

# Bridge News

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



### Board Meeting

Very little news this month. It does not appear that we will be able to arrange a Grand National Teams competition this year. The recent news about on-line cheating (via self-kibitzing) certainly makes me think twice about the integrity of such a contest without a great deal more technical support than is currently available to us. The only other news of note from the July Board meeting was the decision to reduce by 50% our annual request for funding from the Units to defray the costs of the *Bridge News*. I'd like to publicly thank our editor, Tom Lill, for making it possible to reduce this request.

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

### **More Pearls of Wisdom from Edgar Kaplan** (commentating on VuGraph)

East is wondering why he didn't pass one spade. So am I.

The modern fashion in cuebids is not to show anything in particular but to cast a rosy glow over the whole auction.

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## District Director Report

by Kevin Lane

"Bridge is a game and should be fun."



### *My Email*

Because of changes prompted by ACBL headquarters, the best email address for my district director work is now: district23director@acbl.org.

### *Re-org*

The most impactful motion that passed during the Montreal virtual board meeting is the motion to re-organize the board of directors. This motion will reduce the size of the board of directors from 25 to 13. Because the motion involves a bylaw change it requires two consecutive votes with 2/3 of the board voting for it. But it passed again, albeit more narrowly than the first vote a few months ago.

The upshot of the vote is that the re-org plan is officially passed now that the board of governors also passed the motion by a majority. So, districts will not be affected but the number of district directors will be reduced to 13. For purposes of electing an ACBL board of director representative, D23 will combine with D22.

I voted for this motion both in the spring and last week. I am not convinced that the new structure is best suited to confront the challenges facing the ACBL, but endless discussions on re-organizing have undermined the board's ability to address serious problems, and the re-org motion was destined to repeatedly come before the board until something was passed. My main concern is that the reduction in board size will exacerbate the very serious problem of attracting qualified board members.

DIRECTOR continued on page 2

DIRECTOR continued from page 1*Discontinuation of the District 23 CAP supplement*

I reiterate – for the third month – the discontinuation of the district 23 CAP supplement that I first mentioned in my June message.

Some clubs have benefited from a District 23 supplement to the cooperative advertising program. Due to cost cutting at the ACBL this CAP supplement will be discontinued. The normal 50% reimbursement that the ACBL provides will continue, of course. Only the District 23 supplement is being discontinued.

I welcome your input. [district23director@acbl.org](mailto:district23director@acbl.org)

## From the Director's Desk by David White

*My computer told me to uninstall 2020. It has a virus.*

How BBO works and some recent changes:

Strats in BBO are by BBO points. So a grand Life Master can be a 2. The exception are starred players, who are always 'A's.

BBO stratifies by the highest player not by average. The top third of the field is A, the second third is B, and the rest are C.

Seeding is by simply alternating players NS and EW. The highest player in one direction, second highest in the other on down to the end of the field. Then both sets of players are scrambled. BBO does not try to ensure the highest EW plays the highest NS at any time.

BBO only tries to determine most probable outcome of unfinished boards, if there are less than five tricks left to play. Boards with no contract or less than seven tricks completed will be assigned A==. Directors be wary, these boards will disappear from your unfinished list quickly. You might have some additional adjustments to make.

Let the people, and virtual club owners, be heard!! The ACBL guest policy has been replaced with the ACBL visitor policy. Bottom line, easier to play at a virtual club if you never played in the brick and mortar club. Clubs have been given leeway to

have diverse and more restrictive policies. Check your individual club manager for details.

With more clubs coming on line worldwide, there are more changes coming in how BBO organizes the list of virtual clubs. To make it easier to find your club, add the club director as a friend. That way their host tag will be a different color and it will stand out in the list of clubs.

More on catching cheats:

Warning geek speak ahead. Your home has an internet address called the IP address, think of it as your ZIP code. Each device in your home also has an address, usually called the port. Think of this as the ZIP plus 4 code.

BBO knows what they are. You can not hide these addresses, because BBO could not communicate with your computer without them. When funny bids and strange plays happen, one the easiest things for BBO to check is: "Are the both partners at the same internet address?"

Additionally, the BBO software will not let you sign in twice with the same ID, or twice on the same browser. Neither can you login twice on the address and port with any ID.

Recommended ruling

One of those situations that never occurs in a face to face game. A player disappears and the other three players just wait and wait and wait a little longer.

If the player disconnected, or had an internet problem, the director was notified automatically. If any luck, the director is already working the problem.

The more perplexing problem is no disconnection just silence. It usually happens at the first bid or the first trick. The player 'stepped out' not realizing that:

- There was another round to play.
- BBO progressed to the next round,
- (S)he was declarer, not dummy.

While unfortunate and unintentional, the fact that other players were denied a chance to play is one person's fault and A== is an unfair resolution. Unlike situations where a player runs out of time, we have no clue as to their line of play and should not even attempt to adjust to a score or result.

During online tournaments, we adjust to Ave+-  
for the not offending side.

*I stepped on my scale this morning. It said,  
"Please maintain social distancing, one person at a  
time."*

**Play or Defend?**  
*by John Jones*

♠ void  
♥ K Q J 5 4  
♦ 5 4 3 2  
♣ K 10 8 7 6

West

♠ 10 6  
♥ 10 8 7 2  
♦ K Q 10 8  
♣ A Q 2

East

♠ J 9 8 7 5 3  
♥ void  
♦ 9 6 2  
♣ J 9 4

South

♠ A K Q 4  
♥ A 9 6 3  
♦ A J 7  
♣ 5 3d

Opening Lead = ♦K

Contract = 6♥

Would you like to play or defend?

If you need a hint, turn to page 4.

The solution is on page 9.



Submitted by John Jones:



***Our bridge teacher says  
to make the opening lead  
face down.***



### District 23 Rank Changes June 2020

**Junior Master**

Marie E. Brown  
Sharon M. Coryell  
Craig Dietrich  
Andrea Luria  
Linda S. Offenber  
Piyush Parik h  
Margo Peck  
Alison H. Thompson

**Club Master**

Carolyn Dubow  
Edythe Goldberger  
Linda W. Gordon  
Mickey Lewis  
Peggy A. Mitteldorf  
Janelle Morton  
Mariann Nolan

**Club Master**

Julianne R. O Connor  
Paul W. Poareo  
Rollin Ransom  
Sue Smyle  
Susan Talty  
Rita L. Van Lierop

**Sectional Master**

Kim Ebner  
Bruce L. McDaniel  
June Siegel  
Jill E. Smith  
Janet L. Sobell  
Michael M. Zelichov

**Regional Master**

Petra E. Green  
Lindsay Gronich

**NABC Master**

Glenn R. Silcott

**Life Master**

Adam M. Barron  
Timothy V. Cole  
Christina M. Craige

**Bronze Life Master**

Adam M. Barron  
Virginia S. Brewer  
Eileen Miech  
Phil H. Rabichow  
Thomas W. Robinson

**Ruby Life Master**

Kathy M. Flynn  
Richard B. Stevenson

#### Hint for “Play or Defend?”

Declarer would like to establish the clubs with only one loser and without East obtaining the lead at the wrong time. Can declarer accomplish this or can the defense prevail?

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## Around the Units in District 23



### Long Beach by Jon Yinger

[www.acblunit557.org](http://www.acblunit557.org)  
[www.LongBeachBridge.com](http://www.LongBeachBridge.com)

*No news from Long Beach this month.*



### Pomona – Covina by Tom Lill [www.acblunit551.org](http://www.acblunit551.org)

Unit Game: Saturday August 29, 11:00 a.m., Chino  
Individual: Nope. Not this month.

Well, I'm not-a-gonna waste any more typing letting you know that La Fetra is still closed. If-and-when, I'll let you know. LOUD.

And, the Knights of Columbus Hall in Glendora has now closed again. I decided not to even attempt to hold a Unit game in July, but I'm hopeful for August. Because my personal schedule is a bit ... awful best describes it ... in August, the game will have to be on the 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday rather than our usual 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. Note that this is NOT Labor Day weekend, but the one before it. Masks will be required.

Space is somewhat limited (I want to keep the tables well separated), so I am REQUIRING advance sign-ups. Please let me know if you plan to attend *not later than* Wednesday, August 26. If I don't have enough by then, no game. Note that since facility rent won't be a problem, I'll even hold a two or three table (team) game if that's fine with the players. Random teams (OK to play with your favorite partner, of

course), and I'll assign handicaps to the teams. The entry fee will be reduced; not sure how much, just yet.

The Individual held on the morning of July 4<sup>th</sup> was a modest success. We had nine players, giving the Host the last sit-out and giving him time to fire up the BBQ. Not enough people signed up in advance for an August game (it would have been on the 1<sup>st</sup>), but we'll try again for September 5.

Oh, yes, the winner of the July Individual was Rosalie Roberts. Susie Emminger came in second, Sofi Kasubhai third, and Linda Tessier fourth.

No promotions to report again this month. I haven't seen too many of our Unit members playing in the PPDVBC, so again, no surprise.

If you haven't been dropping in to the PPDVBC, maybe you should think about it. I plan to reward those players who have been supporting the Virtual Club, once face-to-face bridge resumes at La Fetra. How? Not tellin' ...yet.

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we have an exhibit which once again demonstrates why this is such a fascinating and unpredictable game. It should drive you mad ... if you aren't already there. (Bridge is sort of like playing the oboe: if you aren't crazy to take it up in the first place, it will surely drive you there. Pressure on the brain, don't you know?)

Anyway, you are West, not vulnerable against vulnerable opponents, and you find yourself looking at this *fine* collection:

♠ none   ♥ 9 8 7 5 4 3 2   ♦ 4   ♣ A K J 10 7

Partner opens the bidding 1♠ (what else). South passes, and you bid 1NT, forcing. North passes, and partner rebids 2♠ (of course). But now you can call 3♥, and hope to play it there. No, partner pulls to 3♠, which just makes. (He has to lose three trump tricks and a diamond, there being only two pitches on dummy's clubs.)

At one table, South intervened over 1♠ with 2♦, allowing West to make a somewhat odd negative double. No matter, East rebid 2♠, pass, pass, 3♦ by North (!), pass, pass, 3♥ by West, pass, 3♠ by East.

Here's the full deal:

♠ K 10 6 3	
♥ A 10 6	
♦ Q 7 6	
♣ 8 5 4	
♠ none	♠ A Q J 7 4 2
♥ 9 8 7 5 4 3 2	♥ none
♦ 4	♦ A J 5 3
♣ A K J 10 7	♣ 6 3 2
♠ 9 8 5	
♥ K Q J	
♦ K 10 9 8 2	
♣ Q 9	

So long as the ♦A remains intact, declarer can force out the trumps and run the clubs. (South's normal lead is a heart from the sequence.) But if South does call diamonds, North pushes the ♦Q through as soon as he gains the lead, and it's curtains.

The bizarre part is that in hearts, West makes FOUR because of the 3-3 trump split and the fact that the ♣Q comes down. One table was allowed to play 3♥. Go figure.

Quote for the month: "The saying is true, the empty vessel makes the loudest sound." (William Shakespeare)

## Downey – Whittier by Linda Eagan and Liz Burrell

*Nothing from Downey – Whittier this month.*



## Santa Clarita- Antelope Valley by Beth Morrin

The Santa Clarita – AV Unit is still running "Unit 556+ Virtual Club" games 4 days a week on BBO. Paula Olivares is the club manager. We have been told officially that our Sectional planned for early October has been cancelled as with all ACBL tournaments for the remainder of 2020. Looks like we will be playing online for quite a while.

## Meet Our Virtual Club Directors:

We are going to highlight our 4 directors in the next few months. This month we are featuring our Friday Director, Mike Savage.

Mike Savage learned bridge from his parents while attending Pacific High School in San Bernardino, California and then after attending Occidental College joined the army and became a Russian translator for the Army Security Agency and was posted to Germany to eavesdrop on Russian military activity in East Germany during the Cuban missile crisis. He became a Life Master shortly after leaving the Army and returning to the States in the mid-sixties. He had the benefit of being in a group of young players tutored by Paul Soloway in the new Walsh system after Al Okuneff's nearby money bridge club had closed for the night. He played competitive tournament bridge into the 1970s and had a regular partnership with Ed Davis and Milton Edwards amongst others.

Then in the 1970s, he semi-retired from competitive bridge to concentrate on a career of Technical Illustration and then Commercial Art. In about 1980 he pulled up stakes, moved to Ajijic, on Lake Chapala in Jalisco, Mexico with a friend and lived there on a shoestring for close to five years, writing, teaching and playing social bridge.

Mike returned to the States to help take care of his ailing parents who then lived in Crestline, California, joined by Teofilo Orihuela. During this time he began to direct duplicate clubs in Riverside and Los Angeles and is currently directing at the South Bay Bridge Club three days a week and has directed at the Beverly Hills Bridge club three days a week for about 27 years.

In the 1990s, Mike was an ACBL tournament director and directed at many local tournaments. Now, besides directing at the two clubs, he sometimes plays professionally with students at clubs and in Southern California tournaments. In his spare time he regularly competes in tournaments with various partners. For many years he had been giving away comprehensive write-ups of commonly used conventions at local tournaments. The Bridge Bulletin and the District 23 newspaper and Blog have published some bridge articles on conventions and write-ups of interesting hands written by him. He is a Grand Life Master with over 11,000 Masterpoints.

**Winners in Unit 556+:**

Mon. June 29 at 12:15		
	Mira Rowe – Ron Oest	62.80%
Tues. June 30 at 6:15		
	Amr Elghamry – Dominique Moore	64.19%
Thurs. July 2 at 10:15		
	David Khalieque – Paul Gill	66.20%
Fri. July 3 at 12:15		
	Arthur Moore – Dominique Moore	65.88%
Mon. July 6 at 12:15		
	&m56033 - &m56048 (robots)	70.44%
Tues. July 7 at 6:15		
	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	66.39%
Thurs. July 9 at 10:15		
	Pat Larin – David White	67.25%
Fri. July 10 at 12:15		
	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	62.18%
Mon. July 13 at 12:15		
	Carol Provost – Kathy Swaine	65.87%
Tues. July 14 at 6:15		
	Roselyn Teukolsky – Saul Teukolsky	65.19%
Thurs. July 16 at 10:15		
	Carolyn Cohen – Dominique Moore	69.65%
Fri. July 17 at 12:15		
	Rom Amiran – Allan Brown	64.74%
Mon. July 20 at 12:15		
	Ramesh Sawhney – Temo Arjani	61.80%
Tues. July 21 at 6:15		
	Roselyn Teukolsky – Saul Teukolsky	70.75%
Thurs. July 23 at 10:15		
	Donald Bush – Joanne Ende (subs)	63.54%
Fri. July 24 at 12:15		
	Debra Pride – John Bell	66.20%

All game results can be found at ACBL’s website and on the Common Game website. If any player feels the score given is incorrect, they need to contact the director as soon as possible. A player has approximately 20 minutes after the game is over to contact the director or the results will stand.

**Swiss Teams:** Unit 556+ held a practice Swiss Team game on Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup> and will hopefully hold regular Swiss Team Games in the future. For more information about joining our games, contact our club manager, Paula Olivares ([paula@pacbell.net](mailto:paula@pacbell.net)).

Next board meeting: TBA



**West Los Angeles**  
 by Elizabeth Ryan  
[eryan311@gmail.com](mailto:eryan311@gmail.com)

[Editor’s note: Last month, West LA reported on a big win by Bill Schreiber and Peter Knee, but no other information was available by press time. This month, we remedy that situation.]



Jordan Chodorow

From ACBL Bridge Feed:

Jordan Chodorow of Los Angeles won the Summer NABC Robot Individual in July with a three-day average of 68.35%. Chodorow barely edged Leo LaSota, the perennial winner of the online masterpoints race, who scored 68.33%. Chodorow and LaSota ran neck and neck throughout the event: on day 1 they scored 69.01% and 69.63% respectively; on day 2, 72.19% and 71.08%; and day 3, 63.86% and 64.28%. “He was the first to congratulate me,” Chodorow said.

Chodorow, 47, is the president of West Los Angeles Unit 562 and a Diamond Life Master who has earned more than 70% of his masterpoints in online play. He won the North American Pairs Flight B in 2003. Chodorow joked about his plans for celebration. “Champagne for me and a big bottle of Valvoline for my ‘partner.’ This gives my human partners a lot to live up to.”

from the BBO Blog:

Alex J. Coyne (AJC): Tell readers about yourself: Bridge player, but also tax law expert handling yacht, aircraft and art sales as well as

professional film critic and four-time Crossword champion.

*Jordan Chodorow (JC):* My dad's a tax lawyer, so the one thing I knew growing up I'd never be is a tax lawyer. Of course, you know the rest. We work together and I'm glad to have the time with him.

My days as both a U.S. Open tennis umpire and a professional film critic are over, but I still see over 200 new movies a year (well, not this year...) and review them at [JordanonFilm.com](http://JordanonFilm.com).

I did win four California crossword championships and remain the only cruciverbalist to complete a New York Times puzzle in under two minutes in live tournament competition.

AJC: What pushed you to enter the NABC Robot Individual?

JC: I've entered all of them. To me, robot bridge is the purest, truest form of bridge. Don't get me wrong; I love live bridge and other forms of bridge on BBO, but they contain a huge element of chance (whom you play which boards against, which system they're using, how they choose to evaluate a hand, what mood they're in...). And a club game? You're a leaf in the wind.

*[Finally, John Jones submits the following tribute to Jordan:]*

I haven't played often with Jordan Chodorow, but I will relate one hand that I played with Jordan. This hand occurred at the Beverly Hills Bridge Club several years ago.

I don't remember the exact hand, but about two-thirds of the way through a session that was going pretty well I picked up a 3=3=4=3 9 HCP hand. My hand included mostly scattered queens and jacks. The only four card suit was poor and the spots on the hand were horrid. This wasn't just a bad 9 HCP hand it was a horrid 9 HCP.

Jordan opened 1NT showing 15 to 17. Normally a 9-count is an automatic invite. But this wasn't an ordinary 9-count, the hand was worth more like 6 and I knew it. But we were having a good game and I was sure that almost everyone would raise with my hand. Also troubling was that our methods required me to go through Stayman if I wished to invite, giving the opponents some information about Jordan's distribution. But most troubling of all was that I had the best technician of anyone in his direction playing the hand. I didn't cherish going against the

field especially with Jordan stroking the dummy. Which way to go? Go low trusting my evaluation or invite trusting Jordan's great card play. I had never passed a 9-count in that situation previously (or since) and I hemmed and hawed and finally passed.

Want the bad news? Jordan had a decent 17-count and would have bid 3NT if given the chance. Want more bad news? Sure enough, Jordan outplayed the field and made one trick more than anyone else. Want the good news? Jordan made seven tricks while all other declarers made six. We opened the traveler to see that every other pair was -300 while we were +90. We had won the board in both the bidding and in the play. Well done Jordan!

Congrats on your championship!

## The District 23 Club by David White

*Nothing from the District 23 Club this month.*



## Pasadena – San Gabriel by Morris “Mojo” Jones

[bridgemojo.com](http://bridgemojo.com)



It's been a surprisingly busy month of bridge! The Pasadena Pomona Downey VBC (virtual bridge club) continues offering four open games weekly, and three well-attended limited games.

The crowds really came out for Silver Linings week, still in progress as of this writing. We added a couple of extra non-Life Master games to try and help players meet their silver point requirements.

This month we added a newcomer pairs game on Wednesday evening that has been very well attended. Most



of the players were new to bridge this year, from classes offered by me and Art Gulbrandson at the Arcadia Bridge Center late in 2019 or early 2020. After each Wednesday evening game, we have an after-party postmortem on Zoom to celebrate the game and look over hands.

Another experiment is showing promise: on Tuesday evenings we're holding a Zoom Bridge Social game. For the moment it's an open game. The first two games had a wide range of experience! It's just about my favorite game of the week right now. I've been hosting and unable to play in the game, but it's been a real treat to see faces and join the tables to chat between rounds.

We're playing only 12 boards or so, with a lot of extra time for the rounds. This game isn't so much about the score (though of course we're keeping score). It's about spending time with friends over a card game.

The inspiration for the Zoom Social comes from the July ACBL Bulletin, page 16. After working out most of the tech puzzles, it turns out to be viable and fun!

I just held my first class on Play of the Hand using online tools from Shark Bridge. It's a fascinating and remarkable system. I have 17 students for the class, planning to attend six Tuesday afternoons.

Everyone starts by joining a Zoom meeting. I give everyone a web URL for each student to follow. Players are assigned to virtual tables, and can be grouped four to a table, two to a table, or in this case, I can put everyone at South to practice declarer play.

The system has worked very nicely, and I'm confident going into the fall training season! I start my first class of *Introduction to Bridge* students on Tuesday evening, August 25, through PCC Extension. Now I have the training tools, and the newcomer bridge game to bring them all up to speed.

## Solution to "Play or Defend?"

You should elect to defend. Declarer wins the opening lead and cashes two spades to pitch diamonds from the dummy. When declarer leads the first club towards dummy, West plays the ♣Q. Declarer can win with the ♣K and return to hand. However, when declarer plays the second club, West ducks the ♣A and lets East win. East now leads a third round of spades allowing West to discard the ♣A. West now is able to overruff if a third round of clubs is played. Pretty fancy defense huh? But that's exactly how it was defended by the Mad Hatter (East) and the March Hare (West) in Jeff Rubens 1986 booklet **Bridge in Wonderland**.

# Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Paul Boudreau, Sid Brownstein, Jill Meyers,  
Rick Roeder and John Swanson

*As always, panelists are playing 5-card majors, 15 - 17 NT, and 2/1 GF. Beyond that, except where indicated, panelists may use any reasonable methods.*

*Paul is new to this panel. A force in South Bay bridge for a long time, he has had great success in the Bridge World magazine's famous Master Solver Contest. He won the annual bidding contest in 2018 and lost it in 2019 by the narrowest possible margin (10 points). He has several other high finishes and is currently a Master Solvers Panelist. Welcome Paul.*

*Before we begin this month, let me apologize for an oversight from last month. Problem 4 included the auction, vulnerability and the comments from the moderator and panelists. It did not include the actual hand, which was: ♠AKQ3 ♥T87 ♦764 ♣Q95. Mea Culpa!*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">1</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs N-S Vul</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">West</th> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">North</th> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">East</th> <th style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">South</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1♦</td> <td>pass</td> <td>1♥</td> <td>double</td> </tr> <tr> <td>pass#</td> <td>pass</td> <td>1♠&amp;</td> <td>???</td> </tr> </table> <p># Opponents were not playing support doubles and redoubles &amp; After a long pause</p> <p>You, South, hold: ♠A54 ♥void ♦AKQJ4 ♣A10987</p> <p style="text-align: center;">What call do you make?</p>	West	North	East	South	1♦	pass	1♥	double	pass#	pass	1♠&	???
West	North	East	South										
1♦	pass	1♥	double										
pass#	pass	1♠&	???										

**Brownstein:** 2NT. What kind of hand would partner pass 1♦? I guess that depends on your partner. He's not good enough to overcall a heart. My guess is he has 5-6 points with five good hearts. I'm not quitting on getting to a game. 3NT is best chance. I'm bidding 2NT.

**Swanson:** 1NT. This is a recurring type of problem wherein partner has passed a takeout double and the strength of his hand is unknown – and your hand is strong enough that you are unwilling to risk partner being unable to bid. Double is certainly a possible action, but it is easy to visualize the opponents taking a lot of tricks in 1♠. Any decision partner makes will be with the expectation that I hold four spades. The payoff is in 3NT if partner has a few high cards.

**Boudreau:** 1NT. Ugh! Passing 1♠ doesn't feel right. I doubt RHO's hesitation was based on five hearts. That leaves partner with a minimum of six hearts. Unless his unheard hearts (vul vs nv) resemble QJ98xx he also won't hold four spades for his pass. Not confident

that he will or should allow me to play in 1NT with his two or three spades and six or seven hearts. With his pass of 1♥ doubled he might discern that I could have supported hearts with honor doubleton. Bidding 2♣ seems ill-advised since that could be partner's stiff and 2♦ would be silly.

**Meyers:** Double, no guarantee to beat this but 1♠ doubled making is not going to be a disaster. I think RHO is 4/5 in the majors and I can lead a spade and get the trump pull going.

**Roeder:** 2♣. If partner cannot chirp, are unlikely to miss game.

*This hand came from an online team game. My partner (Bill Hall) held this hand. He bid 1NT and passed when I bid 2♥ holding ♥JT9876 and little else. I scored 8 tricks for +110, but didn't like my partner's call, thinking he was showing 19 – 20 balanced. The panel vindicates him. I had two spades, so 1♠ was touch and go. Jill's trump lead might nip it a trick, but 2♥ is makeable and 1NT is easy.*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs N-S Vul</p>	East	South	West	North
	3♥	double	pass	3NT
	pass	4♥	pass	5♦
	pass	???		

You, South, hold: ♠AJ10987 ♥A9 ♦A ♣AKQ2

A) Do you agree with your previous bids? If not, what would you have done?

B) What now?

**Brownstein:** (A) Double is right. 4♥ doesn't help. (B) 6♠ is my best guess; impossible guess.

**Swanson:** (A) No, I would have bid 4♠ over 3NT. That understates my high card values a bit, but partner could hold very little for 3NT, and if that very little is in the red suits we might be delighted with any game. (B) 5♠. It's time to bid spades.

**Boudreau:** (A) Yes. (B) 5♠. ♠x ♥QJX ♦KJxxxx ♣XXX or ♠Kx ♥KTx ♦KJ9xx ♣xxx are both possible 3NT calls IMO. I should be passing 5♦ with the former. With the latter, I don't see him bidding more than 5♦ over 4♥ since the ♥K could be opposite a void. With the latter he should raise 5♠ since he has at least two working kings. With ♠Q instead of ♠K we might miss the spade slam.

**Meyers:** (A) I do not agree with my previous bids; I think I would have bid 4♠ directly over 3♥, which shows a super hand, I would rather have another spade honor but the quality of my suit is so good. I do not hate double, but once I doubled, what is 4♥? 4♠ is the bid to make. I think 4♥ is awful. (B) What now? Apologize to partner for bidding my hand so terribly.

*Is there a "SORRY!" card in the bidbox? I'm sure many players don't know the meaning of that word!*

**Roeder** 5♠. Previous bidding gets the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval.

*This was my hand and I put it in because I thought it was a nightmare. It occurred in our online Caltech game on BBO on June 24. My partner was Yehudit Hasin. She held ♠65 ♥K87 ♦KQJ732 ♣T5. I like 6♦ not 5♦ with her hand. But the hand had been put into space by Claude Vogel's 3♥ preempt. I bid 6NT and she scored it easily (7NT fails as none of the possible squeezes quite work). However, you think this auction was difficult? At the other table my teammate Jacqui McGreal (of Icelandic fame) bid raised to 4♥ holding ♠K42 ♥J ♦T954 ♣98763. Want to play with this crazy group? The games are at 7:30 PM Pacific Time on Monday and Thursday nights. Just be on BBO and let johnjones, h2osmom (Carol Frank), chitchcock (Chris Hitchcock) or matt\_k (Matt Klimesh) know you would like in. Sometimes it's teams and sometimes pairs, and we'll get you a partner if you are alone.*

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">3</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">IMPs none Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	pass	pass	1♠	2♦
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠K96 ♥J10765 ♦KJ873 ♣void</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

*Pass, hoping to penalize, raising to 2♠, and a negative double are all possible here. What's our panelists choices?*

**Roeder:** Pass. Automatic. Partner was 3<sup>rd</sup> seat and white. Thus, the 1♠ opening does not carry a warranty offered by the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. *Just who put Ricky in charge of handing out Good Housekeeping Seal of Bidding Awards?*

**Brownstein:** Negative double. If there is no heart agreement then I'll support spades.

**Swanson:** 2♠. I don't have a quarrel with a negative double; partner might hold four hearts. The downside is that partner won't be expecting spade support.

**Boudreau:** 2♠. If they were vul and I had slightly better diamond spots (greedy) I would pass. Not worth more than a simple raise with only three trumps and a ♦K that partner might never enjoy.

**Meyers:** 2♠. I don't know that I am beating 2♦, and even if they go down one or two we still have a part score in spades, and maybe a vul game and maybe they will bid again (*she drools*).

*This hand comes from the 2019 inaugural Soloway championship in San Francisco. The auction was the same up to this point at both tables. The players facing this decision were Jacek Kalita and Howard Weinstein. Weinstein chose pass, but his partner Bobby Levin had opened ♠QJT52 ♥A432 ♦6 ♣K54 and passed also. Declarer guessed poorly for down one and -50. Kalita tried a negative double. His opponents arrived at a reasonable 5♣ contract, also down one for a push. Bart Bramley, reporting for the Bridge World (July 2020) commented that he preferred a raise to 2♠ with these cards. I'm in the 2♠ camp also.*

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">4</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs N-S Vul</p>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>	<u>South</u>
	2♠	pass	4♠	???
	You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥J98763 ♦AK ♣AJ82 What call do you make?			

**Boudreau:** Pass. Heavy defense-to-offense ratio. Too many losers at these colors even though I expect at most Qx in spade wastage from partner. I will stay fixed and anxiously await dummy to see if I am a wimp or a pragmatist.

**Brownstein:** Pass. No good alternative.

**Swanson:** Pass. My neck won't quite stretch that far.

**Meyers:** Double. The best thing about my hand is that my tricks are not in my long suit – so defensively I think I have three tricks; if partner bids over the double partner will have a long suit; doubles of 4♠ are “protect the equity” - they are not takeout so if partner happens to bid 5♦ I will know partner has at least six of them.

**Roeder:** Double. If partner bids 5♦, I will need to consult my Ouija board. If somebody volunteers 5♥ at

the 5-level with a jack high suit, they need to check their genealogy: good chance some of their ancestors were kamikaze pilots.

*This hand came from the Reynolds online team game match on July 12. I was on the Reynolds team and we were facing an Australian team lead by Peter Gill. The player for our team who held this hand was Tom Reynolds himself. Tom did in fact venture 5♥. Tom bids on more hands than anyone I know following opponents' preemption. Thus far we have frequently come off smelling like a rose when he bids. But consider who the real hero of this hand might be. Tom was playing with his regular partner Lance Kerr. Lance held ♠Kxx ♥ATxx ♦xx ♣KQxx and passed over Tom's 5♥ bid. Making exactly 11 tricks! Wow! Even knowing Tom's tendencies I'm not sure I think pass is best on that auction, but who am I to argue with success? And BTW Rick, Reynolds' ancestors were English!*

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">5</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">IMPs noneVul.</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♥	2♣	double	pass
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠A54 ♥AKQ854 ♦4 ♣Q83</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>				

*Some go low, fearful that the ♣Q isn't well placed.*

**Swanson:** 2♥. Pass, 2♠, and 3♥ are all within the ballpark. I'll go low because the prospect of the defense leading three rounds of clubs is intimidating.

*John is the only panelist to mention pass as an option, but I think it's an intriguing possibility.*

**Roeder:** 2♥. My club holding does not look so hot. Contrary to modern modes, it is OK to be at the top of your range. If my heart holding included the 10, you could talk me into the high road.

*Some go high. The heart suit is certainly worth a little extra.*

**Brownstein:** 3♥. Obvious.

**Meyers:** 3♥. No comment.

*And one panelist has the launch angle on his swing to go for the fence!*

**Boudreau:** 3NT. As little as ♠Kxxx ♥xx ♦Kxxx ♣Jxx will frequently yield nine tricks.

*This problem was suggested by my long-time partner and frequent panelist for this column Mark Bartusek. When he first gave me the problem, I thought 3♥ sounded just right. After thinking about the problem a bit it grew on me and I decided to use it. Mark thought that "just about anything could be right" (he specifically mentioned 3♥ and 2♠) but he preferred 2♥ down grading the ♣Q in front of the overcaller. He also made the point that there is not as much of a premium on stretching to a game because we are non-vulnerable (losing 6 IMPs is still bad, especially in a shorter match like swiss teams or a compact KO). He also stated that one of the issues was partner's style for the negative double. Should the minimum for the negative double be 7 HCP? 9HCP? Mark thinks partner should double on a reasonable 7HCPs. I don't like getting shutout on hands or creating difficult second bids by passing, so I agree. This viewpoint is more aggressive than what most books on negative doubles recommend.*