

Bridge News

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Robert Shore



Looking Ahead

I'm operating under the assumption that in-person bridge will again be safe by the time Bridge Week 2021 is scheduled to occur in Long Beach next July. This basically means I'm assuming that a vaccine will be available that's safe and effective and that the FDA retains (or regains) enough public trust that most of us will feel comfortable relying on it. I'm also assuming that this future vaccine will be widely available in time for people to make travel plans. In my opinion, making the vaccine widely available in that time frame will require vigorous and effective action from the federal government. Thus, my prediction that Bridge Week 2021 will happen as scheduled is very much subject to change based on events in early November.

Real ID Is Coming

But particularly if you live in northern California and you're reading these words, there's something to think about right now. Real ID requirements are coming. As I write, the deadline is October 1, 2021 — after that date, you won't be able to board a plane without one.

“Old” California driver's licenses don't satisfy Real ID requirements. It takes time to get the new ones that do. Back in the halcyon days when the most irritating things we had to gripe about were long lines at the DMV, I waited approximately two hours in line at the DMV to start the process. I could have gotten an appointment, but that would have required me to wait about three months.

So if you're a Californian and you plan to resume flying once things return to normal, start making your plans now. Take some of that additional

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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.

August Board Meeting

The board continues to conduct virtual meetings.

The centerpiece of this month's meeting is a preliminary report on the future of online bridge. A task force had attempted to wrestle with the problem of where online bridge fits into the future of the ACBL.

One task force conclusion was that post-pandemic bridge will be a different in nature than what we're all used to. I agree, but exactly how it will differ is not entirely clear.

The task force also concluded that the schedule of face to face regionals and sectionals must be revised in order to substantially reduce the number of these

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spare time we've all been granted and check the DMV's Web site to figure out which documents you'll need to get that California Real ID. Look around, make sure you have them at hand. If not, there's no time like the present to get what you need.

And when things open up again, make that appointment to minimize your wait time. We're looking forward to having you back in July 2021. We don't want you to miss Bridge Week 2022 because you can't get on a plane.

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

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tournaments. I have made a similar argument for several years. It turns out the ACBL has been losing money at tournaments for several years. One reason the pandemic hasn't hurt the ACBL as bad as expected is that the halting of face to face regionals and sectionals correspondingly halted a stream of losses.

The task force also explored the main problem facing the ACBL: how to ensure a continued influx of new players to our great game. The many ideas raised to tackle this problem will be further explored by both management and the board over the next several months.

Disciplinary cases

The surge in online bridge has brought a parallel surge in the number of disciplinary cases that ACBL management must address.

Many of you have made inquiries to me about specific cases, especially high profile cases. I can not and will not elaborate on the specifics of any of these cases beyond what is publicly shared by the ACBL.

I welcome your input. district23director@acbl.org



There was a young man who introduced himself to me and said he was from Sulligent, Alabama. "Sulligent, Alabama?" I said. "How big is Sulligent?" "Oh," he said, "about four tables." (Charles Goren)



From the Director's Desk *by David White*

This morning I felt I should clean the house. Fortunately I sat down at the computer with BBO and the feeling passed quickly.



There are a couple of new ACBL tournament policies that were implemented in last weeks' online regional. While not mandatory at clubs, many clubs may wish to emulate ACBL and adopt them. Currently these policies only affect ACBL tournaments with live directors; not instant or robot games.

First, UNDOs are allowed. In ACBL this is for bidding misclicks only. Although the UNDO button may appear during play, it is never allowed in play. Regardless of how obviously bad or wrong a play is, no UNDOs when playing out a hand.

The players' procedure: If you have misclicked, immediately message to the table 'STOP'. Then click on the blue hamburger icon in the upper left corner of the screen. Click on 'UNDO' the top item in the drop down menu. This messages your LHO that you want to UNDO. Click on the blue hamburger again, and this time click on 'Call Director.'" Enter 'misclick'. By entering 'misclick' as the reason for the director call, you get priority response from the directing staff. Wait for the director. Follow their instructions.

Players, if you receive a STOP message, or a request for UNDO in a message box, it is illegal to continue bidding. If you answer the UNDO request without the directors instructions, you forfeit all right to an adjustment later.

If 'UNDO' is not listed in the menu, it is not allowed at this time. Don't bother asking for an UNDO in this case. BBO will not allow it. It is physically impossible for the director to do anything about.

Directors; this means you must pay close attention to the director call list. 'Misclick' calls are time critical; and should be answered soonest. The guidelines for allowing an UNDO are much the same as a face to face game; is it obvious? When a player opens 3 Spades holding 7 Hearts, that's an obvious oops. Instruct mis-bidder's LHO to accept UNDO.

When a player opens 1NT holding 15 HCP and 5 spades, xxxxx; that's a reconsideration and not allowed.

The second change concerns a painful subject, near and dear to every director's heart; Convention Cards and how the rule is enforced. The tournament directors have been instructed to vigorously enforce the convention card rule that requires each pair to have a card posted in BBO. Directors have a tool we can use to flag or mark a player if they play without a convention card. You are warned and you get flagged. If you play without a convention card a second time and we see the flag, You can be assessed a procedural penalty WITHOUT further warning.

Players, without a convention card linked to your current partner, you can be forced to play Standard American Yellow Card. If you don't know what SAYC is, you can find it on the ACBL website. Just follow this link:

https://web2.acbl.org/documentLibrary/play/sayc_card.pdf

To link a CC in BBO.

- ◆ Click on account.
- ◆ At top, says Convention cards, click there.
- ◆ Select a card.
- ◆ Then type partner's name in box provided under or to the right of "Use with partner."
- ◆ Click on "Use with partner."

You should not do this during a game as the card will not stay linked. The linkage will be lost at the end of the session. Do it between sessions. Then log off BBO. Log back in and check that the link held.

Directors: there are two ways to flag a player that does not display a convention card. If you are using the flash version of BBO, V2. Right click on the player's name. Select Player category. The first time you need create a 'no CC' category. After that you can just select 'no CC.'

If the director is using version V3 of BBO, click on the player and add a note to that players profile.

Instructional memos on each of these topics will be added to the D23 website shortly. If you have questions you may email me at:

<mailto://davewhite50@verizon.net>

I tried being reasonable once. I didn't like it.

Play or Defend? *by John Jones*

North

♠ A Q 6
 ♥ A K Q J
 ♦ Q J 10 9 8 7
 ♣ void

West

♠ K 10 8 2
 ♥ 10 9 8 2
 ♦ void
 ♣ K Q 10 8 5

East

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

South

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

Opening Lead = ♣K

Contract = 7♥ by South

Do you chose to Play (make 7♥), or Defend (defeat 7♥)?

If you need a hint, turn to page 6.

The solution is on page 7.



Submitted by John Jones:



**I'm sorry you had a bad game,
sweetie... is there anything I can do
to get you to shutup about it?**



MUSIC, PLEASE!

By Rick Roeder

Virtually every movie has a soundtrack. Can you fathom how much more entertaining bridge would be if we had topical music to accompany us during the hands? Imagine a separate soundtrack at each table each round!

Some of the songs we would hear:

Your partner has made a two-level overcall in your void suit. You are in passout seat after LHO's reopening double has been passed to you. Your hand begs for a rescue redouble: ABBA's "SOS" starts playing with two exceptions: Those born in Jersey would hear the Boss' "Born To Run." Opera enthusiasts, enamored with Roy Orbison's infinity-octave vocal range, would hear "Running Scared."

Your partner opens 1♥ with a bare opener with 5332 distribution. After your minimum raise, the auction gets competitive and Pard takes a losing action by bidding again at the 3 level. "I Fought the Law (and the Law Won)" by the Bobby Fuller 4. This song, repeatedly played in bridge venues, so energizes Larry Cohen, he emerges from retirement.

You bid to a great slam, doomed by a 5-0 break in the trump suit. Mick Jagger laments in "(I Can't Get No) Satisfaction," except if you grew up in Mississippi or neighboring Memphis: Elvis' "Heartbreak Hotel" supplies sufficient angst.

Speaking of Elvis, you have a Queen guess in a side suit. You have expertly played the three other suits, getting distributional information and delaying your guess. Finally, "It's Now or Never."

After one of my white versus red, 3rd seat, opening bid specials, "Liar" by 3 Dog Night. After my second such joke, "Liar, Liar" by the Castaways. For people who have played against me before, Elvis' "Suspicious Minds" is also heard.

You forget to draw the last trump and go down in an iceberg. Apologies to partner should commence immediately. If you are at least age 75, you hear Brenda Lee's #1 hit, "I'm Sorry". If you are a true Rock & Roller, you instead hear "Sorry" from the great Aussie band, the Easybeats. Otherwise, the default is to Elton John's "Sorry Seems To Be the Hardest Word."

Ron Smith sits down to play a round against Eric Rodwell. Billy Joel's "Piano Man" plays endlessly.

Missing 5 trumps, including the queen, you decide to play for Q doubleton offside without ANY self-kibitzing. It works! You deserve Madonna's "Take A Bow". However, BBO immediately puts you under Terry Stafford's "Suspicion." Staff immediately consults with Boye Brogeland, whose theme song is Bobby Vee's "The Night Has A 1,000 Eyes".

Pard opens 5♣. With your club void and excellent defense in the other 3 suits, Jigsaw's "Sky High" gives you the heebie jeebies.

Meckwell makes yet another 3NT with 23 combined HCP. The opponents are sad as Queen's "Another One Bites The Dust" is a grim reminder. However, on the next board, Rodwell has to make a tough decision in 4th chair after (3♦) – double –(5♦) – ???. He squirms while another Queen tune blares, "Under Pressure", with a big assist from David Bowie.

After your 1♠ opening, Pard bids 2♠. You decide to invite with 3♦, holding

♠AKxxx ♥Axx ♦Kxx ♣Kx.

Just as you bid 3♦, the Beatles' "Help" reminds Pard.

You partner a perpetual overbidder. During an auction, you are on the fence as to the high road or the low road. Madonna's "Borderline" heightens the suspense. You decide to take the high road. Down 1. Suddenly, the Beatles "I Should Have Known Better" blares away.

Speaking of the Beatles, one of their songs has great empathy for the topsy turvy world of bridge. 24 hours ago, you had 68% at the club. Today, 40%. The song: "Yesterday."

You pull off something so exotic that you cannot label what just occurred. The club pro tells you that you just perpetrated a backwash squeeze as "Thriller" erupts.

You keycard: Pard shows two key cards, which is all you need to bid a grand slam: Eddie Money's "Two Tickets to Paradise" brightens this momentous occasion.

Speaking of key card, you again bid 4NT on a later hand. Pard's response indicate you have all the key cards. This time a grand is uncertain. You bid 5NT. Cue Led Zepelin's "Stairway to Heaven."

Later, Pard's turn to bid Roman Key Card. You respond with 5♦, showing 0/3 key cards, 1430, baby! Except Pard does not get that memo. He confidently bids yet another grand. When you put down dummy, his face turns "A Whiter Shade of Pale." Procol Harum knows he is an 0314 type of guy.

Two foreign opponents have a lengthy, relay auction. All you get is an unintelligible explanation that seems designed to befuddle you. You hear a brief snippet from Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On" before "Our Lips Are Sealed" by the Go Gos starts mocking you. **DIRECTOR!!!** Twisted Sister's "We're Not Going to Take It" is now blasting away at screeching, Heavy Metal volume. You get off to the wrong lead which triggers Thomas Dolby's "She Blinded Me With Science." You get even angrier upon their departure from your table, as you hear them talking to each other in perfect English.

You remain livid after Pard sails for 1400 against their non-vulnerable game. Here comes "Psychotic Reaction" by the Count 5. Pard's auction is so bad that one song is not enough as Michael Sembello's "Maniac" becomes the second half of a "twin spin."

Regrettably, the song you hear most often is Bruce Springsteen's "I'm Going Down." But it would be even worse if Beck's "Loser" was instead played.

There are two partnerships at the local club who never miss a daily game. EVER. When the two partnerships play against each other, the Beatles' "8 Days a Week" plays non-stop.

You successfully guess not one but TWO queens to navigate home a perilous contract. You revel in the raucous "Glad All Over" by the Dave Clark 5.

In a competitive auction, your wife bids to 5♠. Righty produces the red card. You beam at your wife while whipping out the deep blue card. One of the Beach Boys' great ballads, "Don't Worry Baby," is the perfect complement to your +1200.

You garner a 3rd straight top! You are riding a "Heat Wave" and feel like "Dancing In The Street!" Who doesn't love Martha & The Vandellas??

In a competitive auction, you stretch to bid 4♠. The opponents push on to 5♥, which you believe might be a phantom save. You double, with the Hollies' "Stop, Stop, Stop" giving partner additional guidance.

Yet another British Invasion group from the Sixties is heard from after a brilliant falsecard from your right hand opponent: the Kinks' "You Really Got Me."

Your partner not only is playing bad but is in a foul mood. The Rolling Stones' "The Last Time" says it all.

In an effort to encourage junior bridge, it is fitting to reflect their rollicking bidding style with a recent song to reflect their youth. The Go Gos' 2020 tune, "Club Zero," will do nicely. Notwithstanding that every Junior feels a kindred connection to Steppenwolf's "Born To Be Wild." Their first seat preempts at favorable are always accompanied by Prince's "Let's Go Crazy."

Last, you make 3 No Trump on a dazzling, non-simultaneous double squeeze!! Kool & The Gang's "Celebrate" lifts you "Higher and Higher" thanks to Jackie Wilson. A feat so great that one song is clearly inadequate.

OK, I am not being realistic that this could happen in real life. Aerosmith is so advising as Steven Tyler & Company belt out "Dream On." But my hope remains as steadfast as the Bangles' "Eternal Flame": I will ALWAYS hear the King croon "If I Can Dream!"

Reynolds Team Matches *by Tom Reynolds*

This is an invitation to play in the online Reynolds Team Matches October Knockout.

This is a worldwide event. You may play against teams from Australia or China, meaning you to play late in the day, or from Poland, Iceland or Holland, meaning you play late in the day while they play early. Sometimes, if everybody works, playing on weekends is all that is available.

Probably the most important characteristic of Reynolds Team Matches is the flexibility of schedule. It is up to the captains to schedule the match at a mutually agreed time. Other online organizers, including the ACBL specify when a match is to be played to mimic a face-to-face tournament. The Reynolds Team Matches flexibility of having the captains schedule and start the match is what allows

team from all over world play in our event. Typically, over a week is allowed to schedule and play a match.

The events are free which has a cost. The captains act as directors adjudicating any dispute. Paid events hire directors, not Reynolds Team Matches. If the captains can't agree on a dispute resolution it is their duty to hire a director. Usually that cost results in a quick determination.

In terms of the field strength, Reynolds Team Matches has accurately been described as a larger Spingold missing most of the top 16 seeds. Most of the sponsor paid all professional teams don't attend but world class pairs abound sprinkled throughout the draw. Many very good foreign teams enter. Most, but not all teams are composed of experts or world class.

The events run monthly with 100+ teams entering the last two events. Entries open the 20th of the month and close the last day of the month. The draw is out the first day of the following month. Entries are via the reynoldsteammatches.com website.

Hint for "Play or Defend?"

The 4/0 trump break makes this difficult. Dummy's diamonds are good if declarer can somehow get rid of the ♦A and the ♦K. Can declarer accomplish this, or will the defense prevail?

Winners!

Accidentally omitted from last month's SCBN: our very own Bill Schreiber and Peter Knee tied for first in an Open Pairs event in the ACBL 4-day Regional event in June. Bill is the one on the left, Peter standing next to him. If you've been to any of our tournamnets in the last few years, you know these two. Bill is past President of ALACBU, and Peter one of the most intersting Directors we've ever had the pleasure of seeing at out tournaments. Peter recently retired from Directing but is still active in the bridge world.

No, we don't know who the other two dudes are.



District 23 Rank Changes July 2020		
Junior Master	Sectional Master	Bronze Life Master
Hani Abraham	Robert Cook	T. R. Applegate
Dvorah Colker	Thomas J. Cox	Toni Gold
Susan K. Fitzpatrick	Jonathan R. Dahlberg	Stephen Page
Mary Sue Foard	Sarah Deschenes	Kenneth Selden
Joanne Freed	Barbara R. Dischler	Jill C. Thesman
Rosita Fu	Robert M. Mallano	
Kitty Keck	Wendy Meek	Silver Life Master
Vijay Kotrappa	Peggy Y. Shapiro	Richard Bakovic
Susan M. Miller	Beverly S. Sugimoto	Robert B. Bakovic
Jeffrey A. Robinson	Glenda Zelichov	Myrna Weiner
Club Master	Regional Master	Ruby Life Master
Adrienne E. Kirman	Debbie Hamilton	Michael H. Grant
Kavita Nakra	Jeof H. Yrick	
Naresh K. Nakra		Gold Life Master
Adele Peggy Rahn	NABC Master	Randolph M. Hammock
Suzanne Reyto	Karmen Armoudjian	
David L. Rosenberg	Bob Becker	Sapphire Life Master
Susan R. Rosman	Ginger Boykin	Myrna Blaufarb
Diane R. Sharlin		
Jeanne D. Sinsheimer	Life Master	Diamond Life Master
Carolyn M. Watanabe	John S. Hagman	Mike Spero

Solution to “Play or Defend?”

Solution: Choose Play. Pitch a diamond (not a spade) from dummy and win the ♣A. Lead a trump to dummy’s Jack (getting the bad news if you were playing single dummy instead of double dummy). Ruff the ♠6 in your hand. This leaves you with the same number of trumps in the dummy as in declarer’s hand. Lead a second round of trumps to dummy’s Queen. Ruff the ♠Q in the South hand, leaving just one trump in declarer’s hand. Lead declarer’s last trump to dummy’s king. Cash the trump Ace pitching declarer’s ♦A and collecting West’s last trump. Now cash dummy’s ♠A pitching the ♦K from declarer’s hand. Dummy has nothing but diamonds, and they are all good.

This hand comes from an old bridge magazine, and I likely changed some of the nonrelevant spot cards. I couldn’t find the problem when I looked, so I

wrote it up as best as I could remember it. I believe the hand comes from an old International Popular Bridge Monthly, but again, I couldn’t find it. My apologies if I got the credit wrong.

Southern California Bridge News	
Published monthly by ALACBU, Inc.	
1800 Avenue of the Stars, 12 th Floor,	
Los Angeles, CA 90067	
Phone: 310-440-4100	
email bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org	
Editor/Designer.....	Tom Lill
Managing Editor.....	Bob Shore
Contributing Editor.....	John Jones
Copy deadlines: the 23rd of the preceding month. Opinions expressed in the Southern California Bridge News are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of ALACBU, Inc., The Bridge News or the Editor. The Bridge News reserves the right to reject material it considers to be in poor taste or deems otherwise unsuitable for publication.	

Around the Units in District 23



Long Beach by Lillian Slater

www.acblunit557.org
www.LongBeachBridge.com

[Editor’s Note: so far as we know, Jon Yinger is still the Unit 557 reporter. But this month, Lilian submitted an article, so there you are.]

Like all the clubs in our district, Long Beach Bridge eagerly anticipates the day we can resume games at our tables. In addition to reconnecting with our bridge friends, Long Beach has another reason to look forward to this day—to appreciate and enjoy the club’s newly completed renovation!

When the shelter-at-home orders were first issued in March, Long Beach decided to use this hiatus to complete much-needed upgrades. The bathrooms and kitchen areas were remodeled including new cabinets and flooring. The pantry was reorganized and commercial-grade coffee brewers and an ice machine were installed. Phase I turned out so well that the rest of the club required sprucing up to match, so painting and new carpeting completed the look.

The club and Unit 557 look forward to welcoming you back as soon as health guidelines allow. Look for continuing updates to our schedule on the longbeachbridge.com website. While you’re there, check out our monthly *Table Talk* newsletter.

All of this would not have been possible without Chuck Laine. He planned these improvements and worked closely with the club’s Board of Directors and the contractor to see them actualized. He even had hands-on involvement—making decisions, pulling wires, helping with plumbing, or ripping up flooring. Chuck is also a member of the Unit 557 Board of Directors and, since November 2019, a certified ACBL game director. Before the club closed, he was directing several games a week.

Chuck was introduced to bridge in the mid-1980’s when he joined a group of fellow engineers playing cards at lunch. The card game turned out to be bridge! Chuck became a self-taught bridge player. He finds the game challenging and believes a player needs “to eliminate mistakes and concentrate.” Furthermore, “no matter how well you play, you can always do better.” Since completing the club remodel, Chuck plays in BBO games and tournaments three or four times a week. He has even introduced one of his former work buddies to online duplicate bridge.

Chuck and our entire club look forward to seeing you at our newly improved—but still the friendliest—Long Beach Bridge Center.

Photos of the revamped Bridge Center:

Before



During



Completed



For those of you wondering, it was NOT a hardship wearing a face mask for the 11 hours or so the flight home took. (Well, I did get to the airport way too early.) So surely, 3 hours for a bridge game would be manageable?

I'm sure you enjoyed Rick Roeder's little musical addition to the world of Bridge. Those of you who know me will understand that I simply cannot resist this small addition: Your partner fails to cash the setting trick, relinquishes the lead, and then you watch in horror as declarer pitches all his remaining losers on a concealed long suit. The music now playing? "Eat It," Weird Al Yankovic's wonderful parody of Michael Jackson's "Beat It." [I love the double joke, since if pard had cashed that trick, he would indeed "Beat It."]

For our Hand-of-the-Month, we present a moderately interesting hand from the Monday night PPDVBC game. Board 1, no less. The results themselves aren't anything spectacular: in a 7 table game we had a 4-way tie for top. It's the auction I found fascinating. Your mileage may differ, of course. Here goes. You are West, holding this modest hand:

♠ A 10 9 8 ♥ Q 7 3 2 ♦ A 5 3 2 ♣ 10

Dealer passes, and partner opens the bidding 1♦. RHO passes (I'm not sure why, many would have overcalled 1♥ – see the full hand below), and you bid 1♥ yourself. LHO trots out 1♠, and partner goes 3♣. Hmm. 3♦ would be a simple preference and your your hand is lots better than that, so you go 4♦. Partner raises herself to 5♦, and on the expected spade lead takes 12 tricks on the following layout:

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

That's right! Not only did East open with 9 HCP, she then jump-shifted with that hand. Ah, the power of shape. You can just see Mary Bergen nodding approvingly, can't you? 12 tricks with 17 working HCP between the two hands. (Surely you can see that the ♥Q and the ♠J are so much waste paper?)



Pomona –
Covina
by Tom Lill
www.acblunit551.org

Well, sports fans, we had to cancel the August Unit game again for lack of participants. So ... those of you on the Bridge Alert list already know this, but ... we are going to let YOU, the players, let US know when to restart in-person Bridge. Both the Individual and the Unit game are on hiatus until further notice.

No promotions to report again this month.

I, personally, had to take a trip back East last month, which explains (somewhat) my limited appearances on BBO. My sister and I drove across country, taking 6 days (we took it easy but didn't stop for sightseeing) to reach Niagara Falls, our home town. There I enjoyed some leisure before flying back home. "What happened to the car?" I hear you cry. I sold it to my grand-nephew – that was the purpose of the trip.

If East fails to open the bidding, the hand might be passed out, you might think. But in seven plays, no one passed this hand out. (I suppose West has enough to open in third seat.) There were four pairs in 5♦+1, one pair in 5♦ making exactly (?), one N-S pair making 3♠ (!), and one pair in 3NT ... down 2 after the ♥9 was led and ducked around to the Queen. Declarer must lose to the ♦K, and to quote Porky Pig, "thhhh-thhhh-thhhh-that's all, folks!"

Well, *I* thought it was interesting.

Quote for the month: "I'm sure the universe is full of intelligent life. It's just been too intelligent to come here." (Arthur C. Clarke)

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 Tuesday night director, Bob McBroom:

Bob McBroom learned bridge from his father. He did not get to play much until he went into the Peace Corps in Ghana, West Africa to teach high school chemistry. There he taught three other volunteers in the town to play. After the Peace Corps he returned to California where he married Kathy Flynn. They went to up to Davis where both started graduate school in chemistry at UC Davis. They learned to play duplicate in Sacramento and Davis. Davis had a small game, usually about four tables or

so. Occasionally Chip and Jan Martel, multiple world champions, would show up to tune up before the world championships.

After graduate school Bob started a job in Anaheim working for U.S. Borax. There Kathy and Bob played in the Santa Ana club and various tournaments and became life masters. Bob also learned to direct there. After the birth of their first child they stopped playing. In 1993 they moved with Bob's company to Santa Clarita. Bob taught his son Alex to play and they played a few times in Rand Pinsky and Kathy Swaine's club but he never really caught the bug. After about a twenty-year hiatus, they were finally able to play again and started playing in the Valencia Bridge club. They have been playing online for a few years, so the move to BBO was easy for them. Bob also directed a few games locally so the move to directing for the Virtual Club seemed interesting. Bob mostly plays with his wife, but another favorite partner is Dave White, our director with all the wonderful jokes. Bob retired from Borax in 2007 when the company moved to Denver, but he teaches chemistry part time at College of the Canyons in Valencia where his wife is also a full-time chemistry professor.

Winners in Unit 556+:

Mon. July 27 at 12:15	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	66.12%
Tues. July 28 at 6:15	Ruth Baker – Roy Ladd	62.02%
Thurs. July 30 at 10:15	Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	68.38%
Fri. July 31 at 12:15	David White – Bob McBroom	72.50%
Mon. Aug. 3 at 12:15	Morris Jones – Roy Ladd	74.31%
Tues. Aug. 4 at 6:15	Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom	65.87%
Thurs. Aug. 6 at 10:15	Temo Arjani – Bill Brodek	63.70%
Fri. Aug. 7 at 12:15	David White – Bob McBroom	69.57%
Mon. Aug. 10 at 12:15	Dwaine Hawley – Gary Zoss	63.13%
Tues. Aug. 11 at 6:15	Kathy Flynn – Bob McBroom	63.59%
Thurs. Aug. 13 at 10:15	Amr Elghamry – Rae Murbach	67.93%
Fri. Aug. 14 at 12:15	Dwaine Hawley – Gary Zoss	64.25%
Mon. Aug. 17 at 12:15		

Gerard Geremia – Rae Murbach	64.73%
Tues. Aug. 18 at 6:15	
Sharry Vida – Beth Morrin	64.62%
Thurs. Aug. 20 at 10:15	
Adam Barron – Stephen Licker	69.44%
Fri. Aug. 21 at 12:15	
Rosie Avila – Geoff Paul	63.13%
Mon. Aug. 24 at 12:15	
James Rozzell – Sharon Wolf	67.13%
Tues. Aug. 25 at 6:15	
David White – Donald Bush	64.29%
Thurs. Aug. 27 at 10:15	
Bud Kalafian – Gerry Belcher	66.67%

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.

Next board meeting: TBA

The District 23 Club by David White



The D23 club is a virtual club formed to promoty limited games for players with fewer than 500 points. We currently run one game a week on Sunday afternoon at 3:15.

All games at the D23 club are run as part of a monthly series. A person’s series score is the average of their two highest scoring games of the month. Black points awarded for the series are in addition to points won in the individual games.

In August, the series winners were:

1/2 Lawrence and Marianne Newman	62.8%	0.84
3/4 Lora Smith and Jhn Tyner	60.8%	0.48
5/6 Carol and Paul Reukauf	60.0%	0.27

Pasadena – San Gabriel by Morris “Mojo” Jones

bridgemojo.com



It’s been a difficult month personally for me. I needed to travel to Florida to tag team with my sister in

providing some home health care for my 87 year old dad. Dad’s doing fair-to-middlin’, but needs a lot of attention. My sister will come back and tag me for a return around mid-September. I’m looking forward to that drive home. (Yes, I drove rather than fly.)

The interesting thing about the whole ordeal is that I didn’t have to cancel any classes or games! I’ve had help from Dave White, Paula Oliveras, and Bob McBroom to take on some of the directing chores. I brought with me a card table, a large computer monitor, two laptops, an iPad, a good microphone and a web cam. I’ve been able to hold nearly all of my classes online without missing a beat.

That said, I’m about to complete the six week Play of the Hand course, with 14 students. I’ll probably pick up with a 2 Over 1 Game Force course on Tuesday afternoons in mid-September.

Tonight is the most interesting challenge: I have twenty students coming to learn bridge from scratch. We’re going to start out playing hands of Whist, learning to take tricks, work with partner, and how a trump suit works. Then we introduce auctions, the dummy, the whole nine yards. I’m not sure how it’s going to go, but teaching bridge online really has some advantages over doing it the bridge club. I’ll report back next month.

The Pasadena Pomona Downey VBC continues to have four Open Pairs games each week, on Tuesday - Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., and Saturday - Sunday at 12:30 p.m. Limited games include 0-100 on Wednesday at 7:15, 0-500 on Saturday at 10:00, and 0-1000 on Mondays at 7:15.



West Los Angeles by Elizabeth Ryan eryan311@gmail.com

Nothing from West LA this month.

Problem Solvers' Panel

Moderator: John Jones

Panelists are: Ifti Baqui, Jeff Goldsmith, Mister Mealy-mouth, Rick Roeder, Sylvia Shi, Mike Shuster and Jon Wittes.

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.

If you think you recognize these problems, you might. This is my "Back to the Future" set, and these problems are from a 1985 tournament. There will be guest panelists from the original problems, which are from International Popular Bridge panelists' problems from the tournament. There will also be some Back to the Future panelists: Marty McFly, Doc Brown and Biff Tannen making bids and quotes (maybe taken a little out of context).

I've never had two dedications in any of my previous problem sets. However, two good bridge friends died within the last month.

My first dedication is to Ray Mack. Ray was the prominent figure in Torrance/South Bay bridge for years. I started playing bridge in 1974 and I lived in Redondo Beach at the time. The Westchester players were quite helpful to the younger players. They welcomed the younger players, gave us advice and played with us. The Torrance area experienced players tended to be a little older than the Westchester players and were more resentful of the good younger players. Ray went out of his way to be supportive with the younger players. Ray gave his time to bridge and ran the Commercial Teams, a competition between local businesses. I occasionally played in some of the Commercial Teams while I worked for Logicon. Ray was a part owner and manager of the South Bay Bridge Club for years. He did a great job managing the club. He helped with the North American Pairs and allowed the South Bay Bridge Club to be used as a NAP playing site. Ray held my hand at the other table on the biggest hand I ever held. It was in a team game in the Tuesday Night Handicapped Swiss Teams. I held a balanced 29 HCP hand. Ray and his partner Ernie Frank bid the hand to the same contract that Valerie Gamio and I did, and Ray played the very interesting hand on the same line (both of us took several minutes) I did for a push. I'll miss you Ray! RIP!!!

The second dedication I am going to make is to Justin Lall. Justin died of liver disease recently. Justin lived in the Pasadena area for a while. I was his partner when he won his first ACBL Regional in

was a bracket I KO. I wasn't supposed to be on the team. The 4-handed team originally was his parents, Jan and Hemant Lall, with Justin playing with Mike (Pud) Pudlin. I was added to the team when Pud suffered a mild heart attack. Pud was out of the hospital by the time the tournament occurred but was limited in his activity. Pud called and asked if I would add on as a fifth. I was eager to meet Justin. I had heard good things about Justin from Pud and Mike Shuman. If these two greats were raving about this talented youngster, I had to meet him. I agreed to play on the team and a great friendship with Justin began. Justin was playing throughout, because Pud was medically limited to half of each match and Hemant and I both had some work commitments during the early matches. In the final everyone was available and Hemant (a world class player) informed Justin that he was going to sit out the first half, and Justin protested unsuccessfully. By the time Justin got in to play the second half, we were up about 25 IMPs. Justin and I were having a solid set and the expert opponents got annoyed. They criticized our bidding when we stayed low on a difficult hand that only produced 8 tricks. Justin stayed calm and played well. On one hand the opponents bid 1♠ 2♣ 4♠ to a vulnerable game. Justin led and declarer could see that there was a duplication of values and game was down one. Declarer should have won the opening lead, pulled trumps and conceded down one. This is exactly what Hemant did at the other table. But our declarer had some sort of a brainstorm. Without drawing trumps, he crossed to dummy played a side suit and very carefully covered my card to make sure that Justin won the trick. It was never clear to me what mistake declarer wanted Justin

to make, but it was clear he wanted Justin, not me, on to make, but it was clear he wanted Justin, not me, on play to find out what Justin would do. Justin found something to do. Justin gave me a ruff. I gave Justin a ruff and he gave me a second ruff. Declarer wound up fuming, down 4 on a hand he should have been down one on. Justin was a very enigmatic individual. He became one of the best players in the world. He was the youngest Grandmaster ever. He was infamous for an incident that nearly cost his life. Off his medication, Justin jumped off the Brooklyn Bridge. On his way down, Justin decided he wanted to live and a nearby boat picked him up. Justin was in the hospital for a few weeks, but amazingly had no long-term

effects. I am a trained LAUSD At-Rick counselor. After the incident I gave Justin my business card and made him promise to call me if he ever felt suicidal again. Justin agreed. Justin and I caught up frequently. The last time we were able to spend several hours together was in November 2018 at the Hawaii nationals. We had a drink and talked for hours. I was sure that Justin no longer had my business card (Justin was so infamously disorganized that he would leave hundreds of dollars around his house in various places). To my great surprise, it took Justin only a second or two to take out his wallet and place my now very frayed business card on the table. Justin had the greatest smile and was so kind and helpful to everyone. He will be missed!

<h1 style="font-size: 48px; margin: 0;">1</h1> <p style="margin: 0;">Matchpoints E-W Vul</p>	<table style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">South</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">West</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">North</td> <td style="border-bottom: 1px solid black;">East</td> </tr> <tr> <td>???</td> <td>1♣</td> <td>1♠</td> <td>1NT</td> </tr> </table>	South	West	North	East	???	1♣	1♠	1NT
South	West	North	East						
???	1♣	1♠	1NT						
	<p>You, South, hold: ♠A8 ♥AJ97 ♦J932 ♣1096</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>								

We will start with a panelist who nails the big question “What does double mean”? If it is responsive/takeout, then it is perfect. If it is penalties, do we have enough?”

Goldsmith: Double. Takeout, penalties, card-showing, responsive, whatever, I have it.

In 1985 (these problems from the 1985 Antwerp Carta Mundi tournament and were used in the Caithness Bidders’ Club problems hosted by Joe Amsbury), double was played as penalty.

1985 Eric Kokish: “Double. I’d prefer something better, since I have no obvious lead and the defense is often tricky on this type of hand.”

1985 Joey Silver: “2♣. Tempted to double, but at this vulnerability where partner can have almost anything, without a club stopper it seems a little foolhardy”.

But even in 1985 they had the notion that this should be a takeout double.

1985 Tony Forrester: “2♣. Brock and I play competitive doubles here and that would be ideal.”

I wrote an article about 20 years ago arguing that this double should be played as responsive. Our 2020 panel seems to play double as responsive.

Baqai: Double. By agreement I like to play this sequence as responsive, and the bridge gods have dealt me a perfect hand with doubleton spade and the required length in the unbid suits. Obviously, on certain hands partner may convert this double to penalties and pass.

Roeder: Double. This should be played as showing the other two suits; think responsive double. If partner wants to rebid his spades, you are delighted.

Shi: Double. I play this is takeout, so I have the perfect hand for that. It’s useful to play the takeout double here since you would need quite a good hand to know that 1NT was going down and want to double for penalty.

Taking note of the vulnerability, and perhaps worried about the chance partner may be light (there has been a lot of bidding) are these panelists:

Shuster: Pass. If 2♠ is making, then 1NT might be down two. I’m not doubling on speculation though - and for all I know, they’re not done bidding yet.

Wittes: Pass. 2♠ is a close second, but spades are almost certainly breaking 4-2. East almost surely has only 7-8 points, and to bid a free 1NT, must have a pretty reasonable spade holding.

Selecting the most popular vote from the 1985 panel was:

Mealymouth: 2♠. Expecting to make or to push the opponents too high. The alternative is to double, in hopes of a matchpoint magic +200, but that's far from certain, especially if my partner's 1♠ overcalls on favorable vulnerability are as loose as mine. If West bids 3♣, it will be nice to get a spade lead from partner.

With him from the 1985 panel was:

1985 Eddie Kantar: “2♠. But only if I can trust my partner's 1-level overcalls.” What if I told you that the overcaller was your former partner and the previous moderator of this column, Marshall Miles? Marshall espoused 4-card overcalls. The actual player who overcalled 1♠ was not Marshall, but it was a 4-card overcall. His partner raised to 2♠ and the result wasn't pretty.

Back to the Future panelists:

Biff Tannen: Double. Penalty! “I'm gonna get that son of a bitch.”

Doc Brown: Double. Takeout! I invented that! “I finally invent something that works!”

1985 Panel Votes: 7 for 2♠, 6 for 2♣ (they argued this was for takeout), 3 for Pass, 2 for Double.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">2</h1> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Matchpoints Both Vul</p>	South	West	North	East
	1♣	pass	1♥	pass
	1♠	pass	1NT	pass
	???			
<p>You, South, hold: ♠AQ94 ♥J73 ♦void ♣AK10754</p> <p>Do you agree with 1♠? What now?</p>				

Baqai: Yes, 1♠ is fine but now it's a close call between 2♥ and 3♥ and I am leaning towards 3♥ to emphasize my extreme diamond shortness and by inference the club length. This hand has the potential of either 3NT when partner has a 4-card heart suit and reasonable diamond strength or 4♥ when partner has decent 5-card ♥ suit. It's worth noting that some people play 2♥ as not showing any extras in this sequence which then justifies 3♥ due to overall offensive nature of the hand.

Baqai discusses a key issue of whether 2♥ shows extras. Some of the young tournament bridge professionals play that 2♥ doesn't show extras. If 2♥ doesn't show extras, then we must try 3♥, but otherwise most of the panel thinks it's close. I think 2♥ shows extras and agree with the panel, it's not quite enough to squeeze out 3♥.

Shuster: 2♥. So, if I was going to draw up an example hand for this sequence, I'd move a club into the diamond suit and we'd be there. 4=3=1=5 and extra values. Pretty darn close.

Goldsmith: Yes. 2♥. If the ♥J were the ♥Q, it would be worth 3♥.

Mealymouth: Yes. 2♥. I agree wholeheartedly with 1♠. Now I bid 2♥, with a bit in reserve. If partner is one of those who responds 1♥ on ♠K3 ♥9654 ♦KQJ107 ♣98, give him a copy of Edgar Kaplan's *Winning Contract Bridge Complete*, Charlie Goren's *Contract Bridge Complete*, or *Modern Bridge Bidding Complete* by Al Roth and Jeff Rubens as a going-away present.

Mealy, it's possible the modern style of bidding higher scoring majors first on non-invitational hands might be better than the Goren style.

Roeder: Yes. 2♥. Your 1♠ rebid receives 100% Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. Partner now knows my shape within one card, so this is a

pretty fair description. There will be hands where clubs play much better but matchpoints is a greedy game. Before you go too crazy, the opponents' silence in the diamond suit almost guarantees partner has some diamond wastage.

Shi: Yes. 2♥. Of course, I bid 1♠. I would bid 2♥ now showing a good 4315. I am a little light on HCP for this but the sixth club more than makes up for it.

1985 Bob Rowlands: 2♥. Mildly constructive, usually a 4=3=1=5 15 count.

Doc Brown: "Great Scott"! *No Doc, Rowlands coached the Scottish juniors, but he himself is Welsh.*

1985 Eddie Kantar: 3♥. A slight stretch but I like my hand for hearts or no-trumps.

Wittes: 3♥. Yes, I agree with 1♠. 2♥ should show three hearts and extra values, but I'm a little too good to bid only 2♥. Any time partner has five hearts, 4♥ should be a pretty good contract. If partner doesn't have 5 hearts, 3NT could easily make, or even 4♥ on the Moysian fit.

Marty McFly: 3♥. "Nobody calls me chicken."

On the actual hand, the great Paul Hackett bid 3♥. Partner passed and went down a trick.

1985 Panel Votes: 12 for 2♥, 5 for 3♥, 1 for 2♣.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">3</h1> <p>Matchpoints none Vul</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	???	1♥	2♣	pass
	<p>You, South, hold: ♠QJ1043 ♥83 ♦J4 ♣A976</p> <p>What call do you make?</p>			

Goldsmith: I get to play 2♥ as a transfer to spades and rebid 3♣? Cool.

Nice methods if available! Not all pairs that play Transfer Advances play them over 2-level overcalls. Assuming 2♥ showing spades is not available makes this hand more difficult. Do we risk a non-forcing constructive 2♠ call?

Shi: 2♠. I like to play this as nonforcing constructive. Partner might pass with a doubleton and we would miss our club fit, but my side texture is strong enough that I can handle it. At any rate, our most likely game would be 4♠ if I can find a fit, so I don't want to give up on that.

Loving that spade ten:

1985 Eddie Kantar: 2♠. Without that ♠10 I would still be mulling over this one.

Wittes: 2♠. Close between 3♣ and 2♠, but the texture of my spade suit is just too good not to give 2♠ a try.

1985 Paul Soloway: 2♠. Go for the highest scoring spot. The texture will make 2♠ playable.

Shuster: 3♣. 2♠, if forcing, would be fine, but since it is 1985, I'm afraid I'll wind up in my 5-1 fit. I put partner on heart length (no raise) so he is unlikely to produce as many as three spades.

Mealymouth: 3♣. Showing support and limiting the hand, while preparing to bid 3♠ next turn if there is a next turn. If instead I bid 2♠ now, my next bid may have to be 4♣, just the wrong order of bidding the black suits.

1985 Sammy Kehela: 3♣. Or is it old-fashioned to raise partner from time to time?"

1985 John Collings: 3♣. And hope it rests there. Not enough for 2♥ or 2♠.

Now we'll hear from a panelist I included just to see if he would make this bid 3♠ on this hand.

Roeder: 3♠. I will be your only panelist to make this fit bid. A clear overbid, but I want to make it really difficult for the opponents to bid red suits. Would only do this not vulnerable. *Needles would call you chicken if you would only bid 3♠ non-vulnerable.*

Rick and I have talked about whether fitted jumps should be played as a little lighter than are commonly played. I'm certainly in the 3♠ camp. It puts maximum pressure on the opponents while getting our suits fully into play.

Marty McFly: 3♠. Light fitted jump. "I guess you guys aren't ready for that yet. But your kids are going to love it."

1985 Panel Votes: 13 for 2♠, 4 for 3♣, 1 for pass. Moderator Joe Amsbury liked the flexibility of a 2♥ call.

On the actual hand, bidding spades was best, but raising clubs gets you another chance.

4 Matchpoints none Vul	South	West	North	East
	1♥	dbl	2♥	pass
3♣	3♦	4♥	pass	
???			5♦	

You, South, hold: ♠2 ♥KQ9832 ♦6 ♣KJ862

Do you agree with South's previous calls? What now?

Much of the discussion of the 1985 panel was related to how forcing the auction was.

1985 Eric Kokish: Pass. While 3♣ does not set up a forcing a forcing pass situation for us, once we bid game it certainly leaves partner more doubling rights.

1985 Eddie Kantar: 5♥. I think I have set up some sort of a forcing auction at the 5-level with my 3♣ bid.

1985 Tony Forrester: Pass. We are now caught in an interesting position. This sequence could well be construed as a forcing pass.

1985 Joe Amsbury: (moderator) I would like to defend 5♦ as I'm sure it will be good for us, but my ox is going to think a pass is forcing. Then, when I bid 5♥ he'll think I'm strong.

1985 Joey Silver: Pass. I am not even sure my opponents are not cold for 6♦, and I certainly do not want to push them there if I can help it. If partner doubles (because my strength-showing 3♣ bid convinced him my pass was forcing – foolish on his part, of course) I will bid 5♥ and if I am wrong I will apologize later. I bet we have another awful guess coming over 5♠ or 6♦.

My panel doesn't seem to think a force has been created but is not in agreement on what to do now.

Baqai: Yes, I agree with South's previous calls. I don't expect to make a 5-level contract and expect to go down one or worst case two, but the key question is can opponents make 5-level contract. As the spade suit hasn't been bid, partner can easily have a slow spade trick on defense and that could be the setting trick. So, I'll take a low road and pass.

Goldsmith: It depends on agreement. If 4♣ shows a real two-suiter (as it does in "competitive" auctions, e.g. if East had bid 3♦), then I'd pick that. Most of

my partnerships would call this a non-competitive auction, because they've only doubled. In that case if 3♣ isn't shortness, that's great, but I usually play it as a short suit game try, and 4♣ as a long suit slam try. Normally, also, 2♥ is a pretty bad hand (2♦ contains real 3-card raises), in which case there is no such thing as a slam try, so 4♣ is a real two-suiter for competitive purposes.

Now, 5♥ is pretty obvious. The biggest danger is pushing them into a making slam and being forced to save if partner doesn't kick it. I'll burn that bridge when I come to it.

Mealymouth: I disagree with 1♥. Too little defense. I'd rather open 3♥. Second choice: pass, and wait to enter with a two-suited call if available in one's system. Now I bid 5♥ as a sacrifice, hoping that my opponents won't know it's a sacrifice and will let me play it undoubled.

Roeder: Pass. Sadly, previous bidding only gets 20% Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval. No boss suit, no ace and 9 HCP? 20% might be generous. I give our moderator credit for being able to open a Polish 2♥ with his favorite partner. (*Polish Two-bids show 5 cards in the bid major, and a side 5-card minor with weak two bid strength, a good convention*) Also, I would not have rebid 3♣. I either would have jumped to 4♥ or, on an adventurous day, I might have psyched 3♦ to slow down the auction. I will admit the auction has gone well as the opponents may easily miss a cold slam. My initial inclination was to bid 5♥ but the danger of pushing the opponents to 6♦ is just too great. You got away with a crap opener. Don't undo your good work!

Shi: I think South's previous calls were fine. If I'm playing with a reliable partner, I would pass. That suggests I'm open to partner bidding on with the right hand (for example, all points in clubs and hearts). I

won't bid 5♥ because this is the five level, and partner could easily have ♠AK and little else, enough to defeat them.

Shuster: Pass. Do I agree? No and no. Unless I've agreed to open light I'd pass, as 3NT -3 is just going to happen way too often with 1♥. Having caught a raise, 3♣ is pointless. I'd want to put as much pressure on West as possible, so 4♥ is my choice. Now? Pass. Maybe we've kept them out of slam.

Wittes: 5♥. I'm ok with South's previous calls. All my values are in my suits, I have very little defense against 5♦, and partner either has 4 trumps or a club fit for the 4♥ bid, so I will take the push on my 6-5 distribution. Where is the spade suit by the way? I suspect partner may have five of them (hopefully not too much in values there), and probably also has shortness in diamonds.

Biff Tannen: Pass. "Why don't you make like a tree and get out of here?"

1985 Panel Votes: 10 for Pass, 8 for 5♥.

The actual hand wasn't given.

<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">5</h1> <p>Matchpoints E-W Vul.</p>	<u>South</u>	<u>West</u>	<u>North</u>	<u>East</u>
	4♥	5♣	1♦	2♦#
	???		pass	pass
	# Strong cue bid			
	You, South, hold: ♠73 ♥KJ109854 ♦A102 ♣8			
	Do you agree with 4♥? What now?			

When I first started playing bridge in 1974, negative doubles were just catching on. Some players played them, some didn't. Psychic opening bids were much more frequent before negative doubles came into vogue. A way to combat the psychic opening bids was to use the direct cuebid as Strong Takeout. A Strong Cuebid showed a monster hand, similar to a 2♣ opener and forced advancer to bid twice or get to game. Two-suited bids such as Michaels or Top and Bottom were alertable, but the Strong Cuebid wasn't alertable. Negative doubles essentially killed frequent psychic opening bids. When psyches became infrequent, the Strong Cuebid became less necessary and two-suited bids became common. I haven't seen a Strong Cuebid in years, and I'm surprised it was in use in a tough 1985 tournament.

Goldsmith: Pass. 1985? You mean 1965, right? I have to admit that I have never seen a strong cue bid at the table, and wouldn't be surprised if East hasn't either. 4♥? Who knows? Seems as good as anything. Now? Pass. It's unlikely we are making, and I have no idea if they are making. Since it's matchpoints, either saving or doubling is better than passing, but I have no idea which is right. Partner is willing to defend, therefore so am I.

Shuster: 5♦. I've not played much vs. strong cuebids, but if partner couldn't double, I'm not going to. I have misgivings about offering diamonds - perhaps I should insist on hearts.

Mealy-mouth: 5♦. Yes, I agree with 4♥. Now I bid 5♦, choice of saves, perhaps even makes. Partner should read me for 7-3 and correct to 5♥ when right.

Roeder: Pass. 4♥ is a reasonable junior bid. Being Medicare eligible, I would have preferred a 3♥ bid; which does have the tint of a fit bid. Your 4♥ call has given the opponents the last guess - the best you can hope for in many situations. Don't undo your good work.

Baqai: Pass. 4♥ is certainly in the ballpark given my diamond fit and shortness in the black suits but once I bid 4♥, I bid the limit of my hand and it's unclear that I can make a 5-level contract. I like my chances of beating 5♣.

Shi: 5♥. I would probably have started with 2♥ but I don't mind 4♥. Now I guess I bid 5♥, I have a partial diamond fit and partner could not double 5♣.

Wittes: 5♥. I'm doing too much bidding today, but I can't resist with my side diamond fit, and little defense against clubs.

Marty McFly: Pass. "Silence Earthling. I am Darth Vader."

1985 Sandra Landy: 5♦. My partner hasn't doubled. Provided 2♦ was a strong two-suiter it looks wrong to let them play 5♣.

1985 Paul Soloway: Pass. They have not found their spade suit and partner did not bid five of either red suit.

1985 Bob Rowlands: 5♥. Partner would probably have doubled with a singleton heart so it looks right to press on.

1985 Eric Kokish: Double. Not one of those penalty things, but one of the new family of 'I've got a good hand for my previous bidding' things.

1985 Panel Votes: 8 for pass, 7 for 5♦, 2 for double, 1 for 5♥.

The 2♦ Strong Takeout was a big three-suiter, but not close to a Strong Takeout. 4♥ was the last making contract for either side, and 5♣ a good sacrifice. Double was necessary to get any matchpoints. Ambsbury passed at the table, called the director when he saw the dummy wasn't strong enough, but the director ruled against him.