: **again, it is a commonly held view that once you have made a claim and stated your line of play you must follow that line of play. As has been pointed out above that is not entirely true.**

The message is clear – call “director, please” and let your impartial friend make the decision!

To finish with --- no need to call the Director.

The Common Game had an interesting hand recently. I have heard from a number of players in two local clubs where the Director was called when North made an opening bid of 2♣ with a hand containing 15 High Card Points.

This was North’s hand: ♠AKQJT986, ♥7, ♦A9, ♣J8. North has 9 tricks in this hand and needs very little from partner to make game. Under ACBL guidelines this is a legitimate 2♣ opening bid. Remember: with an unbalanced hand you do NOT need 22 High Card Points to make the forcing opening bid!

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District 23 Rank Changes August 2019		
Junior Master	Club Master	Regional Master
Kathy Baghdassarian	Marjorie M. Richards	Patricia A. Sullivan
Alan Licht	Stephen Richards	
Janelle Morton	Julie E. Spore	NABC Master
Jan Van Lierop	Judy L. Webb	Paul J. Reukauf
Michael Vernia		
Li Wang	Sectional Master	Advanced NABC Master
Tracey Whitney	Toshie Bergan	Ho Ming Yim
	Nancy M. Hulick	
Club Master	Pamela H. Risinger	Ruby Life Master
Sue L. Aspley	Susan Strassner	Christine K. Frumen
Terry J. Clougherty		
Louis F. Entin	Regional Master	Gold Life Master
Marla Horn	Mitchell Blumenfeld	Jacob Y. Frenkel
Yeu Jen Hsiao	Glen Drogin	
Bruce L. McDaniel	Bette S. Gordy	Sapphire Life Master
Sue S. Reese	Charles E. Laine	Jerry A. Murbach

A Note from the District 23 President

Last month, the West Los Angeles Unit informed the District that it was declining to provide its share of the financial support for the Bridge News that is requested of all Units. That is the Unit's right. But there's an obvious unfairness in providing the same level of service to West Los Angeles as we are providing to the Units that have continued to make the requested contribution.

In consultation with the District's Executive Committee and the editor-in-chief, we have concluded that an appropriate response includes omitting from the list of District 23 Rank Changes any members of the West Los Angeles Unit. We apologize to the 18 players affected this month, and to those who will be affected in coming months, but our hand has been forced. I requested that the West Los Angeles Unit defer its decision until I'd had an opportunity to address their concerns. The Unit declined to do so.

West Los Angeles Unit members who wish to be included in this list in the future should consider officially changing their Unit membership with ACBL. Unit members who would like the Unit Board to reconsider its decision should contact the Board's members.

**Around the Units
in District 23**



**Long Beach
by Jon Yinger**

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

August 25 Unit Game: Overall results: 1st in A John Melis/Jackie Hess, 2nd Gary Delestine/Shirley Gibson, 3rd Lulu and Fredy Minter, 4th Betty Witteried/Christine Frumen, 5th Audrey Rennels/Robert Shore, 6th Jeff Strutzel/Chiye Horiguchi. In the B flight overalls Kay Tseng/Wayne Rapp were 3rd, Colleen Gardner/Jane Reid 4th, Renee Hoffman/Paul Pettler 5th. In the C flight overalls Carol Herzlinger / Lois Mullen were 2nd, Dale Blessing/Judy Lorber 3rd. And in the 199er section Paul Chen/Tsu Jan were 1st, Harriet Finebaum / Michael Greer 2nd, Aida Porleneuve/Carolyn Byrnes 3rd, Leon Getsch/Cherly Vandergraff 4th, Pamel Haskins/Freda Main 5th. Congratinations to all!!

70% GAMES August 16 through Sept 15: In open games: August 17 Myrna Blaufar / Michael Farber had 70.83%. Sept 4 John Melis / Jackie Hess had 75.22%. And in the evening game Sept 13 Kay Tseng / Gabrielle Sill had 72%. In the NLM game August 23 Joyce Roberts / William Eddy had 72.50%. And in beginner games: August 28 Carolee Windsor / Jeanette Williams had 70.82%. Sept 2 Aida Porteneuve / Dale Whitney had 72.67%. Sept 9 Dalia Hernandez / Carol Herzlinger had 71.67%. Sept 11 Kellie Bernd / Larry Wisinski had 75.33%. Congratulations to all seven pairs!

BIG MASTER POINT AWARDS August 16 through Sept 15: In the Unit Game August 16 Jo and John Melis won 5.44mp for 1st, James Nicola / Phil Feldman 4.08mp for 2nd, Jackie Hess / Wayne Otsuki 3.06mp for 3rd. In the Unit Team Game August 18 the team of Betty McClellan / Ray Mack / BillMcClellan/John Crabtree was first, each winning 3.00mp. In other open games August 25 Jackie Hess / John Melis won 5.25mp for 1st, Shirley Gibson/Gary

Delestine 3.94mp for 2nd. Sept 5 Jackie Hess / John Melis won 3.38mp for 1st. Sept 6 Karen and Mike McKittrick won 3.06mp for 1st. Sept 10 Bob Rubin / Harry Sachs won 3.21mp for 1st. And Sept 13 Renee Hoffman/Betty Witteried won 3.79mp for 1st. Congratulations to all!

NEW CLUB MEMBERS (all transfers in): Linda Lane, Lilam Stanley, Patricia Warner. Welcome to the club!

STATUS CHANGES: New Jr. Masters: Eric Kaplan, Diana Parmeter, Marty Shober, Rita Van Lierop. New Club Masters Thomas Percer, John Benson, Priscilla Caillouette. New NABC Master: Lillian Slater. New Gold Life Master Renee Hoffman. Congratulations to you all!

GET WELL: Phyllis Parker

UP-COMING EVENTS AT THE CLUB:

- Oct 1 Club Appreciation game Extra points \$11 card fee
- Oct 2 Jane Johnson game Extra points \$11 card fee
- Oct 4 ACBL-wide senior pairs Extra points \$11 card fee
- Oct 13-20 Club Appreciation week Gold points available \$11 card fee
- Oct 20 (Sun) Swiss Teams 12:30 \$11 card fee
- Oct 21 Birthday Monday 12:30pm. Play for \$5 on your October birthday
- Oct 21-27 Bridge Brigade Auction ends 5 minutes after Unit Game
- Oct 27 (Sun) 12:30 Unit Game \$8 card fee, dessert served
- Oct 31 Instant Matchpoint game and Halloween pot luck \$3 extra Extra points

NEWS FROM LEISURE WORLD

BRIDGE CLUBS

Judy Carter-Johnson

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP—Clubhouse #1 August 16: Joan Tschirki/Fred Reker 1 in A. Jeanette Estill / Marilyn McClintock 2 in A. Judy Lorber / Alan Olschwang 3 in A, 1 in B. Sue Fardette / Joan Wieber 4 in A, 2 in B. Barbara Harris / Jean Kato 5 in A, 3 in B. Ellen Kice / Russell Gray 6 in A, 4 in B, 1 in C. Jane and Jerry Reid 5 in B. Ernie Ross/Roy Tomooka 2 in C. Sylvia Kaprelyan / Paul Chen 3 in C.

Rosemary Ford / Ylia Ross 4 in C.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP—Clubhouse #3
August 19: Lynn Danielson / Chie Wickham 1 in A, 1 in B. Diane Schmitz / Sibyl Smith 2 in A. Frances Gross / Carol Herzlinger 3 in A, 2 in B, 1 in C. Jeanette Estill / Marilyn McClintock 4 in A. Richard Norris / Ron Yaffee 5 in A, 3 in B, 2 in C. Bill Linsky / Larry Slutsky 6 in A. Barbara Vann/Paul Chen 4 in B. Nancy Lichter / Lavonne McQuilkin 5 in B. Marlene McIlroy / Ted Cooper 3 in C.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP—Clubhouse #3
Sept 12: Bill Linsky / Howard Smith 1 in A. Sue Fardette / Bud Parish 2 in A, 1 in B. Paul Chen / Peter Yao 3 in , 2 in B, 1 in C. Judith Jones / Al Appel 4 in A. Dorothy Favre / Jane Gibbons 5 in A, 3 in B. Marilyn McClintock / Sibyl Smith 6 in A. Gene and Ron Yaffee 4 in B, 2 in C. Judy Carter-Johnson / Mike Nielson 5 in B. Ted Wieber 6/7 in A. Russell Gray / Fred Reker 6/7 in A. Priscilla Cailloutte / Eric Kaplan 3 in C. Kar-Yee Nelson / Mark Singer 4 in C.

CONGRATULATIONS: Priscilla Cailloutte is a New Club Master.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Sylvia Kaprelyan, Louise Seifert / Stan Johnson for earning some points at Labor Day Regional in Costa Mesa.

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



Pomona –
Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Unit Game: Saturday October 12,
11:00 a.m., Glendora

Individual: Saturday, October 5, 9:30 a.m., San Dimas

We begin this month with some sad news. Richard Patterson, who co-ran the La Fetra club since its inception more than a decade ago, passed away on the morning of September 14.

I'm sorry to say that I didn't know Richard well outside of bridge. I do know he was always ready to pitch in and help out, had no trouble partnering an up-and-coming player, and had a ready, hearty laugh. My favorite bridge memory of Richard occurred on a night when we had a half table. Richard decided to kibitz my table, having already played that board set. I picked up a hand something like ♠Axxx ♥Kxxxx ♦x ♣Axx. Well, I wanted to open that hand in the worst way, but decided that opening 1♥ would, indeed, be the worst way. I could just see partner responding 2♦, or even worse, 1NT. So, I very casually took one of the small clubs, plopped it in with the spades, and opened 1♠! Richard nearly fell off his chair, laughing. True, this is not proper kibitzer decorum... To add the final touch LHO overcalled 2♥!

Yes, the Unit game is one week earlier than usual this month. And, since interest in our traditional two-session Championship event has been seriously lacking, we aren't scheduling it this year. One session only.

The top finisher in the September Individual was Roger Boyar, who posted a rather impressive 73.86% game. Clint Lew was a distant second with a still-impressive 65.91% effort. Ho Ming Yim tied with Don Logsdon for third, and Your Correspondent snuck into the overalls at fifth place.

The September Unit game was captured by Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, who posted a 66.25% game. Ho Ming Yim – Phil Savage were second, Fredy and Lulu Minter took third, Penny and Gino Barbieri were fourth.

As I mentioned last month, October is Club Appreciation month. I'm kind of re-thinking the team game idea – that pittance of gold isn't really worth it – but on October 8th, 10th, and 11th, La Fetra will hold Club Appreciation pairs games. That means you win extra master points, for no additional entry fee.

A dozen Unit members brought home some points from the Costa Mesa Regional – 98.92, to be exact. Best-in-show was Randy Howard, with 24.74. Next we find Ho Ming Yim, 17.81; David Ochroch, 14.11; Your Correspondent, 11.14, and Amr Elghamry, 8.29. The remaining point-earners: Harish Singh, Clint Lew, Linda Tessier, Hanan Mogharbel, Sofi Kasubhai, Dale Quasny, and Bill Papa.

The best performance at Costa Mesa was by Ho Minh Yim, whose team won the top bracket of the Sunday bracketed "B" Swiss. Ugliest performance: a

team including Your Correspondent was hanging around all day, bouncing between second and third. Most of the matches all day were close all around, so a good win in that last match would see us home. Alas, we lost by 6 IMPs, which is 7-13 in victory points. As we sat licking our wounds, we found ... that the two teams ahead of us had been soundly thrashed ... and we backed in to the win, by 3 VPs. Better lucky than good!

Things heated up a bit in September in the club games. There were quite a few pairs, and four individuals, hitting the magic 65% mark. Top score at pairs was Al Lax – Norma Appley, at 71.35%. Not bad. Right behind them (no, not in the same event!) we find Fredy and Lulu Minter, 70.5%. Going down the line, we have Roger Boyar – Steve Mancini, 67.0%; The Minters again, 67.0%; Bill Papa – Vic Sartor, 65.48% and 65.0%.

We have a few more winners: Kurt Trieselmann, Paul Chrisney, Ed Lechner, and Roy Wilson.

In Individual games, Roger Boyar had an impressive 74.86% game, Claudia Cochran had an impressive 71.43%-er, and Clint Lew had 67.83% and 65.91% - but finished *second* with that latter score.

36 players won a total of 81.34 masterpoints in club games within the Unit. The top 5 masterpoint earners in September were Roger Boyar (8.30), Fredy and Lulu Minter (8.06), and Vic Sartor – Bill Papa, (5.86).

In the promotion department, we find David Dai reaching the level of Junior Master. Congratulations, David, and keep on plugging.

Our hand of the month this time is just pure fun once again, although perhaps a *bit* more instructive than last month's. Sitting South, no one vulnerable, second in hand you pick up a hand that looks like a Communist Party convention:

♠ none ♥ AJ1098743 ♦ AKJ52 ♣ none.

(Come on, if I have to explain it, it's not funny, is it? "All Red.") Anyway, yes, it's an 8-5 freak. A 3-loser hand. Ordinarily that would qualify for a 2♣ opening, no? Well, you're a bit short in the high card department. You also have to consider that someone out there has a lot of black cards, and you will not welcome competition in spades. So what's your opening bid? 1♥? 4♥?? 2♣??? 6♥???? Or something else?

OK, here goes. The winning call is 1♥. The opponents remain silent, because partner has, of course, a big black-suited hand. He bids 1♠. If you now jump to 3♦, you will reach 6♦. Partner faces this dummy:

♠ KQJ2 ♥ none ♦ Q743 ♣ AQJ84.

6♦ is cold unless hearts are 5-0. It turns out that hearts are in fact 4-1 with the ♥Q singleton, so 6♥ makes, but it's against the odds. Diamonds are 2-2.

Three tables played 6♦, +920. The other two tables played 4♥ +480.

Quote for the month: "University President: 'Why is it that you physicists always require so much expensive equipment? The Department of Mathematics requires nothing but money for paper, pencils, and erasers...and the Department of Philosophy is better still. It doesn't even ask for erasers.'" (Isaac Asimov)



Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

We had a great sectional in September at the Friendly Valley Auditorium in Santa Clarita with 42 tables on Saturday and 25 teams for the Swiss Team event on Sunday. Thanks to all who came out to play and support our Unit.

Magic Mountain Sectional Results: Saturday, September 21st:

Open Pairs (Morning Session):

1 st , 62.66%	Gilbert Stinebaugh – Joan Rubin
2 nd , 59.94%	Paul Markarian – Jeffrey Goldsmith
3 rd , 59.78%	Irwin Novick – Charles Jurgens

299er Pairs (Morning Session):

1 st , 67.17%	Judy Ann Keaney – Steven Novick
2 nd , 56.33%	Stephen Dorse – Charles Leroy
3 rd , 55.75%	Vera Iobbi – Karen Roper

Open Pairs (Afternoon Session):

1 st , 70.19%	Paul Markarian – Jeffrey Goldsmith
2 nd , 57.85%	Carolyn Cohen – Gerry Belcher
3 rd , 54.01%	Gilbert Stinebaugh – Joan Rubin

299er Pairs (Afternoon Session):

- 1st, 75.83% Elliott Mazur – Ramesh Sawhney
- 2nd, 59.58% Phoebe Evans – Kay Aiken
- 3rd/4th, 50.17% Karmen Armoudjian – Denise Wreede
Adam Baron – Kathy Cresto

Sunday, September 22nd

Open Swiss Teams:

- 1st Craig Kavin – Jeffrey Goldsmith
Mike Savage – Paul Markarian
- 2nd Om Chokriwala – Robert Shore
Joseph Viola – Amr Elghamry
- 3rd Gilbert Stinebaugh – Joan Rubin
Susan Somogui – Basant Shah

Limited Swiss Teams:

- 1st Susan Smith – Aggi Oshcin
Sharon Hoelscher – Jackie Moor
- 2nd Chen Bitar – William Stevens
Sharon Miller - Won-Young McDevitt
- 3rd John Horn – Henry David
Clementina Flesher – Mary Sue Foard

Unit Game Results:

Monday, Sept. 23rd at Friendly Bridge Club

North/South

- 1st, 69.33% George MacDonald – Irwin Novick
- 2nd, 53.26% Gay Gipson – May Ho
- 3rd, 48.32% Roy Ladd – Bert Stock

East/West

- 1st, 64.68% Carol Provost – Roshen Hadulla
- 2nd, 57.54% Lamonte Johnson – Ted Maki
- 3rd, 51.78% Jackie Moore – Susan Smith

Upcoming Events:

ACBL-wide Senior Pairs, Friday, October 4th at 12:30 PM at the Joshua Tree Bridge Club in Lancaster

Next Board meeting: Conference call on Thursday, October 3rd at 5:00 PM



Edgar Kaplan, commentating on Vu-Graph:

Four hearts is a very good bid – but on some other hand.



San Fernando Valley
by Linda Silvey

November 30: Unit 561 Holiday Bridge/Dinner

Unit 561 will host its Annual Holiday Bridge and Dinner Party on Saturday, November 30, at The 750 Bridge Club. An Open, Stratified Game will start at 2 p.m., followed by a festive dinner, catered by Stonefire Grill, at approximately 5:45 p.m.

The cost per person is \$35 and includes both bridge and dinner. Due to limited seating, reservations are required via purchase of non-refundable tickets by December 18. Ticket sales will begin November 1 at The 750 Bridge Club, or by mail to Rochelle Lotto at 1071 Terrace Hill Circle, Westlake Village, CA 91362 (nanalotto@yahoo.com). Note: There will be no on-site ticket sales on November 30.

Unit 561 Board Nominations

Are you looking for adventure of a new and different kind? Unit 561 is seeking members who are interested in serving on the Unit Board, beginning January 1, 2020. This is an opportunity to give back to the San Fernando Valley bridge community, meet new friends, and have an impact on changing things for the betterment of U561 bridge players.

If you wish to self-nominate, please contact marciabroderick@gmail.com or sign up at The 750 Bridge Club beginning November 1. Nominations must be received by Tuesday, November 26. The Unit Board election will be held at the November 30 Holiday Party.

Special Congratulation

Recent Life Master Accomplishments by Unit 561 players were: Ilene Berg, Anne Hurwitz, Jerry Rose, Jojo Sarkar, and Douglas Timmer (Life Master); Lynn Heckler, Myrna Kalman, Jojo Sarkar, and Douglas Timmer (Bronze); Barbara Levitt (Gold – 2,500); and Billy Cohen (Grand Life Master – 15,000).

August Top Ten Masterpoints (regular) at The 750 Bridge Club were: Michael Klemens 12.13, Jerry Goodman 9.08, Ray Primus 8.80, Dwight Hunt 8.50, Claude Le Feuvre 6.73, Susan Raphael 6.50, Phillip Calloway 6.21, Leila Greenfield 5.41, Nancy Klemens

5.41, William Raff 5.32, and John Tickner 5.32. The following pairs achieved 70% games: Michael Klemens-Martin Hurwitz 72.46% and Gary Baxley-Ray Primus 70.83%.

August Top Ten Masterpoints for North American Pair Games at The 750 Bridge Club were: Michael Klemens 9.54, Vera Mandell 9.27, Susan Raphael 7.28, Michael Newman 6.86, Sherry Newman 6.36, Ron Malkin 6.23, Ellen Carrier 6.00, Bud Bates 6.00, John Vacca 6.00, and Alan Golden 5.31.

October Events at The 750 Bridge Club

As of October 1, Alan Curtis will be in charge of The 750 Bridge Club. Bill and Terry Morton have retired from "Active Bridge Duty" as of September 30. Best Wishes to Alan, Bill and Terry as they pursue their new endeavors! The new email address for making or canceling bridge reservations is The750Bridgeclub@gmail.com.

The 750 Bridge Club will be closed on Wednesday, October 9 (Yom Kippur). Club Appreciation Week will be held Monday-Friday, October 14-18. This is an opportunity to earn extra black points for no extra fee!

Celebrations will be held on Thursday, October 31, at the "750's Halloween House of Horrors and Haunted Cards" at the day and night games. Players who wear a costume, a silly shirt, and/or a humorous hat will be eligible to participate in the "Free-Play" drawings. Terrific and tempting tricky-treats will be available for tastings at lunchtime and before the night game. For reservations please contact Alan Curtis at The750Bridgeclub@gmail.com. Be a wise owl, "give a hoot" and join the fun!

Calendar

Wednesday, October 9, The 750 Bridge Club will be closed (Yom Kippur).

Monday-Friday, October 14-18, Club Appreciation Week will be held at The 750 Bridge Club. See details above.

Thursday, October 31, Halloween celebrations will be held at The 750 Bridge Club at the day and night games. See details above.

Tuesday, November 19, Braemar Dinner/Bridge Night starting at 6 p.m. For reservations/partnerships, contact mrklemens@aol.com or (818) 609-1071.

Saturday, November 30, Unit 561 Election for 2020 Board Members and Holiday Bridge/Dinner Party will be held at The 750 Bridge Club. See details above and **plan to attend!**

Downey – Whittier by Linda Eagan

Every Wednesday, **Downey-Whittier Bridge Club** plays a friendly game from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm at the Woman's Club of Downey located at 9813 Paramount Blvd, Downey, CA 90240. We stop play to have lunch, there is plenty of parking, easy access to 605 and 5 freeways and we invite you to come and play! The famous **John Jones** is our new director.

After 33 years, 17 years (2002-2019) at Downey **Marcie Evans** retired. She was a great director, teacher, friend and still is playing at Downey! The club held a great retirement party for her. Bridge friends packed the room to play bridge and honor her achievements.



These are some standout games at Downey:

May 8- **Bruce Horiguchi/ Kim Wang** had a 76.66%.

May 15- **Larry Boles/ Leonard Beck** had an 81.30%.

May 20 -**Ernest Wong/Kim Wang** had a 73.61 game.

August 21- **Connie Kang/Louis Shen** had a 74.58% game. This was a STaC game which gave them first place in our District.

We had another good game at Downey on Sept 18 with six tables. **Ernie Wong/Kim Wang** posted a 63.33% game earning 2.33 points N/S, and **Linda Eagan/Terry Binns** had a 61.67% game with 1.75 points. Well done and congratulations.

Nancy Toussaint studied and passed the bridge directors test. She now proudly carries a card

that says ACBL Club Director. Nancy is a regular at our regular Wednesday game. Congratulation to Nancy.

Plan ahead – our Christmas Party will be held on Dec 18. Details to follow.

Editor's Note:

The West Los Angeles Unit has elected not to make the requested financial contribution to support the Bridge News, so the District has decided that the West Los Angeles Unit column will not be included. We are informed this decision was taken by secret ballot, so we are unable to inform you of which West L.A. Board members voted to cut off funds. The members of the Unit Board (as of this writing) who can vote to reverse this decision are: Jordan Chodorow, Bob Shore, Roger Clough, Lee Hausner, Peter Benjamin, Michele DiLorenzo, Chris Dowson, Marcia Fisher, Chuck Fonarow, Carolyn Taff, Stephanie Young.

**Association of Los Angeles County Bridge Units
Minutes of the July 6, 2019 Board of Directors' Meeting**

[Note: while these Minutes have been passed around to the Board members for comment, they must be considered "preliminary" as they have not been formally approved by the Board.]

Call to Order: 7:08 p.m., by Vice President Robert Shore

In Attendance:

Robert Shore, Vice President; Joe Viola, Treasurer; Paula Olivares, Secretary; Kevin Lane, District Director; Becky Clough, Appellate; Peter Benjamin, Tournament Manager; Stan Holzberg, By-Laws; Morris Jones, North American Pairs Coordinator; Tom Lill, Southern California Bridge News Editor; Unit Representatives:

- 551, Pomona-Covina (2): Tom Lill, Penny Barbieri
- 553, Glendale (1): Adam Barron
- 556, Santa Clarita – Antelope Valley (2): Ruth Baker, Tracy Boys
- 557, Long Beach (2): Sharon Biederman, Renee Hoffman, Lillian Slater
- 559, Pasadena – San Gabriel (3): Mary Falvey, John Jones, Linda Stuart
- 561, San Fernando Valley (3): Stan Holzberg, Dwight Hunt, Jim Gardner
- 562, West LA (4): Peter Benjamin, Roger Clough, Carolyn Taft, Jordan Chodorow
- 564, Downer-Whittier (1): Linda Egan
- 568, Torrance – South Bay (3): Kim Wang, Stan Greengard, Gerri Soffa Carlson

Also attending:

- Jan Wickersham, Unit 559
- Dalia Hernandez, Rosalie Store, Unit 557

President Marcucci not being present, the "State of District 23" summary was not given.

Minutes of the July 7, 2018 Board meeting were discussed. It was moved to amend those minutes. The motion said that the old meeting minutes should include the following statement and record

Sharon Biederman and Dalia Hernandez being in attendance for that meeting: "Sharon Biederman and Dalia Hernandez requested that Unit 557's I/N Sectional planned for November 10 & 11, 2018 be sanctioned. Stan Holzberg moved, seconded by John Jones, to approve the Long Beach Unit's request for this sanction and the motion passed."

The motion to amend the July 2018 meeting minutes passed, and the amended minutes were approved.

District Director's Report

Kevin Lane reports that as chair of the nominating committee, he spoke to many district board members, club owners/managers and volunteers throughout the district about what direction the incoming president should take. The consensus feedback he received was two-fold. First, the district board meetings must be shorter and more business-like. Second the district officers and board must create a more positive environment.

Mitch Dunitz not being present, no Board of Governors update was presented.

Treasurer Joe Viola presented the Treasurer's Report. The District's financial situation has improved somewhat during this fiscal year. Total equity is up by \$3830.96. The situation is still precarious but improving. SCBN invoices will be presented to the various Units shortly.

Election of Officers

After the candidates for President each made a brief statement, voting was performed by secret ballot. Robert Shore won and will preside as President for the next two years.

Stan Holzberg and Paula Olivares were nominated for Vice President. Paula declined the nomination, so Stan became Vice President.

After some discussion regarding the office of Treasurer, Stan Holzberg accepted the office on a temporary basis, and resigned as Vice President. Jan Wickersham then agreed to serve as Vice President. Outgoing Treasurer Joe Viola, who will be moving out of the District in the near future, was given a vote of thanks for his service.

No candidates for the office of Secretary were present. Tom Lill agreed to perform the necessary secretarial duties for the present Board meeting only.

President Bob Shore, Treasurer Stan Holzberg, and Tournament Manager Peter Benjamin are approved as signers for our bank accounts (operating and Scholarship).

Tournament Update (Peter Benjamin)

As of meeting time, attendance was down by 42 tables from 2018. The lack of any attendance at the evening side games (all were cancelled) was noted as a problem. Peter noted that it may be advantageous to stop scheduling these games, as the tournament Directors must be paid for them even when they are cancelled.

Tournament expenses were up “a bit.” In general, the hotel is quite cooperative and gives the District many favorable breaks.

The room guarantee was met. The requirement was 80% of 425 room-nights; 460 room-nights were booked.

Kevin Lane thanked the Long Beach club for their youth participation in our tournament.

Future Tournaments (Peter Benjamin)

For the near term we are only scheduling one Regional per year. The problem is largely financial. The District lost a total of over \$29,000 at the last Torrance and Glendale tournaments. The Woodland Hills site wants \$50K up front, while Torrance requires \$35K up front. Neither one is within our means. The Pasadena Westin would be interested in having us there at year-end,

but it isn't practical given all the other events going on at that time.

Discussions with District 22 regarding a joint Regional are ongoing. Due to the nearby NABCs in Las Vegas and San Francisco this year, it was deemed unfeasible to attempt another Regional in 2019. Present discussions center on Anaheim in May 2020.

The question was asked, “Is the Tournament Manager authorized to sign contracts for Regional tournaments? Should this be in the by-laws?” Discussion on this question was tabled.

It was suggested that a Non-Life-Master Regional be held in 2021. This was referred to the Tournament Committee.

The 2019 Sectional Schedule was not discussed.

No American Bridge Association representative attended.

There have been no issues requiring the Recorder's services or the Disciplinary Committee's action. Bob Shore noted that he can no longer serve as Disciplinary chair while holding the office of President.

North American Pairs (Morris Jones)

So far, there have been 16 qualifying games. 466 players have qualified for the Unit finals.

Grand National Teams

Howard Einberg was not present, so no update was received by the Board.

The amount of the District's subsidy to the winning GNT teams was discussed. We have approximately \$2,000 to distribute among the four winning teams. Peter Benjamin moved that we authorize a \$500 subsidy to each team; seconded by Sharon; passed.

It was noted that we may need a new GNT coordinator to replace Howard.

March STaC Results

The STaC earned about \$3500 for the District. The next STaC immediately follows this tournament.

Scholarship Status

No report was received

Peter Benjamin reported on behalf on Mitch Dunitz that, for a \$500 donation to the Scholarship fund, Mitch will partner the donor in a club game.

Youth / Education Plans

Bob Shore put forth an idea for introducing and furthering bridge-in-schools. If a teacher will sponsor an in-school bridge club, with lessons, the District would compensate the teacher on the order of \$1500 - \$3000 for 10 lessons. The target date for this program would be the 2020-2021 school year. Mary M. suggested it might be a summer program.

Bylaws (Stan Holzberg)

The bylaws have been updated per the previous Board meeting and are available on the District web site.

San Fernando Valley Bridge Club formation committee report

At present, there is not a single Open bridge club in the Valley. Local residents are being recruited by other Units and even by District 22, to our loss and dismay. The problem is financial; no suitable site, at an affordable cost, has yet been found. Work by the committee continues.

Unit comments: there were none.

New Business, New President's Remarks

No new business was proposed.

New President Shore hopes to hold future committee meetings electronically, relieving the travel burden on members living in outlying areas.

A "Thank You" was given (in absentia) to outgoing President Mike Marcucci, for his services to the District.

Tom Lill requested all Unit representatives to remind their Units that content for the SCBN is always welcome.

Jan Wickersham suggested that Mike Marcucci be made District Historian *de jure*, as he now is *de facto*.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Lill, Secretary
1 August 2019*

Unit Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

This month, we introduce a new feature to the SCBN. The whole purpose of this publication is to keep you, the Members, apprised of what's going on in our bridge world. So ... here's what your Directors have done recently.

Note, some Units may opt out of this feature. You can always contact your Board to get a copy of the minutes, should you so desire. And ... Units not supporting the SCBN, may not have their minutes included herein.

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting Downey Bridge Club, Unit 564 August 21, 2019

President Kent Burrell called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. at the Downey Women's Club. In attendance were Kent Burrell, Marcie Landry-Evans, John Jones, Linda Egan, Liz Burrell, Mary Kiechle, Linda Krause, Bob Krause, Don Van Wye and Jennifer MacFarland. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. Treasurer, Linda Egan, reported a balance of \$1,930.48. The Board wishes to officially thank Mary Kiechle and Ernie Wong for their generous financial support of our club. It is very much appreciated. The Treasurer's report has been posted and a copy will be filed with these minutes.

Linda Egan,, our representative to the District 23 Board of Directors, reported on the annual meeting held at the Long Beach Regional in July. New officers were elected: Robert Shore, President; Jan Wickersham, Vice President; Tom Lill, Secretary; Stan Holzberg, Treasurer. The full Board list may be found at acbl.org/district23. A recap of the meeting can be found in the Southern California Bridge News at bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org.

Under old business all agreed (especially Marcie) that the retirement party held on July 17 was a huge success. Updated club rosters were distributed to Board Members.

A discussion was held regarding whether or not we should become contributing members to the Southern California Bridge News. (We are one of three units in the district without representation.) The cost is reasonable (\$135 per year) but the most important issue is finding someone to write the

monthly articles. Linda Egan agreed to do this with the editorial assistance of John Jones. All members are encouraged to submit items for consideration. Linda Egan moved that we start a one year trial as contributing members to the Southern California Bridge News, Linda Krause seconded. Motion passed.

Director John Jones reported that Sharon Biederman at the Long Beach BC has offered to loan our club Bridge Mates until such time as we can afford to purchase them. We would be obligated to purchase the controller which would cost approximately \$400. Discussion followed. Linda Egan moved that we try the Bridge Mates and purchase a controller. Marcie Lander-Evans seconded. Motion passed. Bob Krause will research the best place to purchase the controller, and the best price.

ACBL is in the process of implementing a new program called ACBL Live. They hope to have the program in place by the end of the year or beginning of next year. However, it is already being used and can be accessed by going to MyACBL, log in with username and password, go to Privacy Settings (located under "Membership" on the left side). Change Privacy Preferences to SUBSCRIBE under General Email Communication and Cell Phone Text communication. Under "Confidentiality," click "Share", Email, Phone Number, and Street Address. You will then receive club scores on your email and/or cell phone. Some of you are already using this system and it will become mandatory once fully implemented. More information will be available soon.

The date for our Christmas Party will be December 18. After discussion, it was agreed that we will have a potluck instead of a catered lunch. All members will be asked to bring a dish and a sign-up sheet will be available closer to the date. This, hopefully, will prevent too many duplications.

Everyone agreed that we made the right decision to hire John Jones as our new director. He is doing a fine job and has a special talent for being firm without being harsh. Thanks to all members for their cooperation in keep the noise levels down and the games moving satisfactorily.

Our long-time member Jay James has had to resign his position on the Board as Vice President. A suitable replacement is under discussion.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Burrell, Secretary

Unit 561 Board Meeting Minutes- August 28, 2019

The meeting was called to order by the President, Marcia Broderick. Other board members present were Ilene Feinstein, Ann Dupont, Frona DeCovnick, Rochelle Lotto, Linda Silvey, and Jerry Shapiro. Bill and Terry Morton and Karyn Shatzkin were also present.

The minutes of the June 13 meeting were approved as written.

The treasurer’s report as submitted indicated \$11,734.54 in the checking account and \$5,114.98 in the savings account.

Old Business:

June 20 the 750 Club hosted ACBL Longest Day event raising funds for Alzheimer’s Association. Over \$8500 was collected.

New Business:

September 21 Unit 561 will host a Free Fall Festival game and lunch. All attending will be encouraged to join ACBL if they have not already done so.

Plans were formalized which will include honoring Bill and Terry Morton upon their retirement.

November 30: Unit 561 will host Holiday Party at site of 750 Club with catering by Stonefire Grill. Cost will be \$35.00.

Frona DeCovnick, Membership Chairman will continue to send welcome letters to new and reinstated members.

It was announced that Bob Shore is the new President of District 23.

New bank accounts were established at Wells Fargo, Mulholland Branch, updating current elected officers as signatures, acknowledging Nonprofit Corporation Status, and appropriate tax forms filed with state and federal governments.

Respectfully submitted,
Ilene Feinstein,
Recording Secretary

Unit 551 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:17 a.m. by Vic Sartor at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Glendora, CA.

II. Roll Call:

Those present – Vic Sartor, Tom Lill, Penny Barbieri, Linda Tessier, Clint Lew, Roger Boyar.

III. Reading and Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the July 20, 2019 meeting were read and approved.

There were no minutes for August, 2019, as we did not have a Board Meeting.

IV. Treasurer’s Report:

Balance on 08-31-2019	\$5,843.13
M.T.D. net loss	-2.17
Y.T.D. net income	\$546.59

V. Membership Report: (Tom)

07-31-2019 through 09-01-2019 – We have one new member – Stephen Andersen.

There were three transfers into our unit – John Townswick, Dr. Arthur Weinstein, and Ho Ming Yim.

David Dai is now a Junior Master. Dr. Hanan Mogharbel is now a Life Master and Bronze Life Master.

VI. Club Manager’s Report: (Tom)

The August Individual Game was held on 08-03-2019. Thomas Lill was first, Arthur Weinstein was second, Donald Logsdon was third, Clinton Lew was fourth, Linda Tessier was fifth, Kathy Malovos was sixth.

The September Individual Game was held on 09-14-2019. Roger Boyar was first, Clinton Lew was second, Ho Ming Yim was third, Donald Logsdon was fourth, Thomas Lill was fifth, Marjorie Preston was sixth, Paul Chrisney was seventh.

The October, 2019 Individual Game will be held on October 05, 2019 at Penny Barbieri’s house. There will be NO Individual Game in November, 2019 due to scheduling problems and lack of a host.

There were 40½ tables of games in July, 2019.
There were 55½ tables of games in August, 2019.

We are planning to have six Club Appreciation Games in October, 2019.

VII. Hospitality: (Vic, Tom)

A bill of \$25.00 was submitted by Vic Sartor. Margie Hall was asked if she would like to be reimbursed for the eggs that she brings. She said that would not be necessary.

VIII. Education: (Tom)

There was nothing to report.

IX. Publicity: (Tom)

A copy of The Southern California Bridge News was placed on the table for those who wanted to look at it. Please let Tom Lill know if there is anything that should be included in The Southern California Bridge News. Bob Shore, the President of the District 23 Board of Directors has asked that Unit Board of Directors Meeting Minutes be included in The Southern California Bridge News.

The District Board of Directors meeting for District 23 will be held after our November Unit Game on November 16, 2019.

X. Disciplinary: (Vic)

There was nothing new to report.

XI. Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

XII. New Business:

Support for The Southern California Bridge News – Some Units do not contribute to it. Although there is nothing done because they don't contribute, they should be contributing.

Tom Lill received an email from the Vice President of the High Desert Unit (516). She was asking if we would be interested in having a Joint Sectional. We are interested in having it. We discussed renting a space at La Fetra Senior Center in Glendora, CA. for the Joint Sectional. We will continue to explore and discuss having this game.

Plans for the October, 2019 Unit Game – We will not have a two-session game as there was not enough interest.

The Longest Day will be starting registration soon. We are planning to participate.

XIII. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m. by Vic Sartor.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are Gerry Bare, Eddie Kantar, Roger Lee, Tim Lolli,
Rick Roeder and David Sacks.

1		South	West	North	East
			3♣	pass	3NT
		double	pass	pass	4♣
		double	pass	5♥	pass
		???			
Matchpoints N-S Vul		You, South, hold: ♠AQ985 ♥A4 ♦A98 ♣AJ5			

[It's hard to envision what partner might have to pass over 3NT doubled, but to make a slam try over 4♣ doubled. Does he have very long hearts and a rather weak hand? Does he have a stronger hand with marginal hearts? We have enough extras to bid some slam, but what is the best strain?]

Kantar: 6♥. I'm playing partner for eight hearts and no outside king. He must have been afraid to overcall hearts for fear his partner would think he had a better hand.

Lolli: 6♥. Partner was content to play 3NT doubled, but he judged the penalty wouldn't be enough against 4♣ doubled. Thus, he has good hearts and wants to play a slam instead if I can bid it. I'm more concerned about missing seven and making six.

Sacks: 6♥. Preempts work! I have two first round controls more than the minimum that I could have, so let us see what happens.

[Should we suggest playing the hand in spades, and if so, what's the best try?]

Bare: 5♠. This leaves all options open.

[5NT suggests two places to play. The 5NT bidders are going to correct 6♦ to 6♥ to give partner a choice of 6♥ or 6♠. I'm a 5NT bidder.]

Lee: 5NT. Surely we have enough to bid more, since partner would not be stretching to bid 5♥ in this position. I'll offer a choice between 6♥ and 6♠ since I don't think my hearts are good enough to insist on them. If partner pulls 6♥ to 6♠, I'd think that's right on average.

Roeder: 5NT. This hand is slam worthy, but I do not want to unilaterally commit to hearts. If partner has six good hearts, they will be rebid.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">IMPs N-S Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
		???		2♦*
	<p>* 2♦ was described as weak but random.</p> <p>You, South, hold: ♠AJ ♥AKQ964 ♦A2 ♣Q74</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>			

[We have an excellent hand. How do we best make progress?]

Roeder: Double. No bid by partner can embarrass you. Even if partner bids 4♠, you will not be ashamed to rebid 5♥.

Sacks: Double. Maybe we will glean some information with partner’s response. If partner responds 3♣ he will have some values *[David is assuming the Lebensohl convention, of which virtually all expert pairs use some variation]* as opposed to 2♠ or 2NT, which could be broke.

[One bidder considered double, but went a different route.]

Lee: 4♥. It’s tempting to double first to try to go slower. However, I play that partner is expected to pull 4♥ to 4♠ with most hands with five spades and fewer than three hearts, which we certainly don’t want with this hand.

[Two bidders beg for partner to bid with a solid trick.]

Lolli: 3♥. 3♥ shows a very good hand so I expect partner to react accordingly.

Bare: 3♥. Top of the range for 3♥, but best anyway.

[Our final bidder selects my choice, the NT game!]

Kantar: 3NT. Where there are eight there will be nine. Where there are nine (bidding 4♥) there may not be ten.

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs Both Vul</p>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><u>South</u></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><u>West</u></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><u>North</u></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><u>East</u></td> </tr> </table>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>								
<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>										
	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">1♠</td> <td style="width: 25%;">pass</td> <td style="width: 25%;">2♥</td> <td style="width: 25%;">pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2♠</td> <td>pass</td> <td>3♣</td> <td>pass</td> </tr> <tr> <td>???</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1♠	pass	2♥	pass	2♠	pass	3♣	pass	???			
1♠	pass	2♥	pass										
2♠	pass	3♣	pass										
???													
	<p>You, South, hold: ♠AKQ653 ♥7 ♦J4 ♣Q652</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>												

Bare: 4♠. This might be best spot, but a club slam is quite possible. [At matchpoints I think we would get more 4♠ bidders.]

Kantar: 4♣. Hoping to have a chance to bid 4♠ if partner bids 4♦ or 4♥.

Lee: 4♣. I have great club support, so I raise clubs. These spades are not good enough to rebid again with such an attractive alternative.

Lolli: 4♣. I don't have a great hand, but partner is looking for the best game or slam. I'll assume we have the mechanism to stop in 4NT if necessary.

[How do we show club support with a singleton heart? David suggests bidding around the heart suit to show a singleton.]

Sacks: 4♣. There was a time I would bid 3♦ to see where partner was coming next. If that bid followed by 4♣ over 3NT guaranteed a singleton heart I might still do that. Bidding 4♣ is easy; the tough part is what to do over partner's bidding 4♥ next.

[Rick suggests the answer I like, 4♥.]

Roeder: 4♣. Glad you did not give as a matchpoint problem. *[Matchpoints would make it a more difficult problem]*. If a 4♥ bid is a splinter, as I suspect it should be, that would have much merit. One of the most difficult bidding evaluations is to know whether your stiff, opposite partner's length, is a good thing or a bad thing. That is why 4♥ would be invaluable as a splinter here. Practical bridge dictates that partner be aware.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints Both Vul</p>	<u>South</u> <u>West</u> <u>North</u> <u>East</u>
	<p>???</p>
	<p>You, South, hold: ♠95 ♥K986542 ♦AJ83 ♣void</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>

[What's the best call here: Pass, 1♥, 2♥, ♥ or 4♥?]

Lee: Pass. Any preemptive number of hearts is a misdescription, and 1♥ is a strange bid with such little defense/HCP. If I had to open I would open 1♥.

Sacks: Pass. I pass, unless the state of the match is such that I am looking for a swing. I am not up to the current state of affairs so as to open 1♥.

Lolli: 2♥. Once I ruled out pass and 1♥, I made my ugly bid. A seven card suit, a void, and a side 4 card suit aren't my cup of tea, but this is a tough hand.

Bare: 3♥. A pass followed by a high-level bid usually shows a two-suiter and the diamonds don't quite make it a two-suiter. Also, the hand should be stronger as well as two-suited for most high level bidding.

Kantar: 3♥. Not exactly what partner will expect, but on the other hand, not exactly an easy hand to describe. Please don't tell me I missed a game or a slam in diamonds, please, John.

Roeder: 3♥. I know preempts are getting looser, but even considering a 4♥ with this moth-eaten suit should result in a 30 masterpoint penalty. *[Ask your buddy Ifi Baqui!]*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>IMPs N-S Vul.</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	pass	pass	3♥	3♦
	???			pass
	You, South, hold: ♠K853 ♥K8652 ♦Q43 ♣A			
What call do you make?				

Bare: 5♥. A guess but many minimum hands will produce slam.

[One 5♥ bidder still isn't giving up on a grand.]

Lolli: 5♥. If partner has three small diamonds I'll apologize, but if partner is kind enough to bid 5♠ over my 5♥, I can bid 6♣ and land in the correct level.

Roeder: 4♦. Not riskless, but I could not bear partner's scorn if he looks at dummy in 4♥, holding ♠Ax ♥Axxxx ♦x ♣Kxxxx, and telling me I badly need a testosterone injection. Then his adding insult by saying, "Sorry, partner, I guess I should have jumped to 4♥."

[One panelist thinks he is making a "fake" cuebid, showing a diamond control.]

Kantar: 4♦. You've driven me to make fake cuebids, John. What is to become of me? *[Remember, Eddie, no matter what you bid in this panel, you are still the master, and Yvonne loves you!]*

[Other panelists think 4♦ represents a big hand with a fit and says nothing about a heart fit.]

Lee: 4♦. I have a good raise in hearts with reasonable slam chances, so that's what I would show.

Sacks: 4♦. Agrees hearts and suggests slam.